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European Union

Press Release

The European Union and the Republic of Mauritius step up their partnership in climate change

(Port Louis) - The Government of Mauritius and the European Union held a High Level Policy Dialogue on Climate Change to discuss how to bring their partnership in climate change to the next level. Participants from various ministries, the private sector and the civil society attended the event. The European Union also announced a new support of EUR 3 million to strengthen research and innovation capacities in agriculture to face the challenges of climate change.

According to Marjaana Sall, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius:

- *"I am proud that the first ever High Level Policy Dialogue on Climate Change with the Government of Mauritius is taking place today. The European Union is a strong supporter of multilateralism, and as such, we remain committed, with our Member States, to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We believe that there is an unprecedented urgency to step up global efforts to halt and reverse climate change, in particular for Small Island States like Mauritius. As a concrete result of our dialogue, we have jointly agreed on a Management Framework that will allow us to step up our cooperation on climate change and to monitor progress in the fight against climate change. It will be a continuous exercise."*

She added: -*" I take this opportunity to announce our new support to the Government of Mauritius for an amount of 120 million rupees to boost innovation in agriculture to be more resilient to the effects of climate change."*

Stakeholders from several ministries dealing with climate change issues, the private sector and Non-Government Organisations involved with climate change mitigation and adaptation participated in the High Level Policy Dialogue on climate change. The Dialogue was co-chaired by the Minister of Social Security, Reform Institutions, Environment and Sustainable Development and the EU Ambassador, in the presence of the French Ambassador and the British High Commissioner.

The Dialogue provides a structured platform to discuss on key climate-related policy issues in the framework of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that Mauritius presented in Paris in 2015. It is also an occasion to discuss how the European Union, including its Member States, can further assist Government in meeting its mitigation and adaptation commitments. This is a continuous dialogue, to monitor progress and see how the EU and Mauritius can work together.

The EU and Mauritius have agreed on a Joint Management Framework on Climate Change which is focused on six objectives that will be jointly monitored:

1. To comply with Nationally Determined Contribution target to mitigate climate change, subject to support from International sources
2. To improve coastal zone resilience
3. To implement an effective national disaster risk reduction strategy
4. To enhance resilience against high intensity rainfall events
5. To reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by promoting low carbon technologies and awareness raising on energy conservation in line with the NDC
6. To increase native forest cover to enhance the climate resilience of natural ecosystems (including mangroves).

The High Level Policy Dialogue takes place less than one week after the COP 24. It illustrates the commitment of both Mauritius and the European Union to join forces to address climate change and meet their commitments made in Paris 3 years ago. The Policy Dialogue follows the EU-Mauritius Political Dialogue, when it was agreed to hold a dedicated policy dialogue on climate change. Since March 2018, the European Union with its resident member states and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development have held a series of technical meetings with various ministries to identify possible objectives to be included in a Joint Framework.

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.

At the global level, the EU has been playing a leading role in the negotiations of three global policy agreements in 2015, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The EU is also the world's biggest climate finance donor.

For more information please contact:



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