Information for Participants

We are pleased that you can join us for the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) Meeting for Southern Africa on the theme “Blue Economy, Inclusive Industrialization and Economic Development in Southern Africa”

18 – 21 September 2018

Le Méridien Hotel, Village Hall Lane, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius
Host Country

Mauritius is situated 2,000 km off the east coast of Africa and some 890 km to the east of Madagascar. The country has an area of 1,860 km² and is made up of a central plateau gradually rising towards the south west where it reaches its highest point of 828 metres at Piton de la Petite Rivière Noire.

A democratic country, Mauritius gained independence on 12 March 1968. The country has a diversified economic base and boasts one of Africa’s highest per capita income. Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius.

English is the official language. French is extensively used and Creole is widely spoken. Asian languages also form part of the linguistic mosaic.

Mauritius has a cosmopolitan culture. The population of the Island is approximately 1.3 million.

The various people movements of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries have made of Mauritius a unique blend of different races, cultures and religions. People of European, African, Indian and Chinese origins have created a multiracial society where the various cultures and traditions flourish in peace and harmony.

Information on Mauritius and Le Méridien Hotel can be found on the following websites:
www.tourism mauritius.mu
www.tourisme ile maurice.mu
www.lemeridien mauritius.com

Date and Venue

The ICE meeting, on the theme “Blue Economy, Inclusive Industrialization and Economic Development in Southern Africa” will take place from 18 to 21 September 2018 at the Le Méridien Hotel, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius.

Immigration requirements

A valid passport is required for entry into Mauritius. Entry visas can be arranged in advance through Mauritian diplomatic missions abroad. However, participants from countries with no Mauritian diplomatic representation should provide the Economic Commission for Africa’s Southern Africa Office (ECA-SA) with their passports details and travel itinerary so that arrangements can be made to obtain a visa on arrival at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) International Airport.

Information on visas into Mauritius is available on the following link:
http://passport.govmu.org/English/Passport%20and%20Visa%20Requirement%20in%20Mauritius/Pages/Visa-Requirements-in-Mauritius.aspx

Information on Customs Declaration / Restrictions at Airport are provided in the link below:
http://www.mra.mu/index.php/12-home/import-export-others/87-on-arrival
Information regarding airport safety and security and airport charges is available at the following link: http://aml.mru.aero/index.php/ssr-international

**Airport Tax**

Airport tax is normally included in the air fare.

**Currency and Banking**

The unit of currency in Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR) which is divided into 100 cents (cs). International credit cards are also widely accepted. Participants may carry with them Euros, US dollars, British Pounds and South African Rand. Currency can be exchanged at hotels or banks at prevailing exchange rates.

Indicative exchange rates are: 1 US $ = Rs 34; 1 € = Rs 40. Daily currency exchange rates are available on the website of the Bank of Mauritius at: http://www.bom.mu.

Banking hours: Monday – Thursday 09.00 – 15.15; Friday 09.00 – 17.00; Week End Closed

**Transportation**

On arrival and departure, ECA-SA, through the Government of Mauritius, will ensure the transportation of all participants to and from the airport and their hotels.

**Hotel Accommodation**

Accommodation has been reserved at the Le Méridien Hotel for all sponsored participants. For convenience, participants are advised to stay at Le Méridien Hotel but those wishing to be booked in other hotels can do so by directly contacting the hotel of their choice. ECA-SA is only in a position to guarantee booking for hotel accommodation for participants at Le Méridien Hotel, the meeting venue.
Other hotels which participants may wish to consider for accommodation are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Contact Address</th>
<th>Single Room Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Le Méridien Hotel</td>
<td>Village Hall Lane, Point Aux Piments, Mauritius</td>
<td>$170</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: +230 204 3333</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fax: +230 204 3304</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:groups@lemeridien.com">groups@lemeridien.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Website: <a href="mailto:www.lemeridien-mauritius.com">www.lemeridien-mauritius.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>La Pirogue Hotel</td>
<td>Wolmar, Flic en Flac, Mauritius</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: +230 403 3900, Fax: +230 403 3800</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@lapirogue.mu">info@lapirogue.mu</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="mailto:www.lapirogue.com">www.lapirogue.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritim Resort and Spa</td>
<td>Turtle Bay, Balaclava</td>
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<td>Tel: +230 204 1000</td>
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<td>Fax: +230 204 1020</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info.mau@maritim.com">info.mau@maritim.com</a>;</td>
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<td>Website: <a href="mailto:www.maritim.com">www.maritim.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercontinental Hotel</td>
<td>Coastal Road, Ville Valio, Balaclava, Mauritius</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: +230 261 1200, Fax: +230 261 1020</td>
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<td>Website: <a href="mailto:www.intercontinental.com/mauritius">www.intercontinental.com/mauritius</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Le Labourdonnais Hotel</td>
<td>Caudan Waterfront</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O Box 91, Port-Louis, Mauritius</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tel: +230 202 4000, Fax: +230 202 4040</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@labourdonnais.com">info@labourdonnais.com</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="mailto:www.labourdonnais.com">www.labourdonnais.com</a></td>
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Health Precautions

Participants are advised to update their routine vaccinations for travel, some of which may be required on this travel. Participants arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever, as per table hereunder, will need to obtain a valid Vaccination Certificate for Yellow Fever. Failure to produce proof of the certificate might result in participants not being allowed to enter the country.
The following link provides information on health precautions for travellers to Mauritius: 
[http://health.govmu.org/English/Pages/travellers-advice.aspx](http://health.govmu.org/English/Pages/travellers-advice.aspx)

Weather

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year, characterised by a warm humid summer extending between November and April and a relatively cool dry winter between June and September. October and May are the transition months. Mean mid-day temperature ranges from 26°C to around 30°C in summer and from 22°C to 27°C in winter when moving from the Centre to the coastal areas.

Tourist Attractions and Activities

There are many tourist attractions in Mauritius including the Champ de Mars, the Museum of Photography, China Town, the National History Museum, Ile aux Aigrettes Nature Reserve, Blue Bay Marine Park, Rochester Falls, Seven Waterfalls, Trou aux Cerfs, Ganga Talao, Les Vergers of Labourdonnais, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden, Cap Malheureux’s Red Roof Chapel,
Paul and Virginie monument, Blue Safari submarine, Mauritius Aquarium, Plaine Champagne, Tea Route, Le Morne Cultural Landscape, Aapravasi Ghat UNESCO World Heritage Site, birdwatching, scuba diving, dolphin watching, kayaking, water skiing, and boat excursions.

Medical Emergency and Health Services

Medical emergency call number is 114 and Police emergency number is 999 / 112. The closest hospitals in the region are Sir Seewooosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital (SSRNH) located in Pamplemousses and the Triolet Medi-Clinic located at New Market Road, Triolet.

Time Difference

Mauritius is four hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+4).

Business Hours

Public Offices and major businesses are generally open from 08.45 hrs to 16.00 hrs from Monday to Friday.
Smoking

Smoking in public areas in Mauritius is strictly prohibited except in designated areas.

Contact Persons

All correspondence regarding these meetings should be directed to:

Ms. Dailes E. Matoka  
Senior Staff Assistant  
ECA Southern Africa Office  
P.O. Box 30647  
Lusaka, Zambia  
Tel: +260-211-376625/228502-3  
Fax: +260-211-236949  
Email: matokad.uneca@un.org

and copied to:

Mr. Sizo Mhlanga  
Chief, Sub-Regional Data Centre  
ECA Southern Africa Office  
P.O. Box 30647  
Lusaka, Zambia  
Tel: +260-211-376651/228502-3  
Fax: +260-211-236949  
Email: mhlangas@un.org