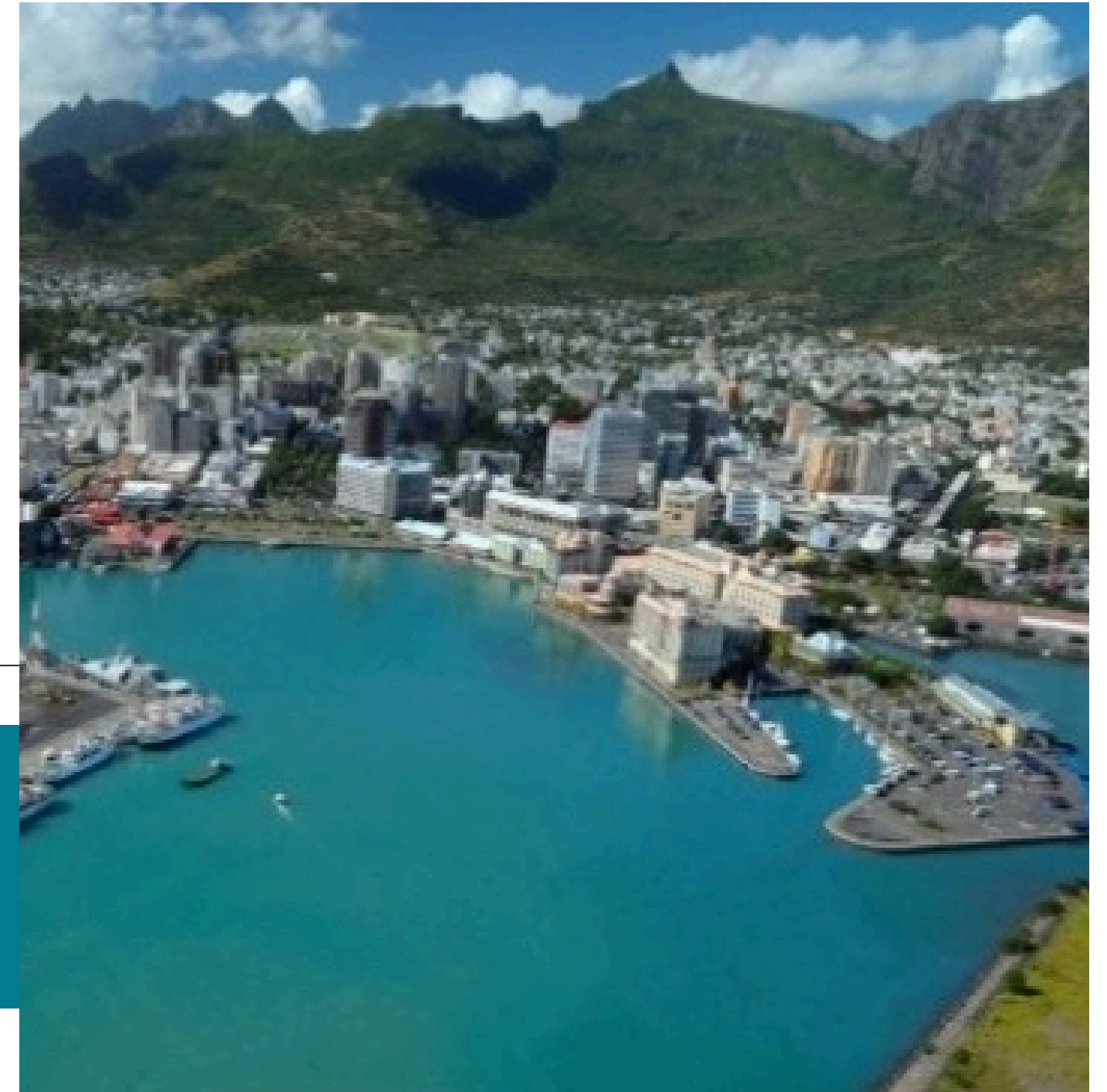


# **Strengthening Mauritius Freeport as a Nearshoring Hub: Redesigning Shorter Supply Chains to Serve SADC, COMESA, and IOC Markets, Driving Economic Growth and Revenue**

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**A REFLECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR SHAPING MAURITIUS' FUTURE AS THE KEY TRADE HUB OF THE INDIAN OCEAN**

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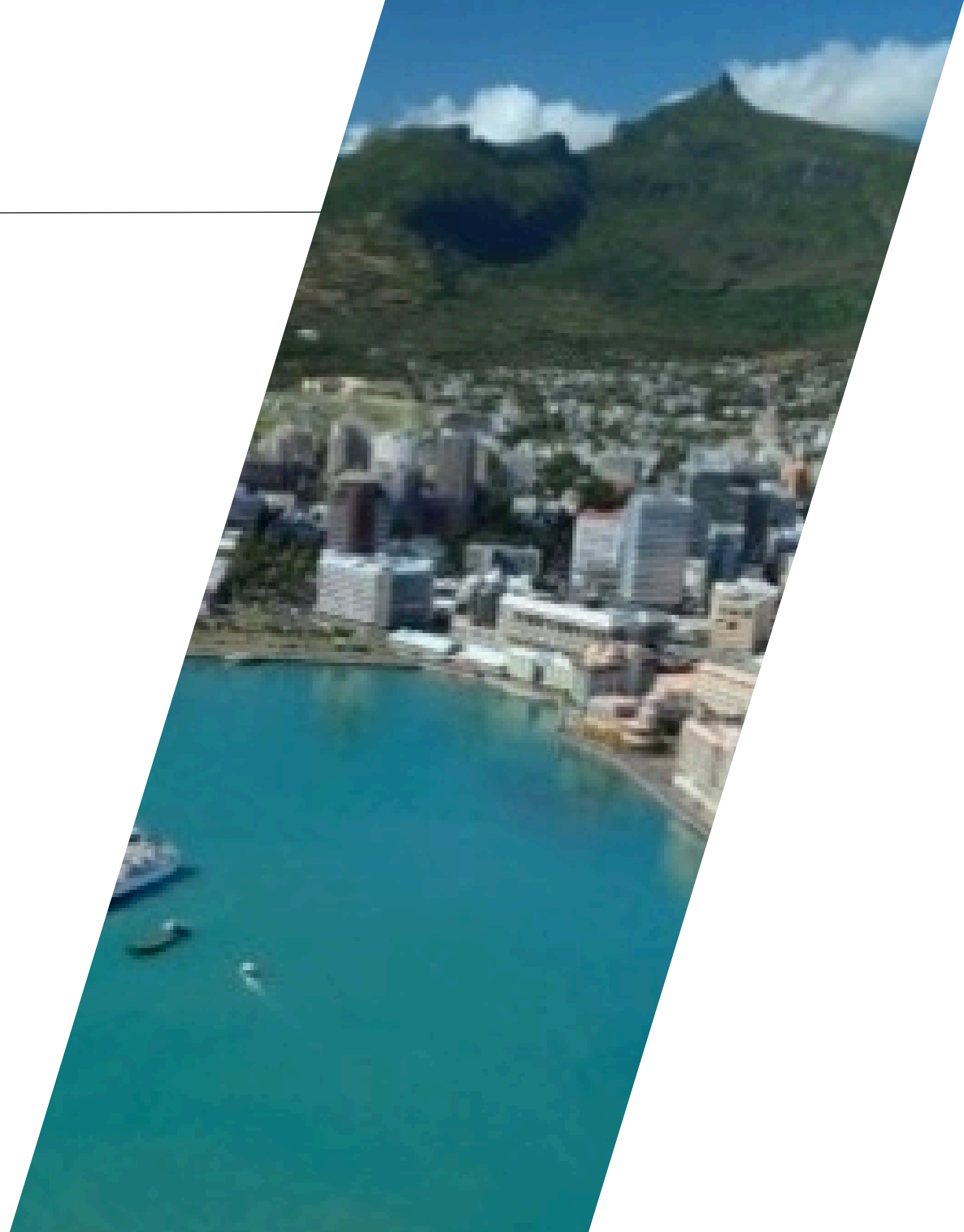


# INTRODUCTION

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## Inspirational Quote:

"For whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself." — Sir Walter Raleigh



## **Objective:**

This presentation offers a reflective framework for considering how Mauritius can evolve as the regional trading hub of the Indian Ocean, positioning itself to serve the growing markets in SADC, COMESA, and IOC. It is a starting point for thought leadership, collaboration, and decision-making in shaping the future of global trade routes.

## **Purpose:**

The goal is to reflect on Mauritius' future as a leader in reshaping regional trade dynamics and to start a dialogue on possible pathways forward.



1. Attractivity of Port Louis Harbor

2. The Mauritius Freeport as a Nearshoring Hub for SADC, COMESA, and IOC Markets

3. Leveraging the Mauritius International Financial Centre (IFC)



# MARKET DEMAND AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

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- Global Trends in Nearshoring: The increasing shift towards nearshoring and the need for efficient, shorter supply chains.
- Economic Impact: Projected contribution to GDP, state revenue, job creation, and sector diversification.
- Job Creation: Focus on specific sectors (e.g., electric vehicles, electronics) and workforce growth.





# ATTRACTIVITY OF PORT LOUIS HARBOR

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## **Vision:**

Achieving 1.8-2 million TEUs throughput with a focus on shorter supply chains and multimodal connections to regional markets.



## Key Points:

- Current throughput: <500K TEUs
- Goal: Reach 1 million TEUs, targeting 1.8-2 million TEUs
- Focus on logistics value-added services, such as warehousing, packaging, and assembly.
- Developing short-sea connectivity to multimodal corridors in SADC, COMESA, and IOC regions.
- Establishing Mauritius logistics service providers operating distribution and fulfilment centers.
- Review the Port Operating System for potential PPP models for developing a green terminal.



- Importance: Crucial for diversifying Mauritius' economy and fostering job creation.

## Global Examples:

- Uruguay's SEZs return \$5 for every \$1 invested.
- Antwerp's logistics sector contributing 4% to GDP.





# THIRD-GENERATION PORT MODEL

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- Vision: Transition from traditional ports to dynamic regional distribution hubs and light manufacturing centers.
- Global Comparisons: Antwerp and Rotterdam as examples of successful third-generation ports.





# SHORT-SEA SERVICES AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

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## Key Ports to Connect With:

- Southern Africa: Durban, Maputo
- East Africa: Lamu Port
- Indian Ocean: Madagascar
- Strategic Corridors:
  - SADC Corridor
  - COMESA Corridors
  - IOC Connectivity
- Role of Mauritius Shipping Corporation: Deploying short-sea services to enhance trade connections.



# MAURITIUS FREEPORT AS A NEARSHORING HUB

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- Target Sectors:
- Electric Vehicles, Pharmaceuticals, Electronics, Textiles, Food Value Chain
- Transition of MACCS: From a national single window to a regional single window for seamless trade.
- Green Labeling for Mauritius Freeport Operators: Ensuring sustainability in operations.
- Strategic Alliances: With West African trading hubs to unlock Sub-Saharan Africa markets.
- Global Comparisons: Mexico, Morocco, Hungary, Turkey.

# LEVERAGING THE MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE (IFC)

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- Ongoing Need for Substance: The Mauritius IFC should evolve to support regional trade just as Dubai's IFC supports JAFZA and Casablanca's IFC supports Tanger Med.
- Support Functions:
- Joint ventures
- Capital raising (Green Bonds, etc.)
- Trade finance
- Goal: Targeting 20% of GBC activities through the Mauritius Freeport by 2030.





# RISK MITIGATION AND CHALLENGES

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- **Challenges:** Political risks, supply chain disruptions, competition from other regions.
- **Mitigation Plans:** Government policies, strategic partnerships, and infrastructure development.



## CONCLUSION

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**Key Takeaway:** Mauritius has a tremendous opportunity to evolve as the gateway to regional markets in Southern Africa, East Africa, and the Indian Ocean region. This vision can drive both regional trade and economic growth.





## Invitation for Collaboration:

Encourage regional and international stakeholders to participate in shaping Mauritius' future role as a key trade and logistics hub.



# THANK YOU

