

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G-20 Parliamentary Summit on 'LiFE' - Lifestyle for Environment*

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Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G20 Parliamentary Forum on LiFE
(Lifestyle for Environment)
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India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
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INDIA**

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Hon Speaker of the Lok Sabha

The President of the IPU

Hon Speakers and Members of Parliament

Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank the organizers of the G20 Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment,' for giving me the opportunity to participate in this Forum and share some views with you today.

This Forum is a crucial platform as it addresses one of the most pressing challenges of our time – the environmental crisis.

Project LiFE, short for Lifestyle for Environment, was unveiled in October 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UN Secretary General, António Guterres in Kevadia, Gujarat. The initiative recognizes communities which practice environmentally conscious lifestyles as 'Pro-Planet People' (P-3), and seeks to leverage these practices to build a sustainable ecosystem based on the principle of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.

I commend and congratulate this initiative of the Government of India, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, that encourages citizens to take simple steps that could contribute directly towards more sustainable lifestyles.

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Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As representatives of our nations, we bear the responsibility to foster sustainable practices and advocate for policies that protect our planet for future generations.

The theme of this forum, 'LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment,' underscores the interconnectedness between our daily choices and the health of our environment. It challenges us to reconsider our lifestyles and consumption patterns, recognizing that personal choices can collectively shape the fate of our planet.

In short, it calls for a paradigm shift in the way we live, work, and interact with our surroundings.

Our lifestyles, marked by excessive consumption and waste, have led to environmental degradation, climate change, and the loss of biodiversity.

The consequences are felt worldwide, from extreme weather events to the displacement of communities due to rising sea levels. The urgency of addressing these challenges cannot be overstated, and it requires a comprehensive and collaborative effort.

This is why, adopting an environmentally friendly lifestyle is crucial for the well-being of our planet, and this holds true in the context of Mauritius as well. The impacts of the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution) are threatening our hard-earned progress, affecting sustainable development and weakening our country's ability to effectively respond to emerging environmental challenges.

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The Government of Mauritius has rolled on several initiatives to address this problem. We are designing new strategic measures that will enable the country to leap to a cleaner and greener economy.

Mauritius has developed a Master Plan for the Environment, which defines a new mindset and approach to the way of doing business.

This Master Plan, that spans over 10 years, includes an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with the introduction of new regulations banning non-biodegradable single-use plastic products.

It also proposes the formulation of a solid waste management strategy and the development of strategies to address vehicular emissions.

Furthermore, Mauritius is committed to strengthening its resilience to the climate crisis. And has embarked on a low-emission pathway that targets the phasing out of coal in electricity generation before 2030.

Mauritius is also committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2030.

In a nutshell, Mauritius is implementing several schemes to encourage sustainable lifestyles and green businesses, including small -and medium-sized enterprises.

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The G20 Parliamentary Forum provides a unique opportunity for us to share best practices, exchange ideas, and develop strategies that can be implemented globally.

As delegates we must take advantage of the opportunity given to us to strengthen international partnerships and forge a united front against environmental degradation.

The 'LiFE' initiative encourages us to reflect on our personal choices, recognizing that small actions can have a significant impact.

Whether it is reducing single-use plastics, supporting green initiatives or advocating for clean energy, every effort contributes to the broader goal of creating a more sustainable world.

We must show the way and lead by example by adopting sustainable practices in our own lives and inspiring our people to do the same.

I personally and firmly believe that the G20 Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE' is a call for action. It is a call for legislative innovation, educational empowerment, and international collaboration.

It is a call for each of us to embrace a lifestyle that NURTURES rather than EXPLOITS our environment.

Together, let us commit to building a future where our choices reflect a profound respect for the delicate balance of nature and ensure a vibrant and sustainable 'LiFE' for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention