

## Republic of Mauritius

<p><b>A. National Policies</b></p>	<p>The Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and the National Gender Policy Framework both implemented by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare includes the Ministry of Arts and Culture as one of the partners for the implementation, regular assessment and evaluation.</p>
<p><b>B. National implementation strategies of UNESCO Culture Conventions</b></p>	<p>The National Heritage Fund has been set up to protect and safeguard cultural property. The National Heritage Fund Act is being amended and will be also made more gender responsive so as to meet the objectives of the Convention.</p> <p>The Ministry of Arts and Culture provides assistance to artists and senior artists through different schemes to promote cultural industries. Furthermore, the Ministry organises national events that help in the creation of jobs for suppliers in the field of arts.</p> <p>Eg. of Activities between 2003 &amp; 2013:</p> <p>(i) World Monuments Day organised every year by the National Heritage Fund, Mauritius Museums Council, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund &amp; Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund;</p> <p>(ii) Workshops/seminars organised by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund &amp; Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund;</p> <p>(iii) Research is being carried out by the National Heritage Fund &amp; University of Mauritius for establishing a list of intangible heritage; and</p> <p>(iv) Celebrations for promoting cultural industries: (a) National Day Celebration (12 March); (b) World Day for Cultural Dialogue &amp; Diversity (April-May); (c) Music Day (21 June); (d) Eid-UI-Fitr (August-September); (e) Divali (November); (f) Chinese Spring Festival (January-February); (g) Abolition of Slavery (1st February); (h) Commemoration of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers (2 November)</p>
<p><b>C. Access to decision-making</b></p>	<p>The Government policy to ensure equal opportunities to men &amp; women with the Equal Opportunity Act 2013.</p> <p>The Ministry of Arts and Culture is finalising a White Paper on Arts and Culture equal participation that includes:</p> <p>- Most of the institutions have a ratio of women higher than men in terms of staff members for e.g the Ministry of Arts and Culture, the National Heritage Fund, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund;</p>

	- There is no impact assessment or evaluation as gender issues don't affect this sector.
<b>D. Education, Capacity-Building and Training</b>	This issue doesn't apply to our country as the different institutions dealing with heritage have women in senior positions & in decision-making (e.g AGTF - First Chairperson, Dr V. Teelock; Head Researcher – Ms C. Forest; Coordinator, Mrs Gayaram NHF - Present Director, Mrs S. Thannoo; LMHTF - Officer-in-charge, Mrs C. Le Chartier). Training is equally dispensed to male and female staff members. Women in rural areas work on both world heritage sites for oral traditions & folk traditions.
<b>E. Access to credit and financial resources allocation</b>	Business & Cooperatives have special schemes for Small & Medium Enterprises. Assistance is being provided by the Ministry of Arts and Culture to artists through the Assistance Scheme for production of CD's (Sega and Bhojpuri) in order to preserve and promote intangible heritage at the national and international level. Furthermore, the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA) helps in generating income for artists through the Copyright Act. The Chairperson of MASA is a lady. The above incentives are given to all artists without any gender discrimination.
<b>F. Visibility and awareness-raising</b>	Regular workshops and exhibitions are being organized.
<b>G. Statistics and Indicators</b>	A survey form is being worked out and training programme for officers is contemplated.