

## **(1) UNDP Project “Capacity Building for Gender Equality and empowerment of Women”**

Since September 2005 the Ministry has, jointly with the Ministry of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare, embarked on a UNDP funded project ‘Capacity Building for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women’. The main objective of the project is to promote gender equality in social, economic and political spheres and empower women through the setting up of policies, financial and economic mechanisms and adoption of appropriate legislation. The main activities under the project in which this Ministry was involved and the current position as concerns each of these activities is set out below:

### **◆ TRACER STUDY ON RETRENCHED WORKERS IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR**

#### **Objective**

To identify socio-economic problems arising out of retrenchment in the textile sector and look at the existing coping mechanisms developed by workers retrenched from factories as well as those implemented by various stakeholders with a view to proposing new strategies and programmes or revisiting existing ones so as to best address the problems of the workers concerned.

#### **Report on ‘ COPING WITH RETRENCHMENT...’**

### **◆ SITUATION ANALYSIS OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN THE MAURITIAN LABOUR MARKET**

#### **Objective**

To carry out a situation analysis with a view to identifying discriminatory practices in the Mauritian labour market regarding, *inter-alia*, remuneration, occupational segmentation, training policy and entrepreneurship, and making recommendations to address such identified practices.

### **◆ HARMONISATION STUDY**

## **Objective**

To identify discriminatory statutes and provisions in existing legislation using ILO Convention No. 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) as benchmark and propose amendments in connection thereto so as to fully domesticate the said Convention.

## **◆ TRAINING ON NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUES**

### **Objective**

The ultimate objective of this activity is to dispense training in negotiating techniques to some 300 employees, mostly women, so as to empower them to participate effectively in social dialogue and work consultations.

To achieve the set objective, the Information, Education and Communication Division of the MLIRE includes, as far as practically possible, this slot in its ongoing workers' education programmes targeting workers from different sectors of employment.

The Information, Education and Communication Division of the Ministry has conducted three training sessions in February, June and September 2008. A total of 57 employees participated in this training program.

## **(2) Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP)**

### **Objective**

In order to optimize the benefits that can be drawn from the ILO cooperation framework, the ILO Office in Madagascar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment (MLIRE) has embarked on the preparation of a DWCP. The main objective of this exercise will be to contribute to the best possible use of available ILO resources to advance the decent work agenda and thereby improve the working and living conditions of men and women workers in Mauritius. The project, officially launched by the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment on 27 November 2008, is technically and financially supported by the ILO. The draft DWCP is currently being finalised. Eventually, national tripartite constituents will be called upon to sign the document once it has been cleared with the ILO via its Quality Assurance Mechanism and approved by the ILO Regional Director of Africa.

