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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL
INTEGRATION & INTERNATIONAL TRADE



ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

I. ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade covers the Financial Year 2022-2023.

It is prepared in compliance with the statutory requirement of Section 4B of the Finance & Audit Act

Reporting on performance contributes to strengthening governance, transparency and accountability in the Public Service.

SCOPE

The Report has been structured as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and provides information on this Ministry in line with the spirit of performance-based budgeting.

It highlights the vision and mission of the Ministry, its responsibilities, staffing, core outcomes, achievements and challenges during the year, financial performance and the way forward with an emphasis on its future strategic direction.

The Annual Report provides information about this Ministry for our stakeholders and the public at large.

II. STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER

The Report of my Ministry for the financial Year 2022-2023 highlights our deliverables, during the past twelve months, taking into consideration the strategic roadmap set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Our strategy and action plan had also to be re-adjusted in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic and the increasing complex international political and economic landscape. Indeed, Geopolitical tensions between major economic powers and the far away conflicts continue to have major repercussions worldwide, even reaching our shores.

Against this backdrop, my Ministry's efforts have been geared towards creating the right ecosystem for Mauritius to pursue its road to recovery. The Ministry has relentlessly endeavoured to safeguard and defend our national interests, at all levels.

This Ministry, with its network of embassies and consulates, has worked tirelessly for the consolidation of our bilateral relations with friendly countries while forging new partnerships.

We have brought in the forefront the inherent economic and climatic vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), exacerbated by the global volatile situation, in numerous fora such as the G20 where Mauritius was invited as a Guest Country during India's Presidency.

We have been advocating for a review of global indices which use the Gross National Income (GNI) as a main criterion for assessing vulnerability and access to concessional financing. This model does not accurately capture the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS countries to the adverse effect of climate change and remoteness, among others.

The adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution (adopted without a vote) requesting the ICJ for an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change was also a historical moment for SIDS.

One of the key priorities of this Ministry has also been to promote regional and international trade with a view to boosting our economy. Indeed, improved trade mechanisms and better market access have been identified and implemented after every round of negotiations of regional and multilateral trade agreements, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the UK- Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Agreement, the EU-ESA 5 and the SADC Trade Facilitation, just to name a few.

Likewise, the Ministry has been instrumental in securing oriented reskilling, capacity building and project building programs from development partners, and international organisations like the Commonwealth and the European Union.

I wish to also recall that on 28 April 2023, the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea delivered a Judgment establishing a binding international maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the region of the Chagos Archipelago, thereby further confirming the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago.

Last but not least, the Ministry has remained true to its commitment in extending the necessary consular assistance to Mauritian nationals abroad.

I wish to thank the staff of my Ministry and our Missions Overseas for their dedication and commitment in the fulfilment of our goals and objectives.

Honourable Maneesh Gobin

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade

III. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the financial year 2022-2023.

The report specifically highlights the main achievements of the Ministry including our Overseas Missions. It also outlines the challenges and hurdles that we managed to overcome, as well as charting the way forward.

Our foreign policy is guided by our firm conviction in international law, democratic values and principles. We are committed to enhancing regional integration by reinforcing our engagement with regional institutions, such as the Indian Ocean Commission, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

The past year was challenging for the Ministry as we navigated through geopolitical tensions, climate change emergency, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The commitment of our dedicated staff, both at home and abroad, ensured that the Ministry continued to deliver on its mandate. The Ministry worked to preserve and advance our economic, social and cultural interests in regional and international fora.

While we live in a world where the existing rules and norms of the international system are being challenged, we continue to advocate for a peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world, with multilateralism at its core.

Mauritius has been championing the cause of the Small Island Developing States on the international arena highlighting their inherent vulnerabilities.

Significant trade policy outcomes were achieved during the year, including improved market access for a wide range of goods and services across a diverse range of markets through the conclusion of Free Trade Agreements.

Overall, the Ministry has carried out proactive and pragmatic diplomacy marked by several achievements leading to the increased global visibility of Mauritius.

I seize this opportunity to thank the Honourable Minister for his guidance and support. I also commend the staff of the Ministry, both at headquarters and in our Missions abroad, for their hard work and dedication during the past challenging year.

Mr. Joyker Nayeck, CSK
Secretary for Foreign Affairs



PART II

ABOUT THE MINISTRY

I. The Ministry at a glance

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has, over the years, initiated a process of active diplomacy focused on defending our sovereignty, strengthening our partnerships, building influence in global forums and promoting and facilitating our socio-economic transformation.

In general, our approach of seeking closer contacts, building stronger connectivity, opening up of new market access and investment opportunities and expanding cooperation has yielded strong dividends.

Attracting investments, technologies and best practices from abroad remained an important priority of all our diplomatic engagements. Engagements with global leaders and partners remained focused on accumulation of partnerships and synergies aimed at our economic transformation.

The process of consular grievance redressal for overseas Mauritians has been further improved through enhanced coordination.

A major focus of the Government over the years has been to reach out to the Diaspora and extend our support and encouragement to them to remain engaged with their country of origin.

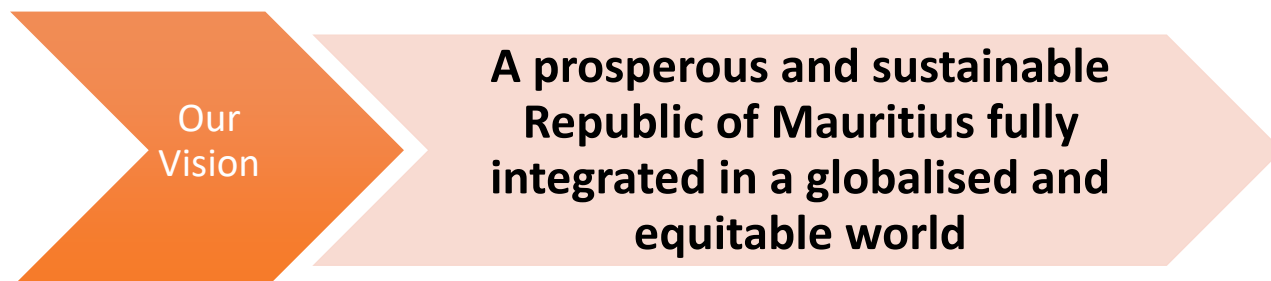
Overall, the Ministry has continued to carry out path-breaking, proactive and pragmatic diplomacy marked by several achievements and a rise in the profile of Mauritius abroad.

Apart from advancing key economic objectives, which is an important focus in all of these relationships, there has been significant progress as regards the assertion by Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Our Vision	
A prosperous and sustainable Republic of Mauritius fully integrated in a globalised and equitable world	
Our People	
Total Staff	357
Mauritius based Diplomats	52
Diplomats based overseas	57
Our Posts	
Missions	19 [7 High Commissions, 9 Embassies, 3 Permanent Representations]
Consulates General	1
Consulate	1
Honorary Consulate General	1
Honorary Consulates	58
Our Support	
Foreign Missions based in Mauritius	15
Foreign Missions accredited to Mauritius [Non-Resident]	91
International and Regional Organisations based in Mauritius	15
Consulates General in Mauritius	2
Honorary Consulates General in Mauritius	4
Honorary Consulates in Mauritius	53
Our Funding	

Voted Foreign Affairs Expenditure	MUR 1.337 billion
Revenue	MUR 33,190,042

II. Vision and Mission of the Ministry



III. Role and Functions of Directorates and Divisions of the Ministry

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the sound management of the Ministry.

The role and functions of the diplomatic and administrative staff are geared towards ensuring smooth delivery of services in line with the vision and mission of the Ministry.

(i) Functions of Directorates/Divisions

➤ Protocol, Consular and Immunities Directorate

The **Protocol, Consular and Immunities Directorate** oversees and monitors the provision of diplomatic privileges and immunities to foreign Diplomatic and Consular Missions, International Organizations and their staff. The Directorate is also responsible for the registration of the staff of foreign Missions and International and Regional organisations. It co-ordinates the registration of motor vehicles licenses, issue of diplomatic identity cards, residence permits, tax exemption and privileges for these missions and organisations.

➤ Policy Coordination and Coherence Directorate

The **Policy Coordination and Coherence Directorate** provides direct support to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The Directorate facilitates the coordination within the various divisions of the Ministry, with our Missions Overseas, as well with other government agencies with a view to delivering a focused and effective foreign policy.

➤ IGOs Economic Directorate

The **IGOs Economic Directorate** focuses on current and emerging economic issues at the national, regional and international levels with the objective of preserving and enhancing the economic interests of Mauritius. It also coordinates the engagement of different stakeholders with our traditional and emerging economic partners.

Directorate also works towards reaching out for assistance in the form of technical assistance and capacity building from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

The Directorate also participates in the efforts to promote Mauritius as an investment destination as well as a crucial hub for regional and international trade taking advantage of our preferential market access in Europe, Africa, Asia and USA.

➤ **IGO Political (UN System) Directorate**

The **IGO Political (UN System) Directorate** deals with a wide range of multilateral issues, including peace and security, international terrorism, sustainable development, climate change, maritime issues and elections at the international level. It focuses on the United Nations (UN) System, such as the UN Principal Organs, UN Subsidiary Bodies, Programmes and Funds, Functional Commissions, Specialised Agencies, Human Rights and Human Rights Treaty Bodies; and UN General Assembly Committees.

The Directorate is the national focal point for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

➤ **IGOs Political (Geneva and the Hague Related Issues)**

The **IGOs Political (Geneva and the Hague Related Issues)** deals with a wide range of multilateral issues, including health, labour, human rights and migration. It focuses on issues dealt at the multilateral level in Geneva, including those related to BWC, CCW, ATT, BRS, CERN, CITES, IPU, UPU, WMO, ICRC/IFRC, ISO, UNHCR and OCHA.

The Directorate also handles issues pertaining to the Hague-based institutions, including the International Criminal Court, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

➤ **Bilateral Africa Directorate**

The **Bilateral Africa Directorate** oversees the economic, social and political relations between Mauritius and individual African countries. It is responsible, inter-alia, for the conclusion of MoUs/Agreements, the holding of Joint Commissions, the organisation of State visits to and from Africa, and the monitoring of political developments in African countries that may impact our national interests.

➤ **African Union Directorate**

The **African Union Directorate** is responsible for promoting and defending the interests of Mauritius at the African Union through participation in meetings, programmes and events of the Union and its agencies. It also coordinates the implementation of policies/decisions of the African Union with line Ministries. It is the national focal point for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

➤ **European Union, Bilateral Europe Directorate**

The **European Union, Bilateral Europe Directorate** is responsible for overseeing the relations of Mauritius with the European Union as well as bilateral relations with European countries, including the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the Holy See.

It aims at consolidating existing economic, trade and development cooperation relations with the European Union and the Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific (OACPS). The Directorate is *inter-alia* engaged in the post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement process, the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) of the EU.

➤ **Asia, Middle East and Russia Directorate**

The **Asia, Middle East and Russia Directorate** oversees bilateral relations with over 50 countries and especially with traditional partners such as Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Pakistan and Russia. It is also responsible for engaging with emerging partners such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. It also aims to further develop ties with Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Singapore. The Directorate also coordinates bilateral ties through our High Commission in Malaysia.

The conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with India, the proposed CEPCA with the United Arab Emirates and the enhancement of relations with Japan since the opening of the Embassy illustrate the excellent bilateral relations pursuant to our strategic economic partnership agreements.

The Directorate was also responsible for matters pertaining to the participation of Mauritius in the G20 Summit from November 2022 to June 2023. It also deals with matters relating to the Indo-Pacific.

➤ **Americas, Australasia, Commonwealth, Francophonie and Sovereignty Issues Directorate**

The **Directorate for the Americas, Australasia, Commonwealth, Francophonie and Sovereignty Issues** deals all relevant political, trade, political, commercial, economic, and development cooperation issues in respect of all the countries covered within the geographic zones of Americas and Australasia and the International organisations under its purview. This includes consolidating and expanding our multifaceted relations with traditional partners (including United States, Australia and Canada) and also developing and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships and active cooperation programmes with emerging partners.

At the multilateral level, the Directorate deals with existing and emerging issues covered by the Commonwealth and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and their respective bodies. The objective is to maintain and further develop our ongoing engagements with these two important multilateral organisations. The Directorate also processes, in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office, matters relating to the effective exercise of Mauritius of its sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin.

➤ **Digital Transformation, Communication and Capacity Development Directorate**

The **Digital, Transformation, Communication and Capacity Development Directorate** (DTCCD) disseminates relevant and current international information through a daily news report to our staff and Missions abroad.

The DTCCD also provides up to date information on the activities of the Ministry through the Ministry's website. It also occasionally conducts outreach awareness sessions through presentations and brainstorming on various international issues of relevance to the diplomatic staff.

➤ **Regional Integration Division**

The **Regional Integration Division (RID)** focuses on the formulation, coordination and implementation of policies at the regional level.

It is responsible for the promotion and enhancement of regional and continental integration through our membership in the Southern African Development Community, (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa;

(COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

➤ **International Trade Division**

The **International Trade Division**, which also includes the Industrial Property Office, is responsible for the formulation of international trade policies. The Division is responsible for negotiations on trade deals for Mauritius at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

The Directorate also ensures that international trade rules are shaped in a manner so as to create better trading opportunities for Mauritian exporters on regional and international markets, and follows up on the implementation of bilateral/multilateral trade agreements.

In addition, the International Trade Division is responsible for investigating applications for trade remedy actions, and for preparing the Trade Policy Review of Mauritius.

➤ **Industrial Property Office**

The **Industrial Property Office** of Mauritius (IPOM), which is a revenue-generating office, administers the Industrial Property legislations, namely the Industrial Property Act 2019 and the Protection Against Unfair Practices (Industrial Property Rights) Act 2002, as subsequently amended.

It includes the registration and protection of industrial property rights namely patents, utility models, layout designs of integrated circuits, plant breeder's rights, industrial designs, trademarks, trade names and geographical indications.

The IPOM also helps in the dissemination of information on the importance of Industrial Property Rights.

(ii) Activities of the General Administration Division

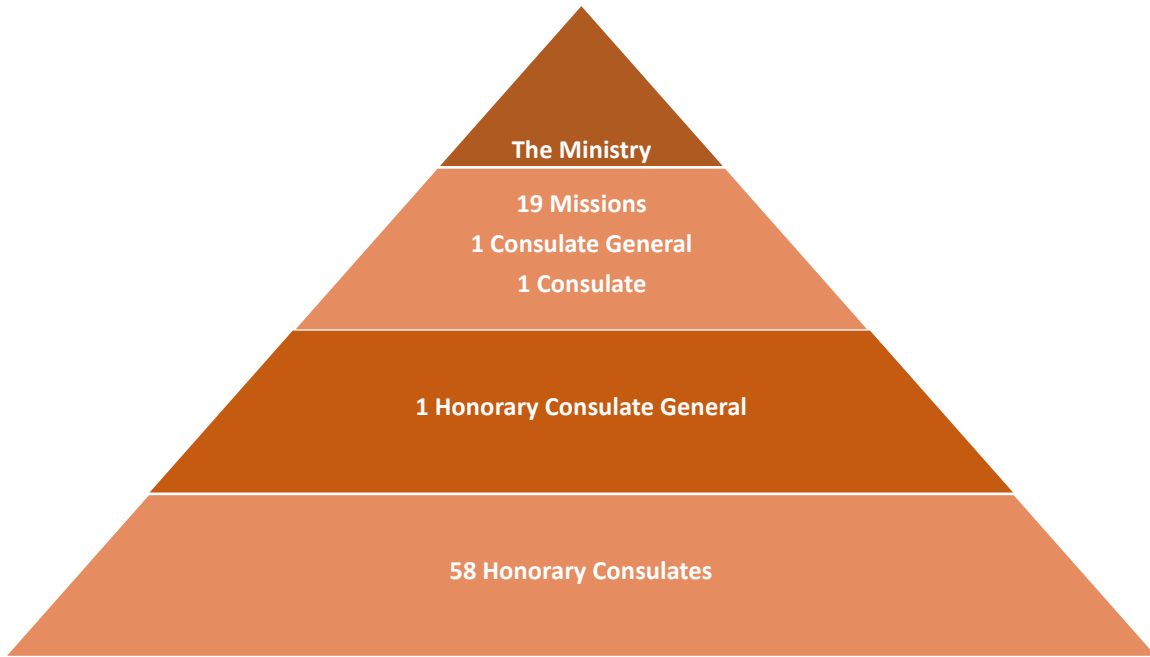
- **Finance and Budgeting** - budget proposals, monitoring of expenditure, maintaining of accounting records, ensuring follow-up on internal and external audit reports, and implementation of budget measures, among others.

- **Human Resources Management** – Coordinating and implementing all aspects which relate to the management of human resources, conditions of service, staff relations, training and development.
- **Procurement and Supply** – Conducting procurement exercises in line with public procurement legislations, ensuring maximum value for money.
- **Confidential and Open Registries** – Ensuring the proper management of correspondence, files and documents and records within the Ministry.
- **Operation of Mission Overseas** – Arrangement for the departure and return of diplomatic staff posted overseas, payment of allowances and grants, process of all expenditures and procurement.

IV. Our Network across the World

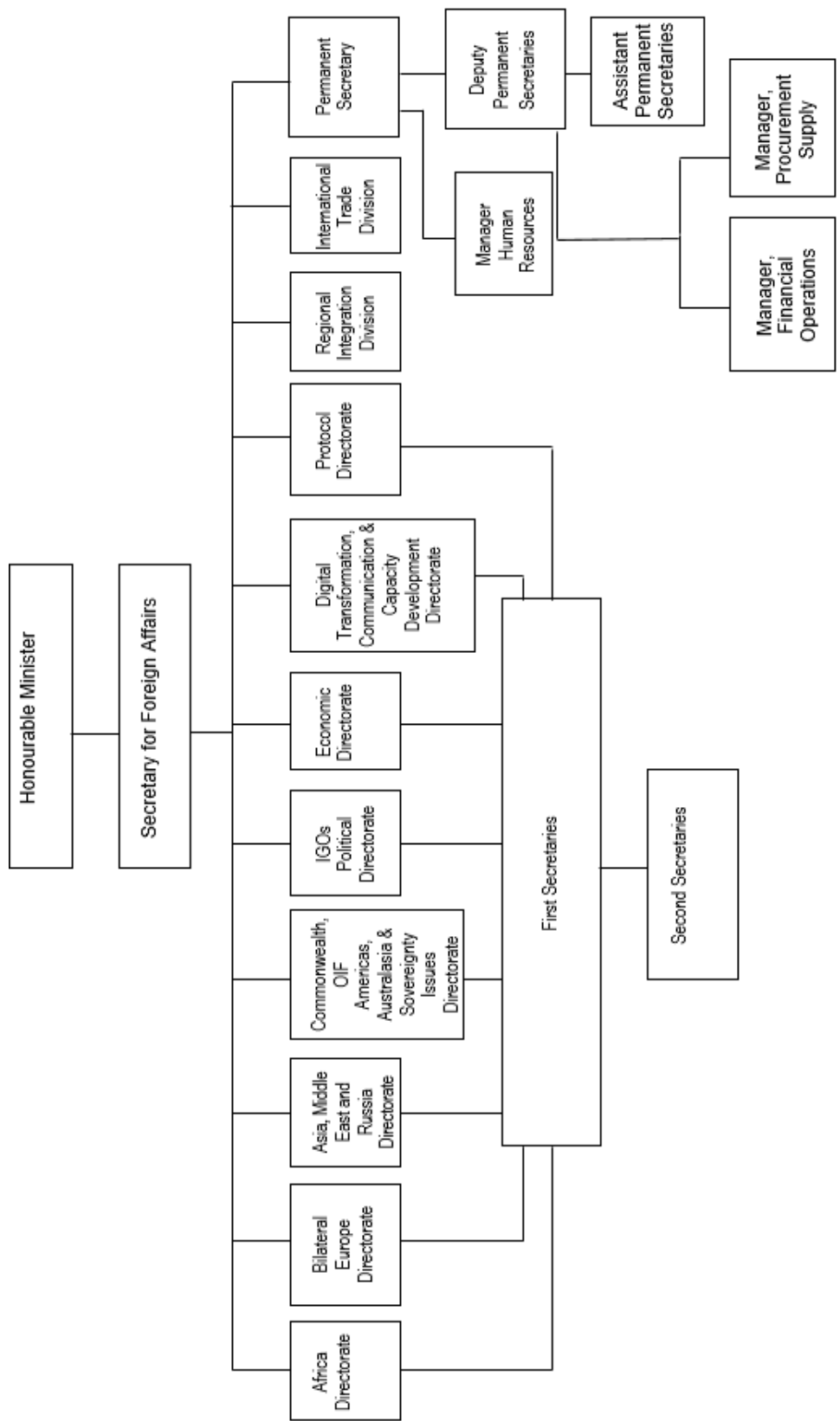
A. Number and Type of Overseas Representations





Note: *High Commissions in London and Pretoria also cover multilateral issues. Embassies in Paris and Brussels also cover multilateral issues. The Permanent Representations in Geneva and Addis Ababa also cover bilateral issues.*

V. Organisational Chart



VI. Senior Management Team at Headquarters [FY 2022-2023]

SN	Name of Officers	Contact details
1.	<p>Secretary for Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Ambassador Haymandoyal DILLUM (July 2022- January 2023)</p> <p>Mr. Joyker NAYECK (Feb – June 2023)</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 – 2541</p> <p>Email: sfa@govmu.org</p>
2.	<p>Head Americas, Australasia, Commonwealth, Francophonie and Sovereignty Issues Directorate</p> <p>Ambassador Vishwakarmah MUNGUR</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2565</p> <p>Email: vmungur59@gmail.com</p>
3.	<p>Permanent Secretary</p> <p>Head, Digital Transformation, Communication & Capacity Development Directorate</p> <p>Mr. Roodradeo BHUGWANT</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2523</p> <p>Email: psmfa@govmu.org</p>
4.	<p>Head, Asia, Middle East and Russia Directorate</p> <p>Mr. Janmajaising BISSOONDOYAL, Minister Counsellor</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2683</p> <p>Email: jbissoondoyal@govmu.org</p>
5.	<p>Head, European Union and Bilateral Europe Directorate</p> <p>Mrs. Marie Hélène CHAVRIMOOTOO, Minister Counsellor</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2622</p> <p>Email: hchavrimootoo@govmu.org</p>
6.	<p>Head, IGO's Economic Directorate</p> <p>Mr. Nadrajen CHEDUMBARUM, Minister Counsellor</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2619</p> <p>Email: mervinche@hotmail.com</p>

7.	<p>Head, IGOs Political Directorate (UN System)</p> <p>Mr. Rakesh Bye BHUCKORY, Minister Counsellor (July - Dec 2022)</p> <p>Mr. Rajkumar SOOKUN, Minister Counsellor (Jan - Feb 2023)</p> <p>Acting Head</p> <p>Mr. Subhas GUJADHUR, First Secretary (March 2023 - May 2023)</p> <p>Mr. Tarunjai REETOO, First Secretary (June 2023)</p>	<p>Email: rsookun@govmu.org</p> <p>Email: sgujadhur@govmu.org</p> <p>Email: treetoo@govmu.org</p>
8.	<p>Head, IGOs Political Directorate - (Geneva and the Hague Related Issues)</p> <p>Mr. Rajkumar SOOKUN, Minister Counsellor</p> <p>Acting Head</p> <p>Mr. Subhas GUJADHUR, First Secretary (Mar 2023 - May 2023)</p> <p>Mr. Tarunjai REETOO, First Secretary (June 2023)</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405-2568</p> <p>Email: rsookun@govmu.org</p> <p>Email: sgujadhur@govmu.org</p> <p>Email: treetoo@govmu.org</p>
9.	<p>Head, Protocol, Consular and Immunities Directorate</p> <p>Mr. Anandreo HURREE, Minister Counsellor (July 2022 - Jan 2023)</p> <p>Acting Head</p> <p>Mr. Rajnish Amal Lovlesh SEWTOHUL, First Secretary (March- May 2023)</p> <p>Mr. Subhas GUJADHUR, First Secretary (June 2023)</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2539</p> <p>Email: protocol@govmu.org</p>
10	<p>Head, Bilateral Africa Directorate</p> <p>Mr. Ravindranath SAWMY, Minister Counsellor (Jan- June 2023)</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2659</p>

	<p>Acting Head</p> <p>Mr. Lovlesh Amal Rajnish SEWTOHUL, First Secretary (June 2023)</p>	<p>Email: rsewthul@govmu.org</p>
11.	<p>Head, African Union Directorate</p> <p>Mrs. Gajaluxmi MOOTOOSAMY, Minister Counsellor</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2605</p> <p>Email: gmootoosamy@govmu.org</p>
12.	<p>Head, Regional Integration Division</p> <p>Mrs. Minakshi DABEE-HAUZAREE, Director</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2624</p> <p>Email: mdabeehauzaree@govmu.org</p>
13.	<p>Head, International Trade Division</p> <p>Mr. Narainduth BOODHOO, Director</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 260 2911</p> <p>Email: sunilboodhoo59@gmail.com</p>
14.	<p>Deputy Permanent Secretary</p> <p>Mrs. Damyantee TAKOORY (July 2022- Jan 2023)</p> <p>Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary</p> <p>Mrs. Rajwantee BUCKTOWAR (Feb – June 2023)</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2516</p> <p>Email: dtakoory@govmu.org</p> <p>Email: rabucktowar@govmu.org</p>
15.	<p>Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary</p> <p>Mrs. Suraiya MEEAJANE</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 405 2522</p> <p>Email: smeeajane@govmu.org</p>
16.	<p>Industrial Property Office</p> <p>Mr. Ranjive BEERGAUNOT, Officer in Charge</p>	<p>Phone: (230) 260 2811</p> <p>Email: rbeergaunot@govmu.org</p>

VII. Missions Abroad

SN	Mission	Head of Mission	Contact details
1.	Addis Ababa	Mr. Dhamraj BUSGEETH, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the African Union Commission	Phone : + 25111 66105997 Email : addisemb@gmail.com
2.	Antananarivo	Mrs Marie Noëlle Françoise LABELLE, Ambassador	Phone : + 261 20 22 538 42 Email : memad@moov.org
3.	Beijing	Mr Roland Alain WONG YEN CHEONG, Ambassador	Phone: + 86 10 6532 5695 Email: mebj@govmu.org
4.	Berlin	Ms Christelle SOHUN, Ambassador	Phone: + 43 30 26 39 360 Email: berlinemb@govmu.org
5.	Brussels	Mr. Sutiawan GUNESSEE, Ambassador	Phone : + 32 2734 40 21 Email : brusselsemb@govmu.org
6.	Cairo	Mr Datakarran GOBURDHUN, Ambassador	Phone: +202 2736 5208 Email: cairoemb@govmu.org
7.	Canberra	Mrs Marie Claire Jeanne MONTY, High Commissioner	Phone: + 612 6281 1203 Email: canberra hc@govmu.org
8.	Dubai	Mr Rajnish Amal Lovlesh SEWTOHUL, First Secretary	Phone: +971 4 3429896 Email: info@mauritiusconsulate.com
9.	Islamabad	Mr Rashidally SOOBADAR, High Commissioner	Phone: +92 51 282 1628 Email: rsoobadar@govmu.org
10.	Kuala Lumpur	Mr Jagdishwar GOBURDHUN G.O.S.K, High Commissioner	Phone: + 603 2163 6301 Email: klhc@govmu.org
11.	London	Mr Girish NUNKOO, High Commissioner	Phone +44 207 581 0294 Email: londonhc@govmu.org

12.	Maputo	Mr Jean François CHAUMIÈRE, Commissioner High	Phone: +258 2149 4182 Email: jfchaumiere@govmu.org
13.	Moscow	Dr Keshwar JANKEE, Ambassador	Phone: + 7495 915 0492 Email: Ambassador-Moscow@govmu.org
14.	Mumbai	Mr. Dooshant Kumar BUCTOWAR, Second Secretary (as from February 2023)	Phone: + 91022 - 22845466 Email: dbucktowar@govmu.org
15.	New Delhi	Mrs Santi Bai HANOOMAJEE, High Commissioner (July 2022) Mr H. DILLUM, High Commissioner (Feb - June 2023)	Phone: + 91-11-2410 2161 Email: mhcnewdelhi@gmail.com
16.	New York	Mr J.D KOONJUL, G.C.SK, G.O.S.K, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations	Phone: +1 212 949 0190 Email: mauritius@un.int
17.	Paris	Mr Vijayen VALAYDON, Ambassador	Phone: + 331 42 27 30 19 Email: paris@amb-maurice.fr
18.	Pretoria	Dr Viyaje Prakarmajith LUTCHMUN, High Commissioner	Phone: + 27 12 342 1283 Email: pretoriahc@govmu.org
19.	Riyadh	Mr Showkutally SOODHUN, G.C.S.K, Ambassador	Phone: +966 11 482 9567 Email: emb.riyadh@govmu.org
20.	Washington DC	Mr Purmanund JHUGROO, Ambassador	Phone: +1 -202 -244 1491 Email: Mauritius.embassy@verizon.net

• Key responsibilities of the Ministry

- Defining, advancing, representing and safeguarding our interests and values abroad through a structure which encompasses foreign policy, trade, and regional integration
- Undertaking negotiations, contribute to the elaboration of international law, responding to complex international crises, and playing a role in expanding economic opportunities for the business community
- Providing consular services, including helping Mauritians in distress abroad
- Engaging constructively with other countries and partners by building and maintaining relationships with regional and international organisations;
- Driving through advocacy and diplomacy, positive and meaningful action on global issues based on ideals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- Innovating, adapting to and contributing to meaningful Government action on ongoing and interconnected impacts of pandemics, climate change, technological transformation, and complex regional, global and
- Follow developments and consider opportunities in emerging areas such as internet governance and digital access; artificial intelligence; and science, technology and innovation, amongst others

X. Ministry Impact

Part I – Promoting our Stand on Values, Principles and Interests in Key Conferences

- 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

The Hon Prime Minister led a delegation to New York to attend the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022. The theme of that Session was “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges”. The Hon. Prime Minister delivered his speech to the General Assembly on 23 September.

The Hon. Prime Minister also participated in several high-level events in New York in the margins of the General Assembly, including, the First Gathering of the Global group of Heads of State and Government for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases, and the Alliance of Small Island States Leaders Breakfast Meeting.

The Hon. Prime Minister also participated virtually in the Transforming Education Summit, and the African Union Global Summit on Transforming Education that took place earlier in New York, since he attended the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in London on 19 September 2022.

- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The Prime Minister led the Mauritius delegation to the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2022) to Kigali, Rwanda. This high-level event was preceded, inter alia, by the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting which also saw the participation of the Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

- 12th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference [MC12]

The Ministry was represented at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) which was held in Geneva.

The impact of the challenges facing the world economy, particularly on Net Food Importing Developing Countries such as Mauritius and the need for the MC12 to frame responses to address them was highlighted as well as the proposal to set up a special desk at the WTO to examine issues confronting the Small Island Developing States and to propose solutions as appropriate

- Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development [TICAD VIII]

The Minister participated in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) Summit held in Tunisia where discussions revolved around projecting Africa as a vigorously growing region while taking advantage of resolving social issues as opportunities for development and the launch of a new Bilateral Business Improvement Committee between Mauritius and Japan as one of the measures for Japan’s contribution with a view to promoting trade and investment between Japan and Africa and support Japanese companies expanding into Africa

- **Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**

The Council of Ministers took note of the progress made on the negotiations for Phase I issues (Trade in Goods, Special Economic Zones and Trade in Services) and Phase II issues (Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights). The Council of Ministers also took note of the projects realised by the Afrexim Bank in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

- **24th Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (MCO)**

The following main issues were discussed - (a) Peace and Security; (b) Dialogue and Mediation in Conflict Resolution; (c) the SADC Mission in Mozambique; (d) Maritime Security; and (e) Signing of the SADC Protocol on the Interstate Transfer of Sentenced Offenders.

- **SADC Council of Ministers held in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The interventions at the SADC Council of Ministers focused, inter alia, on the following main issues - (a) status of finances; (b) the candidatures for membership of the Council of the International Telecommunication Union for the term 2023-2026; (c) the SADC Administrative Tribunal; (d) the recruitment of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration and Director of Organ; (e) the SADC Standby Force Regional Logistic Depot; and (f) the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into Parliament.

- **COMESA Council of Ministers held in the Republic of Zambia.**

The meeting, inter alia, assessed progress made on the implementation of the COMESA programmes/projects, status of Member States' contribution to the Secretariat's budget, restructuring of the Secretariat and audit and administrative matters.

Our interventions focused on issues such as health, the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement, the allocation of sugar quota under the Kenya Sugar Safeguard and maritime connectivity.

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers, held in the Republic of Bangladesh.**

The projects and programmes in the six priority areas of co-operation (maritime safety and security, trade and investment facilitation, tourism and cultural exchange, fisheries management, disaster risk management and academic, science and technology co-operation) and two cross cutting issues (Blue economy and women's economic empowerment) were reviewed and discussed.

Various activities that have been organised by the IORA Secretariat with the support of the Government of Mauritius to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Association were acknowledged.

- **13th Session of the Mauritius-Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation**

In April 2023, the Minister participated in the 13th Session of the Mauritius-Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Seychelles during the first week of April 2023.

The holding of bilateral Commissions with island states of the Indian Ocean is a major component of our foreign policy. Various areas of cooperation including Ocean/Blue Economy, Fisheries, Agriculture, Financial Sector, Legal Affairs, Security and ICT were discussed.

- **36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union**

In early 2023, the Minister attended the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union centred around all the important theme of “Acceleration of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation”.

- **G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and 8th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, India.**

Following the invitation extended by India in its capacity as Chair of the G20 to Mauritius as a guest country, the Minister participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. He also represented Mauritius at the 8th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, India.

- **Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting**

In March 2023, the Minister also participated in two Commonwealth ministerial meetings, namely the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting. Mauritius is serving for the first time in the CMAG since its establishment in 1995, upon the invitation of the Commonwealth Secretary General.

- **11th round of technical negotiations between the European Union and Eastern and Southern African States (ESA 5)**

Mauritius also actively participated in the 11th round of technical negotiations between the European Union and Eastern and Southern African States (ESA 5) comprising Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe, on the deepening of the interim Economic Partnership Agreement during FY 22-23. Discussions centred on Property Rights including Geographical Indications, Trade and Sustainable Development, Rules of Origin, Transparency in Public Procurement, Dispute Settlement and Institutional Provisions, Competition policy, Technical Barriers to Trade, Agriculture, and Fisheries.

- **37th Indian Ocean Commission Council of Ministers**

The participation in the 37th Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) held this year in Madagascar was equally significant in terms of substance as the Council, *inter alia*, reviewed the implementation of the IOC programmes and projects, discussed the restructuring of the Secretariat and the orientations of the organisation. The Strategic Development Plan 2023-2033, which provides the main orientations of the IOC for the next decade was adopted.

- **Second Ministerial Retreat and the second Extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers responsible for Trade**

The Minister participated in the second Ministerial Retreat and the second Extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers responsible for Trade in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Ministerial Retreat and the Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers deliberated, *inter alia*, on key issues pertaining to the outstanding Rules of Origin on Automotive and Textiles & Clothing, proposals on frontloading liberalisation of trade in basic agricultural products for food and nutrition security, ratification, domestication and utilisation of AfCFTA Agreement and implementation of AfCFTA operational tools focusing on Expanding the Guided Trade Initiative and introduction of AfCFTA National Trading Companies.

X. Ministry Impact

Part II - Enhancing Visibility and Leveraging on outcomes during Key Visits and Conferences in Mauritius

- **Visit of COMESA Secretary General**

HE Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General of COMESA was on official visit to Mauritius from 22 to 24 August 2022. The purpose of her mission was to, *inter alia*, discuss the implementation of COMESA programmes and activities.

- **Visit of the Commonwealth Secretary General**

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth was on an official visit to Mauritius in the context of the fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH).

- **Visit of the Secretary General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie**

HE Ms Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) was on official visit to Mauritius from 07 to 10 September 2022. The visit was an opportunity for the Secretary-General to brief Mauritian dignitaries on the full breadth of OIF multilateral cooperation activities and to discuss specific

areas of partnership between Mauritius and the OIF. She also had an exchange on preparations for the Summit of the OIF held in Tunisia, in November 2022.

- **Visit of H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and signature of the Mauritius-South Africa General Cooperation Agreement (GCA)**

H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, effected a Working Visit to Mauritius on 03 to 04 May 2023.

During the visit, the General Cooperation Agreement (GCA) between Mauritius and South Africa was signed, ushering in a new era of relations between the two countries. The GCA provides for the establishment of a Joint Commission at Senior Officials' level and it will serve as the mechanism through which the two countries work to increase levels of cooperation across various sectors.



PART III
OUTCOMES
AND
ACHIEVEMENTS

I. Upholding the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Mauritius

Following sustained diplomatic high-level initiatives, the United Nations General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. In its Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019, the ICJ made it clear that the Chagos Archipelago is and has always been an integral part of the territory of Mauritius.

In its Judgment of 28 January 2021, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea fully endorsed the determinations made by the ICJ in its Advisory Opinion and held that Mauritius has undisputed sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

As announced in the National Assembly and the UK Parliament on 03 November 2022, Mauritius and the United Kingdom decided to start negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago with a view to concluding an agreement on the basis of international law.

At the United Nations Ocean Conference co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya from 27 June to 01 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, Mauritius organised two side events in the margins of the Conference, in order to showcase the Marine Protected Area which it intends to create around the Chagos Archipelago.

As for the United Kingdom's membership of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Commission decided at its last Session held in May 2023 that the United Kingdom will have to clarify the status of its membership of the organisation before the end of 2023.

As regards Tromelin which also forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius, we look forward to the early resolution of the dispute over that island in the spirit of friendship that characterizes the relations between Mauritius and France.

II. Taking Leadership on specific matters on the multilateral front for advancing the interests of Mauritius

- Mobilising Support at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali

The Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, led the Mauritius delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022 (CHOGM 2022) which was held in June - July 2022.

During the CHOGM in Kigali, Mauritius intervened at high level on matters of global concern including the climate crisis and support to vulnerable small states.

It was also an opportunity to voice our stand on matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Mauritius was, in this context, successful in supporting and maintaining a paragraph in the final CHOGM outcome which reads as follows :

"Heads emphasised the commitment in the Commonwealth Charter, to international peace and security, and to an effective multilateral system based on international law. They took note

*of the relevant UN resolutions and reaffirmed their support for the Charter of the United Nations and international efforts for peace. **Heads underscored the need to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.** Heads also emphasised that all countries must seek peaceful resolution to all disputes in accordance with international law."*

Our participation involved discussions on the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub which is chaired and hosted by Mauritius and initiating action on a roadmap for constructive and deeper engagement with the Commonwealth.

In view of our strong credentials and visibility as a major small state player, Mauritius was invited to join the Commonwealth Monitoring Action Group and to support the championing the Commonwealth-UN Small States Advocacy Strategy.

Mauritius was equally invited to host the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Mauritius which we successfully did in November 2022 under the Chair of the current Minister of Foreign Affairs who also holds the portfolio of Attorney General.

- Election of Mauritius to the ITU Council

Mauritius was elected to serve on the Council of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for region D (Africa) at the elections held on 03 October 2022 during the Plenipotentiary Conference. The term of office of Mauritius started on the date of its election and will end on the date of the next election in 2026.

ITU, based in Geneva, is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies. It is the oldest UN agency, having been established in May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union.

It is the first time that Mauritius has the privilege of serving on the ITU Council, which is the second most important body of the ITU after the Plenipotentiary Conference. The ITU Council serves as the Governing Body of the ITU between the quadrennial Plenipotentiary Conferences and has annual meetings in Geneva.

- Presidency of Mauritius of the OACPS

Mauritius was elected President of the Council of Ministers and Committee of Ambassadors of the OACPS, for the period February to July 2023 and will now be a Member of the Troika for the next 6 months (August 2023-January 2024).

Mauritius assumed the Presidency of the OACPS after nearly 20 years and has successfully pushed forward certain key issues in keeping with its stated objective to be global player in an effort to better promote and protect the overall interest of the Organization.

Immediate outcomes of the Presidency include the successful lobbying leading to the removal of objections by two EU member states to the signature of the Samoa Agreement.

- **Chairmanship of the OACPS Ministerial and Ambassadorial Working Groups on AML/CFT and Tax Governance Matters**

Given the importance of the financial services sector for Mauritius, the Embassy has been actively participating in the OACPS Ministerial and Ambassadorial Working Groups on AML/CFT and Tax Governance Matters

Under the Chairmanship of Mauritius, a Joint EU-OACPS Ministerial level meeting was held in January 2023 in Mauritius, during which the two sides have for the first time, discussed cooperation measures.

In this context, a Virtual Platform for discussion on tax Governance and AML/CFT was launched in Mauritius in January 2023.

- **Discussions on future perspectives as OACPS reaches 50**

As the Organisation will mark its 50th anniversary in 2025, it would be an opportunity to reflect on how to re-engineer the Organisation to make it more responsive to the aspirations of its Member States.

In this regard, the 116th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers has approved the proposal of the Mauritius Presidency to set up an Ambassadorial Working Group and to organise an Ambassadorial Retreat in 2023 to discuss future perspectives of the OACPS.

- **Mauritius Chairmanship of the SIDS FORUM of OACPS**

Mauritius will assume the Chairmanship of the SIDS Forum as from November 2023.

In the course of 2022, Mauritius has canvassed for the Organisation for the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) to organise a SIDS Resource Mobilisation Conference to fund the Nationally Determined Contributions of the SIDS and other OACP States.

That proposal was approved by the OACPS Summit held in Angola in December 2022. Mauritius is expected to participate actively in the Conference and its organisation in order to secure funding to finance its NDCs.

A second proposal of Mauritius for the preparation of an OACPS Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) has also reached an advanced stage. This index could serve as an additional criteria in the future by the International Financial Institutions so that Middle/High Income SIDS can benefit from concessional financing including grants.

- **Hosting of the SIDS AIS Preparatory Meeting in Mauritius**

Mauritius will be hosting the Preparatory meeting of SIDS from the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Seas (AIS) region on 24-26 July 2023 in anticipation of the SAMOA +10 international SIDS conference to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 39 States and 18 Associate Members of United Nations located in three geographical regions, namely, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS).

SIDS were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS which was held in Samoa in 2014, was the SAMOA Pathway which aims to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS and to support their development. The Fourth International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda next year is expected to adopt the next 10-year plan of action for the sustainable development of SIDS in the context of multi-dimensional challenges.

- **Adoption of the BBNJ Agreement [Biological Diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction]**

Mauritius served as a Vice-President to the BBNJ conference and led the African group in negotiations on the Environmental Impact Assessment package.

Mauritius participated actively in negotiations for the adoption of the draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The BBNJ Agreement was adopted on 19 June 2023 in New York and Mauritius will sign the Agreement in September 2023.

The BBNJ Agreement is the culmination of discussions that began in 2004 under the auspices of the United Nations to balance competing interests in areas beyond national jurisdiction by protecting marine biodiversity while advancing opportunities for scientific discovery and promoting sustainable development.

- **Mauritius Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Commission**

As from 17 May 2023, Mauritius is the Chair of the Indian Ocean Commission Council of Ministers.

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association - Tourism and Cultural Exchange Cluster**

In view of our excellent credentials, Mauritius was selected as lead coordinator of the IORA Tourism and Cultural Exchange cluster for the period 2022-2023.

II. Nurturing and Further Developing Partnerships with International, Regional and Organisations for Potential Benefits

- Cooperation with the UN System

Government of Mauritius maintains close collaboration with the United Nations (UN) System and is committed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals.

The current Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) agreement, signed in August 2019, is coming to term in December 2023. The Ministry is working with the UN System to elaborate a new cooperation framework that would allow Mauritius to accelerate progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, established by Cabinet Decision of 29 January 2021, has the responsibility to coordinate, monitor and report on progress made in the implementation of the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and the SPF.

- New Chapter for partnership and cooperation between Mauritius and European Union

With the new partnership agreement between the ACP and the EU and the entry into force of the new funding mechanism namely the *Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument* [NDICI], it is becoming increasingly clear that the EU-OACPS relationship has matured from a traditional donor-recipient relationship to that of a partnership framework.

In this regard, several rounds of discussions have been held with the EU side in Brussels to explore the possibility of developing collaborative ventures with EU firms and avail of EU funding through the Team Europe Initiatives and Global Gateway Programme.

Areas of cooperation that have great potential for such partnership are the pharmaceutical, financial, Ocean/Blue and Green economy respectively.

- Lobbying for inclusion of Mauritius in the EU list of beneficiaries for technical and financial assistance, under the TEAM Europe Initiative.

There are sustained consultations with the European Commission, for the inclusion of Mauritius in the EU list of beneficiaries for technical and financial assistance, under the TEAM Europe Initiative.

With this inclusion, Mauritius would have the prospect of mobilizing resources to finance the development of its pharmaceutical and biotech sectors for the production of vaccines and medicines.

The EU is reviewing its list of third African countries to benefit from the TEAM Europe Initiative and consideration is being given to include Mauritius as a beneficiary.

In this regard, the EU DG-INTPA has been canvassed for support in favour of Mauritius.

- **Leveraging the Commonwealth for Support, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance**

As a Commonwealth member State, Mauritius contributes to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

This Fund supports the implementation of sustainable/disaster-related projects in small states of the Commonwealth.

According to statistics shared by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mauritius is currently the top beneficiary country in terms of projects.

During the period 2022-2023, Mauritius has gained both from policy advice and technical assistance from the Commonwealth in many sectors. The following assistance has been provided to Mauritius:

I. Under the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources Fisheries and Shipping department received the Commonwealth Blue Charter capacity building training on “Mapping Mangroves” (2020), “Coral Reef Mapping Training” (2021), and “Addressing the impacts of ocean acidification through mitigation, monitoring, and policy” (2022), and the latest has been the selection of Mauritius for Phase 2 of the upcoming Coastal Resilience Vulnerability Index (CORVI) project in July 2023.

II. In June 2023, Mauritius received an invitation to avail of Simplilearn Digital Skills Courses for up to 200 Mauritian students. The Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with Simplilearn is offering US\$5 million worth of free ‘digital skills’ training courses (with certification). The online trainings include courses in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing and Software development. The content for the course is developed by leading industry experts which Simplilearn is collaborating with such as IBM, Microsoft, Meta, Google and others. Mauritius has already registered its interest to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Higher Education Commission of Mauritius is the focal point for coordination.

III. The King's College London (International School for Government) in collaboration with the Commonwealth has offered 10 scholarships to Mauritian Civil Servants to participate in the Ben Delo Commonwealth Leadership Programme for courses for the academic year 2023/2024. This is a new scholarship programme for mid-career civil servants of Commonwealth member states, which has been put in place by the International School for Government at King's College London. Funded by British entrepreneur, mathematician and philanthropist Ben Delo, the Ben Delo Commonwealth Leadership Programme, offers civil servants from across the commonwealth the opportunity to study from the diverse curriculum of post-graduate level, online, four-week short courses, all designed to build impact and effectiveness across policymaking and good governance.

V. In November 2022, the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with government authorities provided training to 500 new police officials and senior officials on local law enforcement and on applied human rights principles. The Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat undertook this intensive five-day training with more than 500 new police officials and senior officials in Mauritius. The training focussed, inter alia, on international human rights standards, especially those that are relevant to the prevention of torture. It trained the police force on how they can incorporate strategies for protection from torture into their everyday practice. This was done to support Mauritius' implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

VI. The High-Level Leadership and Management Programme for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies of the African Continent was held from 31 October to 04 November 2022 in Mauritius. The event was an initiative of the ICAC in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. Heads of 17 anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) from across the African region met to promote effective leadership and effective management of ACAs.

VII. The Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Fund for technical Co-operation (CFTC) is supporting a project relating to export development and promotion of the Rodrigues Island. The proposed project is about "Developing Export Readiness of Rodrigues enterprises for market access to United Kingdom (UK)". Its purpose is, inter alia, to build export readiness capacity for Rodrigues Micro and SMEs enterprises and develop value chain for honey & seafood export. The project aims at enhancing capacity building on export readiness to better position Rodriguan products in UK premium gourmet retail chains through greater trade connectivity with the UK and conversance with the British market requirements, trends and expectations. The Economic Development Board (EDB) is the project coordinating agency for the said project. A scoping visit was carried out in May 2023 by the Commonwealth Secretariat and its Trade Competitiveness Section is agreeable to fund six activities (Phases) under the project which will be implemented from 2023 to 2026.

VIII. The Commonwealth Secretariat along with other stakeholders have conducted a series of capacity-building on climate change negotiation with the assistance of the

Commonwealth and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) under the EU GCCS+ programme in April and May 2023. The capacity building targeted public sector officials as well as members of the civil society, including the youth and women leaders.

IX. The Commonwealth has also agreed to finance a socio-economic impact assessment to the tune of £ 30,000, if Mauritius chooses adopting the international exhaustion regime for marks.

- Facilitating collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning [COL] in the areas of higher education and technology-enabled learning.

Mauritius is part of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network and benefits from programmes offered by the Southern African Development Community's Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE), COL's regional centre.

Learners from Mauritius are also participating in COL's free, open online courses and benefitting from other available resources

In collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) to promote digital education skills amongst students and teachers, COL's award-winning Commonwealth Digital Education Leadership Training in Action (C-DELTA) programme was implemented in Mauritius in 2022. This included 114 teachers from the primary and secondary schools in Mauritius who received training. COL's C-DELTA platform received the Brandon Hall Gold Excellence in Learning Award 2021.

COL organised a national consultation in May 2022 to seek feedback on the OER policy draft where 37 participants attended the workshop organised by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, to finalise the policy. The National OER policy developed with COL's support was adopted by the Cabinet on 23 December 2022.

With COL's support, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), developed the "HEC Integrated Quality Standards, Policies and Procedures Manual for Approval to Establish a Higher Education Institution, Institutional Registration and Programme Accreditation", which has been approved by the Commission.

In addition to the above :

- 7,285 certificates have been issued to learners from Mauritius through COL's Skills Online project.
- Mauritius Institute of Education implemented the institutional policy for technology-enabled learning developed with COL support.
- Report on "Technology-Enabled Learning at Four Public Higher Education Institutions of Mauritius" has been published.

- **Mobilising Financial and Institutional Support with the Southern African Development Community [SADC], the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation [IORA] and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [COMESA]**
 - During the period under review, funding to the tune of US\$ 100,000 and € 122,490 totalling some Rs 10.5 million were mobilised for the implementation of projects at the national level including the development of a national health financing strategy. These include the following
 - Under the SADC Regional Vulnerability and Analysis Programme (RVAA), an amount of US\$ 47,000 has been disbursed by the SADC Secretariat to conduct a survey on the vulnerability assessment and analysis in the agricultural sector in Mauritius. A report has been submitted to the SADC Secretariat.
 - Funds to the tune of USD 500,000 have been granted to Mauritius for the implementation of the project “Development of Guidelines and Standards for Renewable Energy in Mauritius” under the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF). The implementation of the project is ongoing.
 - Mauritius has submitted an application for IORA Special Fund to the tune of approximately \$19,000 for the organisation of an IORA Workshop on nature-based tourism in May 2023. The application has been approved.
 - Funds to the tune of Euro 116,119 has been granted by the COMESA Secretariat to implement the project “Technical Assistance to further enhance the development of the leather value chain in Mauritius”. The implementation of the project is ongoing.
 - Mauritius selected as lead coordinator of the IORA Tourism and Cultural Exchange cluster for the period 2022-2023;
 - Mauritius facilitated the issue of a commemorative stamp which was unveiled on 28 November 2022 to mark the 25th anniversary of the IORA;
 - In March 2023, Collaboration was extended to University of Mauritius to facilitate the enrolment of the third batch online Master Course in Regional Integration offered by the COMESA Virtual University of Regional Integration;

➤ In January 2023, collaboration was equally extended to the Ministry of Gender and COMESA Secretariat for the implementation of the *50 Million African Women Networking platform* to facilitate women in business;

IV. Consolidating the Mauritius trade and business environment for prosperity

:- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Strategic Trade Partnership (STP) between Mauritius and the United Kingdom [April 2023]

- A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Strategic Trade Partnership (STP) between Mauritius and the United Kingdom was signed on Monday 17 April 2023 by the Hon. S. Bholah in his capacity as Acting Minister of Finance Economic Planning and Development and Mr. Andrew Selous MP, the UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Mauritius.

- The objective of the Government in doing this STP is to consolidate, nurture and expand more avenues of cooperation and development by attracting UK brands in the following earmarked sectors:

- a) Financial and Professional Services;
- b) Education, Skills and Training;
- c)Pharmaceuticals / Biotech / Healthcare;
- d)Agri-Tech/ Food Security;
- e) Green Economy / Waste Management and,
- f) Cyber / Technology;

- There is a strong focus on UK and Mauritius’ shared ambitions to deepen trade, fuel economic growth, promote bilateral cooperation and identify new avenues for investment.

:- Launch of the Mauritius Renminbi Clearing Centre, an outcome of the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement with China [December 2022]

The China - Mauritius Free Trade Agreement provided for the development of an RMB clearing and settlement facility in Mauritius. Launched by the Bank of Mauritius on 16 December 2022, the Mauritius Renminbi Clearing Centre becomes the third such centre on the African continent, after South Africa and Zambia.

The RMB clearing centre will also facilitate the process of trade transactions between Mauritius and China, the financing of infrastructure projects in Africa, and the strengthening of Africa-China economic ties.

Mauritius has further been enrolled, together with 7 other African countries, in the Partnership for Enhancing Export Capacity of Africa to China (PEECAC), a 3-year

project initiated by the International Trade Centre, aiming to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa.

This initiative enables the selected countries to work in close collaboration with the General Administration of Customs of China to leverage market access for products into the Chinese market.

- Tangible Outcome of China - Mauritius Free Trade Agreement

The China-Mauritius Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has set transparent and predictable conditions to enhance trade, investment and economic cooperation between our two countries while at the same time providing a more solid institutional guarantee for deepening our relations.

As per the figures of Statistics Mauritius, China is the largest source of imports for Mauritius with 16.1% of our imports originating from China in 2022.

The FTA allows Mauritian companies to export more than 8,000 products duty-free (without tariffs) to China.

- Improving Market Access into India

In the wake of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), exports of 'Made in Mauritius; products to India have been witnessing a constant growth.

In 2022, exports rose to MUR 2.584 billion representing an increase of 39.12% in comparison to 2021. In addition, following the elimination of duty on various tariff lines related to medical devices, substantial increase in export of this product category has been noted during the first 6 months of 2023.

	2021 (MUR)	2022 (MUR)	2023 (Jan-June) - (MUR)
Total Exports	1,857,600,237	2,584,354,654	1,273,214,292
Total Exports of Medical Devices - HS 9018	670,222,949	734,173,911	349,381,569

- Export of 'Made in Mauritius' Products to India

Source: Statistics Mauritius

- Progress on the African Continental Free Trade Area

As regards the African Continental Free Trade Area [AFCTA], Mauritius is among the 17 countries that have submitted their final schedules of commitments in the five priority sectors comprising Business services, Financial services, Communication Services, Tourism services and Transport services.

The Schedule of Commitments for Mauritius and those of 25 countries were adopted by the Extra-Ordinary Session of African Union Assembly of Heads of State held in November 2022

- Improving Market Access under Turkey-Mauritius FTA

With respect to the Mauritius-Türkiye Free Trade Agreement, an Amended Protocol was finalized in April 2023, with a view to improving market access on some products covered under the Agreement.

The concessions provided by Türkiye include improved market access for beer and wine, and more meaningful Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) for some fisheries products, pineapples, lychees, and dog or cat food. Türkiye has also included new products in its offer such as vanilla, fruit wine, poultry feed and rum. The Agreement will enter into force once it is ratified by both sides

- Advancing Negotiations on the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services

Following the entry into force of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services in January, Phase II negotiations are ongoing on trade in services, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024, Mauritius will also have preferential market access, inter alia, in business, distribution, educational, environmental, health, recreational and cultural and sporting services.

V. Setting the foundations for constructive present and future bilateral cooperation

- Sustained successful engagement with the German authorities with a view to setting up a Bilateral Political Consultation with Germany at Ministry of Foreign Affairs level in 2023. First edition is scheduled on 08 November 2023 in Berlin. The Mauritius delegation will be led by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
- Building cooperation bridges with the fast-emerging Eastern Europe through the working session between the Hon. Minister and Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary in April 2023 alongside Senior Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary to explore ways to develop partnerships.
- In 2022, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was handed a copy of the draft Bilateral Free Trade Agreement for consideration as Mauritius endeavours to spread its wings in the Indo-Pacific given its growing influence in business, trade and geopolitics.

- Consultations are also ongoing on a Memorandum of Arrangement to establish an institutional mechanism for bilateral consultations between Mauritius and New Zealand which will strengthen mutual cooperation and improve the coordination of relations between both countries. The New Zealand side has expressed its eagerness in the signature of the MoA.
- The visit of the Honourable Minister of Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry of Fiji Mr. Charan Jeath Singh to Mauritius in June 2023 was facilitated not only to enhance cooperation between the sugar industries of our two countries but also to set up convergence pathways with small island states in the Pacific as we join forces to speak with one voice on sensitive matters like climate change and vulnerability.
- Launching of the Mauritius-India Forum in partnership with the Global Trade and Technology Council of India (GTTTCI) in New Delhi attended by potential investors, representatives of various Chamber of Commerce and Industry and private sector representatives of India.
- Successful holding of the Mauritius-Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation on 6 April 2023 in Seychelles.
- Signature of the General Cooperation Agreement (GCA) between Mauritius and South Africa during the visit of H.E. Dr. N. Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa in May 2023.
- Engaging with the Office of the US Trade Representative with a view to reviving the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement [TIFA] council meetings and have the first meeting held in the first week of November 2023 on the sidelines of the AGOA Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

VI. Strengthening the Regulatory and Legal Framework for Homeland, Cyber and Economic Security

- With a view to protecting our domestic industry against unfair trade practices and surge in imports, the Trade (Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard Measures) Act was enacted in December 2022 and Proclaimed on 2 May 2023.

- In line with the provisions of the Act, a Trade Remedies Investigating Authority has been set up to investigate any allegation or suspicion of dumping, subsidised imports, or increased imports either on receiving a complaint or information which gives rise to such allegation or suspicion; or on its own initiative.
- During the period under review, the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX) fully funded a five-day capacity-building programme on the processing of applications to register and process Geographical Indication (GI) names in Mauritius.
- The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has agreed to conduct a prospective study for special sugar in terms of eligibility to be registered and protected as a geographical indication in Mauritius.
- Signature of the Convention between France and Mauritius in November 2022 on Mutual Legal Assistance/ *coopération judiciaire en matière pénale et d'extradition*.
- Agreement of Mauritius to :
 - adhering to the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence. The aim of the Protocol is to provide tools for enhanced international co-operation in the field of cybercrime investigations and the collection of evidence in electronic form of a criminal offence for the purpose of specific criminal investigations.
 - the ratification by Mauritius, of the following two Treaties :
 - (i) Treaty between the Republic of the Mauritius and the People's Republic of China on Extradition; and
 - (ii) Treaty between the Republic of the Mauritius and the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The two Treaties were signed on 02 September 2018 in China and when ratified by both parties would pave the way towards effective cooperation between both countries in respect of extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

- In the course of this financial year, Mauritius has further agreed to ratify the following Agreements that would amend the Protocol on Trade of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), namely -

(a) Agreement amending Annex VI to the Protocol on Trade concerning the Settlement of Disputes between the Member States of the SADC signed on 17 August 2007. The main objective of this Agreement was to include a provision to prevent forum shopping in relation to a dispute arising between SADC Member States;

(b) Agreement amending Article 20 of the SADC Protocol on Trade signed on 17 August 2008. Its objective is to provide for the imposition of provisional safeguard measures; and

(c) Agreement amending Article 3 of the SADC Protocol on Trade signed on 31 August 2016. The objective of the amendment was to remove reference to Non- Tariff Barriers in Article 3(1)(c) of the Protocol which provided for Members who had been adversely affected by the removal of tariffs.

VII. Contributing to the Promotion and Development of Mauritius as an Ocean State and Promoting Maritime Trade, Maritime Connectivity and Maritime Sustainability

- Initiatives and Consultations on the development of maritime connectivity among the Indian Ocean Islands

The European Union and the European Commission have already been approached on the proposed development a collaborative venture to fund the inter-Island connectivity project through the IOC.

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe [NDICI] is the instrument which the EU has put in place in replacement of the EDF.

The NDICI-Global Europe Instrument inter-alia aims to address long-term developmental challenges and contribute to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement through grants, blending and guarantees to allow the EU to strategically promote public and private investment worldwide in support of sustainable development.

- Collaboration in Fisheries Management with New Zealand

Consultations are ongoing with New Zealand on a Partnership Arrangement proposed by New Zealand in 2022 in the areas of fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy.

This proposal to be financed by New Zealand, consists of a structured and specialised training for cadres of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping with focus on improving fisheries management capacity building

- Collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation

As an ocean state, Mauritius is also working with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the areas of maritime safety and security, marine environment protection and development of sustainable shipping practices.

The ongoing dialogue includes specialised support of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) under the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, for the complete review of the Merchant Shipping Act 2007 with regular discussions on the procedural and planning aspect of the review of the Merchant Act.

VIII. Supporting Government Initiatives to address Climate Change

More and more extreme weather events are being witnessed across the world; higher than ever temperatures, droughts, fires and floods are causing unprecedented challenges across the globe, as the climate crisis persists with a heavy toll on human life and material damage. And among the most vulnerable to these extreme figure small island states like Mauritius.

Access to climate finance is therefore essential to address these existential threats. The Ministry is supporting initiatives at garnering funding to support our National Determined Contributions particularly through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub operating in Mauritius and chaired by Mauritius.

- Operationalisation and Chairmanship of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub

Serving both as the host and a beneficiary country for the technical assistance provided by CCFAH, approximately US\$186,543,984 worth of climate finance has successfully been mobilised through this support for projects in sectors such as water, health, and blue economy.

Of this sum, approximately US\$182 million in concessional loans. As at June 2023, 7 capacity building initiatives have been organised involving 182 government officials and stakeholders.

During her visit to Mauritius in August 2023, the Commonwealth Secretary-General commended the initiatives being taken by Mauritius, as follows :

“The world is facing a tsunami of challenges, climate change poses an existential threat to all of us but particularly to small and vulnerable countries like Mauritius. Sea levels are rising, coastlands are eroding and climate disasters are increasing. I am determined to share the best practice, support and knowledge that we can offer, not just from the Secretariat but from across our Commonwealth family.”

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub [CCFAH] is the jewel in our crown and a flagship programme that supports member states to address climate change. I express my thanks to the Government of Mauritius for the vital role they are playing in hosting and supporting the Hub."

According to data from the CCFAH, it currently has 12 Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers deployed in various countries. As at the end of June 2023, it has supported countries in mobilising US\$276.21 million in climate finance, including US\$2.9 million in co-financing for 73 projects.

- Mobilisation of Funds for Mauritius under the CCFAH Umbrella

As at June 2023, access climate finance in the health, blue economy and agriculture areas have been carried out as follows :

Project and Funding	Sector	Type
Grant of \$2.29 million secured from the European Union and the African Union for a Global Environmental Monitoring Information Alert System, focusing on Marine and Coastal Management in the East Africa Region	Blue Economy	Mitigation
Grant of \$1.26 million from the EU and the Government of Mauritius for an AgricTECH Park facility that will develop smart innovation through research in agriculture to promote climate change mainstreaming and food security	Agriculture	Adaptation
Grant of \$429,127 from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) towards Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in Mauritius	Health	Adaptation
Grant of \$2,000 from the UN Development Coordination Office towards Capacity Building Workshop in Mauritius and Rodrigues on the preparation of bankable projects to access climate finance	Climate Governance	Cross cutting
Grant of \$182 million from a consortium of donors led by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) towards Integrated Project for the Rivière-des-Anguilles Dam	Water	Adaptation

Grant of \$320,000 from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) towards gender and climate change projects	Gender	Cross cutting
Grant of \$250,000 from the Small Island Developing States Development and Resilience Programme (SIDAR)/UK Government towards 'Institutional Strengthening for Climate Disclosure, Carbon Pricing and Taxation Mechanism	Climate Governance	Cross cutting

- Training in Climate Change Negotiations by the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub

More than 70 local stakeholders in Mauritius completed intensive training in international climate negotiations in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in November 2023.

The CCFAH coordinated the inaugural Capacity Building Workshop on Climate Change Negotiations, from 19 April to 12 May 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change of Mauritius.

The initiative was supported by the European Union under the Intra EU-ACP GCCA+ programme, which is facilitated by the Indian Ocean Commission.

In total, four rounds of training – each lasting three days – have equipped 74 public sector officials and civil society representatives with basic skills to handle international climate negotiations.

- Coastal Climate Risk Rapid Assessment Process under the Commonwealth Blue Charter

Under the Commonwealth Blue Charter, an agreement by Commonwealth countries to actively cooperate in addressing the myriad of ocean-related issues and commitments that they face, the Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with the Stimson Center, will, as from May 2023, be conducting a revised Phase Two of the pilot for the coastal climate risk rapid assessment process in two additional countries namely Mauritius and Dominica.

Designed for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal cities, this rapid assessment will be undertaken with close cooperation and guidance from the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Stimson Center – based on the methodology of the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI).

IX. Extending Consular Services in Mauritius and abroad

Consular services are one of the most public-facing elements directly impacting the lives of our people on a daily basis.

Ministry responds to hundreds of routine consular cases annually (i.e. passport and citizenship applications, routine requests for information, issue of ID Card/marriage certificate / driving licence/ clearance for carrying medication etc.) in all countries around the world.

The majority of consular services are provided by consular officers at our Missions abroad.

Officers from the diplomatic cadre are moreover required to manage an increasing range of complex, long-term and high-profile consular cases that require the sustained engagement of the Consulate / Embassy / High Commission and ultimately the Ministry.

Complex consular cases

The following factors can contribute to the complexity of a consular case:

- vulnerability (children, people with serious illness / disabilities, spouses with different nationalities, mental illness, members of marginalized groups including religious or ethnic groups and LGBTQ2+ people);
- dual nationality (where the host country does not recognize our citizenship and limits the provision of consular services);
- denial of consular access to a detainee;
- poor conditions of detention;
- death penalty;
- allegations of mistreatment or torture in detention; and
- lack of documentation.

Response to such extraordinary circumstances of these consular cases often involve strategic, multi-faceted consular and diplomatic efforts through extensive and high-level bilateral and multilateral engagements, including engagement of the mission network.

X. Responding to Unanticipated Events

Unanticipated events like natural disasters, political crises, deaths of world leaders and conflict, are an unavoidable part of the international affairs landscape.

Protracted crises, notably in Syria, Yemen, Libya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Venezuela, Iraq, and the Sahel and more recently Gabon and Niger and the

Middle East remain costly in terms of lives and livelihoods, with regional and international implications.

We are regularly called upon to respond to these and other flashpoints, no matter the day or the time.

We may be required to organise repatriation exercises in such contexts.

In the context of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, the evacuation of Mauritian nationals facing dire circumstances and stranded in the midst the conflict was successfully carried out.

XI. Protecting Our Seas and Oceans and Promoting Maritime Security

The ocean is the lifeline of any island nation. Mauritius further supports the fact that the safety of seafarers and crews on board vessels as well as fishermen is of paramount importance as is the making shipping safer and updating requirements for transport of dangerous goods.

Island states like Mauritius also note the significance of preventing the transfer of potentially harmful aquatic invasive species, preventing pollution from ships whilst remaining committed to clean seas and oceans, working towards the attainment of the SDG Goals namely Goal 14 and highlighting the extreme vulnerabilities of small island states in the face of natural and man- made sea hazards.

In this context, the Ministry has been supporting key collaborative initiatives with key regional and international organisations.

- **Strengthening oil spill preparedness plans in Mauritius in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation [IMO] May 2023**

In May 2023, a national workshop on the impacts of oil pollution and its effect on the marine environment, and the importance of having in place an effective national framework for responding to oil spills was held in Mauritius

The workshop was part of IMO's work to support parties to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) with their National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP).

Twenty-eight senior managers and administrators involved in the country's response to oil pollution incidents took part in-person in lectures and discussions on the need for rapid decision-making to mitigate the impact of any oil spill, and the importance of cooperation between stakeholders at a national level, as well as with those in neighbouring countries and the wider international community.

The workshop was co-organised by IMO and the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries & Shipping, Mauritius. It was hosted by the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management and financed by the Government of the People's Republic of China through the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

It is part of IMO's ongoing commitment to supporting African Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention.

- Promoting Maritime Security in Mauritius [August 2022 & May 2023]

In August 2022, a port facility security assessment was also led by a team of IMO experts. The assessment was being carried out under IMO's EU-funded Port Security Project with a view to preparing port facility security plans.

During the five-day mission, staff of the Port Authority – specifically, Port Facility Security Officers of Mauritius – were assisted in the assessment of the port's compliance with IMO's ISPS Code requirements.

In May 2023, a seminar on maritime security also delved Topics discussed on key matters relating to flag, port, and coastal State obligations relevant to the ISPS Code, as well familiarity with the content of IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1525 on guidance for the development of national maritime security legislation.

The workshop was also organised under the EU-funded project on Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Under the project, IMO aims to assist the nine beneficiary countries to enhance maritime security and safety within the region in line with the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy.

Participating Ministries included the Office of the Attorney General; Prime Minister's Office; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade; Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping (Shipping Division, and Fisheries Division); Mauritius Port Authority; Mauritius Police Force; National Coast Guard; Mauritius Revenue Authority; Tourism Authority; Mauritius Radio Services; National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre (NDRRMC); Passport & Immigration Office; Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd.

- **Commonwealth Foundation Grants Call - Enhancing fishers' capacity to advocate for policy and programme review [2022-2024]**

Mauritius is a member of the Commonwealth Foundation – one of the three inter-governmental organisations of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Foundation is dedicated to strengthening people's participation in all aspects of public dialogue, so they can act together and learn from each other to build democratic societies whilst concentrating on core areas of focus including health and the environment.

As such, it extends funding to specific projects through an annual grants call. In 2022, an NGO from Mauritius, Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisation (EPCO) received funding for 24 months to work with partner organisations to strengthen the capacity of communities in 18 coastal villages in Mauritius to increase fishers' awareness of support systems and enable them to contribute to improving relevant policy processes.

- **“International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry**

Mauritius is supporting the “International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry”.

The main objective of the Declaration is to promote cooperation between relevant governmental agencies at the national, regional and international levels for the prevention, combating and eradication of transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry.

The Declaration also encourages supporting countries to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on “Life Below Water” and Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.”

XII Supporting and Facilitating Bilateral Funding of National Projects

- Loan Agreements with the Saudi Fund for Development

The Construction of Rivière des Anguilles Dam Project will be co-financed by the SFD (USD 70 M), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) (USD 50 M), the OPEC Fund for International Development (USD 50 M) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (USD 11.5 M), part of an Arab Coordinating Committee. Measures are being taken to expedite the implementation of the project.

With regard to the Social Housing Project, the SFD is currently amending the loan agreement due to the modifications brought to the project and is accelerating its own internal procedures for an early conclusion. The Loan Agreement should be finalized for signature in the course of this year.

XIII Fostering Cultural Ties with the “Pays de Peuplement’ and beyond and Promoting our Common History

- Programme for Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India for the years 2023 to 2026

The signing of the Programme for Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India for the years 2023 to 2026 is to promote cultural cooperation in the fields of arts and cultural heritage. It would also allow for the organisation of exhibitions on folk art and traditions pertaining to both our countries. Selected artists would exchange fine arts for the purpose of mounting exhibitions.

- Executive Programme between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for period 2022-2025

The proposed Executive Programme 2022-2025 provides for cultural cooperation in the following fields - (a) exchange of performing arts troupes; (b) exchange of professionals in the field of visual arts, archives, museums, heritage and cinema; and (c) holding of arts and crafts exhibition

- **Executive Programme under the Cultural Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the period 2022-2025**

The Executive Programme under the Cultural Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the period 2022-2025 is expected to develop relations between the two States and exchanges in educational, cultural and scientific fields.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Mozambique on arts and cultural heritage for the period 2022-2023**

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Mozambique on arts and cultural heritage for the period 2022-2023 is to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between both countries in the fields of arts and cultural heritage. The main areas of cooperation of the Memorandum of Understanding are, inter alia, to - (a) encourage exchange visits by cultural and artistic groups to participate in international cultural and artistic activities held in their respective countries; (b) encourage exchange on subjects related to museums, archives, libraries and art galleries in both countries; and (c) exchange documents and conduct research in the fields of slavery and heritage.

- **HAJJ 2023**

Extensive support was extended to the Mauritian stakeholders in the organization of Hajj pilgrimages with during both the preparatory and operational stage of Hajj 2023. Significant decrease in price for the service package provided for the 5 holy days of Hajj to also include Visa and Insurance fees was also facilitated along with the allocation of brand new equipment to the Mauritian pilgrims in terms of tents, air conditioning and sofa beds.

Arrangements were also made to switch accommodation's, provide additional space for the comfort of the Mauritian pilgrims and secure an increase of 150 pilgrims from the initial quota of 1500 pilgrims from Mauritius.

- **UNESCO Memory of the World Register**

On 24 May 2023, the UNESCO announced the inscription of 64 documentary collections on its Memory of the World Register, including the following two nominations from Mauritius -

(a) "The Slave Trade and Slavery Records in Mauritius (1721 - 1892)"; and

(b) "The archival collections on the Bienheureux Père Jacques Désiré Laval - The Apostle of Mauritius".

XIV. Appointment of Mauritian Nationals in senior positions in regional and international organisations

International organizations have become increasingly prominent in opening up new opportunities to shape the global order.

The Ministry has been pursuing an ambitious agenda of nominating Mauritian nationals in regional and international organisations in accordance with the agenda of the Government in expanding our diplomatic footprint in the international arena and maximizing our interests..

In the course of FY22/23, there have exceptionally successful nominations of a Mauritian national in international bodies.

- Election of Mr. Ashraf Caunhye to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Term 2023-2026.
- The 76th Session of the Executive Committee of AARDO held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 20-23 June 2023 unanimously re-elected Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh as the next Secretary General, AARDO for a period of four years, effective from 03 September 2023.
- Mr Dhunraj Kasee, Mauritian national at the SADC Secretariat for the post of Director Industrial Development and Trade;
- H.E. Ambassador H. Dillum, High Commissioner selected to form part of the SADC Mediation Reference Group;
- Hon. Mrs G. Manna as Judge of the SADC Administrative Tribunal;
- Former Ambassador Mr P. Curé as member on the COMESA Committee of Elders;

XV. Taking Measures to ensuring Food Security for Mauritius

In the wake of the amendments made by the Government of India on its Export Policy of Non-Basmati rice, in the wake of Ukraine grain crisis and world-wide shortages and following a formal representation through diplomatic channel to

exempt Mauritius from the ban, India agreed to supply 14,000 tons of non-basmati rice to Mauritius, which is a staple food consumed by the most vulnerable group of people in Mauritius.

XVI. Expanding our diplomatic and consular footprint across the Globe

Following the establishment of diplomatic relations, the fundamental next step is the accreditation of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners through the presentation of the Letters of Credence from the sending Head of State to the receiving Head of State asking him/her to give credence to the new appointee who can be trusted to speak on behalf of his or her country.

The fact that this ceremonial practice is still carried out in today's modern world in the age of the internet is a clear indication of the significance that Governments across the world bestow to diplomacy and consultations through Ambassadors and High Commissioners and the need to maintain such customary practices.

And this the first opportunity for an envoy to convey the warm greetings of his Head of State and to share the vision of the collaboration he proposes to have with the receiving country during his tenure in accordance with the wishes and foreign policy of the sending Government of Mauritius.

In the course of the Financial Year 2022/2023 :

- H.E. Purmanund Jhugroo, our Ambassador in the USA presented his Letters of Credence to the Governor General of Canada on 23 January 2023 as the new High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to Canada.
- On 01 June 2023, the Ambassador in Saudi Arabia, H.E. Showkutally Soodhun GCSK, presented his credentials to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait as Ambassador of Mauritius to Kuwait.
- Our High Commissioner in Australia, HE Mrs. M.C. Monty presented her credentials in New Zealand in June 2022.
- Our High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, HE Mr Goburdhun presented his credentials in the Kingdoms of Cambodia and Thailand in May and June 2023 respectively.

XVII. Boosting air connectivity and flow of tourism

Following the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister to India in February 2023, numerous initiatives have been taken to increase the tourism flow through enhanced air traffic between Mauritius and India.

Air Vistara started its direct service on 26 March 2023 between Mumbai and Mauritius with five flights per week while Air Mauritius resumed direct flight as from May 2023 from Delhi.



PART IV
STRATEGIC
&
SUPPORT
INDICATORS

I. STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS

The table below shows the status of the Key Actions and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) pertaining to the Ministry as at 30 June 2023:

Vote 6-2 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Target 2022/23	Actual 2022/23 (Prov.)	Achievements as at 30 June 2023	Remarks
Stronger economic growth through effective foreign policy and enhanced international trade	Percentage nominal growth in exports of goods & services	> 5%	51% (2022)	53.0%	The significant growth in 2022 is mainly explained by higher tourism earnings following the full opening of borders in October 2021. 2.1% increase in total exports of goods for the first semester of 2023 - compared to corresponding semester of 2022. 56.2% increase in exports of services as at March 2023 based on preliminary estimates - compared to March 2022.

SN	Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2022/23	Actual 2022/23 (Prov.)	Achievements as at 30 June 2023	Remarks
Overseas Mission	Creating economic opportunities, incl. for export of goods and services and promotion of investment, through the implementation of various diplomatic strategies	Number of trade and investment links or leads initiated and/or established	448	311	712	

		Number of Agreements and MOUs concluded with various countries or under negotiation	29	61	58	
International Trade Division	Expanding trade agreements and market access opportunities	Agreement reached on a roadmap with the UK on the deepening of the UK-ESA EPA	Jun-23	-	-	<p>2nd UK-ESA EPA Committee was held in July 2023.</p> <p>The UK agreed to provide an increase in automatic derogation for tuna, from 6,300 tons to 10,000 tons, on a yearly basis to the ESA states.</p> <p>The decision will be implemented once the ESA states complete their internal procedures.</p>
		Finalisation of negotiations on the deepening of the Interim EPA with the EU	Jun-23	-	-	<p>The 12th Round of negotiations was held from 26 to 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The chapters on Agriculture, Customs & Trade Facilitation and SPS have been provisionally concluded. The next round of negotiations will be held in November/Dec 2023.</p>

	Strengthening engagement with the WTO	Finalisation and adoption of a Fisheries Subsidies Agreement at WTO multilateral level	Dec-22			At the 12 th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022, the WTO members adopted the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. At MC12, WTO agreed to continue negotiations on outstanding issues with a view to making recommendations by the 13 th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) that would further enhance the disciplines of the Agreement.
	Creating a proper Intellectual Property Framework	Deposit of Instrument for accession of Mauritius to relevant WIPO administered Treaties	Oct-22		The Instrument of Accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty was deposited with the DG of WIPO on 15 December 2022 and our membership became effective on 15 March 2023. The Instruments of Accession to the Hague Agreement and the Madrid Protocol were deposited on 06 February 2023 and our membership to these treaties became effective on 06 May 2023.	-
Regional Integration Division	Preparation of regional projects for funding	Number of regional projects submitted to Regional Economic Communities	5	5	4	Mauritius could not proceed with the two IORA project proposals, namely: 'IORA Sustainable Health Initiative' and 'Disaster Resilient

						Infrastructure’, as the MOU between IORA and Germany came to an end in March 2023 and funding could not be secured. Ministry is now working on the 2023/2024 programming cycle.
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II. RISK MANAGEMENT & GOOD GOVERNANCE

National Audit Office Report

The comments for the reports of the National Audit Office for years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 have been addressed at the level of the Senior Management of the Ministry with a view to devising appropriate solutions and remedial measures; several of which have now been implemented at the level of the Ministry.

Following the submission of the Director of Audit report for year 2021/2022, a special Audit Committee was setup and observations made by the Director of Audit have been looked into. Some of the observations have already been addressed, with several issues completed, and continuous follow up is ongoing for other pending issues.

III. Audit Committee 2022/2023

An Audit Committee, chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary, is operational at the level of Ministry to review management and control processes throughout the organization. During the period under review, the Audit Committee met on different occasions to review progress in implementing corrective actions proposed by the Director of Audit as well as reports from the Internal Control.

The Audit Committee for the Financial Year 2021/2022 has been found by the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG) to be effective, while an assessment exercise is currently ongoing for the performance of the committee for FY 2022/2023.

IV. Occupational Safety and Health Committee

An Occupational Safety and Health Committee chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary was set up on 29 August 2018 to look into issues relating to safety, health and welfare of employees at work and to promote a working environment which is safe and without health risk.

The Committee meets regularly to discuss issues raised by staff and to agree on remedial measures accordingly.

V. Training Committee

A standing Training Committee has been set up on 07 July 2018 to examine applications made for attending training, workshops/seminars held abroad as well as locally. The Training Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary and comprises the Deputy Permanent Secretary, a First Secretary and Manager, Human Resource (MHR) or Assistant Manager, Human Resource (AMHR) as members.

SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT

KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL UNIT

Internal audit is an independent objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It helps an organization to accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

Internal audit activities are conducted by the Internal Control Cadre which falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

The staffing structure of the Internal Control Unit for the year 2022/23, posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade comprises of one Assistant Manager Internal Control.

The main tasks conducted by the Unit consist of;

- Evaluating control systems
- Ensuring compliance to rules, procedures and regulations
- Evaluating organizational efficiency and effectiveness
- Evaluating the accuracy and reliability of the Ministry's reporting processes
- Evaluating effectiveness of Ministry's' accountability framework, and the extent of adherence to ethical standards, and
- Ensuring audit findings and recommendations add value to the organization and provide an independent opinion whether the organization goals and objectives have been achieved in an economic, efficient and effective manner.

1. Achievement for the year

Planned audit

During the Financial Year 2022/23, **seven** audits assignments were planned. Four audits assignments which represent around 57 % of the Annual Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 were completed.

2. Follow up audit

At the end of each quarter, follow up is conducted on engagement findings and agreed recommendations to ascertain corrective actions initiated. All recommendations not implemented are referred to the Audit Committee.

One Follow up audit was carried out on 7 recommendations issued for the Financial Year 2022/23 to determine the status of recommendations implemented. 71% of the recommendations has been implemented with 29 %, not yet implemented.

3. Deviation from the audit plan

During the Financial Year 2022-23, two special assignments as shown in below, have been carried out on the request of Management

5. Special Assignments Completed During Financial Year 2021/22

S N	Project Name	Report Status	
		Date of Report	Number of Recommendations
1	Mobile Phones-Mission Paris	05/07/2022	2
2	Repairs of roof of the government owned official residence- Brussels	20/06/2023	4

The following Audits which could not be completed have been included in the Annual Internal Audit Plan 2023/24.

SN	Auditable Areas
1	Human Resource Management
2	Transport Management
3	Cash Office - Accounts Receivable

VI. Gender Policy Statement

The Ministry advocates gender equality in its strategies and objectives. It revisited its values from a gender equality perspective to foster gender-equitable work-life integration, and to ensure commitment and coherence in our policy objectives and sustainable development goals.

VII. Gender mainstreaming activities 2022/2023

To address the challenge of Gender Based Violence, the Ministry participates actively in the High-Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister.

The Ministry is involved in the Technical Working Group 2 (sub strategy component 2 of the National Strategy and Action Plan, and is the lead agency to offer training on international conventions relating to Gender Based Violence.

In this regard, in June 2023, the Ministry organised a sensitisation workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to empower women to seek new avenues for growth for their businesses. The theme of the workshop was “**Trade Agreement for Women Entrepreneurs**”. The workshop aimed at creating awareness/sensitization on the international conventions, the current legislation and policies, and the domestication of conventions in our legal framework relating to GBV.

In addition, three awareness raising sessions on gender issues and gender mainstreaming were also conducted at the level of the Ministry. The highly interactive sessions provided an opportunity for members of staff to discuss existing challenges within the workplace.



PART V

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

I. Financial Highlights

The Budget 2022/2023 makes provision for 3 sub-heads as follows:

- 6-201: General
- 6-202: Foreign Relations and Regional Integration
- 6-203: International Trade

II. Budgetary Provision

The overall budgetary allocation of the Ministry has increased from Rs 1.181 billion in financial year 2021/2022 to Rs 1.337 billion in financial year 2022/2023. This difference of Rs 156 million represents:

- increase in Recurrent Budget by Rs 181.6 million in respect of Compensation of Employees and Grants;
- decrease in Recurrent Budget by Rs 13.6 million in respect of Goods and Services; and
- decrease in Capital Budget by Rs 12 million in respect of Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets.

III. Statements of Revenue and Expenditure for Financial Year 2022-2023

Statement of Revenue

Table 1 below shows a summary of total revenue from Sales of Goods and Services (Trade Mark, Patents and Industrial Design) and other sources which were collected by the Ministry.

Revenue	2022-2023 Estimates Rs	2022-2023 Actual Rs
Sales of Goods and Services (Trade Mark, Patents, Industrial Design)	24,200,000	30,720,800
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	2,469,242
Total Revenue	24,200,000	33,190,042

Table 1

IV. **Statement of Expenditure**

Table 2 below provides a summary of total expenditure incurred by the Ministry under Vote 6-1 (Ministry) which includes Sub-Heads 6-201, 6-202 and 6-203.

Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2021-2022 Actual Rs	2022-2023 Estimates Rs	2022-2023 Actual Rs
Vote 6-1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade			
Sub-Head 6-201: General			
Compensation of Employees	60,684,499	67,424,332	67,375,005
Goods and Services	14,118,799	13,500,000	13,396,764
Total	74,803,298	80,924,332	80,771,769
Sub-Head 6-202: Foreign Relations and Regional Integration			
Compensation of Employees	425,190,524	463,666,162	459,206,223
Goods and Services	283,205,497	315,753,323	307,167,422
Grants	307,051,107	411,878,285	411,878,265
Donation to International Institution	6,409,452	9,529,000	9,400,975
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	46,781,122	41,900,000	40,403,825
Total	1,068,637,702	1,242,726,770	1,228,056,710
Sub-Head 6-203: International Trade			
Compensation of Employees	33,089,693	34,825,079	34,818,665
Goods and Services	49,982,323	13,721,631	13,587,578
Grants	4,116,605	4,431,188	4,431,186

Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	290,640	3,000,000	0
Total	87,479,261	55,977,898	52,837,429
TOTAL EXPENDITURE for Vote 6-1	1,230,920,261	1,379,629,000	1,361,665,908
Actual expenditure as compared to Estimated ≈ 98.69%			

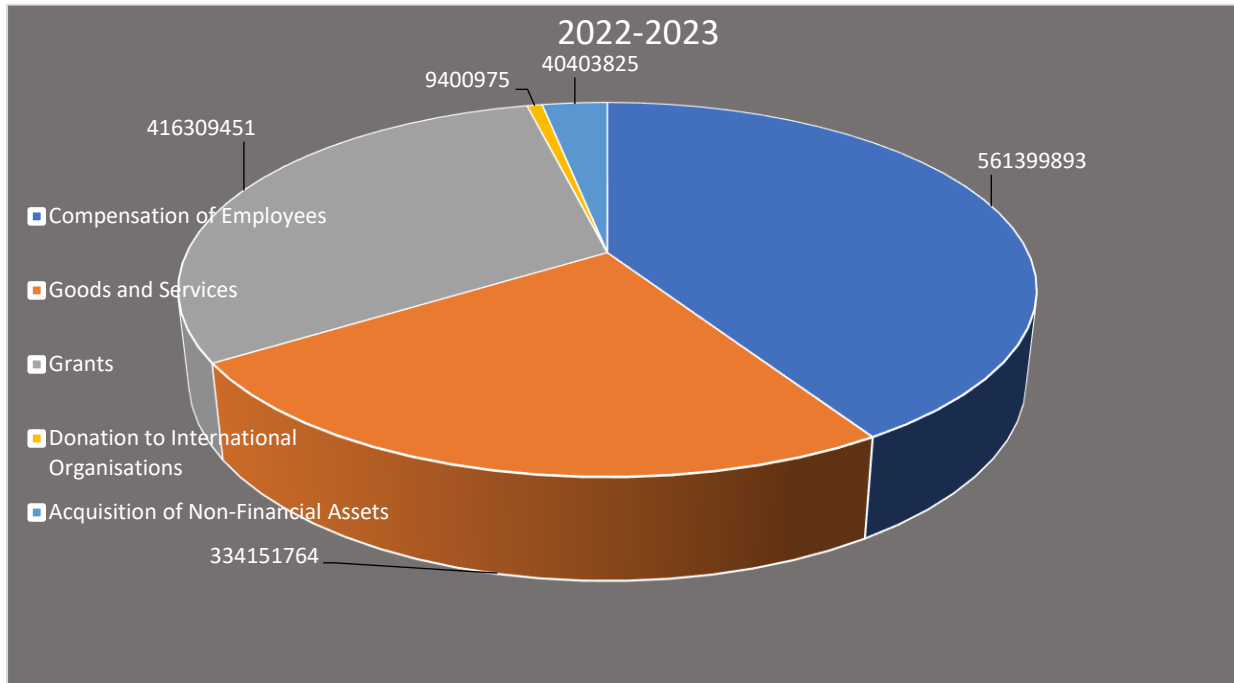
Note:(1) Estimates 2022-23 comprises Reallocation of Funds made during the year including Donation from MOFEPD

Below table shows the total expenditure of all the 3 Sub Heads of the different components and their respective percentage of the total expenditure.

Components	2022-2023 MUR	Percentage (%)
Compensation of Employees	561,399,893	41%
Goods and Services	334,151,764	24%
Grants	416,309,451	31%
Donation to International Organisations	9,400,975	1%
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	40,403,825	3%
Total	1,361,665,908	100%

Table on Actual Expenditure 2022-2023

The pie chart below gives a graphical distribution of the expenditure incurred during the financial year 2022-2023.





PART VI

THE WAY FORWARD

I. The Way Forward – Raising the levels of ambition

As we gradually emerge from the grasp of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic into a more uncertain world, it is strongly acknowledged that we are living in a time of constant and rapid flux marked by emerging political, ideological as well as economic threats.

External shocks arising out of pandemics, natural disasters and man - made tragedies push the limits of our common endeavours.

In the midst of evolving domestic aspirations, pressures from an ageing population coupled with slowing social and economic mobility, staying relevant, visible and competitive in today's global economic, international and multilateral spheres requires the officers of the Ministry and its Missions overseas to re-focus and raise the levels of ambition.

The fundamentals of economic statecraft and astute diplomacy involves making the right negotiations, joining the right international coalitions and convincing institutional partners to extend the appropriate support that promotes growth and results in socio economic transformation leading to a more prosperous future.

Much has been achieved for the benefit of the people of Mauritius in accordance with the vision and Mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More can be done through unwavering dedication, iron clad commitment and affirmative action.

A situational analysis of the global environment, particularly the challenges therein follows along with the strategic canvas of the Ministry with broad strokes on its aspirations and roadmap to success.

II. Global Challenges

Economic

- Inflation driven cost of living crisis
- Spiralling fuel prices
- Slow down of major economies
- Disruption in global and regional supply chains
- Barriers to flow of capital for investment and development
- Food Insecurity
- Protectionism
- Gradual Erosion of preferential arrangements
- Impact of graduation to a High Level Economy
- Currency pressures
- Shipping and Freight Costs
- Declining competitiveness of exports

Political / Multilateral

- Growing influence of non - state actors
- Deadlock in multilateral negotiations
- Delays by developed countries in meeting financial and institutional commitments
- Erosion in global fraternity and solidarity
- Institutional delays in project formulation and implementation
- Lack of consensus and determination towards reform of multilateral systems
- Competition from emerging economies

Social

- Lingering impact of the Covid 19 pandemic as well as outbreak of other pandemics
- Ageing Population
- Addressing and meeting aspirations of the youth
- Combatting Narcotics
- Sustainability of the development path

Instability

- Serious repercussions of the Ukraine – Russia war
- Impact of other pockets of instability and unconstitutional changes
- Rise in violent extremism
- Spread of Terrorism across the world

Security related

- Maritime security and safety in the Indian Ocean/ Indo Pacific
- Cyber insecurity and Artificial Intelligence Divide as part of Digital Divide
- Misinformation and its threat to rule of law
- Hostilities and armed conflicts

Climate related

- Extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural calamities
- Difficulties in meeting climate targets

III. STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES 2023-2024

Strategic Direction	Enabler
<p>Strengthen bilateral relations with a view to diversifying the economic space of Mauritius</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint Commissions and Political Dialogues with individual or group of countries to, inter alia, expand trade and investment opportunities and promote capacity building ▪ Conclusion of new bilateral agreements including on new areas of cooperation
<p>Enhancing cooperation with the UN system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conclusion of a new cooperation agreement with the UN system ▪ Close monitoring and evaluation of Sustainable Development Goals at national level
<p>Reinforcing engagement with the WTO for trade facilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieving meaningful outcomes for Mauritius on issues of interest being negotiated or mooted at the WTO including fisheries subsidies, e-Commerce, response to pandemic, investment facilitation, amongst others
<p>Deepening of trade relations and economic partnership with Development Partners to unlock growth potential</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pursuit and/or completion of negotiations on the deepening of the EPA with EU to enhance market access. ▪ Pursuing constructive discussions with the UK as a follow up to the Strategic Trade Partnership [STP] signed in early 2023 ▪ Pursuit of negotiations with SADC members in priority sectors on trade in services including distribution, business services, education services,

Strategic Direction	Enabler
	<p>health, social services, environmental and recreational services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ complete outstanding negotiations on the AfCFTA ▪ complete negotiations on the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA ▪ Complete negotiations of a Preferential Trade Agreement and initiate discussion on Economic Trade Cooperation Agreement with new countries.
<p>Reviewing our economic diplomacy strategy to enhance efficiency of our Embassies and Consulates in performing their roles and functions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-engineering and re-organizing of our Diplomatic Missions and Consulates to further enhance their operations, strategies and roles as facilitator for cross border economic activities
<p>Promote regional cooperation and integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elaboration of regional projects in specific areas of interest in consultation with line Ministries and other stakeholders ▪ Enhancement of intra-regional trade and investment ▪ Foster industrialisation through regional linkages ▪ Enhance maritime domain awareness ▪ Work towards sustainable development through the deepening and acceleration of Regional Integration through closer cooperation

Strategic Direction	Enabler
Creating a conducive environment for business and innovation through a proper industrial property framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater awareness of the opportunities provided under the Industrial Property Act 2019 which entered into force on 31 January 2022.
Achieve the Seven AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the Agenda 2063 Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) .[2024-2033]
Strengthen coherence in the strategic implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance collaboration between relevant stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)