

Mauritius as an Interface and a Hub

Daniel C. Bach¹

¹ Institut d'Etudes Politiques, SPIRIT, Bordeaux, France

d.bach@sciencespobordeaux.fr

The developmental trajectory of Mauritius is unique in Sub-saharan Africa. Export led strategies have combined with high levels of public investment into human development, and a capacity to turn such preferential regimes as the Lomé sugar protocol, the Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA), the Mauritius-India Double Tax Agreement (DTA) or the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) into stepping stones towards enhanced global competitiveness and a more diversified economy. The country's combination of democracy with an inclusive system of ethnic and religious diversity management has also been a key asset to attract international business and promote the country as an offshore platform. Against this backstage, the build up of trade and investment with China has been viewed as yet another opportunity to promote Mauritius as a global hub for investing and trading with Africa. Renewed global interest for the Indian ocean and the dense web of interactions between Mauritius and India also mean that such a scenario conveys new political and geopolitical implications.