

STATEMENT BY DR THE HON PRIME MINISTER
AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2011

Election of Mauritius to the Chairmanship of UNCITRAL

Mr Speaker, Sir,

With your permission, I should like to make a statement to inform the House that Mauritius has been elected to the Chairmanship of UNCITRAL, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at the 44th session of the Commission held in Vienna yesterday.

As Hon members are aware, UNCITRAL is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, and a legal body with universal membership specializing in commercial law reform worldwide for over 40 years. UNCITRAL's mission is the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business, and the Commission's work is premised on the development of trade as a means to faster growth, higher living standards, and new opportunities through commerce. In order to increase these opportunities worldwide, UNCITRAL's work has focused on the formulation of modern, fair and harmonized rules on commercial transactions.

Mr Salim Moollan who has been the delegate of Mauritius at UNCITRAL since 2006 succeeds Mr Ricardo Sandoval Lopez of Chile as the elected Chairperson of that institution for the next 12 months.

Mr Moollan is already chairing one of UNCITRAL's Working Groups dedicated to International arbitration. He is a barrister in independent practice from Essex Court Chambers in London and from the Moollan Chambers in Mauritius. In addition to his part-time work at UNCITRAL, Mr Moollan is a Vice-President of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, and a Visiting Lecturer in International Arbitration Law at King's College, London.

The election of Mauritius to the Chairmanship of UNCITRAL with the support of the representatives of the 60 member States of UNCITRAL will no doubt give further momentum to our long term commitment to making Mauritius a hub for international arbitration in the years to come.