



**Financial Services Commission
Mauritius**

**FSC Mauritius signs IOSCO Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding on
Exchange of Information**

The Financial Services Commission, Mauritius ('FSC') becomes signatory of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMoU) Concerning Consultation and Cooperation and the Exchange of Information. The MMoU was signed by the Chief Executive of the FSC, Ms. Clairette Ah-Hen on 16 May 2012 in Beijing.

IOSCO, the international standard setting body for Securities Commissions, adopted the MMoU as the model for international cooperation and establishes standards when making or responding to requests for information. The MMoU sets out an international benchmark for cross-border cooperation which is critical to combating violations of securities and derivatives laws and provides a common understanding amongst its signatories about how they will consult, cooperate and exchange information for securities regulatory enforcement purposes. The MMoU further sets out specific requirements regarding information exchange and ensures that no legal and regulatory framework prevent securities regulators from sharing information with their counterparts in other jurisdictions.

The FSC has, over the past years, initiated amendments to the existing legislative framework to facilitate information exchange (including banking information), technical cooperation, and investigative assistance. The MMoU reinforces the FSC's cooperation with regulatory and supervisory authorities for preserving and strengthening securities markets.

Following the signature, the FSC Chief Executive Ms Clairette Ah-Hen stated that:

“The signature of the IOSCO MMoU testifies the fact that the FSC meets the international standards expected of a Securities regulator and that Mauritius is a sound, stable, transparent and reputable financial services centre internationally recognised by its counterparts. The FSC has spared no efforts in this direction and will continue to work in favour of effective exchange of information and to uphold the standards set by international bodies. Now that we are on Appendix A, we look forward to greater development of our Securities Exchanges and more international market participants starting operations in Mauritius”

16 May 2012

Background Information

The International Organization of Securities Commissions, commonly known as IOSCO, was first established as an association of securities regulators in America. In 1983, it started accepting members from around the world. Today, it is considered as a global organization and standard setter for Securities Regulation worldwide and it regroups around 175 members.

The three core objectives of IOSCO are:

- 1) Protecting investors;
 - 2) Ensuring that markets are fair, efficient and transparent; and
 - 3) Reducing systemic risk.
- IOSCO is now recognised as a global organization, the leading international policy forum for securities regulators, and the standard setter for Securities Regulation.
 - The organization's membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets in over 100 jurisdictions and aims to establish and maintain worldwide standards for efficient, orderly and fair markets.

IOSCO Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (the “MMoU”)

The IOSCO MMoU sets an international benchmark for cross-border co-operation which is critical in combating violations of securities and derivatives laws.

The MMoU represents a common understanding amongst its signatories on how they will consult, cooperate, and exchange information for securities regulatory enforcement purposes.

The MMoU itself sets out the specific requirements for what information can be exchanged and how it is to be exchanged: legal ability to compel information; types of information that can be compelled; legal ability to share information; and permissible uses of information.

It also sets out specific requirements regarding the confidentiality of the information exchanged, and ensures that no domestic banking secrecy, blocking laws or regulations prevents securities regulators from sharing this information with their counterparts in other jurisdictions.

2012 celebrates the 10th year of this Multilateral MMoU. Following the IOSCO MMoU Decision-making Body meeting at the Beijing Conference, there are now a total of 86 Appendix A (Signatories).

It is to be noted that per the IOSCO Strategic Direction 2010-2015, IOSCO intends to publish a ‘watch list’ of all countries which are not signatories to the MMoU.