



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ON THE

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

(Submitted for Ratification as per Article 64 (4) of the Constitution)

The Committee has considered this International Agreement and presents its report thereon to the 7th Assembly. This is the International Affairs Committee's fourth special report on treaties, or international agreements, laid before the Assembly in accordance with Article 64 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles.

The International Affairs Committee (IAC), has the parliamentary responsibility for scrutinizing all international agreements submitted to the National Assembly by Recommendation of the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

This report addresses this Treaty which was reviewed and considered at the meeting of the IAC on *Tuesday 4th May, 2021* with the Assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs represented by *Ms. Sandra Michel and Miss. Nathalie Young*.

THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE is mandated to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other governmental and non-governmental organizations on international affairs, peace, security and defence and contribute thereon as and when necessary; maintain existing and establish new ties with foreign parliamentary organizations of interest; and perform any other tasks as may be assigned by the National Assembly.

Powers

The Committee is a Select Sessional Committee, the powers of which are set out in the National Assembly Standing Orders, 2020, principally, SO 88-92.

Committee Staff

The Committee is assisted by the following Parliamentary Staff of the Secretariat:
Ms. Alexandria Faure (Secretary) and *Mrs. Nada Delafontaine* (Secretary Assistant)

Contact

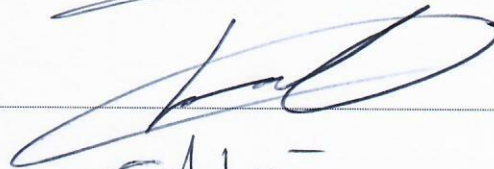
All correspondence should be addressed to the *Secretary of the International Affairs Committee, The National Assembly of Seychelles, Ile Du Port, PO Box 734.*
 The Committee's email address is iac@nationalassembly.sc
 The telephone number for general enquiries is +248 428 5600.

The following Members of the International Affairs Committee undersigned, submit this Report dated Wednesday 2nd June 2021:

Hon. Waven William
Chairperson



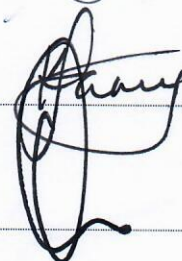
Hon. Wavel Woodcock
Vice-Chairperson



Hon. Egbert Aglae
Member



Hon. Kelly Samynadin
Member



Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
Member



Hon. Philip Monthy
Member



Hon. Philip Arissol
Member



1 SYNOPSIS OF THE TREATY AND CONTENTS

- 1.1 The Committee recognizes that the treaty prohibits State Parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, transferring or receiving control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It also prohibits them from using, or threatening to use, such weapons. State Parties are also required to prohibit and prevent the stationing, installation, or deployment of nuclear weapons on their territory or any other place under its jurisdiction or control.
- 1.2 The Committee also notes that the treaty requires State Parties to have, at a minimum, a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. For the first time, it also requires State Parties to provide victim assistance and environmental remediation to those affected by nuclear weapons use and testing.
- 1.3 The Committee recognizes that Seychelles participated in the negotiation of the treaty at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.
- 1.4 The Committee also notes that to date, none of the nuclear weapon states have signed the treaty. Neither has any NATO Member States or countries that fall under the US nuclear umbrella in Asia.

2 MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

2.1 The Impact of the Treaty

The IAC and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs discussed the impact of the treaty. The IAC questioned the effectiveness of the treaty and what it can achieve if the nuclear weapon states are not participating by signing and ratifying the instrument. Without signing and ratifying the treaty, none of these states will be legally bound by its provisions. For many commentators, this runs the risk of the treaty becoming symbolic and of little practical use in the pursuit of disarmament.

The Officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the Seychelles has promoted universal adherence to the treaty including co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “*at the earliest possible date*”.

Furthermore, as a small island state, Seychelles’ foreign policy status is based on the ideal of friends to all and enemy to none. The Seychelles has to be seen as promoting the aspect of peace and security globally, as it pushes its national agenda as well as engaging in the regional and global integration processes.