



# MAURITIUS

## STATEMENT

by

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and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Mauritius

at the

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*Check Against Delivery*

**Mr. President,**

capacity and integrate fully in the global economy? Similarly, in the multilateral trading system, we expect the emergence of an environment conducive to enabling SIDS to improve their competitiveness, market access and the diversification of their economies. We, therefore, expect the WTO to come up soon with the Work Programme on Small Economies.

As a small island developing state, Mauritius is indeed honored to host the International Meeting. The International Meeting should not only be a collective gathering to reflect on the specificities of our concerns. Rather, it should be a landmark in the history of the maMon7.1104eur leS

come to grips with the conflicts that continue to divert our attention and meagre resources from our development efforts. The African Union has amply demonstrated that it means business in addressing the issue of conflicts on the continent and any assistance it gets from the international community can only help it achieve its goals. But let me hasten to say that the African Union's involvement in these peace processes should not distract the UN Security Council from its primary responsibility to maintain peace and security in Africa. Indeed, the Security Council should not allow itself to be perceived as being selective in its approach with regard to conflicts in various parts of the world. Experiences in the Great Lakes Region and in West Africa have shown that combined efforts of the Security Council and the African Union can bring tangible results.

Before I leave this aspect of my statement, let me refer to the unjust treatment that continues to be meted out to the Saharawi people who are still struggling for their right to self-determination.

It is the duty of this world body to ensure a speedy conclusion of this matter. In this regard, my delegation reiterates its support for the Settlement Plan and any other political initiative acceptable to the parties concerned that will help take the process forward for a durable and sustainable solution. The Saharawi people deserve this commitment from us.

**Mr President,**

As this august Assembly is aware, Mauritius has always favoured a bilateral approach in our resolve to restore our exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago which prior to independence from the UK was unlawfully detached from our territory, in violation of UN Declaration 1514 and 1964.031p

building through regional integration and aligning national policies to regional co-operation so that they stay on course in the globalisation process. We wi

(2004) will give the people of Iraq a unique opportunity to take the destiny of their country in their own hands. However, the current secur

a reformed Security Council based on wider