CONSIDERATION OF THE FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH COMBINED PERIODIC REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

82ND SESSION OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
GENEVA, 20TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2013

CLOSING STATEMENT BY HON. YATINDRA NATHVARMA,
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the very outset, on behalf of the Mauritian Delegation, to express our appreciation for the opportunity given to us by the Committee to engage in an interactive dialogue and I am confident that this exchange has undoubtedly provided an excellent platform for fruitful deliberations to be carried out as far as the efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination are concerned. I am sure that this working session has enabled the Committee to get a thorough insight on the prevailing situation in Mauritius in this regard.

Let me again reassure you that Mauritius welcomes and supports the work of the Committee in its entirety as we strongly believe that United Nations Treaty Bodies are the best safeguards set up at international level to act as watchdogs of human rights and to ensure that States Parties act in compliance with the obligations that have to be honoured under the various treaties that they have adhered to.
Mr. Chairperson,

Mauritius undertakes to the best of its ability and within its resources to strengthen the effectiveness of its human rights system in order to live up to its obligations under the Convention. At domestic level, Mauritius has a dynamic and independent Judiciary which plays an important role in ensuring the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The work achieved by the National Empowerment Foundation, the National Human Rights Commission and by the newly set up Equal Opportunities Commission in such a short lapse of time augurs very well for the future.

Mauritius wishes to put on record that it acknowledges that the implementation of United Nations norms require furtherance of democracy and the rule of law whilst paying special attention to the needs of the vulnerable sections of society. In the same breath, I take the opportunity to state that Mauritius is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights at the international, regional and national levels.

In conclusion, we give the assurance that Mauritius will submit timely periodic reports to the Committee in the future and reaffirm our commitment to work in close collaboration with the Committee in order to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination in Mauritius in order to enable the Mauritian citizen as well as any foreigner in Mauritius to feel secure and live in peace and harmony.

I thank you for your attention.