



# Country Report – Seychelles’ achievements in line with the Resolutions of the 54<sup>th</sup> SADC PF Plenary Assembly

## **Introduction**

The 54<sup>th</sup> SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This report outlines Seychelles' achievements in alignment with the resolutions adopted during this session. The report aims to present the true findings and accomplishments that Seychelles has made in response to the resolutions, focusing on areas such as disaster risk reduction, governance, human rights, social development, gender equality, economic investment, and environmental sustainability.

This report is prepared for presentation at the 55th Plenary Assembly to be held in Angola from 01<sup>st</sup> to 07<sup>th</sup> July 2024. It highlights the progress and successes Seychelles has achieved, contributing to the regional goals set by the SADC PF.

## **Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Planning**

**Resolution: Enhancing coordination for disaster risk reduction and recovery planning.**

### **Achievement**

The Seychelles Disaster Risk Management Division (DRMD)'s top aim is to establish a disaster information management system, a tool meant to help agencies and organizations prepare for and respond to disasters.

One of Seychelles' top priorities is developing a detection mechanism that not only informs people to potential catastrophes and floods, but also the degree of the damage such a disaster is projected to inflict when it occurs.

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) held a workshop in May 2024 in partnership with its partners, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the European Union, and the Indian Ocean Regional Response Platform (PIROI).

The forum examined catastrophe mitigation and management strategies for IOC member countries. Given the region's increasing vulnerability to climate change, one of the primary goals of the IOC's new Strategic Development Plan 2023-2033 is to build resilience and reduce disaster risk.

### **Democratization, Governance, and Human Rights**

**Resolution: Strengthening democratic institutions and promoting human rights.**

#### **Achievement:**

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Electoral Commission of Seychelles met with registered political parties in Seychelles, giving them the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommended revisions to the Political Parties Act.

The Seychelles Electoral Commission presented various proposed amendments to the law to representatives from five political parties, addressing their concerns and ideas.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the United Seychelles (US), the Seychelles Democratic Alliance (LDS), the Seychelles National Alliance the other party (SNAP), One Seychelles, and the Seychelles United Movement.

### **Human and Social Development**

**Resolution: Advancing human and social development through health, education, and special programs.**

#### **Achievements:**

1. The country intends to build a new hospital, with construction starting this year. The government recognizes the need to address healthcare challenges, and this project will play a significant role in doing so. The country aims to gain an international reputation and enhance its health standards. One of the country's most pressing concerns is our current facilities, which are insufficient to deliver the level of service demanded by our growing population, as well as the complexity produced by changes in ailments.
2. In May 2024, the government received six Toyota Hiace ambulances as part of an effort to strengthen emergency services.

### **Gender Equality, Women Advancement, and Youth Development**

**Resolution: Promoting gender equality and empowering women and youth.**

#### **Achievement:**

A High-Level Forum commemorating International Women's Day 2024 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Mahe and was hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Family Relations.

Within the context of the International Women's Day 2024 topic, the Forum aimed to investigate various methods of investing in women and positioned entrepreneurship as a vehicle for transformative change in order to address concerns related to sustainable development. A number of female Ministers from Seychelles as well as the First Lady of the Republic of Seychelles took part in the High-level Forum discussions. As well as promoting women's access to a variety of funding alternatives, including those for the start-up and growth of small and medium-sized businesses, this event was an opportunity to commemorate the women and girls who are pushing the promotion of entrepreneurship. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) came up with the specific idea of investing in women's health in order to guarantee sustainable growth.

Throughout the course of the day, a variety of roundtables and panels were arranged, each featuring honorary and guest speakers, with the purpose of conducting an in-depth discussion on the obstacles and opportunities that exist in Seychelles with regard to the empowerment and welfare of women.

The Minister of Youth, Sports, and Family, Mrs. Marie-Celine Zialor, delivered a powerful opening statement in which she emphasized the need of self-care and the requirement for women to invest in themselves without any reluctance.

## **Trade, Industry, Finance, and Investment**

### **Resolution: Enhancing regional trade, industry, finance, and investment.**

#### **Achievements**

1. The Department of Trade has a one-stop trade information resource center known as the Trade Information and Promotion Centre (TIPC). This center is designed to provide information to exporters, importers, trade support organizations, researchers, academics, and the general public.
2. In March of this year, Tourism Seychelles created an impact at the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the BMT trade fair, which took place in Naples. At the trade fair that took place at the Mostra d'Oltremare from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March, the most recent developments in tourism were displayed. These developments included everything from closeness to luxury travel, and they also highlighted innovations that are defining the future of the sector.

There were a lot of educational options available at the expo, such as workshops and conferences that focused on different areas of the evolution of tourism, such as ecological practices, luxury offers, and the incorporation of artificial intelligence. Seychelles took part in a panel discussion that was organized by delegates from the tourism board. The topic of discussion was the performance of the Italian market as well as projections for the arrival of the summer season.

3. A national intellectual property (IP) strategy is currently being established for Seychelles, and once completed, it is expected to guide the future application of intellectual property laws and policies. Seychelles is relatively new to intellectual property; therefore, several frameworks must be established. It cannot be ignored. Intellectual property protection is critical to economic development. Seychelles ensures that all bases are covered and well-integrated.

## **Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources**

### **Resolution: Ensuring food security and sustainable management of natural resources.**

#### **Achievements**

1. Seychelles and South Korea have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in fisheries and aquaculture. The MOU was signed by Jean-Francois Ferrari, Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, and Do-Hyung Kang, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries of Korea, on the sidelines of the Korea-Africa Summit, which was held in Seoul from 04 to 05 June 2024.

The Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy stated that the agreement intends to improve bilateral collaboration, ease knowledge transfer, information sharing, and capacity-building efforts, as well as promote fish and fisheries product commerce. It will also strengthen private-sector cooperation and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in these critical sectors.

According to the ministry, the MOU demonstrates Seychelles and Korea's shared commitment to addressing global issues such as climate change, overfishing, and marine pollution. It also emphasizes the mutual benefits of technological and scientific collaboration, paving the path for future projects that will increase the resilience and sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture industries.

Fisheries are the second largest contributor to the economy of the Seychelles, a group of 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean, behind tourism.

2. The National Assembly of Seychelles has extended its Memorandum of Understanding with the Seychelles Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH) in April, 2024. SIAH is currently the sole institution providing training in the Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping sector. With education being a critical pillar for our country's growth and development, this MoU has strengthened the relations between the Parliament and SIAH and promoted ornamental horticulture and landscaping at the National Assembly. The two institutions have benefitted from each other through exchange of knowledge, capacity building, green practices and improved the biodiversity of the Parliamentary grounds.

3. In May, 2024 the Food Security and Sustainable Development Committee met with the Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Climate Change to demonstrate its support for the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment on various technical aspects of related legislation and policies for all three sectors, not excluding budgetary constraints faced on a daily basis. Discussions on the feasibility of achieving the targets of the Ministry's strategic plan also took place. Other national issues such as climate change, sea grass protection, natural disasters, and district-related matter were also jointly addressed.

### **Conclusion**

Seychelles has made significant strides in addressing the resolutions adopted during the 54<sup>th</sup> SADC PF Plenary Assembly. Through strategic initiatives and programs, the country has enhanced disaster preparedness, strengthened democratic governance, advanced social development, promoted gender equality, stimulated economic growth, and ensured sustainable management of natural resources. These achievements reflect Seychelles' commitment to the principles and objectives of the SADC Parliamentary Forum.