



# **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**2024**

**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**

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**The following Members of the International Affairs Committee undersigned, submit this Report dated Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025:**

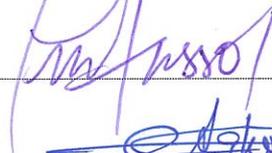
Hon. Waven William  
**Chairperson**



Hon. Wavel Woodcock  
**Vice Chairperson**



Hon. Philip Arissol  
**Member**



Hon. Egbert Aglae  
**Member**



Hon. Kelly Samynadin  
**Member**



Hon. Rachel Spiro  
**Member**



Hon. Philip Monthy  
**Member**



## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### **Work & Membership of the Committee**

The International Affairs Committee is a Select Sessional Committee mandated to address matters related to Seychelles' foreign service, tourism, international affairs, and international parliamentary engagement, in line with its Terms of Reference. The Committee operates under the powers set out in the National Assembly Standing Orders, 2020, particularly Orders 88–92 and is further guided by Part III of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011. The Committee's procedures are structured under the Rules of Procedure for Committees, with Order 91 outlining its core functions.

The Committee for the year 2024 comprised the following Members:

*Hon. Waven William* – Chairperson  
*Hon. Wavel Woodcock* – Vice Chairperson  
*Hon. Egbert Aglae* – Member  
*Hon. Philip Monthy* – Member  
*Hon. Kelly Samynadin* – Member  
*Hon. Philip Arissol* – Member  
*Hon. Rachel Spiro* – Member

Committee support staff included:

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

### **A Summary of 2024**

The IAC met for the first time on Tuesday 5th March 2024, with the parent MDAs of the UNCLOS BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement, kicking the year off with a ratification report on the instrument. The Committee convened its first official meeting Wednesday 17th April, to set its strategic direction and identify follow-ups from the previous year's initiatives. A provisional workplan for the year was discussed with the tourism status of the inner islands highlighted as a priority for the Committee's national work. A benchmarking and study visit to Mauritius was identified as an objective for the Committee where the Mauritian Parliament and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) would be part of the visit programme.

IAC met eight times in 2024 with the majority of the meetings with external stakeholders pertaining to the ratification of international instruments of which IAC reviewed and reported on four (4) International Instruments brought for ratification by the House throughout the year. Hon. William took further initiative to have one-on-one meetings with the Indian High Commissioner and the Chinese Ambassador. All the committee's 2024 activities will be highlighted in the report.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The Committee reviewed four international agreements for the year 2024 as listed below:

Treaty	Stakeholder	Date of Meetings	Ratification Date
<i>Agreement under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Blue Economy</li> <li>• Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	05 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<i>Convention on the Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures (as amended)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Department</li> <li>• Seychelles Revenue Commission</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	09 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<i>Extradition Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Seychelles and the Government of the French Republic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Affairs Department</li> <li>• Attorney General Office</li> </ul>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	09 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<i>International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Affairs Department</li> </ul>	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### **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 finalization 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 Secretariat through the Parliamentary Research Unit, 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**

Other than the meetings on instruments to be ratified or acceded by the House, the Committee held several consultative meetings with national and international stakeholders.

##### **ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER**

On **Tuesday 23rd July**, Hon. Waven William and Ms. Emma Didon met with H.E. Mr. Kartik Pande at the Indian High Commission to discuss the proposed IAC visit to the Lok Sabha. H.E. Pande suggested a combined delegation with other interested committees (COGA and DSC) for better coordination and justification. Discussions also covered bilateral matters, including ongoing negotiations with Indigo airline. H.E. highlighted underutilized Indian grants (SR7 million per project) and ITEC training slots, encouraging broader participation, including private individuals and National Assembly staff. Opportunities for collaboration on sustainability through the International Solar Alliance were also explored, with a recommendation to channel proposals via MACCE or the High Commission.

##### **ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR FOR SEYCHELLES**

**21st August 2024**

Hon. William in his capacity as Chairperson of the IAC, met with the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Ms. Lin Nan at the Chinese Embassy on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024. Discussions began by both parties reaffirming Seychelles' and China's longstanding diplomatic ties, emphasizing cooperation across key sectors including parliamentary diplomacy, sustainable development, tourism, education, and global initiatives. Discussions highlighted China's support for Seychelles through projects such as the Juncao agricultural initiative, climate resilience efforts, and technical training programs. Tourism collaboration was a focal point, with plans for direct charter flights to Chengdu and promotional roadshows to enhance Chinese tourist engagement. Both parties acknowledged challenges for tourism such as language barriers and high travel while expressing commitment to expanding educational exchanges, youth volunteer programs, and short-term training in diplomacy and tourism. China reiterated its dedication to peaceful global cooperation, BRICS leadership, and the Belt and Road Initiative, with Seychelles affirming support for the One China policy and expressing interest in China's global development vision. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepening strategic partnerships and fostering people-to-people diplomacy.

##### **MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN AFFAIR DEPARTMENT**

The IAC meeting held on **19th September 2024** with the Foreign Affairs Department, led by PS. Vivianne Fock Tave, focused on the plans and updates regarding the IOC-Seychelles presidency and bilateral engagements with Cuba, India, and the UAE. The highlighted IOC priorities for the Seychelles Presidency includes establishing a shipping line in Africa launching a youth conference

and hosting an IOC seminar. In health, WHO's regional pool medicine initiative was noted. FAD reported the following on the status of the MoUs with the above-mentioned states:

- **Cuba** remains a strong partner in health (38 doctors, 1 paediatrician, 1 radiographer), education (5 students in Cuba), culture (experts visiting to assess musical instruments), and sports. Several MoUs are in progress, including those on science, prisoner transfer, and academic cooperation.
- **India** has completed 24 out of 32 high-impact environmental projects under a SCR42 million MoU, with SCR21.4 million spent. A \$50 million line of credit supports solar and electric bus projects, with 57 of 60 buses delivered. Discussions are ongoing for five new MoUs, and India continues to support capacity building through scholarships, and military training.
- **UAE** partnerships include a local currency MoU, solar generator discussions with Masdar (costing \$80–\$140 million), and sponsorship of major infrastructure projects like the West Coast Road and Orchid Estate housing. A centralized customer service centre and leadership training program (27 completed, 31 upcoming) are also in progress.

Hon. William reassured the Department of IAC's Continuous support and committed the Committee to the Seychelles Ambassadors' Retreat that would be taking place in October 2024.

### **IAC MEETS WITH THE SEYCHELLES AMBASSADORS AS PART OF THE ANNUAL AMBASSADORS' RETREAT**

Fulfilling their obligations made in the meeting with the Foreign Affairs Department the month prior, the IAC met with the Seychelles Ambassadors on Monday 7th October 2024 during the Ambassador's annual retreat to their homeland, to Seychelles. This is a custom that has remained regular during the 7th Assembly where the two groups convene to discuss a range of issues and topics related to their tenures. The IAC addressed the following matters at the 2024 retreat:

- Challenges faced due to ongoing geopolitical conflicts.
- Status of bilateral relations
- IAC support of the foreign missions
- Status of tourism promotion and marketing.
- Training and capacity building for staff and MNAs

The Ambassadors present at the retreat were as listed

- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa - **Amb. Claude Morel**
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles based at Headquarters - **Amb. Selby Pillay**
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles based at Headquarters - **Amb. Berly Samson**
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - **Amb. Conrad Mederic**
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Delhi, Republic of India - **Amb. Lalatiana Accouche**

- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Beijing, People’s Republic of China – *Amb. Anne Lafortune*
- Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations, New York, United States of America - *Amb. Ian Madeleine*
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium – *Amb. Kenneth Racombo*
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Paris, Republic of France – *Amb. Georges Tirant*
- Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates – *Amb. Gervais Moumou*

### **MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

On 16th October 2024, the International Affairs Committee (IAC) of the National Assembly of Seychelles, represented by Vice-Chairperson Hon. Wavel Woodcock, met with a delegation from the European Union (EU), headed by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Oskar Benedikt. Other EU Ambassadors present were namely, France, Poland, Sweden, Finland and the Czech Republic. The meeting highlighted the positive impact of EU-Seychelles cooperation, particularly through bilateral and multilateral agreements such as the Fisheries Agreement. Discussions also addressed Seychelles' classification as a High-Income Country and its implications for financial aid, the Extradition Agreement with France, and ongoing challenges including tourism decline due to ongoing conflicts, marine security, drug trafficking, and climate change. The EU delegation introduced the European Solidarity Action for Seychelles aimed at supporting environmental and renewable energy initiatives. Hon. Woodcock expressed gratitude and reaffirmed the IAC’s commitment to strengthening ties with the EU.

### **MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL RADIATION MANAGEMENT**

The International Affairs Committee (IAC), led by Chairperson Hon. William convened a follow-up inquiry with the National Radiation Management Committee on 25th October 2024 to further deliberate on Seychelles' preparedness for the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). The primary objective was to assess the country’s existing radiation safety mechanisms and regulatory framework. Key discussions focused on the mandate of the Radiation and Safety Unit, including its role in policy development, regulatory enforcement, compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) protocols, and the maintenance of a national radiation source register. The meeting also highlighted the challenges faced by the Committee whose composition includes representatives from various national agencies. Notably, the Radiation Safety and Security Act 2014 was identified as undergoing revision to strengthen national policies and regulations on radiation safety and security.

## CHAPTER FOUR VISITS OF THE COMMITTEE

While no formal site visits were conducted in 2024, the Committee participated in regional and international forums through its delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), SADC-PF and Pan-African Parliament (PAP), contributing to discussions on:

- Climate resilience and SIDS representation
- Governance and peace-building
- Trade and regional cooperation

## CHAPTER FIVE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recognising that 2025 is an election year the Committee is resolved on building on the momentum of 2024, the **Committee recommends** the following strategies for 2025:

- **Enhanced Legislative Calendar:** Continue using a provisional calendar to streamline engagements and ensure timely follow-ups.
- **Advance International Agreement Review Processes:** Develop a digital repository of signed but unratified treaties to streamline review and ratification processes
- **Foreign Policy Oversight:** Monitor implementation of Foreign Policy matters and support legislative development.
- **Deepen Thematic Focus Areas:** Strengthen engagement and advocacy on key areas including **climate justice, tourism resilience and trade facilitation.**

## **CHAPTER SIX CONCLUSION**

The Committee's work in 2024 reflected a renewed commitment to international engagement, legislative oversight, and strategic diplomacy. The successful ratification and accession of key conventions and the initiation of policy dialogues underscore the Committee's evolving role in shaping Seychelles' global footprint.

The Committee extends its appreciation to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Clerk, and Secretariat for their continued support. Special thanks are given to the Committee Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their dedication and professionalism.

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson commend all Members for their active participation and look forward to a productive 2025.