Reports by Member States on the Implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.

S/N	Issues	Views regarding actions mentioned in the report
1.	**POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS**	**The Copyright Act 1997** The Copyright Act 1997 protects the interests of authors to copyright as required for in the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and also incorporates the international duties and obligations contracted by the State under the Universal Copyright Convention, the Berne Convention and the TRIPS Agreement. The Act is being updated by the Ministry of Arts and Culture to cater for the recommendations falling under the WIPO Copyright Treaty. Amendments have been made in the present Copyright Act by way of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2005 to include, amongst others, within the ambit of the current definition of "Service Provider", activities covered by "Service Provider" defined under the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001 and the Electronic Transactions Act 2000. **ICT Act 2001** The Act can be downloaded at http://www.gov.mu/portal/goc/telecomit/files/ictact.pdf It provides for the following: - establishment and management of an Information and Communication Technologies Authority; - regulation of the information and communication technologies sector which include telecommunications, the use of Internet, the development of an information society and online services, protection and security of data and facilitation of convergence; - establishment of an ICT Advisory Council and ICT Appeal Tribunal; - democratization of information and communication technologies for the promotion of a knowledge-based society; and - transition towards a fully-liberalised and competitive market in the information and communication sector **Electronics Transaction Act 2000** The Act can be downloaded at http://www.gov.mu/portal/goc/telecomit/files/eta.pdf The objectives of the Act are to: - establish the legal infrastructure necessary to implement secure electronic commerce and to remove uncertainties over writing and signature requirements; - regulate electronic commerce and other electronic transactions by means of secure and reliable electronic records; - provide for electronic filing of documents with public sector agencies and promote efficient delivery of

public sector services by means of reliable electronic records;
- foster the development of electronic commerce through the use of electronic signatures;
- establish the authenticity and integrity of correspondence in any electronic medium;
- help establish uniformity of rules, regulations and standards regarding the authentication and integrity of electronic records;
- prevent the incidence of forged electronic records and fraud in electronic commerce and other electronic transactions; and
- promote public confidence in the integrity and reliability of electronic records and electronic commerce.

The Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act 2003
- provides for repression of criminal activities perpetrated through computer systems;
- aims at making provision for better protection against computer misuse; and
- takes care of new forms of Cybercrime, such as illegal interception of data and on-line child pornography.

The Act can be downloaded at http://www.gov.mu/portal/goc/telecomit/files/cyber.pdf

The Data Protection Act 2004
The Act was introduced to provide for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in view of the development in the technology used to capture, transmit, manipulate, record and store data relating to individuals. It provides for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in view of the development in the technology used to capture, transmit, manipulate, record and store data relating to individuals.
It can be downloaded at http://www.gov.mu/protal/goc/telecomit/files/dpa04.doc

National Telecommunications Policy 2004 (NTP 2004)
- Outlines the objectives and targets for the telecommunications sector and spells out strategies to be adopted.
- Sets out the methodology that would ensure fair, effective and sustainable competition for the new market paradigm.

Policy Framework for Internet Service Providers 2001
- Sets out the policy framework for the provision of Internet Services in Mauritius.
- Creates an investment-friendly environment to enhance fair competition through a level playing field and to ensure Internet access at affordable costs.

The Information Technology (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1998
- Amendments were brought to the Archives Act (to include documents that are electronically recorded); the Courts Act (to insert the admissibility of out-of-courts statements); the Criminal Code Act (to insert a section on data protection and security and another section on computer misuse).

| 2. | **ACCESSIBILITY** | **The Community Empowerment Programme**
Its objectives are to:
• facilitate the democratisation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in order to contribute in the alleviation of poverty within the community through the use of ICTs; and
• develop a Community Web Portal with a view to encourage the development of local content and creativity.

National Strategy for Information Security
Its objective is to make Mauritius a secure information society in which everyone can place their trust and where information can be safely managed and distributed to all parties.

Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) for telecom services
The IUC tariffs for dial-up Internet access has been set at Rs 0.10, below its cost which is at Rs 0.33, with a view to promoting access to dial-up Internet access in Mauritius.

International Private Lease Circuit (IPLC)
The decrease in price will increase the competitiveness of Mauritius in the international market and promote the cyber culture.

E-Business Plan
The plan sets out a strategy for computerizing the activities of the Ministries or Departments and for them to deliver services electronically in line with the e-government objectives.

SchoolNet
Free Internet access in secondary schools and public libraries has been provided in Rodrigues and Mauritius.

School IT Project
It provides quality education and equal opportunities to students to access a wealth of resources on the Internet, promote usage of ICT as a supporting and enabling tool for education and promote virtual learning and collaboration in the education sector. It has as objectives the following:
- promote usage of IT as a supporting and enabling tool for education right from pre-primary up to secondary level;
- teach IT as a subject on its own at various levels;
- integrate IT literacy as part of the education imparted to students; and
- promote virtual learning and collaboration in the education sector.

Electronic Queuing System
Its objective is to enhance customer service and provide an efficient means for handling passport applications. Applicants |

can also be notified of their position on the queue through SMS.

Central Population Database (CPD)
It is a national database that will hold information on all individuals registered in Mauritius and will interact with other governmental application systems to provide and maintain up-to-date information.

Central Business Database
The computer system of the Companies Division is being overhauled to cater for the provisions of the Business Registration Act 2002. Businesses are allocated a unique business registration number and are issued a business registration card. Online registration of companies and businesses is also possible through the computer system.

Project-Support for new and potential start-up incubators in ICT
The project was carried out in two phases:
Phase I - deals with a study and recommendations and
Phase II - deals with the implementations of the recommendations.

Promotion of the Entrepreneurship Development in the ICT sector
The aim of which is to promote the services and facilities offered by the National Computer Board – ICT Incubator Centre to potential entrepreneurs and provide them with information on the various support and facilities including financing available to start a business in the field of ICT.

ICT Culture Promotion
The objective of which is to bridge the digital divide in Mauritius and develop an ICT literate nation.

Government Online Centre (GOC)
The GOC currently hosts the Government Web Portal which is a one-stop-shop providing comprehensive information and enabling online applications on a 24*7 basis in a user-friendly manner. It hosts the web sites of 92 Ministries and Departments and 25 Parastatal bodies and provides Internet access with content filtering to some 180 secondary schools and public libraries. It also hosts the Government Email Service (GES) whereby some 4500 civil servants are provided email accounts and it enables optimization of IT investment in the public sector. It also enables citizens and business to interact with government electronically. As a centralized data centre, the GOC will soon host a number of common and back-office applications. Since December 2005, the GOC is providing co-location to the National Internet Exchange Point.

Promotion of ICT culture at national level includes:
- IT Coach;
- National Computer Board resource centres; and

- Computers and Broadband Internet facilities in Post Offices across Mauritius for access by the community at large.

Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP)
The programme imparts computer proficiency skills to students, workers, unemployed and the population at large.
Through UIEP, Government is aiming to train 400,000 trainees over a 4-year period so that trainees may acquire the internationally recognized IC3 certificate. The main objectives of the UIEP are as follows:
- making of an e-society where ICT pervades in all sphere of social development and well-being of all Mauritians;
- meeting the demand of IT manpower for the ICT industry;
- aligning Mauritius to International benchmarking in IT literacy; and
- encouraging people to go for higher level industry-based certifications.

ICT in the Government
It delivers Government services in a more effective and efficient manner and plays a vital role in the delivery of citizen centric public services. It facilitates online communication and the delivery of essential services to the citizens and the business community.

E-Government
The vision of Government is to move to multi-channel, mixed public and private delivery of citizen-focused services 24 hours a day and 7 days a week through the use of modern technologies. This will improve services to the citizen as consumer, transform government operations, reducing costs to the benefit of taxpayers and enhance Mauritian socio-economic performance through increased public sector productivity.

Government on Internet
A new government portal together with redesigned websites that are more citizen, visitor and business friendly was launched in 2005. The government's web portal can be found on http://www.gov.mu
Information Security
Government has embarked on the deployment of the international information security standard, ISO/IEC 17799 within the Civil Service. This standard provides a structured approach for attaining an optimum level of Information Security within an organization through the implementation of an Information Security Management System (ISMS) which allows an organization to identify potential threats and their consequential impacts, evaluate the degree of risks in several areas and apply adequate controls for eliminating or minimizing those risks.

Internet Fiesta
It has the main objective of promoting access to Internet and creating awareness about the evolution and opportunities offered by the Internet and also promote the utilization of Internet in order to facilitate communication among people.

		Cyber Caravan Project It aims at making IT facilities available in the most isolated areas in Mauritius through NCB's Cyber Caravans. MQA registered IT animators provide training on board according to the needs of people, regardless of age, education background or profession. **Facilitating access to networks and services** *Item 8 - There is no custom duty on computer equipment and peripherals in Mauritius;* *Item 9 - All secondary schools in Mauritius have broadband Internet access through the Government Online Centre (GOC) since December 2005; and* *Item 11 - The National Internet Exchange Point was set up in 2006 to enable local peering among ISPs and is hosted at the Government Online Centre (GOC).*
3.	**MULTILINGUALISM**	Most government sites are in English. However, certain websites are displayed in different languages such as: (a) *National Human Rights Commission (http://nhr.gov.mu):* English, French and Creole; (b) *Mauritius Lotterie (http://lotteries.gov.mu):* English and French; and (c) *Cyclone bulletins of the Mauritius Meteorological Services:* English, French and Creole.
4.	**CHALLENGES AHEAD**	**IPv6 Network** IPv6 "Internet Protocol Version 6" is the "next generation" protocol designed by the *IETF* to replace the current version Internet Protocol, IP Version 4 ("IPv4"). **Creation of CERT.mu** CERT is an abbreviation of Computer Emergency Response Team and has as main goal to prevent and control the violations of and threats to the data in information systems as objectively and efficiently as possible. **Radio Frequency Monitoring Station** Spectrum monitoring should be on a continuous basis as it serves as the eyes and ears of the spectrum management process. It is necessary to ensure that the authorized use of spectrum is being used as intended. **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)** The ICT Authority enlisted the services of the former Controller of Certification Authorities of India in order to facilitate the deployment of the Mauritian PKI. **EASSY project** This robust and reliable undersea cable, expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2008, would provide significant opportunity to Mauritius to benefit from the affordability of capacity as an alternative to the existing undersea cable

		SAFE system; additional capacity to SAFE, in case traffic volumes developing over the next decade or so could not be absorbed by the SAFE cable; onward connectivity to Europe where there might be an interest in buying capacity on EASSy for onward connectivity and easier access to Europe; and breakthrough in improving the ICT investment climate in Mauritius. **National ICT Strategy Plan 2006-2010 (NICTSP)** The Government is presently preparing a National Strategic ICT Plan (NICTSP) to elaborate comprehensive strategy and plan to achieve the vision of Government to transform Mauritius into a Cyber Island and develop the ICT sector into the fifth pillar of the economy. **ICT for Social Development.** This component looks into the transformation of the Mauritian nation into an information society where everyone is ICT literate, has access to ICT facilities and can participate in the Information Society.