



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

No. 19/2011 MMG/HR/28/1

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to its Note dated 7 October 2010 transmitting the questionnaire on the recognition, access and protection of cultural heritage as elaborated by the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights, has the honour to attach the responses of the Government of Mauritius thereto.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

[Handwritten signature]
Geneva, 16 February 2011

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10**

OHCHR REGISTRY

17 FEB 2011

Recipients : SPD
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Questionnaire on Access to Cultural Heritage

I. The recognition of cultural heritage

- (a) The list of all tangible heritage sites of Mauritius is at **Annex 1**. The inventory of intangible heritage is under process.
- (b) Endangered Cultural heritage are identified by the National Heritage Fund.
- (c) Cultural heritage are classified for protection and safeguarding.
- (d) The procedure to nominate and declare cultural heritage is determined by Article 12 of the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 at Annex II. The declaration of cultural heritage is based on the statement of cultural significance.
- (e) The stakeholders involved are the National Heritage Fund and the Ministry of Arts and Culture.
- (f) The declaration of cultural heritage must compulsorily go through these two stakeholders.
- (g) Once classified, the access to these cultural sites is not hindered.

2. The legal definition for the different types of cultural heritage under the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 is as follows:

"monument" which means

- (a) any structure of cultural significance, remains of such a structure, building or group of buildings which because of its homogeneity or its place in the landscape is of outstanding value; and
- (b) architectural work, work of monumental sculpture and painting, element or structure of an archaeological nature, inscription, cave dwelling which is of outstanding value;

"site" which means any area on land or underwater, with or without any structure, building, monument or object, thereon having a cultural significance.