



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade

Summit for Democracy Summary 9-10 December 2021 Commitments of Mauritius

The Hon Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, participated in the two-day **Virtual Summit for Democracy** convened by US President Joe Biden on 9-10 December 2021, thereby reflecting the commitment of Mauritius to playing its part in preserving and advancing democracy and increasing its momentum around the world.

The Summit focused on challenges and opportunities facing democracies and provided a platform for leaders to announce both individual and collective commitments, reforms, and initiatives to defend democracy and human rights at home and abroad.

In his statement, the Hon Prime Minister underscored, *inter alia*, the key pillars of the deeply rooted democratic system, spirit and traditions of Mauritius which define the identity of our multi-cultural country. These pillars include:

- a Westminster-based parliamentary system with elections held every five years and smooth transitions of power.
- an independent judiciary guarantees the fundamental rights and freedom of each individual;
- an independent anti-corruption agency to combat fraud and corruption.

- scrutiny of public spending by the Director of Audit, a constitutional post.
- a Public Accounts Committee with parliamentary oversight of public expenditure management.
- a vibrant private sector and a well-structured public-private dialogue mechanism.
- a National Human Rights Commission which enquires into complaints on infringement of human rights; and
- an Equal Opportunities Commission, as well as the Ombudsman who addresses any complaint of discrimination.

The Hon Prime Minister also drew attention to the emerging issues around misuse of digital media, including social media platforms, and the related adverse impacts on democratic participation, stressing that such issues, if unaddressed, will contribute to a gradual erosion of democratic spaces.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth further posited that the respect of the international rule of law, as well as the promotion of a rules-based system where the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country is respected, represent crucial components of global governance.

Commitments of Mauritius

- a. As we face the challenges of our time, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, Mauritius looks forward to working with all its partners and like-minded countries to share and exchange experiences and promote resilient democratic governance and all the principles, values and ideals underpinning it globally, including inclusive and open societies, free and fair elections, the rule of law, respect for human rights and compliance with international law.
- b. In this respect, the Government of Mauritius hereby re-commits to those objectives of strengthening democracy in the country, in particular those set out in the Government Program 2020-2024:

(i) **Electoral reform:** pursuing its initiative to bring an electoral reform which will ensure political and social stability in the country and better women representation in the National Assembly.

(ii) **Financing of Political Parties:** pending an appropriate timing (that is when conditions for parliamentary consensus or constitutionally required majority prevail) for the re-introduction of a new Bill on the Financing of Political Parties into the National Assembly so as to prevent undue influence and corruption, pursue its work for the enhancement of transparency and accountability mechanisms within our institutions.

(iii) **Code of Conduct for Members of the National Assembly:** introduction in the National Assembly of a code of conduct for parliamentarians.

(iv) **Consolidation of Anti-Corruption Framework:** In line with its transparency, accountability and corrupt-free agenda, enactment of necessary legislation to strengthen the anti-corruption ecosystem, in anticipation of which actions are being taken to review the existing financial crime legislation including, but not limited to, the Prevention of Corruption Act and to further consolidate our overall Anti-Corruption framework.

- c. At the Multilateral level, Mauritius remains committed to strengthening international norms and taking action to prevent and combat corruption and to address digital challenges to democracy such as malignant forms of disinformation through social media platforms.