



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

No. 378/14

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to convey the views of the authorities of Mauritius with regard to Res. 67/47 – UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and Res. 67/94 – Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

(a) Resolution 67/47 – UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

The history of Mauritius is not marked by any war or civil insurrection. Mauritius has a police force to maintain internal law and order and as such does not hold large stocks of arms and ammunition, which are essentially meant for civilian use.

Students in schools do learn the history of Mauritius to understand the importance of peace and tolerance.

A series of legislation have been enacted to regulate and control firearms, ammunition and explosives. The Firearms Act 2006 provides for the control over firearms in terms of their import, use, storage and handling in Mauritius. The firearms are used mainly by civilians for self-protection and hunting. The Explosives Act regulates the manufacture, import, control and handling of explosives. The Radiation Protection Authority established under the Radiation Protection Act regulates, controls and supervises radiological works and all activities relating to the acquisition, importation, use, transportation and disposal of radioactive materials, radioactive substances and other elements capable of emitting ionizing radiation.

In line with the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons, ammunition such as anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, mortar shells, armour-piercing grenades, etc., which were previously used for training purposes by the Police, have been destroyed in the year 2003.

(b) Resolution 67/47 – Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Mauritius succeeded to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations on 18 July 1969. Before its succession, and in order to give force of law to certain provisions

of the Vienna Convention regarding immunity from prosecution, exemption from taxation, security of personnel and premises of foreign missions, the Government of Mauritius enacted the Diplomatic Relations Act in 1968. Article 22 of the Schedule to the Diplomatic Relations Act stipulates that the premises of Diplomatic Missions in Mauritius shall be inviolable and no Mauritian can enter those premises without the consent of the Head of Mission.

It is therefore the duty of the Government to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the Missions against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the Missions or impairment of its dignity.

Upon request, the Mauritius Police Force provides armed security at the premises of concerned High Commissions and Embassies and whenever there is an increased threat, a heightened security is provided.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, the assurance of its high consideration.

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