



16 June 2016

European Union – Republic of Mauritius

Joint press release

EU-Mauritius: Signature of the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme

Brussels - The President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, co-signed the National Indicative Programme of the Republic of Mauritius under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The programming document will focus on two sectors namely, Tertiary education and Research and Innovation.

The Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, Ms Marjaana Sall, and the Head of Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the European Union, H.E. Mr Haymandoyal Dillum were also present at the signing ceremony.

On that occasion, Ms Marjaana Sall said:

- "The signature of the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme for the Republic of Mauritius today is an important landmark in the EU-Republic of Mauritius cooperation. It signals the new mode of our partnership with Mauritius, which will be now focussed on supporting Mauritius to attain its High Income Country status. We are assisting Mauritius in the tertiary sector and in research and innovation. These are critical factors in boosting the human capital in the country, thereby generating future growth."

The President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim stated:

- "The European Union continues to be our privileged partner in addressing our developmental needs and challenges. This NIP lays the foundation for a collaborative framework as Mauritius stands at a crossroads in terms of appropriate policy choices that it has to make towards enhancing the human capital through science, technology, innovation and quality higher education".

The signing ceremony took place at the margins of the European Development Days to which the President of the Republic of Mauritius was participating as one of the Keynote Speakers upon invitation of the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean Claude Juncker.

The 11th EDF National Indicative Programme, which amounts to a total of EUR 9.9 million, will guide the bilateral EU-Republic of Mauritius cooperation until 2020. The programming document is the result of joint work between the Government of Mauritius and the EU, and reflects national and regional priorities.

The general objective of the 11th EDF is to assist Mauritius to evolve from an Upper Middle Income Country to High income Country by improving the relevance, quality and equity in tertiary education and research and innovation, which are seen as key areas to transform Mauritius into a knowledge based and innovative society.

- For **Tertiary Education**, the main objectives are: to increase the relevance of the university studies to reduce the skills mismatch exists in the labour market and improve equity so that vulnerable and low income families get equal access to University education.

- For **Research and Innovation**, the programme aims at boosting research through putting in place the necessary institutional framework and to increase the number of research proposals that obtain financing.

The programme also provides funding for a technical cooperation facility to service the formulation / implementation of projects and to provide appropriate technical support to the Government in areas of mutual interest related to EU policies.

The Government of Mauritius and the European Union will soon start the implementation of the 11th EDF through the identification and formulation of priority projects.

The 11th EDF National Indicative Programme is complemented by additional envelopes and instruments like the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme, the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the thematic budget lines notably in support to civil society and All-ACP (Africa Caribbean Pacific) instruments.

The EU-Mauritius partnership goes beyond the traditional "development aid" logic and spans over key areas like Trade, Climate change, Sustainable Development Goals, Maritime Security and Fisheries among others.

1. EU-Mauritius Partnership:

The European Union and the Republic of Mauritius have had a longstanding partnership for 40 years covering Development Cooperation, Trade relations, Business and Foreign Direct Investment, Education, Scientific and Cultural exchanges. Mauritius has been one of the countries which have benefited most from the EU-ACP cooperation and the EU has been closely associated to the development and diversification of the economy of Mauritius. In the recent years, the EU has been providing significant budget support in favour of the economic and social reform programme of Mauritius.

2. The European Union:

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent. Today, the EU has a total population of more than 500 million. Within the EU market, people, goods, services and capital move without any barriers. Euro, which is the single currency adopted by 19 Member States, is used each day by over 300 million people. Main institutions include the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, and the European Commission. Since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the EU has a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security who heads the European External Action Service. With 139 delegations and offices, the European External Action Service is one of the world's largest diplomatic services. Ms Federica Mogherini is the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

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