Note No: 41/19

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter’s correspondence Ref. ODA/2019-00093/STIS dated 31 January 2019, inviting Government to provide inputs pertaining to resolution 73/32 entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”, adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2018.

In this regard the Permanent Mission has the honour to transmit herewith attached the inputs of Mauritius pertaining to the above-mentioned resolution.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

31 May 2019

New York

Office for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations
New York
MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND INNOVATION

Inputs for UN General Assembly resolution 73/32 – Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament

1. The developments of Science and Technology, including emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Space-based technologies, should be assessed so as not to imperil international security and disarmament. However, it is to be highlighted that Mauritius does not decide in armament involving missile-defence technologies.

2. Satellite-based technology can be used to safeguard the Mauritian interest in the Indian Ocean, hence promoting healthy Socio-Economic benefits to Mauritius. Since Mauritius is surrounded by water, satellites can be used for the monitoring and surveillance of the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This will help to crack down illegal activities such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling and piracy, thus enhancing security of Mauritian citizens. Satellites can be used to monitor shipping routes passing through the Mauritian EEZ as well as activities near the coasts. Outer islands of the Republic of Mauritius may as well be monitored through satellite imagery.

3. Drone policing can be of considerable importance on land. Drones may also be used near coastal regions for surveillance. Likewise, cameras with integrated sensors may also aid in monitoring security of citizens. It is to be noted that these technologies generate a significant amount of data that would be helpful in matters pertaining to international security and disarmament.

4. Artificial Intelligence and new data analysis techniques may help to understand security of the country, automatic flagging of illegal activities and tracking any suspicious movements within and around the island.

5. Emerging technologies, including social and mobile computing have benefitted from significant development over the last few years. It is now possible to capture various kinds of motion using a smartphone's sensors, (e.g., accelerometer, GPS, etc.) including earthquake motion. But such technologies with enhanced features could also be used to potentially distinguish between a naturally occurring event like an earthquake and an illicit nuclear test. Therefore, Mauritius could interestingly be equipped with such a tool for arms control monitoring over the island.

6. Science and technology provide for tools which will definitely help countries in the context of international security and disarmament if adequately adapted for use.