



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2023

Seventh Assembly

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 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. Emma Didon - Committee Clerk
- Mr Darel Atala – Assistant Committee Clerk

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 is iac@nationalassemblysc.com

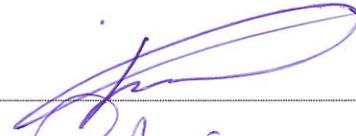
The telephone number for general enquiries is +248 4 285 600.

The following Members of the International Affairs Committee undersigned submit this Report dated Wednesday 30th July 2025:

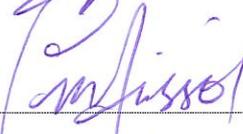
Hon. Waven William
Chairperson



Hon. Wavel Woodcock
Vice Chairperson



Hon. Philip Arissol
Member



Hon. Egbert Aglae
Member



Hon. Kelly Samynadin
Member



Hon. Johan Loze
Member



Hon. Philip Monthy
Member



CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

Work & Membership of the Committee

The International Affairs Committee is a Select Sessional Committee, the powers of which are set out in the *National Assembly Standing Orders, 2020*, particularly, Orders 90-91 and Part III of the *National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011*.

The functions of the Committee are also governed by the *Rules of Procedure for Committees* of which Order 91 makes provisions for.

The Committee consists of seven Members as follows:

- Hon. Waven William* – Chairperson
- Hon. Wavel Woodcock* – Vice Chairperson
- Hon. Egbert Aglae* – Member
- Hon. Philip Monthy* – Member
- Hon. Johan Loze* – Member
- Hon. Kelly Samynadin* – Member
- Hon. Philip Arissol* – Member

The Committee is also assisted by a Committee Clerk, *Ms. Emma Didon*, and an Assistant Committee Clerk, *Mr. Darel Atala*.

A Summary of 2023

The International Affairs Committee's (IAC) first activity of the year was a meeting with the Disaster Risk Management Division (DRMD), as part of a series of meetings of the previous year with the division, on Thursday 02nd February 2023.

The first official meeting of the Committee took place on Monday 27th February 2023 where discussions revolved around the proposed work plan for 2023. The committee reviewed its work of the previous years and discussed the necessary follow-ups from certain MDAs as well as pending meetings including those with resident ambassadors. IAC also reviewed several International Conventions and Agreements this year, which can be found in brief in Chapter Two.

IAC met fifteen times in 2023, the sum of ordinary/executive Committee meetings, external meetings with MDAs, and meetings with MDAs for the review of international conventions, of which the last was the most numerous.

To commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the National Assembly of Seychelles, IAC along with other Standing and Select Committee organised their own outreach activities, targeting the youth and scnsitising them on the work of the institution and its committees, as part of the country's governance machinery. The report will further highlight the activities of 2023.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The Committee reviewed six (6) international agreements for the year 2023 as per the table below:

Treaty	Stakeholder	Date of Meetings	Ratification Date
<i>Convention on Temporary Admission</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade Department Seychelles Revenue Commission 	11 th March 2023	26 th May 2023
<i>Customs Convention on the A.T.A. Carnet for temporary admission of goods</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade Department Seychelles Revenue Commission 	11 th March 2023	26 th May 2023
<i>Convention Concerning the Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Convention 189)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Employment 	19 th September 2023	10 th October 2023
<i>International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transport Department of Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority 	26 th September 2023	11 th October 2023
<i>Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority 	3 rd October 2023	24 th October 2023
<i>Agreement in the form of Exchange of Letters between the Republic of Seychelles and the European Union to Facilitate the transfer by a member state of the European Union of persons arrested and detained under its national law of participating, off the coast of Somalia, in violation of the United Nations Arms Embargo on Somalia or in Narcotic Drugs Trafficking signed by Seychelles on 3rd August 2023.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attorney General's Chambers Foreign Affairs Department Seychelles Prison Services 	4 th October 2023	25 th October 2023
<i>Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, on one part, and the Member of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Affairs Department 	12 th December 2023	14 th December 2023

Parliamentary Procedure for International Instruments' Ratification

The enforced Parliamentary procedure is as follows:

1. The National Assembly receives the 'Letter of Recommendations for Ratification' from the President of the Republic.
2. The IAC is alerted, and the Treaty is reviewed via a meeting with the Foreign Affairs Department and the relevant Government stakeholders.

3. Once the review is completed, the IAC drafts a Report, which its finalisation is reported to the Assembly Business Committee for the Leader of Government Business to bring the Motion for Ratification forward.
4. Upon completing the Motion for Ratification in the House, the National Assembly Service through the Parliamentary Research Division, prepares a 'Recommendation of Motions for Treaties' document which includes recommendations from the House and the IAC (from the Report).
5. The Recommendations are then submitted to State House accompanied by the Letter from the Clerk's Office confirming whether the Motions has been approved or not.

CHAPTER THREE

MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL ENTITIES AND OFFICIALS

In addition to the meetings to review the international agreements/treaties, the IAC held ten (10) meetings with external entities.

MEETING WITH DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Committee, by invitation from the Disaster Risk Management Division (DRMD) attended a meeting at the DRMD's headquarters on **Thursday 02nd February 2023**. The meeting is part of the series of meetings addressing the Sendai Framework Mid-term Review which the committee participated in since 2022. The meeting was organised by the DRMD so they could present their report of the midterm review results to the committee. There were four DRMD officials present in the meeting, led by Mr. Daniel Cetoupe, the Chief risk Management officer began the meeting with a presentation on the report of the midterm review which led to the following topics of discussion:

- The executive cabinet
- Review of the school curriculum
- DRMD in the Planning Authority
- The public service announcements from National Broadcasters
- The National Risk Management Committee (NRMC)
- Plans of the NRMC moving forward
- Seychelles' Vulnerability Assessment Committee
- DRMD's relationship with the districts and local government
- Importance of Traditional/Indigenous knowledge in risk management projects
- DRMD's contribution to Social Impact Assessment
- GIS within the DRMD information framework
- Coordination of MDAs in national disaster risk management
- Boosting the Technical capacity of DRMD personnel

The meeting was immediately followed by a visit of the offices guided by the DRMD officials where points were raised on International Coordination, the lack of office space and the National Emergency Operations Centre, which is not yet fully operational.

MEETING WITH THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

On Wednesday 31st May 2023, the IAC met with the Indian High Commissioner to Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Karthik Pande at the National Assembly. This meeting is part of the initiative taken by the IAC to meet with Seychelles' resident ambassadors, to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy with the resident diplomats. The following points were discussed:

- **India Grants** – H.E. Pande briefly noted the past and present projects funded by the grants as follows
 - 35 high impact community development projects completed
 - Five ongoing projects in specific districts and schools
 - Methadone grants
 - Budgetary allocation modality of the grants of which there are two types, the first being small projects which are set at a 7 million limit per project and major projects which depend on high-level political discussions and decision making).
- Possibility of **facilitating/coordinating Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha visit** for IAC.
- **The Status of India-Seychelles bilateral relations** – Other than the benefits of the India Grants addressed prior bilateral relations of the countries includes; the Defense Partnership; Education (ITEC programme); the ‘People to People’ programme; and MOUs in several sectors.
- **Improvements to the countries’ tourism and trade relations.**
- **Effectiveness of the Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission**
- **Climate change projects** – H.E. informed that there is no official bilateral agreement on the matter but there exists one project between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the International Solar Alliance.
- **IAC’s support to the IHC in Seychelles.**

MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

To fulfill its portfolio objectives, a meeting was jointly organised by IAC, the Foreign Affairs Department (FAD) and the Tourism Department (TD) as per the previous commitment made by both parties to hold meetings annually. This is also to maintain good working relations, which is essential to IAC’s work in the national diplomatic, international and tourism sectors. Leading the delegations from FAD and TD was the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, H.E. Sylvestre Radegonde, accompanied by the Principal Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and Tourism and various Director Generals. The following was discussed according to the agenda agreed by the parties:

- **Outstanding signed treaties and agreements awaiting ratification**
- **Status of the ACP/EU (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific / EU) partnership agreement**
- **Status of regional cooperation and Seychelles’ position on the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**
- **Status on the review of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index** – Minister Radegonde provided extensive reassurance that the matter is being continuously lobbied for in international conferences and gave a brief report on such.
- **Interagency meetings status**
- **Addressing national tourism industry gaps to remain competitive and sustainable.**

- **Shannon College and the Mentoring Committee**
- **Tourists' safety**

The challenges faced by the tourism industry were highlighted as; lack of human resources; sub-par synergy and commitment from partner MDAs; unavailability of further financial resources.

- **Retaining Seychellois in the tourism industry** – strategies on this matter are under development to be implemented by both the Tourism and Department and the Seychelles Tourism Academy (STA), at difference levels.
- **Commitment to hold biannual meetings** by both parties

MEETING DRMD ON THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MIDTERM REVIEW ACTION PLAN

The Committee held a second meeting with the DRMD for that year on Friday 20th September 2023 where the DRMD officials came to the National Assembly to present the Action Plan of the Sendai Framework Midterm Review. The Action Plan is in the form of a 7-year roadmap, formulated from the results of the midterm review exercise of the framework. The DRMD officials presented the action plan and answered several questions from the Committee addressing the following:

- The New DRMD building/HQ
- Integration of media houses in the Action Plan
- Updated vulnerable population profile
- Integration of disaster risk management in the school curriculum
- The need for effective Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in disaster risk
- Lack of experts for impact assessment of high-risk activities such as quarrying
- Locations of shelter sites
- Cabinet approval of the 7-year roadmap
- Update on the National Risk Management Committee

MEETING WITH FAD' CONSULAR AFFAIRS ON THE NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY

On Wednesday 27th September, IAC met with the officials from the FAD, led by the Principal Secretary, Vivianne Fock-Tave, accompanied by staff from the Department's Consular and Diaspora Affairs Division and an International Organisation on Migration (IMO) expert and consultant on the National Diaspora policy, which the meeting was based on. Discussions on the National Diaspora Policy for 2024 – 2029 began with an overview of the draft which was still in its consultative stages. The following points were discussed:

- The three main pillars of the policy – Governance of Diaspora Engagement; Local and Global Diaspora Diplomacy and; Diaspora Capital for Development
- Whether there is the Human and Financial capacity necessary for effective policy implementation
- The Long-term commitment necessary to successfully and sustainably establish the policy
- Building internal engagement to mainstream policy objectives throughout stakeholder
- The Diaspora’s contribution to Seychelles’ development
- Establishment of future legislation to solidify the policy
- Beefing up international missions to increase engagement with the diaspora throughout generations
- Development of the policy Action Plan

CHAPTER FOUR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

OUTREACH ACTIVITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SEYCHELLES

To contribute to the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the National Assembly of Seychelles, the IAC organised and outreach activity, in the form of an interactive sensitisation workshop on Wednesday 6th September at the University of Seychelles, Manchester Auditorium. The workshop targeted students from the University of Seychelles and the School of Advances Level Studies. Six presentations were delivered by the six members of the committee in attendance on the IAC and the below international parliamentary platforms and stakeholders of which the National Assembly is party and is line with the parliamentary diplomacy work on the IAC:

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) *presented by* Hon. Waven William
- Pan-African Parliament (PAP) *presented by* Hon. Waven Woodcock
- ‘Alliance Parlement de Commission de l’Océan Indien’ (APCOI), *presented by* Hon. Philip Monthly
- ‘Conseil National pour le développement et la Solidarité Internationale’ (CNDSI) *presented by* Hon. Kelly Samynadin
- SADC-Parliamentary Forum *presented by* Hon. Egbert Aglae
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association *presented by* Hon. Phillip Arissol

To end the workshop, an exercise was formulated emulating the review and reporting work done by the IAC once the Executive seeks for Seychelles’ ratification of an international agreement. The Committee Clerk, Ms. Emma Didon launched the Mock exercise with a brief presentation on the process the IAC undertakes prior to the motion of ratification in the House. The students were

then asked to analyse an agreement and identify the possible detriments and benefits it could have for the country as well as make recommendations as per the reporting of the committee for such meetings. The students presented their findings and challenged the international legal instruments. The Outreach activity was an overall success with positive feedback and satisfaction expressed by the students who learnt many new things about the parliamentary world, particularly, its international aspects.

CHAPTER FIVE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

IAC’s meeting for the year were succinct and pointed, with clear aims and objectives. The main discussion points and actions items for these meetings are included below in the table to provide a clear view of the IAC’s expected outcomes.

Meeting Date	Discussion Points	Action Items
Monday 27 th February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frequency of meeting for 2023 2. Follow-ups on 2022 meetings and way forward 3. Pending meetings from 2022 4. Unratified SADC protocols and other unratified agreements and conventions. 5. Meeting with member MPs of regional and international parliamentary bodies for NAS to be aligned and present a common position. 6. Upcoming Treaties and Conventions 7. Tourism Portfolio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STA visit follow up • SHTA meeting • Expats in the Tourism Industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow up on commitments made by the MDAs from 2022. ➤ Request for list of Seychelles signed but unratified Agreements. ➤ Organise meetings with: Ministry of Agriculture, Resident Ambassadors, WHO representative, FAD, Trade Department, Employment Department, Mentoring Committee, SHTA and IOTC. ➤ Add meetings to 2023 Calendar of meetings.

	<p>8. IOT issues – Mascarene Plateau</p> <p>9. APCOI briefing</p>	
<p>Tuesday 28th March</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion with Hon. Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of common positions of NAS at regional and international parliamentary fora. • Reports of delegations • L’APF • Upcoming APCOI and SADC-PF events in Seychelles. • Financial Autonomy • Visits and Budgetary constraint. 2. IAC meeting with President 3. Georgia-Friendship Group 4. Verbal report on recent missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Parliamentary Conference • Conseil National Development et de la Solidarite. 5. Tender of Apology 6. AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint committee work – • Loss and damage (COP27) • Vulnerability Index • Accountability segment at the 146th IPU Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow up on Georgia friendship group with FAD. ➤ Add vulnerability Index to the agenda for FAD meeting.

<p>Wednesday 17th May</p>	<p>MEETING ON PROPOSED COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2024</p> <p>1. Discussion on Activities proposed for budgeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Praslin and/or La Digue on tourism issues via SHTA • Visit to Mauritius – IOC HQ, Parliament, relevant Embassies • Lok Sabha visit • Social Events with resident Ambassadors • Visit to North Island <p>2. Priority activities decided for the proposed budget</p> <p>3. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observers to the APCOI plenary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Committee selected the visit to Mauritius and Lok Sabha for international activities. And locally Praslin and La Digue SHTA and Events with resident Ambassadors and diplomats ➤ Enquire on and request for IAC to gain observers status to the upcoming APCOI plenary
<p>Wednesday 5th July</p>	<p>1. APCOI status update</p> <p>2. Committee visit to India</p> <p>3. Meetings with Ambassadors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft letter to Speaker on the visit to India.

	<p>4. IAC Outreach activity – 30th Anniversary of the NAS</p> <p>5. Ukraine – Core Group on the Tribunal for the Crime Against Aggression</p> <p>6. AOB</p>	<p>➤ Add matter of Ukraine Core Group on the agenda for the meeting with FAD</p>
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CHAPTER SIX STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Acknowledging the consistent and hard work of the Committee in 2023, several key strategy recommendations are made below for the IAC continue with this trajectory and to strengthen good practices and Conventions for 2024. The Recommendations, drawn from the content analysis of this report are briefly detailed below.

- **Enhance Parliamentary Diplomacy:** Formalise parliamentary exchanges with countries like India and Mauritius for the purpose of reciprocal visits and structured dialogue on commonalities and shared interests such as climate change and trade.
- **Strengthened Treaty Review and Follow-up Mechanisms:** Establish a formal review protocol with the Foreign Affairs Department for all incoming international instruments. A tracking system for commitments made by MDAs to ensure accountability and timely follow-ups on the ratified documents and other assurances provided to the Committee.
- **Expand Outreach and Public Engagement:** Build on the success of the 2023 outreach at the University of Seychelles by Institutionalising annual outreach events at tertiary institutions.
Creating a youth advisory panel to engage young people in international affairs and parliamentary processes is also a worthy idea.
- **Budget and Resource Optimisation:** Advocate for specific and dedicated budget lines for outreach, international engagements and technical, research support.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION

In 2023, the International Affairs Committee demonstrated its unwavering commitment to strengthening Seychelles' international engagement, parliamentary diplomacy, and treaty oversight. Through strategic meetings, comprehensive treaty reviews, and impactful outreach activities, the Committee has reinforced its role as a vital link between the National Assembly and global affairs. As the IAC looks ahead to 2024, it remains dedicated to enhancing its institutional practices, fostering meaningful international partnerships, and promoting greater public awareness of its work in shaping Seychelles' foreign policy landscape.

