



## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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### Press Communiqué

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Joint Commission

The first Mauritius-China FTA Joint Commission will be held in Mauritius, at the Caudan Arts Centre, on Wednesday 30 August 2023.

As per the Mauritius-China FTA, a Joint Commission is to be established, comprising of Government officials of both countries. The Mauritius-China FTA Joint Commission aims at ensuring the effective operation and implementation of the Free Trade Agreement and any other agreement or legal instrument concluded or to be concluded under the Agreement. It considers any matter related to the implementation or operation of the FTA, amongst other functions.

The Chinese delegation will be led by Mr Han Yong, Director of the Department of WTO (World Trade Organization) Affairs, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China while on the Mauritian side, Mr N Boodhoo, Director – Trade Policy will lead discussions.

In the margin of this event, the Rules of Procedure establishing the FTA Joint Commission will be signed by the two Heads of delegation.

Issues which would be discussed at the Joint Commission meeting include the export of special sugar and fresh fruits to China as well as the implementation of the Economic Cooperation Chapter of the Mauritius-China FTA.

The Mauritius-China FTA is effective as from 01 January 2021. Since that date, Mauritius benefits from immediate duty free access on the Chinese market on 7,504 tariff lines (goods). Zero-duty products are goods of export interest to Mauritius and include fresh and chilled fish; wines and spirits including rum; chemicals; fertilizers and articles of textile and garment.

Tariffs on 423 additional products will be phased down over 5 years starting on 01 January 2021. This covers our main export to China i.e. fish and fish products. Tariffs will phase down on 288 further products over 7 years, including black tea.

It is to be recalled that this FTA is the first trade agreement signed by China with an African country.

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