Information Technology Agreement

ICT as a development tool, benefits, opportunities and challenges to developing countries

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About Mauritius

- Small Island State covering an area of about 1900 Km² found in the South West of the Indian Ocean
- Population Size: 1.3 million comprised of a diaspora of Indian, African, Chinese, and French people
- Capital: Port Louis
- Independence in 1968 and a Republic since 1992
From a primarily agricultural economy, Mauritius has transitioned into a well-diversified economy with agroindustry, manufacturing, financial services, tourism and the ICT Sector.

In 2016, the Services Sector accounts to 75% of GDP: Financial services, Tourism and ICT are major sectors of the Economy.

Mauritius has a gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 9,740, which is the third highest in Africa.

In line with Vision 2030, Mauritius aspires to become a High Income Economy in the near future.
Opportunities

- Political stability
- Strong regulatory framework
- open trade policies
- favorable business climate
- Member of Major Economic blocks: SADC, COMESA, IOC
- Potential to move up value chain of ICT/BPO offerings (e.g. FinTech)
- Untapped BPO market such as Canada, US, Australia and Africa
- Engaged in negotiations regarding trade agreements (TISA and SADC TNF)
Challenges

- The phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement governing textiles,
- Significant reductions in EU sugar protocol prices,
- 2008-09 global financial crisis—yet the economy showed strong resilience
- Economics of Scale
- Dearth of Skilled manpower
- Uncertainties on Global trade agreements (e.g. Brexit)
ICT Sector in Mauritius

- ICT/ BPO Sector contributes to 5.6% of the GDP in 2016
- Real Growth Rate of ICT/ BPO Sector stood at 7% in 2016
- Internet subscription per 100 inhabitants stood at 66.6%
- Employment was estimated to 23,000
- Household Internet Penetration Rate (Internet Access) stood at 52%
- Mobile Penetration rate (mobidensity) stood at nearly 140%
- More than 700 companies in the ICT/ BPO sector are in operation in Mauritius
POSITIONING MAURITIUS GLOBALLY

- 1st in Africa on the Global Innovation Index 2015 compiled by the WIPO

- 1st in Africa on the Network Readiness Index 2015 of the World Economic Forum

- 1st in Africa on the A.T Keamey Global Services Location Index in 2016

- 1st in Africa and 6th on the Global front on the Global Security Index 2016

- 1st in Africa on the ICT Development Index 2015 compiled by the International Telecommunication Union
The ITA expansion will help boost exports of ICT products by lowering the costs.

Facilitating the diffusion and adoption of affordable ICT products and services, which will in turn boost productivity and economic growth in Mauritius.

Lowering the price of key inputs will also help to integrate Mauritius in the global value chains.

Positive spill over effects on other sectors.

Make of the ICT/BPO Sector a strong pillar of the economy and Mauritius an attractive ICT/BPO destination.
STRATEGIES

- Development of an ultra-high speed telecommunications infrastructure
  - Third submarine fibre optic cable
  - Inland fibre optic network across the country by 2017
  - 100 Mbps Internet Connectivity

- Development of Physical Infrastructure
  - Ebene Cyber City host for several local and global ICT/ BPO Companies
  - Setting up of Data Centres to position Mauritius as a Cloud Computing destination
STRATEGIES

- ICT Skills Development Programme to cater for dearth and skills mismatch
- Tie up with global ICT Companies such as IBM, SAP and Oracle
- Upscaling of BPO services such as HR Management outsourcing
  - Attracting leading outsourcing companies (e.g. SD Worx is the second leading HR firm in Europe)
  - Huawei setting up its shared services Centre
- Development of Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Strategies
STRATEGIES

- Strategy on emerging and cutting edge technologies
  - Nanotechnology
  - Internet of Things
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Big Data

- Participation in TISA Negotiations and SADC Trade Negotiation Forum
THANK YOU