



Republic of Mauritius

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

AFRICA DAY MESSAGE

The 25th May 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the 21st anniversary of the African Union. On this day we pay special tribute to the Founding Fathers of the OAU whose legacy continue to inspire us.

Africa Day is an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of the African Union in building a united, strong and affluent continent. We rejoice at the substantial progress made over the last six decades by the African Union in achieving its goals, especially in promoting human rights and socio-economic development of our Continent.

It is a matter of pride that the spirit of solidarity and unity which has always characterised the African Union remain strong pillars as we continue to face multifaceted challenges.

The choice of the African Union theme for the year 2023, '*Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation*' echoes well the consensus that Africa's post COVID-19 economic recovery and as a matter of fact, its future, lie in greater intra-African trade.

The Government of Mauritius remains committed to the full implementation of the AfCFTA. Our National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy has been adopted and we are leaving no stone unturned to sensitise all stakeholders, including the private sector, to the opportunities available under the AfCFTA and on the imperative of promoting inclusive trade that targets women, youth and SMEs.

Africa Day also provides us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to the realization of the aspirations of **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**.

Mauritius would like to reiterate its deep appreciation to the Member States of the African Union for their unflinching support to its relentless struggle to complete its decolonisation so that it can effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

On this auspicious occasion of the Africa Day, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius reaffirms its attachment to the values enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its firm conviction that peace and security, sustainable development and equity will continue to uplift our Continent.

Long live Africa! Long live the Republic of Mauritius!

25 May 2023