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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL DEFENCE INCLUDING  
WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY, PROGRAMME OF DRUG  
DEMAND REDUCTION, DISABILITY, AND OTHER  
AREAS IN THE GENERAL  
FIELD OF SOCIAL DEFENCE  
BETWEEN  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of The  
Republic of India  
AND  
Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior  
Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions of The Republic of  
Mauritius**

**Background**

Whereas a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2003, by the then External Affairs Minister, Government of India, Mr. Yashwant Sinha and the then Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr. Samioullah Lauthan, with regard to cooperation between the two countries in the field of Social Defence including Welfare of the Elderly, Programmes of Drug Demand Reduction, Welfare of Street Children, Community Development and other related areas;

Whereas the two countries are desirous of renewing the collaboration and cooperation in the areas of programmes and policies related to Social Welfare and Social Security, overall development of the weaker sections of society including older persons, children in difficult circumstances, persons with disabilities, victims of substance abuse and community

development; as well as for working together for furtherance of these objectives;

Whereas the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for the policies and programmes in the area of Social Defence including Welfare of the Elderly and Substance Abuse Prevention, and the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is an autonomous technical advisory body and an apex training and research institution in the field of Social Defence that includes Welfare of Elderly, Substance Abuse Prevention and issues relating to children in a comprehensive Social Defence Perspective, and is the focal body for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and sharing of best practices and networking in the field of Social Defence and Social Welfare;

Whereas the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also the nodal Ministry for the policies and programmes for empowerment of persons with disabilities and seven National Institutes, namely, (a) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, (b) National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, (c) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, (d) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, (e) National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack, (f) National Institute for the Multiple Disabilities, Chennai and (g) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata are the focal points for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation, sharing of best practices and networking in the field of Disability;

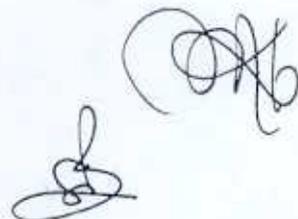

And whereas the area of Social Defence as defined in the MoU shall include Welfare of the Elderly and programmes of Demand Reduction with regard to Drug Abuse, Children in difficult circumstances and Disability through training, research and sharing of information and expertise and any other area which would reflect the Government's policy and programme in the general field of Social Defence and Disability;

The two Governments record their understanding on the need to continue the cooperation in the field of Social Defence and Disability and renew their commitment to collaborate as set out herein under:-

#### Areas of Collaboration

The two Governments agree to collaborate in the following areas:-

1. Devising and arranging various schemes and programmes in Social Defence
2. (a) Conducting training programmes in Drug Abuse Prevention, such as certificate courses, specialized skill based courses on Counselling, Motivation and De-addiction, Rehabilitation, Relapse Prevention and Minimum Standards of Care.  
(b) Organising training programmes in Care and Protection of Children in difficult circumstances including Children, Child Beggars, Children affected and afflicted by Drug Abuse and HIV & AIDS and Community Development  
(c) Organising training programmes in Old Age Care viz. certificate/ diploma courses in Geriatric Care, specialized skill building programmes in Geriatric

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Management, Geriatric Counselling, and basic issues in Geriatric Care.

- (d) Conducting training programmes in human resource development viz. teachers and caregivers in Inclusive Education, Special Education, Home Based Education, Care Services for disabled and senior citizens.
3. (a) Granting fellowships for training and attachment of scholars, caregivers, service providers from Mauritius for training in Prevention, Detection, Rehabilitation, Vocational Training, Assessment, fitting and production of Assistive Devices for all types of disabilities etc. and also
- (b) Granting fellowship support for the attachment of scholars, care- givers, service providers from Mauritius for training in Old Age, Child Care and Protection and Drug Abuse Prevention.
4. Pooling in resources for preparation of modules and manuals for training in the areas of Disability and Social Defence including Welfare of Older Persons, Care and Protection of Children in difficult circumstance and Drug Abuse Prevention.
5. Facilitating exchange of Officers and experts between the two Governments in various fields of Social Defence and Disability.
6. Holding joint workshops, seminars and symposia on human resource and programme development, curricula and modules, documentation etc.


7. Sharing of information and experience on best practices and mutual use of database between the two Governments.
8. Undertaking documentation of information in the field of Social Defence and Disability for ensuring data support for intervention planning.
9. Commissioning of joint research projects in the field of Disability and Social Defence to widen the scope of understanding and provide evidence based inputs for policy development and planning.
10. Promoting networks and fora of civil society in the field of Social Defence and Disability.

#### Scope and Modalities

The modalities regarding the twinning arrangements for the proposed activities shall be as under: -

1. The Officers dealing with the subjects in the two Governments shall periodically meet and discuss the functioning of the twinning arrangements and review the areas of collaboration.
2. Needs Assessment Workshops shall be convened in Mauritius to have a feel of the ground level scenario of Mauritius Social Defence/Social Security System so as to;
  - (a) enable NISD to formulate a Plan of Action on the needs of Mauritius in the field and help its implementation and



- (b) facilitate Institutes working in disability sector to assess the facilities available for persons with disabilities and preparation of a Plan of Action on the needs of such persons and help in its implementation.
3. The Officers and experts in the field of Social Defence and Disability of the two Governments shall hold periodical discussions to identify joint areas of human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation, consultancy, networking and other pursuits.
  4. The two Governments shall facilitate the subsequent meets of the concerned Officers and experts for a mutually agreed period for human resource development.
  5. National Institutes for various types of disabilities specifically, National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped and Institute for the Physically Handicapped shall formulate and organize training programmes for various categories of functionaries in the field of rehabilitation, training and education of persons with disabilities.
  6. The National Institute of Social Defence shall formulate and organize training programmes for various categories of functionaries in the field of Social Defence specially related to the Welfare of Elderly, Children in difficult



circumstances and Drug Abuse Prevention so as to enhance their competence and upgrade their capacity.

7. The two Governments shall maintain contact in sharing of information, best practices, success stories, exchange of publications etc. In this context, NISD, on its part, can share its expertise in designing programmes/initiatives like National Initiative on Care for Elderly (NICE), developing programmes of capacity building for NGOs/CBOs working for care and protection of children in difficult circumstances including street children and rehabilitation of drug and alcohol addicts, Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) etc., networking of service providers assisting in the development of Minimum Standards of Care for Drug Demand Reduction and Old Age Care Programmes.

8. The two Governments shall organize seminars, workshops and symposia on mutually agreed subjects for furtherance of the above objectives in fields of Social Defence and Disability.

### Financial and Other Arrangements

The funding and logistic arrangements for the identified activities shall be appropriately evolved by the two Governments through mutual consultations.

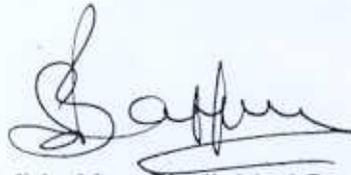
### Operational Dates

The earlier Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2003 which remained into effect initially for a period of three years and on the lapse of such period, is now being renewed for another period of three years with effect from signing of

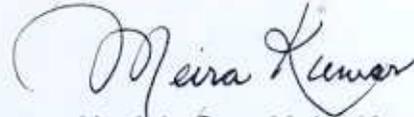


this agreement in accordance with relevant provisions of the said MoU. The MoU shall be further renewable, if so agreed by the two countries, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon, unless one of the parties gives prior notice of its intention of termination of MoU at least three months in advance.

Signed at Port Louis, Mauritius on 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2007 in two originals in Hindi and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.



Hon'ble Mrs. Sheilabhai Bappoo  
Minister of Social Security  
National Solidarity and Senior  
Citizens Welfare & Reform  
Institutions  
Republic of Mauritius



Hon'ble Smt. Meira Kumar  
Minister of Social Justice and  
Empowerment  
Republic of India