We have today arrived at a very important milestone of the Maurice Ile Durable Action Plan formulation exercise. Working groups comprising of a total of 300 Participants are pulling their minds together as from this morning for over 150 hours over one a half month to come up with concrete recommendations in each of the 5Es forming the basis of the Mauritian Sustainable Development quest. I am sure that by now, all of the Es are known.

The working groups are starting on the very high premises with **To make Mauritius a model of sustainable development** as the shared vision with detailed focuses on which **Energy, Environment, Education, Employment and Equity** will henceforth be mainstreamed.

This Vision alongside the focuses have been worked out based on the Green paper, deliberated by an inter-ministerial committee at the level Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and subsequently validated by the Steering Committee at the Prime Minister’s Office. The vision describes an end point to which we all aspire and provides a beacon along the way, so to speak. It is an expression of where we want to see our country heading, how we want to live in that country and to a large extent, the kind of people we want to be as a nation.

Working groups have a major role to play. They will need to recommend measures and strategies to achieve this vision. We also look forward to them listing down policies that are not in line with the vision among so many other questions that are listed in their respective Terms of References. The working groups have used the Green Paper and other sectoral policies and strategies as base documents for discussions. All the base papers have already been prepared under the stewardship of Mr Ghislain Gomart, whom I no longer need to introduce, the respective Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons and the representatives from the lead ministry or departments responsible of the Es and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

At this stage, I would like on behalf of the Prime Minister’s Office and in my personal capacity to thank, all the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons who have accepted to take up the challenge for the sake of this societal project that aims to transform the social, economical and environmental landscape of Mauritius. To all of the other 300 participants or so, people from ministries, parastatals, private sector, academia, local communities, civil society and NGOs – I say **COME ON PEOPLE PARTICIPATE**. This is your chance to have your point of view recorded down story lane but mind you, your work does not stop after the 4th meeting. You will still be called upon when the consultants have completed their work to see whether your inputs have been taken on board, especially if same had reached consensus in your respective working groups.

We had a meeting with representatives of the private sector yesterday evening and at the end of the meeting, one of the members said that according to him, this is the first time we are having an exercise of such magnitude and spectrum in Mauritius. Well, may be he
is right but what I can tell you is that this is not administration or the technical department doing a job. This is Mauritius at work! We are going to change the complexion of Mauritius.

Bon Courage to everybody and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you