

**Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks by H.E.Mr Vincent Degert,
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius**

**Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues Island (2023-2032)
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MEETING**

Thursday 20 April 2023

At 09.30, EU Delegation Conference Room

**Mr Johnson Roussety – Chief Commissioner of the Rodrigues
Regional Assembly**

**Mr Franceau Grandcourt – Deputy Chief Commissioner of the
Rodrigues Regional Assembly**

**Mr Jean Claude Pierre Louis – Island Chief Executive, of the Rodrigues
Regional Assembly**

My Colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps

Mrs Lisa Singh – United Nations Resident Coordinator

Representatives of the Prime Minister's Office

**Representatives of the Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and
Development**

Development Partners

Experts from ACCIONIA

Dear Participants,

Welcome to this Special Development Partners' meeting, which is being held in the context of the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues Island (known under the acronym SIDPR) for the period 2023-2032, and which I am co-chairing with Mrs Lisa Singh, the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The purpose of the meeting

As you are aware, the European Union has financed the update and review of the 2009 Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues. The project is now completed and the recommendations approved by the Authorities.

In fact, the budget for 2023-2024 has been prepared taking into consideration the recommendations of the SIDPR.

Now that we have a Development Plan for the next 10 years, it is time to reflect on how to implement the Plan and how to achieve the goals set. For that to happen, we need resources – coordinated and timely mobilisation of necessary resources.

This is the purpose of the meeting today – to develop a Donor Matrix for the actions/projects identified in the SIDPR. You would have received a table, like the one shown on the screen; we would kindly request each Development Partner to fill in the table by providing information on

- (i) the sector/s where they are already working or planning to,
- (ii) and (ii) the actions/projects proposed in the SIDPR, which they intend to support.

We would highly appreciate to have the completed table submitted to the Delegation by 24 April 2023.

The Agenda

You will see on the screen a detailed Agenda of the meeting of today.

After my introductory remarks, I will speak about the purpose of the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan (2023-2032) for Rodrigues, and why the EU has decided to finance the project. I will also give an overview of the project.

Then, I will invite the Chief Commissioner to speak about the Strategic importance of the SIDPR for the sustainable development of Rodrigues and for the vision '*Rodrigues Ile écologique*', and about the Project Implementation and Monitoring Structure that will be put in place to implement the recommendations of the study.

Will then follow a presentation of the project by the Experts of ACCIONIA, with a 'Tour de Table', where each Development Partner will have the opportunity to give a brief description of their respective ongoing/future projects in Rodrigues, and also to mention briefly in

which sector of the 2023-2032 Development Plan, they would wish to intervene.

Without further ado, let me say a few words about the purpose of a sustainable development plan for an island like Rodrigues with a rich but at the same time fragile Ecosystem, why the EU decided to support the SIDPR project and what the project is about.

Thank you for your attention.