

**LAUNCHING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES (IRIS)**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

AND

**THE RT HON BORIS JOHNSON
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

STATEMENT

BY HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH

PRIME MINISTER

TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2021

FROM 08.30 TO 09.00 HRS

VENUE: MEETING ROOM 4, AREA F, GROUND FLOOR

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in joining you this morning for the launching of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States, IRIS, by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Since its inception two years ago by Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the Coalition has grown into a global partnership platform to assist States, big and small, in improving disaster resilience of their infrastructure.

Mauritius is proud to associate itself with the launch of IRIS, a SIDS-specific initiative that will help this group of countries to become more resilient, promote inclusive infrastructure, and ultimately, achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SIDS remain in the top list of the current World Risk Report 2021 of countries with high-risk indices.

Our island is negatively impacted by the effects of climate change. Extreme weather events occur frequently. Flash floods have resulted in loss of lives and caused serious damage to infrastructure.

To build resilience, my Government has invested massively in adaptation programmes. A National Flood Management Programme, costing Rs 11.7 billion will be implemented.

Our National Action Plan 2020-2030 embodies the commitments of Mauritius to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports the implementation of international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.

In addition, legal and institutional frameworks have been updated to implement disaster reduction strategies and disaster management.

I wish to highlight that Infrastructure and Disaster Risk Reduction is very high in the Adaptation measures contained in our Reviewed Nationally Determined Contributions.

However, access to international financial support remains a critical component for building resilience.

The use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, developed by UNDP earlier this year, is crucial to advancing global understanding of inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS.

By better understanding the existential issues that SIDS face, we are hopeful that innovative mechanisms, such as the IRIS, will flourish. Coupled with adapted financing, such partnerships would go a long way towards assisting SIDS mitigate their disaster vulnerability and improve the resilience of their infrastructure.

I thank you.
