

THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT
Fourth Edition, held on 21 and 22 August 2025

Motion:

The Member of the National Youth Parliament (Mr Digumber) –

“The National Youth Parliament resolves that the ocean economic sectors of Mauritius be sustainably explored and developed to unlock the economic, environmental and scientific potentials thereof, while ensuring the protection of marine biodiversity, pollution reduction and the empowerment of communities.”

THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT,

ACKNOWLEDGING that Mauritius, as a small island developing state (SIDS), is highly dependent on its 2.3 million km² Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for economic, environmental, and social development, noting that countries with similar-sized EEZs, such as India, generate significantly higher economic value (approximately USD 259 billion) compared to Mauritius (approximately USD 1.5 billion), highlighting the scope for enhanced ocean resource utilisation;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the rising threats to marine biodiversity — including overfishing, coral bleaching, marine litter (notably the estimated 75,000 tonnes of plastic waste generated annually), coastal erosion, climate change, and oil spills such as the MV *Wakashio* incident in 2020, and the estimated 10% risk of a major tsunami event within the next 50 years;

CONCERNED with the high youth unemployment rate in Mauritius — with approximately 11,400 people aged 16 to 24 currently unemployed, according to Statistics Mauritius;

NOTING the untapped potential of the Blue Economy, including sectors such as marine biotechnology, ecotourism, aquaculture, offshore wind energy, ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), sustainable seaweed farming, and renewable ocean energy - to generate sustainable growth and create green jobs spearheaded by youth innovation,

RECOGNISING, as highlighted by United Nations reports, that vulnerable populations including the poor, elderly, persons with disabilities, women and communities living near or in coastal regions are disproportionately affected by climate change - exacerbated water-related hazards,

ACKNOWLEDGING Mauritius’ active engagement in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) aimed at optimizing maritime zone use sustainably in line with international law and SDG 14.5 and in initiatives such as the Mauritius Coral Bank and reef restoration programmes,

COMMENDING projects like the all-women “Women of the Waves” Coastal Eco Guard Unit for providing direct employment to women in conservation and tourism, promoting gender equality in traditionally male-dominated marine sectors, engaging local communities, and serving as cultural ambassadors to visitors,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the potential of establishing mandatory ship waste recycling hubs at ports to prevent marine pollution, create recycling-related jobs, and align with Mauritius’ obligations under the International Maritime Organization’s MARPOL Convention on the prevention of pollution from ships,

ACKNOWLEDGING Mauritius’ adherence to international agreements such as the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), role of signatory of the Paris Agreement (2015), and role as Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the Stockholm Declaration (1972) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019 on the Chagos Archipelago and International Court of Justice’s Advisory Opinion of 23 July 2025,

THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

1. **PROPOSE** the establishment of a National Blue Economy Development Plan which shall include but not be limited to public-private partnerships, transforming the Port into a smart and green maritime hub, creating Blue Economy Innovation Funds, implementing a Massive Coral Reef Restoration Programme and establishing community-managed marine protected areas with a view to bolstering sustainable marine industries, fostering cutting-edge research, advancing community-led coastal protection projects, restoring marine biodiversity, enhancing climate-change resilience, and empowering the next generation into leaders of climate action,
2. **CALL FOR** the establishment of a permanent marine ecosystem monitoring system in alignment with United Nation Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which shall include the use of satellite and drone technologies to detect illegal fishing, monitor coral reef health, and respond swiftly to oil spills in real time coupled with the publication of annual marine sustainability and transparency reports co-authored with youth researchers and community organizations,
3. **INSIST ON** implementing a pilot project for oyster cultivation, with the possibility of wider adoption if proven successful, and on expanding the focus from oysters to the restoration of marine ecosystems as a whole – including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests - which are all vital to biodiversity and livelihoods,
4. **ENCOURAGE** investment in research and development of genetically engineered heat-resistant corals - often referred to as “super corals” - to establish resilient coral nurseries capable of surviving rising ocean temperatures and bleaching events,

5. **CALL UPON** the Government of Mauritius to finalise and implement the updated National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, beginning with the Black River District as a pilot, and subsequently advancing towards collaboration with neighboring island states, such as Seychelles and Réunion for joint marine conservation initiatives and the exchange of best practices,
6. **REQUEST** the Ministry responsible for the Blue Economy, in collaboration with the Ministries responsible for Labour and Education, to establish a Blue Skills and Training Programme, offering certification for fishers, youth, and women working in sustainable Blue Economy and integrate a comprehensive marine life education programme into the national school curriculum,
7. **CALL UPON** the Government of Mauritius to continue sustainably explore and manage its marine and coastal sectors in accordance with the International Court of Justice's 23 July 2025 Advisory Opinion, and in line with SDG 14,
8. **ADVOCATE FOR** the creation of a Marine Justice Framework to protect the rights of coastal communities affected by marine degradation, resource conflicts, and adverse environmental impacts, and the establishment of a public platform where young people, alongside affected communities such as fishers, can actively raise concerns and propose solutions,
