PRESS RELEASE

Climate Change

Mauritius signs and ratifies the Paris Agreement

H.E. Ambassador Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul, GOSK, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations (UN) in New York, signed the Paris Agreement in the presence of H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, GCSK, CSK, PhD, President of the Republic of Mauritius, during a high-level signing ceremony convened by UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-Moon at the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday 22 April 2016.

175 countries signed the Paris Agreement today, coinciding with the International Mother Earth Day. Mauritius was among 15 countries that have also submitted their instruments of ratification at the same time, 13 of which are Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

During the opening ceremony, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon expressed his satisfaction at the high turn up for the event. "We are breaking records in this Chamber and that is good news," he said in his opening remarks Friday. "But records are also being broken outside;
record global temperatures. Record ice loss. Record carbon levels in the atmosphere. We are in a race against time."

In their statements, World Leaders committed themselves to the early entry into force of the Agreement in order to save the planet for future generations. In her statement, H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, GCSK, CSK, PhD, President of the Republic of Mauritius, underlined the importance of the Agreement which "will become an essential tool in the fight against climate change and the mitigation of and adaptation to its devastating effects" The President further indicated that the implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) for Mauritius will require over USD 1.5 billion for mitigation measures and about USD 4 billion for adaptation measures across all the sectors up to year 2030 in the form of finance, investment, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building.

The Agreement which will remain open for signature in New York until 17 April 2017, will enter into force when ratified by at least 55 countries, which together represent at least 55% of global emissions.

The signature of the Paris Agreement is a first step towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which was approved by the 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention of the Climate Change (UNFCCC) in COP21 in Paris on 12 December, 2015. In the Agreement, all countries pledged to work to limit the temperature rise overall below 2 degrees Celsius, but are aiming to achieve a temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.