COUNTRY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE 58TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY:

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Honourable President,
Honourable Speakers and Presiding Officers,
Members of the Forum
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and privilege for me to address this august Assembly and to present, on behalf of the Republic of Mauritius, the Country Report on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 58th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, held last year from 30 November to 5 December in Durban, Republic of South Africa. The Plenary Assembly was convened under the theme: **"The Impact of Climate Change on Women and Youth in the SADC Region and the Role of Parliaments in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation".**

It would be recalled that the 58th Plenary Assembly addressed a number of important regional issues, with particular emphasis on the impact of climate change on women and youth, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation in the SADC Region.

The Plenary Assembly highlighted the growing challenges posed by climate change and the need for stronger parliamentary action to promote resilience, protect vulnerable communities and ensure that women and youth are actively involved in climate responses.

In line with the recommendations of the 58th Plenary Assembly, Mauritius has continued to strengthen its efforts towards climate resilience, environmental sustainability and inclusive development.

On the legislative front, the Climate Change Act 2020 and the Environment Act 2024 provide the foundation for our national climate governance and environmental protection framework. These are complemented by our Third Nationally Determined Contribution, which sets out our climate mitigation and adaptation commitments for the period 2025–2035.

Another important recent legislative initiative in Mauritius is the enactment by the National Assembly last week of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (Amendment) Act.

This Act represents a significant step towards strengthening our national legal framework for disaster preparedness and climate resilience. It introduces two important measures firstly, by giving legal effect to the National Protocol on Heavy and Torrential Rain and secondly, by harmonising and strengthening the protection of all workers irrespective of whether they are employed by Government, private sector or self-employed during extreme weather conditions.

This legislation comes at a particularly critical time for Mauritius, as episodes of heavy rainfall and flash flooding are becoming increasingly recurrent,

disrupting daily life, threatening livelihoods and placing communities at risk. The consequences of such extreme weather events are not felt equally across society. Women workers, in particular, can be disproportionately affected, especially those in vulnerable sectors, those working outdoors, and those who also shoulder significant family and caregiving responsibilities. Young people and workers in precarious employment situations are equally exposed to heightened risks.

By establishing a clearer and more consistent framework for responding to extreme weather conditions, this Act reinforces the importance of placing human safety, dignity and the protection of workers at the centre of disaster risk management.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

As a Small Island Developing State, Mauritius, surrounded by the Indian Ocean, remains particularly vulnerable to the rising sea levels and coastal erosion. These challenges pose significant risks to our coastal communities, livelihoods and socio-economic development. In this regard, Mauritius has undertaken emergency remedial works in response to severe coastal erosion, including the installation of protective structures, desilting works and the establishment of technical monitoring mechanisms. Technical assistance has also been sought to identify sustainable long-term solutions.

Furthermore, the finalisation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Action Plan for the period 2027–2037 marks an important step towards strengthening the sustainable management of our coastal areas. Government has also earmarked Rs 4 billion (approximately, 85 million

Dollars) under the Coastal Erosion Adaptation Programme to rehabilitate more than 11.5 kilometres of coastline across 17 priority sites over the next five years.

Particular attention is also being given to disaster preparedness and flood mitigation. Concrete interventions have included river and drain cleaning, the implementation of drainage improvement works and the development of flood response and evacuation arrangements to protect the vulnerable segments of our society, with particular consideration for the vulnerability of women and youth.

Another major challenge currently facing Mauritius is the growing water crisis, exacerbated by a prolonged rainfall deficit and changing climatic conditions, including the influence of the El Niño phenomenon. The declining levels of our main reservoirs and the disruption to regular water supply are already having a significant impact on households and communities across the country. This situation places a particularly heavy burden on women, who often bear the primary responsibility for household water management and caregiving, as well as on young people, whose education, health and daily lives may be affected by water insecurity. It is therefore essential that climate change adaptation strategies place greater emphasis on sustainable water resource management, improved water infrastructure and equitable access to safe and reliable water for all.

In this regard, the Government of Mauritius has prioritised a range of measures to strengthen water security, including the expansion of the Water Tank and Water Pump Grant Scheme to assist households facing water supply constraints, the drilling of additional boreholes, the deployment of

water tankers, improvements to water distribution infrastructure and the installation of additional water storage facilities. Government is also working towards a more sustainable, long-term approach through the development of a National Water Policy to strengthen the country's water storage, management and distribution capacity. These efforts underscore the importance of responsive Government policies and effective parliamentary oversight in ensuring that climate adaptation measures address the needs of vulnerable segment of the population.

It may be noted that during recent regional discussions, the La Nicolière Water Infrastructure Project in Mauritius was referred to as an example of a national project capable of generating broader developmental benefits while contributing to regional objectives relating to resilience and sustainable development.

Hon President and Hon Members,

On the renewable energy front, and as part of its efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, Mauritius is pursuing an ambitious energy transition, with the objective of achieving a 60 per cent renewable energy mix by 2035. Initiatives include expanding solar and wind energy capacity, strengthening battery storage facilities and providing incentives to encourage households and businesses to invest in renewable energy. Mauritius is also promoting access to clean energy through solar panel schemes targeting low-income households, thereby enabling more vulnerable families to benefit from renewable energy and reducing their exposure to rising energy costs. These efforts contribute not only to climate change mitigation but also to greater energy security and inclusive sustainable development.

Furthermore, Mauritius continues to encourage youth participation in agriculture through financial assistance and support schemes aimed at promoting agricultural entrepreneurship, innovation and modern farming techniques. These include financing facilities for young farmers through the Development Bank of Mauritius, grants for sheltered farming, agricultural equipment and technology adoption, as well as support for green technologies. Such initiatives seek to make agriculture more attractive to young people, strengthen local food production and also promote climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices.

Mauritius is also strengthening its access to climate finance and technical expertise. In this regard, the RESIsland Project, supported by the Green Climate Fund and implemented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in partnership with the African Island States Climate Commission, will enhance our capacity to assess climate risks and develop bankable climate-resilience projects. The country is also advancing the development of a National Carbon Market Framework to strengthen transparency and facilitate participation in international carbon markets.

Recognising that climate action must be inclusive, Mauritius continues to promote the participation of women and young people in sustainable development. In September 2026, a National COP31 Youth Consultation was organised, bringing together approximately 65 young participants to contribute to national climate priorities. Furthermore, the extension of the National Gender Policy across sectors reinforces the importance of integrating gender considerations into national decision-making.

Parliament has also continued to exercise its oversight role. During the period under review, several Parliamentary Questions were raised on matters relating to flooding, coastal erosion, drainage infrastructure, groundwater protection, water supply constraints and food security. These exchanges provided opportunities to scrutinise Government interventions, highlight vulnerabilities and seek appropriate action from the relevant authorities.

With a view to ensuring effective parliamentary oversight of regional commitments, Parliament continued and will continue to exercise its constitutional oversight mandate through parliamentary questions, committee scrutiny and engagement with relevant Ministries and institutions. These mechanisms enable Parliament to examine progress, assess implementation and promote accountability on key matters, including climate resilience, social protection, governance, youth development and the fulfilment of regional commitments within the SADC framework.

These initiatives reflect Mauritius' continued commitment to translating its regional and international climate obligations into concrete national action. We nevertheless recognise that building climate resilience is an ongoing endeavour which requires sustained investment, effective institutional coordination and the active participation of all stakeholders, particularly women, youth and Parliamentarians.

Hon. President and Hon Members,

In addition, the 58th Plenary Assembly considered and adopted various reports from the statutory meetings and joint sittings of the Standing

Committees, covering key areas such as energy security, democratic governance, the fight against corruption, gender equality, youth empowerment, health, labour and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

A common thread throughout these deliberations was the importance of translating regional commitments into concrete action at national level, through appropriate legislation, effective parliamentary oversight, adequate budgetary support and stronger regional cooperation, including the signing and ratification of regional protocols.

Allow me, therefore, to take this opportunity to apprise the Assembly of the progress made by Mauritius in advancing these commitments and following up on the recommendations of the 58th Plenary Assembly.

At the outset, the Republic of Mauritius wishes to reaffirm its unwavering commitment of to the ideals and objectives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), particularly the promotion of regional integration, cooperation, solidarity and sustainable development.

Since acceding to the SADC in 1995, Mauritius has actively participated in the negotiation, signature, ratification and implementation of SADC Protocols across a broad range of sectors, in support of the SADC Treaty and the regional integration agenda.

To date, Mauritius has signed twenty-eight (28) SADC Protocols, of which twenty-six (26) have been ratified. These Protocols cover key sectors, including trade, finance and investment, industry, education and training, health, transport, energy, science and technology, tourism, environment,

security, justice and anti-corruption. The two Protocols that have been signed but are still undergoing the national ratification process are the SADC Protocol on Statistics, signed in 2023, and the SADC Protocol on the Tribunal, signed in 2017.

With regard to the domestication and implementation of SADC Protocols, responsibility rests with the respective line Ministries in accordance with their areas of competence. As a sovereign State, the Republic of Mauritius follows its established national processes and acts in accordance with its constitutional and legal framework when considering its international and regional commitments.

Mauritius supports strengthened national coordination arrangements for implementation of regional commitments and recognises the importance of effective coordination among institutions responsible for implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Enhanced coordination assists in ensuring that regional obligations are translated into practical national action and measurable outcomes.

Mauritius recognises the importance of reliable data, monitoring systems and validated reporting mechanisms in assessing implementation of regional commitments. Continued efforts are being made to strengthen coordination among institutions responsible for implementation and reporting in order to promote evidence-based policy making and improve accountability.

Mauritius also supports strengthened national coordination arrangements for implementation of regional commitments and recognises the important role

played by national mechanisms in promoting stakeholder participation, implementation monitoring and national ownership of regional programmes.

Additionally, Mauritius remains committed to implementation of the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030. National programmes and policies continue to contribute to regional objectives relating to governance, education, climate resilience, social development, sustainable economic growth and regional cooperation.

We recognise the importance of continued monitoring and oversight of implementation progress in order to ensure that regional commitments translate into measurable outcomes.

Accordingly, each Protocol is examined by the relevant Ministry, in consultation with the Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, as well as other relevant stakeholders. This process ensures that the legal, financial, policy and institutional implications are carefully assessed before any decision is taken regarding signature or ratification. Following the necessary consultations and Cabinet approval, the Instrument of Ratification is deposited with the Executive Secretary of SADC through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

Hon. President and Hon Members,

On the SADC Protocol on Energy, Mauritius signed and ratified the original Protocol on 24 August and 11 October 1996, respectively. The Protocol provides an important framework for harmonising national energy policies

and promoting regional cooperation towards the balanced and equitable development of the energy sector.

Recognising the evolving challenges and opportunities in the regional energy landscape, the SADC Summit, at its meeting in August 2021, approved the Agreement amending the Protocol on Energy which seek to address emerging priorities, including the promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, greater private-sector participation and the strengthening of regional energy institutions.

Although Mauritius has not yet signed the Agreement amending the Protocol on Energy, it recognises the importance of these developments in addressing the current climate change issues.

We have to report that consultations are ongoing with the relevant Ministries, institutions and stakeholders to assess its legal, institutional, policy and other implications, including the obligations that may arise from its signature and subsequent ratification. Mauritius will consider its position upon completion of these consultations, in accordance with its national constitutional and legal framework.

Meanwhile, Mauritius continues to pursue the objectives of the original Protocol through its national energy policies and programmes, as outlined earlier, with a focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, modernisation of electricity infrastructure and greater private-sector participation.

Through these initiatives, Mauritius remains committed to strengthening energy security, reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and contributing to a sustainable, reliable and inclusive energy transition in the SADC Region.

Hon. President and Hon Members,

Similarly, Mauritius remains committed to the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which provides an important framework for promoting peace, political stability, democratic governance and regional security. Mauritius has ratified the Protocol and has also ratified the SADC Mutual Defence Pact, thereby reaffirming its commitment to regional peace and security.

In line with the recommendations of the Plenary Assembly, Mauritius continues to strengthen its national legislative and institutional frameworks for combating corruption and financial crimes, in keeping with its commitments under the SADC Protocol Against Corruption.

A major institutional reform was the establishment of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), which became operational on 29 March 2024 under the Financial Crimes Commission Act 2023. The Commission consolidated the functions of several former institutions under one framework, with an expanded mandate to investigate and combat corruption, money laundering, fraud and other financial crimes.

During regional discussions on illicit financial flows, anti-money laundering and financial governance, Mauritius' institutional arrangements were recognised as illustrating positive regional practice in financial regulation and financial crime prevention.

Mauritius remains committed to strengthening transparency, accountability and integrity within financial systems and supporting regional cooperation in combating illicit financial flows.

However, it is worth noting that Mauritius is also undertaking further reforms to strengthen its response to financial, cyber and organised crime, in recognition of the rapidly evolving nature of criminal activity and the growing use of information and communication technologies to facilitate illicit activities.

In this regard, several legislations relating to the establishment of a National Crime Agency (NCA) was introduced in Parliament in October 2026. These include the National Crime Agency Bill, the Financial Crime Bill, the Asset Recovery and Unexplained Wealth Bill, together with related constitutional and institutional reform Bills, amongst others.

The proposed reforms seek to establish the NCA as the lead investigative agency for financial crime, cybercrime and other serious, complex and organised crime. They also envisage strengthening asset recovery mechanisms, addressing unexplained wealth and enhancing cooperation in criminal investigations and prosecutions. While these reforms have been introduced in Parliament, the legislative process and enactment of the outstanding Bills remain important next steps.

At the regional level, Mauritius actively contributes to the work of the SADC Anti-Corruption Committee. It participated, alongside Tanzania, in piloting the SADC Anti-Corruption Effort Index (SACEI) and is contributing to the development of its implementation manual. Mauritius also supports regional monitoring and evaluation initiatives, anti-corruption education and the development of guidelines promoting good governance in disaster preparedness and response.

Furthermore, Mauritius participated in the Fourth Regional Workshop of Anti-Corruption Agencies held in Arusha, Tanzania, in August 2025, where its contribution to the SACEI pilot initiative was recognised.

Mauritius remains committed to strengthening regional cooperation, promoting a culture of integrity and ensuring that effective mechanisms are in place to prevent, detect and combat corruption. We recognise that the fight against corruption requires sustained national efforts, strong institutions and collective regional action.

Mauritius remains committed to strengthening these systems and supporting regional cooperation to promote transparency, accountability and financial integrity.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

With regard to democratic governance and electoral integrity, Mauritius continues to uphold the principles of free, fair and transparent elections. The deployment of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission during the November 2024 National Assembly Elections provided an opportunity to further strengthen regional cooperation and promote confidence in electoral processes.

Mauritius also recognises the importance of keeping electoral legislation and practices abreast of emerging challenges, particularly cybersecurity threats, digital disinformation and the use of technology in electoral processes. We therefore acknowledge the Plenary Assembly's call for the revision of the SADC Model Law on Elections to address these evolving challenges and strengthen democratic institutions across the Region.

Through these initiatives, Mauritius remains committed to working with fellow Member Parliaments to strengthen parliamentary oversight, promote accountable governance, combat corruption and safeguard the integrity of democratic processes throughout the SADC Region.

Mauritius also acknowledges the importance of ensuring the sustainability of SADC PF Election Observation Missions through predictable and adequate financial resources. We recognise that the participation of Parliamentarians in these missions contributes significantly to democratic consolidation, regional solidarity and the sharing of electoral best practices.

However, we are equally mindful of the budgetary constraints faced by Member States, which have also limited the participation of Mauritius in these missions. It is therefore important to explore sustainable and cost-effective funding arrangements to ensure continued parliamentary participation.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

With regard to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, Mauritius has not yet signed the Protocol but continues to support the objectives and principles underpinning the regional gender equality agenda.

Our main concern relates to the compatibility of certain provisions of the Protocol with the Mauritian constitutional framework, particularly Article 5 on affirmative action and Section 16 of the Constitution on non-discrimination. The 2016 Revised Protocol replaced the term “affirmative action” with “special measures” and introduced updated commitments.

The issue relating to marriage below the age of 18 has since been addressed through the Children's Act 2020. However, broader questions of constitutional and legislative alignment remain, particularly in relation to gender equality, women's rights within the family, inheritance, sexual and reproductive health, women's representation in decision-making, economic empowerment and protection against gender-based violence. These matters require further consideration before Mauritius can proceed with accession to the Revised Protocol.

Gender equality and women's empowerment remain important national priorities. Mauritius continues to advance these objectives through the implementation of its National Gender Policy 2022–2030, gender-responsive budgeting initiatives and existing legislative and institutional frameworks.

A significant development in this regard is the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2026**,** which provides for a more comprehensive legislative framework to address domestic abuse. The new legislation seeks to broaden the definition of domestic abuse to include economic, emotional and psychological abuse, strengthen protection for victims and their children, improve access to judicial protection mechanisms, enhance accountability of perpetrators and introduce rehabilitation programmes.

These legislative developments are consistent with several objectives of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, particularly Articles 20, 23 and 25, which address legal measures against gender-based violence, support services for survivors and integrated approaches to preventing and eliminating violence.

Furthermore, the new legislation reflects important elements of the SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence, particularly in relation to the recognition of different forms of abuse, victim protection, perpetrator accountability and rehabilitation.

Mauritius nevertheless recognises that addressing gender-based violence requires more than legislative intervention. Continued efforts are required to strengthen support services for survivors, improve coordination among relevant institutions, enhance capacity-building and training for service providers, and promote prevention, awareness-raising and effective monitoring mechanisms.

Mauritius remains firmly committed to promoting women's participation in decision-making, eliminating discrimination and addressing gender-based violence in all its forms, in furtherance of its national, regional and international commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment.

On the issue of Child Marriage Accountability and Monitoring, Mauritius welcomed the launch of the Accountability Dashboard for Tracking the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage.

The Dashboard is intended to strengthen accountability, support evidence-based policymaking and assist Member States and Parliaments in monitoring implementation of regional commitments relating to child marriage and child protection.

Mauritius supports continued efforts to strengthen reporting systems, improve data quality and promote evidence-based monitoring of regional commitments.

As regards the Protection of Children Already in Marriage, Mauritius recognises that efforts to address child marriage should not focus solely on prevention. Protection and support for children already affected by child marriage remain equally important.

Existing child protection, education, healthcare and social welfare frameworks continue to support vulnerable children, promote educational continuity and facilitate access to essential services.

Mauritius remains committed to ensuring that vulnerable children are protected and supported through appropriate national mechanisms.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

Regarding the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour, Mauritius has actively participated in consultations on the revised Protocol and remains supportive of its broader objectives of promoting decent work, employment creation, social protection and the improvement of labour standards across the region.

Following consultations with relevant national stakeholders, Mauritius has identified a particular concern regarding Article 12(4), which provides for the preservation of accrued social security entitlements through multilateral and bilateral arrangements between Member States.

The provision raises important considerations in relation to its potential financial implications and compatibility with our national social security framework. Consequently, Mauritius is continuing to examine these implications before proceeding with the signature of the Protocol.

We note that the Protocol has not yet entered into force and that discussions on its implementation and outstanding matters remain ongoing at regional level. Mauritius remains committed to constructive engagement with Member States towards finding an appropriate way forward, while ensuring that regional commitments are consistent with national circumstances and the sustainability of our social security system.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

On matters relating to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Mauritius recognises the importance of regional cooperation and the strengthening of national policies and legislative frameworks to improve access to essential health services, particularly for women, young people and vulnerable groups.

We also take note of the Assembly's recommendation concerning the development of a legally binding regional instrument on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), as well as the ongoing work on the SADC Model Law on Safe Abortion.

In this regard, Mauritius has already taken legislative steps through the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2012, which provides for the termination of pregnancy under specified circumstances, subject to prescribed legal and medical safeguards. Mauritius remains open to continued regional dialogue on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, while recognising

the importance of taking into account the respective national legal, constitutional and institutional frameworks of Member States.

Hon. President and Hon. Members,

More broadly, Mauritius recognises the important role of Parliaments in promoting the domestication of regional instruments, strengthening legislative oversight, ensuring adequate budgetary allocations and holding implementing institutions accountable. We also acknowledge the value of regional peer learning and capacity-building in supporting Member Parliaments to translate SADC commitments into meaningful outcomes for their citizens and commends the work undertaken by the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee, particularly its benchmarking visit to the Kingdom of Lesotho, which provided an opportunity for Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and learn from good practices in the domestication and implementation of SADC Model Laws.

Mauritius also recognises that youth empowerment is fundamental to inclusive development, democratic participation and regional integration. Young people must be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the formulation and implementation of policies affecting their future.

In this regard, Mauritius has also organized the fifth edition of its National Youth Parliament, a platform aimed to familiarise young people with parliamentary procedures, debate issues of national importance, develop leadership and public speaking skills, and express their views on policies affecting their generation. Importantly, the resolutions adopted by the Youth

Parliament are transmitted to the relevant Ministries for consideration and appropriate follow-up, thereby ensuring that young people's voices are heard and that their recommendations can inform policy decisions and Government action. This initiative seeks to nurture a culture of democratic participation and encourage young people to become active and responsible citizens.

Hon President and Hon Members

In conclusion, Mauritius remains committed to engaging constructively with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and its Member Parliaments in advancing our shared regional objectives. We reaffirm the importance of regional cooperation, mutual understanding and collective action, while ensuring that the adoption and implementation of regional commitments remain consistent with our respective national constitutional and legal frameworks. We look forward to continuing to work together towards a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable SADC region.

As regards the implementation of SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030, National policies and programmes continue to contribute to regional objectives relating to governance, climate resilience, education, sustainable development and economic growth.

Mauritius further recognises the importance of continued parliamentary oversight and monitoring of implementation progress in support of these regional objectives.

Mauritius recognises the challenges that exist in the effective implementation of regional commitments remains an ongoing process, which include:

- ensuring continuous availability of reliable data and reporting systems;
- monitoring implementation across multiple sectors and institutions;
- keeping pace with evolving regional obligations; and
- maintaining adequate resources to support implementation and oversight functions.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Mauritius remains committed to addressing these challenges through strengthened coordination, evidence-based policymaking and continued parliamentary oversight.

Hon President and Hon Members

Before concluding, I wish to briefly touch upon the SADC Protocols which Mauritius, in addition to those already mentioned above, has not yet signed or acceded to, and the considerations underlying our current position.

These relate mainly to constitutional and legal compatibility, financial implications, national policy considerations and the need for further consultations with relevant stakeholders, in particular:

- **The SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005)**:

  Our position takes into account migration management, national security, labour market and demographic considerations, as well as the provisions on refugee protection, in light of our existing national legal and policy framework.
- **The SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development (2014)**: Concerns relate principally to Article 15(8) on extradition for environmental offences, particularly the

need for greater legal clarity regarding the definition and scope of such offences.

- **The SADC Protocol against Trafficking in Persons (2022**): This Protocol remains under consideration by the relevant national authorities, pending further examination of its provisions and implications for our domestic legal and institutional framework.
- **The SADC Protocol on Protection of New Varieties of Plants (2017**): This Protocol is also undergoing examination and stakeholder consultation, particularly regarding its implications for plant breeders' rights and the national agricultural framework.

Hon President and Hon Members

On a concluding note, it should be emphasised that the fact that Mauritius has not yet signed or acceded to these instruments should not be construed as a lack of commitment to the objectives of regional integration and cooperation. Rather, our approach is guided by the need to ensure that regional commitments are compatible with our national constitutional, legal, financial and policy frameworks.

Mauritius remains committed to engaging constructively with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and its Member States in advancing shared regional objectives.

Mauritius recognises that the principal challenge facing the region is not the absence of treaties, protocols, model laws or strategic frameworks, but rather effective implementation, financing, monitoring, accountability and achievement of measurable outcomes.

Mauritius therefore remains committed to:

- Strengthening implementation of regional obligations;
- Supporting evidence-based policy making;
- Improving monitoring and reporting systems;
- Promoting inclusive governance and sustainable development;
- Advancing child protection, gender equality and youth empowerment; and
- Supporting regional integration through Vision 2050 and RISDP implementation.

Mauritius further reiterates its commitment to working with fellow SADC Member States, regional institutions and development partners to translate regional commitments into tangible benefits for citizens and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of regional integration, constitutional governance and sustainable development.

Thank you.