



## **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES**

### **REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

#### **ON THE**

#### **The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics & Optional Protocol to the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**

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

The Committee has considered this Convention and Optional Protocol and presents its report thereon to the 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly. This is the International Affairs Committee's sixth special report on treaties, or international agreements, laid before Parliament in accordance with Article 64 (4) of the Constitution of the Third Republic of Seychelles.

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

This report addresses these Agreements, that has been reviewed and considered at the meeting of the IAC on *Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021* with the Assistance of the Seychelles Tourism Board, represented by the *Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Sherin Francis* who was accompanied by *Ms. Diana Charlot*.

**THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE is mandated to** address any topic associated with the national foreign service of Seychelles, the conduct of tourism, international affairs and of international parliamentary affairs as per its Terms of Reference.

**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**

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The Committee's email address is [iac@nationalassembly.sc](mailto: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:**

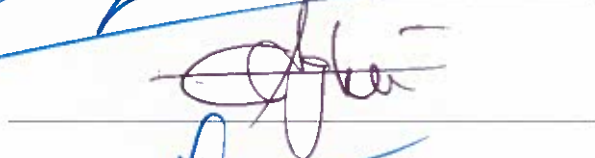
Hon. Waven William  
**Chairperson**



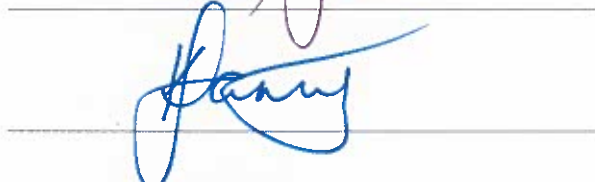
Hon. Wavel Woodcock  
**Vice-Chairperson**



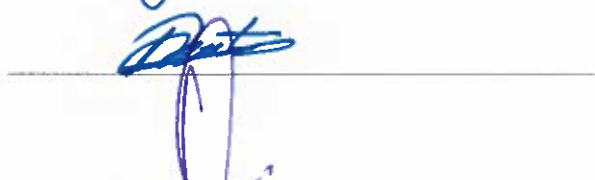
Hon. Egbert Aglae  
**Member**



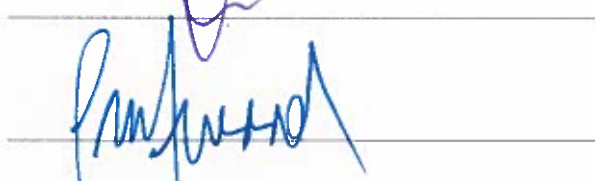
Hon. Kelly Samynadin  
**Member**



Hon. Philip Monthy  
**Member**



Hon. Wallace Cosgrov  
**Member**



Hon. Philip Arissol  
**Member**



## 1 SYNOPSIS OF THE CONVENTION AND CONTENTS

- 1.1 The Committee recognizes that the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (FCTE), the first international convention of UNWTO, was adopted through a resolution, in five official languages of the Organization, by the UNWTO General Assembly at its 23rd session held at St. Petersburg, Russia, September 2019.
- 1.2 The Committee notes that the Convention converts the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET), the UNWTO's main policy document, from a voluntary instrument to a convention which obliges signatory States to implement the principles of the Convention in a bid to make the global tourism sector fairer, more sustainable, ethical and more transparent.
- 1.3 The Committee also recognizes that the GCET sets a frame of reference for the responsible and sustainable development of world tourism. It draws inspiration from many similar declarations and industry codes that have come before and it adds new thinking that reflects our changing society at the beginning of the 21st century.
- 1.4 The Committee notes and recognizes that the Convention takes into account the fact that tourism has the potential to contribute directly or indirectly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular regard to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources and the terrestrial ecosystem.
- 1.5 The Committee has prepared the following short synopsis of the contents of the Convention and presents the below observations:

**Article One** – *Makes provisions for definitions that shall apply to the convention.*

**Article Two** – *Describes the aim and scope of the Convention – mainly to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism through the implementation of the ethical principles in tourism as set out in Articles four (4) to twelve (12).*

**Article Three** – *Prescribes for the 'Means of Implementation' whereby State parties to the Convention shall promote the ethical principles by formulating policies, contractual instruments and any other measures needed for the implementation of the Convention.*

**The following Articles refer to the Ethical Principles as defined in Article One of the Convention:**

**Article Four** – *Tourism's Contribution to Mutual Understanding and Respect between peoples and societies.*

**Article Five** – *Tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfilment.*

**Article Six** – *Tourism as a factor of environmental sustainability.*

**Article Seven** – *Tourism, a user of cultural resources and a contributor to their enhancement.*

**Article Eight** – *Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities.*

**Article Nine** – *Responsibilities of stakeholders in tourism development.*

**Article Ten** – *Right to tourism.*

**Article Eleven** – *Liberty of tourist movements.*

**Article Twelve** – *Rights of employees and professionals in the tourism sector.*

**The following Articles make provisions for the mandate, composition and functioning under the World Committee on Tourism Ethics:**

**Article Thirteen** – *Refers to the Mandate of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics which is a subsidiary organ of the UNWTO, its reporting mechanisms and conciliation mechanisms.*

**Article Fourteen** – *Refers to the composition of the Committee and how the Members of the Committee are elected.*

**Article Fifteen** – *Refers to the functioning of the Committee including personnel and financial resources necessary for the performance of its functions.*

**The following Articles make provisions for the Conference of State Parties:**

**Article Sixteen** – *Prescribes for the Conference of State parties as the plenary body of the Convention composed of representative of all State parties.*

**Article Seventeen** – *Makes provisions for the UNWTO to provide administrative support to the Conference of State parties.*

**The following Articles are the ‘Final Provisions’ to the Convention:**

**Article Eighteen** – *Refers to the signature by the Member States of the UNWTO.*

**Article Nineteen** – *Makes provisions for the ratification, acceptance, approval and accession of the Convention.*

**Article Twenty** – *Refers to the entry into force of the Convention which will take place on the thirtieth day following the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.*

**Article Twenty-One** – *Makes provisions for the amendment of the Convention by any State Party and the necessary procedures.*

**Article Twenty-Two** – *Makes provisions for the Denunciation of the Convention by any State Party and the necessary procedures.*

**Article Twenty-Three** – *Refers to Dispute Settlement*

**Article Twenty-Four** - *Makes provisions for the Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the Convention.*

**Article Twenty-Five** – *Refers to Depositary and that the Secretary-General of the UNWTO shall be the depositary.*

**Article Twenty-Six** - *Refers to the Registration in conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.*

## 2 MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

### 2.1 Benefits and Brief Introduction on the Instruments

The officials from the Seychelles Tourism Board provided the IAC with a brief on the Convention and the importance of its ratification. Mrs. Francis highlighted that the Seychelles supports the ratification of the instruments. In addition, Mrs. Francis also brought forward that the tourism industry of Seychelles and the concerned authorities are undertaking an obligation towards responsible and sustainable development - preserving the destinations' cultural and natural tourism resources, protecting the local communities and ensuring a responsible, sustainable sector. She highlighted that this will also send a clear message to all stakeholders operating within the tourism industry services and visitors travelling to any destination to be conscious of their actions in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS).

### 2.2 Discussions on Articles of the Convention

Ms. Charlot informed the IAC that the essence of the principles remains as in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and that the conversion of the Code into a Convention changes the legal nature into binding principles which State Parties will be obliged to implement if they ratify the Convention. Because Tourism is the pillar of the economy of Seychelles, the country has to show its commitment by ratifying the Convention and supporting a responsible and sustainable tourism.

Mrs. Francis also explained that there are many benefits for Seychelles and that this includes certain benefits available within UNWTO. An example that was highlighted, was the support of UNWTO when Seychelles reopened its border to foreign visitors.

Other matters were subsequently discussed as follows:

#### - **New Steps to be taken to be in line with the Convention:**

Mrs. Francis informed the Committee that compared other countries Seychelles is quite advanced in the tourism sector and there is no need for major reforms.

Ms. Charlot and Mrs. Francis both informed the Committee that there are no major contentions but that there will be a need for the review of the National Tourism policy to make certain amendments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but staying in line with the Convention.

#### - **Article Twelve - Rights of Employees and Professionals in the Tourism Sector**

The Committee requested further details on Article Twelve (12) which discusses the Right of Workers in the industry and wanted to know whether this will impact on the current policies involving expatriates in the country. The delegation informed the IAC that this will not be the case but that the article mainly protects the rights of the workers relating to the conditions of work, training and development.

- **Cultural Tourism of Seychelles (Article Eight – Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities)**

Mrs. Francis discussed that the Seychelles needs to be strategic and look at the bigger picture in finding a way forward in the post-COVID19 world. It was highlighted that there needs to be product diversity and emphasis on value addition. It was confirmed that there are activities that can be offered as new experiences and this can include tourism products at District level under proper marketing mechanisms. To that, a wider multi-stakeholder approach is necessary for a much more inclusive packaging of Seychelles to enhance services and products.

- **Article Six - Tourism, a factor of environmental sustainability**

The IAC enquired into whether cultural/environmental issues can be brought forward/reported under this Convention. Mrs. Francis informed the Committee that such complaints can be done via diplomatic channels and that if the matter is serious it can be taken to the Courts. Mrs. Francis also highlighted that Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as political leadership to ensure greater impact. Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary. To maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction and to manage marketing perceptions, a collective national effort will be required to raise awareness about sustainability issues and promote sustainable tourism practices.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The IAC recognizes the importance of promoting a fairer and more sustainable global tourism industry and to that, the Committee supports the ratification of the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

Taking the above points into consideration the Members of the IAC present the following recommendations:

- **3.1 Enhancement of District Level Tourism Products**

With the aim of further diversifying the tourism products available in Seychelles, the IAC is recommending that the Department of Tourism involve small businesses in the national development of the industry especially at district level whereby the special charms and services of each district can be marketed and elevated within the circular economy. As a result, these initiatives can generate more wealth creation at district level.