

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital Platforms"*

His Excellency Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha;

His Excellency Duarte Pacheco, President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU);

Hon Speakers

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me to address the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit on a
topic of paramount importance -

'The Transformation in People's Lives Through Public Digital Platforms.'

In an era marked by unprecedented technological advancements, we find ourselves
at the crossroads of possibility and responsibility. The digital revolution has the
potential to be a powerful force for positive change, fostering inclusive growth and
enhancing the well-being of people around the world.

India, under the guidance of its dynamic Prime Minister, has witnessed remarkable
advancements in the digital realm, fostering innovation, connectivity, and inclusive
growth. We stand all, here, to gain from the Indian model.

In Mauritius, the digitalisation of public sector services has been a priority for the
government. Significant investments have been made to improve connectivity.

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital. Platforms"*

Today, Mauritius has settled as an ICT hub in Africa. And the industry is considered as the 3rd pillar of the Mauritian economy. With a GDP contribution of some 5.6%, the industry is no doubt a key driver of the Mauritian economy based on the following strategies:

- The Open Source Policy;
- The Open Data Policy;
- The Digital Government Transformation Strategy;
- The Digital Mauritius Strategy and
- The Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

One of the main government initiatives that has effectively transformed the lives of people in Mauritius is the Citizen Support Portal, launched in 2017. Considered as a major achievement, the Citizen Support Portal provides online services to the citizens and act as a bridge between service providers and service users thus allowing the Mauritian government to become more citizen-centric.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests

In October 2018, the Government of Mauritius came up with the Digital Government Transformation (DGT) Strategy, that paved the way for accelerated public sector digitalisation to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency and provide better service to Government institutions, citizens, and businesses.

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital. Platforms"*

The DGT has, no doubt, consolidated Mauritius as one of the leaders in the African region in digital government. As reported in the United Nations e-Government Development Index 2022 report and the World Bank GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI).

In parallel, Parliament has played a pivotal role for the ICT sector through the enactment of several pieces of critical legislation, providing a concrete foundation for digitalisation in Mauritius, namely:

- The Data Protection Act (2017);
- The Electronic Transactions Act (2000);
- The Information and Communication Technologies Act (2001);
- The Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act (2021);
- The Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council Act (2021); and
- The Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency Act (2023).

With the support and collaboration of the Republic of India, Mauritius has been able to successfully implement the following projects:

- The e-Prison System,
- Early Digital Learning Programme;
- Pan African e-Network project;

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital. Platforms"*

- Tele-education, via VidyaBharti and the e-ArogyaBharti (e-VBAB) .

Nowadays, digital platforms have become the cornerstone of modern societies, transcending geographical boundaries and connecting people from all walks of life. They have revolutionized the way we communicate, work, and access information.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, public policy and service delivery came under unprecedented pressure worldwide.

The Mauritian Government, through its farsightedness, has acted proactively and came up with a public digital platform to deliver essential services.

The Government of Mauritius has implemented several digitalization projects to respond and recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To mention but a few:

- An online "Mauritius All-in-One Travel Digital Form";
- An Electronic Queue Management System;
- MauPass provides a single, convenient, trusted and secure entry for Citizens to access Government services;
- The AI-based Intelligent Virtual Assistant (Chatbot – MAIA);
- The InfoHighway, an Award Winning Data sharing Platform, that connects Government agencies;

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital. Platforms"*

- E-Services Portal;
- National Open Data Portal that enable Government agencies to release data of value to the Public for data-driven initiatives.

While there are significant opportunities for citizen empowerment, government transparency, and improved governance, there are also challenges related to privacy, security, inclusivity and the potential for misuse of digital tools for 'mischievous' purposes.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As participants of the G 20 Parliamentary Speaker's Summit, let us commit ourselves to harnessing the full potential and power of digital platforms, where technology serves as a tool for empowerment and shared prosperity for the benefit of all.

The decisions we make today will shape the future of generations to come.

Let history remember us as stewards of a digital era that transformed lives into equitable world.

Let's pledge, as part of One Earth, One Family, One Future, to work together to bridge the digital divide.

On this positive note, I have no doubt that the deliberations of this Summit will go a long way to inspire and convince all of us to put our hands together for concerted

*Speech of Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, G.C.S.K, G.O.S.K
Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Mauritius
G 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit
13-14 Oct
India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC),
Yashobhoomi Dwarka,
New Delhi
INDIA
"Transformation in Peoples' lives through Public Digital. Platforms"*

parliamentary actions, as a family, to safeguard planet earth and the future of humanity.

I thank you for your attention.