



"Isabella"

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## CHAPTER 10

# Implementation



Hon. Mireille Martin, Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Mauritius.  
*Photo: www.google.com*

## Articles 32-36

### KEY POINTS

- Mauritius has not signed the SADC Gender Protocol. The country expressed reservations about the clause on affirmative action.
- The amendment of the Constitution to allow for the 30% quota for women and for men to allow the passing of the 2011 Local Government Act may have opened the door for the country to sign.
- Mauritius has a national gender policy.
- Gender focal points have been appointed in almost all line ministries.

### Signing and ratification



*Article 39 provides that the Protocol shall be duly signed by the authorised representatives of Member States. The Protocol further states that it shall be ratified by the Signatory States in accordance with their Constitutional procedures.*

The Government of Mauritius has not signed the SADC Gender Protocol because the Protocol was deemed contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, which did not allow positive discrimination.

However, extensive lobbying with the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Gender Equality and other line ministries continues so that the government may sign the SADC Gender Protocol. This seems more possible



Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has hinted that the door is still open for Mauritius to sign the SADC Gender Protocol.

*Photo: Courtesy photo extended to Gender Links*

than ever before due to the Local Government Act, which came into effect January 2012 and provides for a quota system in local elections. As highlighted in the Governance chapter, according to the Act all political parties will have to field at least 30% women and 30% men for any local elections. This has led to an amendment to the Constitution to allow positive discrimination to achieve gender equality.

The Gender Links Office in Mauritius and the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance focal point (MWO-GEMSA) and Women in Networking (WIN) are among those who have been at the forefront lobbying for the change in the Constitution and electoral laws to increase women's representation in politics as well for the signing of the SADC Gender Protocol.

## Implementation mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation processes



*State Parties shall ensure the implementation of this Protocol at the national level: State Parties shall ensure that national action plans with measurable time frames are put in place, and that national and regional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are developed and implemented. State Parties shall collect and analyse baseline data against which progress in achieving targets will monitored.*

**Table 10.1: National gender structures and processes**

Component	Yes/No	Comments
National gender policy	Yes	There is a gender policy in place.
National Gender Policy aligned to the SADC Protocol	No	The Protocol has not been signed by Mauritius
Gender Machinery open to reviewing National Gender Policy and aligning to SADC Protocol	No	Protocol not signed.
Gender ministry	Yes	Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Protection and Family Welfare.
Gender focal points in all line departments	Yes	Only certain ministries have gender focal point.
Gender structure in parliament	No	There is no gender structure in parliament.
Active collaboration with civil society	Yes	The reference group meeting set up in May 2011.
Plan for domestication/ popularisation of the Protocol?	No	Protocol not signed.
National action plans with measurable time frames	Yes	Mauritius has a national action plan on domestic violence and 80% of the targets have been met.
Analysis of baseline data against which a report will have to be submitted in 2010 - was this report submitted	N/A	Mauritius is not obliged to submit a report because the country has not signed the Gender Protocol.

Although the country has made remarkable progress towards meeting the 28 targets, except in the media and women in decision-making sectors, Mauritius has not signed the Protocol.

## Financial provisions



*State Parties shall ensure gender sensitive budgets and planning, including designating the necessary resources towards initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls.*

### Costing

There is no comprehensive information related to gender responsive budget or any gender disaggregated data relating to allocation of resources in any of the key line ministries. Suffice to say that the Policy and Management of Gender Equality, Child Development, Family Welfare and Social Welfare received Rs55, 780,000 (about US\$ 2,065,925). The Women's Empowerment and Gender

Mainstreaming received Rs 101,930,000 (about US\$3,775,185.)

However, according to the government, one of its major achievements is its combined report of the 6th and 7th periodic report on Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which has been submitted to United Nations.



Loga Virahsawmy, Gender Links Francophone Director, with Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam.

*Photo: Gender Links*