



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

HLPF 2019 – Mauritius-Led VNR Lab 17

Title: Our unique journey of development

Date and Time: Thursday, 18 July, 13:15 – 14:45

Location: Room 2726/27, UN Secretariat 27th Floor

Hosts: Mauritius, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Objective and expected outcomes:

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda at the international level coincided with our own national vision to build modern Mauritius with a more sustainable and all-inclusive approach to leave no one behind.

The objective of this event is to show how over the years, Mauritius has built a strong welfare system, providing free education and healthcare services and an array of social protection schemes to our people, especially to the most vulnerable. Our focus is to reduce poverty (SDG1), improve our educational system by making it more inclusive and less elitist (SDG4), increase our resilience in the face of the adverse effects of climate change (SDG13) and ensure sustainable management and exploitation of our Oceans (SDG14) amongst other objectives. We see the other SDGs as our enablers in achieving the goals we have set for ourselves.

We will explain how our journey has been and what we still have to accomplish based on our core values of rule of law, good governance, respect for human right and upholding territorial integrity. We also advocate for the establishment of a permanent national mechanism to track the SDGs and identify the support required for their achievement.

Participants:

1. Rakesh Bhuckory, Minister Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius
(Mr Bhuckory led the team which worked on the VNR Report 2019 of Mauritius)
2. Ms Prateema, Kutwoaroo, Senior Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Moderator: Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development

Guiding questions:

- How was the VNR process helpful for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- What measure have been undertaken to achieve a welfare society and not to leave anyone behind and how the civil society was engaged?



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

- What are specific challenges of a small island developing state and how different visions have been incorporated into national development plans?

Format

- **5 min** -Welcome remarks by the moderator
- **10 min** – panelists present VNR process (Mr Rakesh Bhuckory)
- **15 min** – Ms Kutwaoroo and Mr Bhuckory: panelists present policies and measures undertaken to achieve economic development and welfare state
- **25 min** - Interactive dialogue between panelists and the audience based on the above guiding questions
- **5 mins**- Closing remarks

Background

Mauritius is a relatively young state which celebrated on 12 March 2018 its 50 years of independence. We often found ourselves at the crossroads where the right and timely decisions had to be taken.

The transformation of Mauritius¹ from a low-income mono-crop agricultural economy to an upper middle-income economy has not been without challenges. Political stability, strong institutions, the upholding of rule of law, democratic principles, a thriving business environment combined with effective use of preferential trade agreements and membership in regional groupings have all been instrumental in driving growth and facilitating economic diversification.

In pursuing economic progress, we are keeping the right balance between development and our environment and have made progress in areas such as building resilience to climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures while highlighting how the country is progressing towards modernity with new infrastructural development.

Our commitment to inclusiveness and sustainability does not end with the SDGs. We are, in parallel, working through the SAMOA Pathway to bring to the fore the unique situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We have localized the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and implementation is under way. We also report through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Implementing the SDGs is not possible without a strong partnership. Government cannot do it alone. We have a vibrant Civil Society along with a business community which continue to show their commitment to implement the SDGs together with Government. Over the years we have created the space for dialogue in a true spirit of partnership. This partnership extends beyond our shores. We are working with countries and regional organizations to achieve a greater prosperity for our people.