**Mauritus Reply of Questionnaire.**

1.Name of your DPO:

Federation of Disabled People's Organisations Mauritius

2. Name of your country:

Mauritius

3. Has your country ratified the UNCRPD and when?

Mauritius has signed the UNCRPD and its Optional Protocol on 25th September 2007

and has ratified the UNCRPD on 8th January 2010. It should be highlighted that Mauritius did not ratify the Optional Protocol which means that Mauritius did not complete the procedure to access to the Optional Protocol. As a direct consequence, PWDs of the Republic of Mauritius cannot lodge their plaints to the UNCRPD Disability Committee for judgement on their cases of discrimination on the ground of disability when they are unsatisfied of the court judgement obtained from the Mauritian judiciary.

Moreover, during ratification to the UNCRPD, Mauritius put reservation on the following articles:

1. Article 9(2)(d) relating to signage in Braille and sign language in public places,

2. Article 11 relating to the priority given to the evacuation of PWDs during times of emergency (such as in times of natural calamities), and

3. Article 24(2)(b) calling states parties to the UNCRPD to offer inclusive primary and secondary education to PWDs.

4. What has your country done to Implement the UNCRPD?

Inview of ensuring the implementation of the UNCRPD, the state of Mauritius brought the following measures:

“(a) The Employment Rights Act of 2008 which specifically prohibits
  harassment on the basis of disability at work;

(b) Launch of a database on disabilityin 2012;

(c) The substantial increase of the social  budget in support of persons with disabilities;

(d) The establishment of a National Monitoring and Implementation
  Committee on persons with disabilities under the Ministry of Social Security.”

5. How much is your DP0 involved in implementation with the Government of your country?

Attending all the committees and workshops to which we receive invitations by the government. We send our proposal as when and required and participate actively in live debates.

6. Has your DPO been involved in producing a shadow report to go to UNCRPD Committee and How?

Yes, our DPO prepared and presented a Shadow Report in Geneva in August 2015.

7. What progress has been made on implementing Inclusive Education?

Mauritius has a reservation on Article 24(2)(b) pertaining to inclusive education but the government is actively working on the implementation of inclusive education. TheSpecialEducation Needs Authority (SENA) Act was enacted in December 2018 and the SEN Authority was set up in March 2019. This institution is now responsible to cater for the educational system for children with disabilities at very early age.

8. What progress has been made on social protection for PWD?

The social protection of PWDs has witnessed a significant progress with the eradication of age limit to benefit from the Basic Invalid Pension and the Carers’ Allowance. Indeed, before June 2016 children with disabilities aged from 0 to 15 years oldwould not access to the Basic Invalid Pension wholly for their social allowance were determined based on the revenues of their parents.Since June 2016,every child whose disability is of 60% and above are eligible to receive the Basic Invalid Pension.

9. What progress has been made in implementing employment opportunities for PWD?

Unfortunately, there has been no progress but rather a decline in the employment of PWDs. The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (Tedpb) which is a statutory body has no General Manager since April 2015 and has been until recently running without a Chairperson. Most graduates with disabilities are unemployed and the TEDPB is not equipped with the required resource persons to provide training to PWDs. The reserved quota of 3% for PWDs applies only to employes of the private sector and parastatal bodies but does not apply to government jobs. Moreover, the Equal Opportunities Act 2011 allows discrimination on the ground of disability in the recruitment.

10. What progress has been made on challenging negative attitudes and stigma to PWD?

There has been no significant measures taken by the authorities to challenge negative approach toward PWDs in general. However, some institutions take the initiative to run sensitization campaigns just like the one which was carried out by the National Women Council and the Mauritius Institute of Education this year.

11. What progress has been made in achieving gender equality for PWD ?

Gender equality is the objective of most mainstream development but there is no specific measures with regard to PWDs.

12. What capacity building does your DPO need? Identify areas.

The capacity building required by our DPO is in the sector of efficient and effective communication as well as in the field of advocacy.

13. If you are the National Umbrella DPO how do you operate democratically with other DPOs?

14. If you are an impairment specific, particular focus or regional DPO how do you work with Umbrella DPO?

U-link in collaborations with Down Syndrome Association provide the required expertise to the Umbrela DPO in the field of Down Syndrome and intellectual disabilities at large.

15. If there is no national; umbrella DPO. How could one be built?

It has to be pointed out that there are 2 different DPOs running in parallel in Mauritius since 2014 following the last visit of late Mr. Abidi.

16. How does your DPO get funded?

DPO receives few funding locally through sponsorship.

17. What training capacity does your DPO have?

Our organisation has the following training capacity:

Advocacy training for the youths

Independent daily living skills for children and adults

Acceptation and self empowerment.

18. What regular training do you provide for PWD?

Sports and leisure Art and Craft. Horticulture.- ( all inclusive)

Empowering Parents of newly born children how to accept CWD.

On a door to door basis.

19. How does your DPO involve young DWP?

Working in close collaborations with different Ministries, Mainly Gender Equality, Child development and family welfare, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education and others on inclusive projects for our youth.

20. Does your DPO have any experience working in a humanitarian disaster?

No.

Ali Jookhun