

## **PRESS COMMUNIQUE**

Honourable Soorojdev PHOKEER, GCSK, GOSK, Speaker of the National Assembly is presently leading a parliamentary delegation comprising Honourable Anjiv Ramdhany, MP, PPS, Honourable Teenah Jutton, MP, PPS, Honourable Patrick Gervais Assrvaden, MP and Ms Urmeelah Devi Ramchurn, Deputy Clerk to participate in the 146<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meeting which are being held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

On Saturday 11 March 2023, the Honourable Speaker and Members of his delegation had a bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart, His Excellency Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Members of his delegation at 3:00 p.m.

The Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha conveyed his congratulations and good wishes to Mr Speaker and the people of Mauritius on the celebrations of the Independence Day. Shri Om Birla laid emphasis on the historical ties binding India and Mauritius with the settlement of the Indentured labourers from India. His Excellency further agreed to revive the Agreement for Cooperation signed in June 2017 between the Lok Sabha and the National Assembly and expressed the wish that Mauritian Parliamentarians and officials take advantage of the training programmes dispensed by the Parliament of India.

Shri Om Birla also laid emphasis on the visit of Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, the

Prime Minister, effected in India last year, and stated that visits from the Head of the Government and the Parliament of Mauritius serves to strengthen bilateral, diplomatic and friendly ties between India and Mauritius.

Coming to G20 of which India has assumed the presidency since December 2022, the Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha invited the Speaker of the National Assembly to lead a delegation to the Lok Sabha to attend the G20 Parliamentary Speaker's Summit.

The Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly on his part, conveyed his warm greetings and of the Members of his delegation and that of the Honourable Prime Minister and the good wishes of the people of Mauritius to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Mr Speaker reiterated the friendly and cordial relations between India and Mauritius which are anchored in our shared cultural, heritage, political convergences and economic complementarities.

Mr Speaker congratulated India for having assumed the Presidency of G20 and thanked his Indian counterpart for his invitation for the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit.

Mr Speaker thanked Shri Om Birla for kindly agreeing to revive the Agreement for Cooperation between the Lok Sabha and the National Assembly in the best interests of our countries and our parliaments.

Mr Speaker invited the Speaker of the Lok Sabha to lead a parliamentary delegation to Mauritius.

It is to be noted on Friday 10 March, Mr Speaker attended the SADC PF Group Meeting and thereafter attended the African Geopolitical Group Meeting which were primarily called upon to consider Emergency Item to be backed by the African Geopolitical Group to be included on the agenda of the 146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly upon which Heads of Delegation will be called upon to cast their votes on Sunday 12 March at the IPU Assembly.

During the meeting, the SADC PF and the African Geopolitical Group also considered the vacancies to be filled during the 146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

12 March 2023  
National Assembly, Mauritius

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