

BACKGROUND PAPER

LAUNCHING OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF

THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR MAURICE ILE DURABLE

Background

1. As you may be aware, Maurice Ile Durable (MID) was first announced by Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, as a long term vision aimed at promoting sustainable development. The main thrust of Maurice Ile Durable is to make Mauritius a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of small-island states. This includes minimizing our dependency on fossil fuels through increased utilization of renewable energy and a more efficient use of energy in general. The protection of the environment and the social dimension of development are also crucial aspects of MID. In June 2008, the MID Fund was set up as an instrument to promote sustainable development in the country.
2. Donor agencies have also expressed strong support for enabling the materialization of the Maurice Ile Durable concept. The Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) signed a "Convention de Financement" to the amount of 1 M Euros for supporting the activities of the MID Fund in September 2009. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also earmarked a project for supporting the Maurice Ile Durable concept, through a Technical Support Unit and other ad-hoc technical assistance including on Solar Water Heaters. Moreover, the UNDP has recruited a General Facilitator for the Development of the National Policy for Maurice Ile Durable in the person of Dr Francois Odendaal. Both the AFD and the UNDP have expressed interest in supporting the national consultation process by bringing resource persons to assist in policy formulation.
3. At the heart of policy making is consultation with civil society. The consultation process for the development of the National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius (Maurice Ile Durable National Policy) will be launched in mid-February 2010. The bulk of the national consultation process will occur in February and the first half of March. The aim is to have

the Draft White Paper completed by end of June 2010. The consultation process will ensure that needs and aspirations of the Mauritian Society are reflected in the White Paper which will be submitted to Cabinet.

The Consultation Process

4. Figure 1 depicts the consultation process. Starting with awareness raising, the spine of the process includes the formulation of a National Vision, the development of a Green Paper, a Draft White Paper outline, a Draft White Paper and finally, when endorsed by Cabinet, the White Paper becomes the *National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius*. On both sides of the spine there are consultative meetings that feed into the various products of the policy process. On the left side there is mostly civil society, and on the right side there are the Ministries.
5. The consultative meetings therefore comprise of a. open public meetings, b. special interest groups meetings, c. meetings with district and local government, and, d. consultation with the Ministries. Open public meetings will be moderated by the General Facilitator and will be held in each municipality and district. The outcome of each public meeting will be a set of concerns, opportunities, views and other input by the participants in the meeting, and a Draft Vision constructed at the meeting and agreed upon by the participants.
6. The special interest group meetings consist of stakeholders who share common concerns. There will be one for the tourism industry, private sector business, women's groups, NGOs, youth organizations, fishers, etc. A list of categories of special interest groups has been prepared. The list may not yet be fully complete, and if there are oversights they should be brought to the attention of the TSU (a.darifat@mail.gov.mu).
7. In addition to the above meetings, there will be a nationwide involvement of primary and secondary schools, spearheaded and organized by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, following a model that was implemented by the GF Dr Odendaal during 2009 MID Week. The outcome of the activities of each individual school will again be a set of issues and a

Draft Vision constructed by particular school. Finally, each school will send two representatives to a National Youth Summit for a Sustainable Mauritius.

8. Moreover, for anyone who may not have been able to attend a public or special interest group meeting, and for Mauritians residing or travelling abroad, there will be the opportunity to make submissions to the policy formulation process by e-mail.
9. All these inputs are to be tempered by specialist studies targeting specific issues commissioned from the research establishments, and from relevant experts recruited by AFD.
10. Critical to the success of the Green Paper will be consultation with the Ministries. After all, constructive dialogue between Civil Society and Government is the hallmark of any good policy.

Annex 1

Special Interest Groups Meetings

Group No.	SIGs	No.	Group
1	Youth Groups	1	B
2	Students (High Schools)	2	C (RGSC)
3	Students (University)	1	A
4	Non-governmental associations	2	A
5	Women's associations	2	A
6	Vulnerable groups	2	A
7	Community based associations	2	B
8	Senior citizens	2	B
9	Consumer associations	2	B
10	Fishing	2	A
11	Planters and breeders groups	2	B
12	Environmental associations	2	A
13	Local and district authorities	2	B
14	Artistic associations	2	B
15	Cultural associations	2	B
16	Operators in the informal sector	-	Survey
17	Tourism	1	A
18	Commercial and industrial operators	1	B
19	ICT and financial sectors	1	A
20	Educational institutions	1	D
21	Health institutions	1	B
22	Academics	1	D
23	Private sector	1	A
24	Small and medium enterprises	1	B
25	Construction	1	B
26	Transport	1	B
27	Trade Unions	1	B
28	Sports		

Group A (orange): GF + moderator + rapporteurs

Group B (blue): Moderators as facilitators + rapporteurs (no GF presence necessary)

Group C (green): Other facilitators (e.g. RGSC)

Group D (purple): Self - help

