

MAURITIUS



**The Honourable Mrs Indira Seebun
Minister of Women's Rights, Child Development, Family
Welfare & Consumer Protection**

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Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Experts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

to convey my sincere congratulations to the newly elected members on this
for their successful tenure of office

regard to the advancement of women , to eliminate discrimination against women in line with the provisions of the CEDAW and also to the SADC
Implementation Gender and Development

Madam Chairperson,

We now have 12 elected women in the National Assembly compared to only 4 in the previous Government that is a three-fold increase in women representation. This is a good start. Furthermore, I am pleased to state that

2001 of representation at the level of

Furthermore, my Ministry with the assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development is providing needy women with incentives and financial

assistance to develop income generating activities and enterprises.

My vision is to eradicate poverty and empower women through

has shown a considerable improvement over the past years. Life expectancy has improved consistently since the 1960's reaching 75.3 years for women as compared to 68.1 for men for the years 2000-2001.

Women in Mauritius have access to a wide range of contraceptive methods. Open discussions, education and information campaigns for women are regularly conducted on reproductive health including the use of

Preventive Measures Bill is currently under preparation to provide for measures

for the prevention of the propagation of HIV and AIDS

Madam Chairperson

Free transport to all school children including those attending University has been extended by the new Government since September 2005.

The Minister of Education and Human Resources has recently announced the possibility of reviewing the secondary curriculum to include humanitarian law.

Madam Chairperson,

I wish to inform this Committee that Mauritius has ratified Article 100 of the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration and Article D 111 on Discrimination (Employment and occupation) in December 2002. Government will also shortly ~~present~~ ~~with~~ an amendment to the Labour Act so as to raise the minimum

employment age to 16 in compliance with our International Commitments.

The Government will also take a number of measures to prevent

sectors. As a matter of fact, the Board is reviewing all jobs which are presently classified on a grade basis with a view to reclassifying them on a content basis.

and will come up with new Remuneration Orders soon.

Madam Chairperson,

Gender based violence is said to be one of the most pervasive aspects of violation of human rights. I believe this is a worldwide phenomenon. The Government of Mauritius pledged at the Beijing Conference in 1995, to enact a Domestic Violence Act. As I said earlier, this legislation has been enacted and it

has been a major step in reaffirming the rights of women. My Ministry provides decentralized support services to victims of domestic violence through its Family Welfare Unit and 6 Family Support Bureaux. Two shelters are operational to

Mauritius is presently implementing the recommendations of the

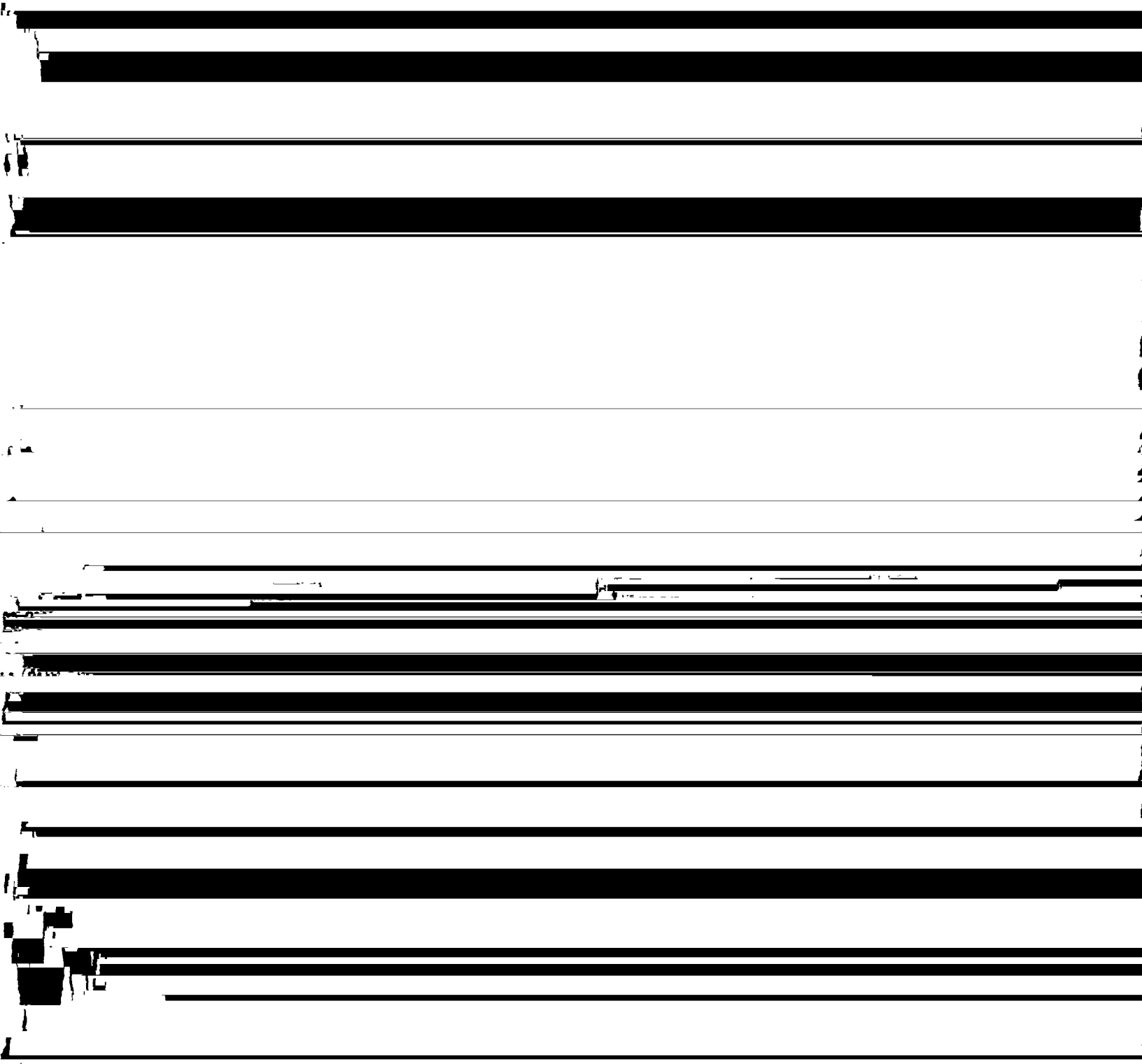
Madam Chairperson,

In the coming years, Mauritius will be facing other challenges associated with an ageing population and consequential implications for the elderly women. Considering the fact that life expectancy is 75.3 for women, and that they are often the surviving spouse, will undoubtedly necessitate the formulation of

beneficial policies and social benefits. I am pleased to

their low commitment to gender issues, which are viewed as an additional responsibility to their normal scheduled duties.

Mr. Minister is presently implementing a INDB funded project entitled _____



counseling services are provided to potential women entrepreneurs. A competition to reward the best Woman Entrepreneur is organized each year in collaboration with this Ministry. Moreover, women entrepreneurs have been provided with a Market Centre at Malabar. The place is also used by members for training purposes.

The problem of domestic violence in Rodrigues has been addressed

concurrently as in Mauritius. Sensitisation programmes, counseling services and legal assistance are now available. A shelter for women and children in distress has been set up, as well as a Police Family Protection unit.

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