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**Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal
Periodic Review***

Seychelles

* * The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Seychelles was held at the 11th meeting on 25 January 2016. The delegation of Seychelles was headed by H.E. Ambassador Barry Faure (Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs Department). At its 17th meeting held on 28 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Seychelles.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Seychelles: Albania, Kenya and Portugal.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Seychelles:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SYC/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SYC/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SYC/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Seychelles through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Seychelles explained that Seychelles was a young Republic and a multi-party democracy, built upon the foundations of a strong culture of respect for human rights, social justice, equality and non-discrimination. It added that since its last UPR in 2011, significant strides had been made in terms of the promotion and protection of the human rights.
6. Regarding the rights of the child, the delegation noted that Seychelles was committed to ensure that they were fully respected, promoted and protected. In February 2015, the Seychelles' Government set up a dedicated Police Child Protection Team, which specializes in child protection cases and responds to instances of neglect and child abuse, allowing such cases to be processed by law enforcement in an efficient manner. The delegation added that numerous sensitization programmes continued to be held on preventing and combatting child abuse and that a Juvenile Detention Centre was currently under development.
7. The delegation reported that Seychelles ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and also signed the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure.

8. In terms of education, the delegation stated that Seychelles provided free primary and secondary education to all children and that compulsory secondary schooling was increased by one year as of 2016, bringing the total years of compulsory education to eleven.. It also mentioned the Education Medium Term Strategy 2013-2017 and beyond which ensures that necessary investments were made in the sector of education.

9. The delegation noted that Seychelles remained fully committed to fighting violence against women through prevention, protection and prosecution. In this view, the National Action Plan for Gender Based Violence (GBV) 2011-15 focused on a review and harmonization of existing laws on GBV, sensitization of front line enforcement officials, public education campaigns, and mainstreaming of gender perspectives into national development plans. The delegation highlighted that the Government of Seychelles was in the process of developing specific legislation on domestic violence, towards which wide consultation was taking place.

10. The delegation reported the enactment of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act in 2014, formalizing legislative and administrative measures to effectively combat this crime, as well as the establishment of a National Coordination Committee on Trafficking in Persons.

11. The delegation recalled that Seychelles had undergone free, fair and peaceful presidential elections in December 2014, whereby the incumbent President, Mr James Alix Michel, was re-elected. The elections were observed by local, regional and international organizations. The delegation explained that following Seychelles' first UPR cycle, a fully-fledged Electoral Commission had been established and the Elections Act and Political Parties Act had been modified.

12. Regarding the right of freedom of expression, the delegation noted that license fees to operate media establishments had been significantly reduced through legislative amendments. It added that there were an increase in the number of newspaper outlets as well as the opening of a new radio station and the introduction of a new Internet Protocol TV. Furthermore, Seychelles is starting to work on legislation on access to information.

13. The delegation noted that Seychelles had launched its third "National Drug Control Master Plan" in 2014, which was developed in recognition of the need for a coherent and holistic national response.

14. The delegation reported that Seychelles had established a National AIDS Council to improve upon the national response to HIV/AIDS. A policy entitled "Test and Treat" was also put in place in 2014, as part of the global strategy to reach zero deaths from HIV and AIDS infection by the year 2030.

15. The delegation stated that health education was provided to children in school, including sex education. Furthermore, Seychelles is currently in the process of finalizing two documents, namely the National policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the National Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Policy, which aim to respond effectively to the various sexual health challenges of the country.

16. The delegation noted that Seychelles remained committed to fostering non-discrimination and equality for persons with disabilities. For instance, the National Employment Policy promotes employment without discrimination, including for persons with disabilities. The delegation added that the Government was in the final stages of approving the National Policy and Strategic Framework for Disability, which seeks to empower persons with disabilities to claim their rights as citizens, and to change stereotypes regarding them.

17. The delegation stated that the authorities were reviewing the National Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman Office of Seychelles, in order to strengthen both

institutions. Seychelles looks forward to having a National Human Rights Institution which is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

18. Regarding the penitentiary system, the delegation noted that refurbishments had been conducted on in the main prison, which now includes, among others, a medical facility, auditorium, classroom, library, gymnasium, and laundry room. A unit for vulnerable prisoners, such as those who are at risk of harm, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, is also under construction. The delegation added that numerous measures had been put in place for prisoners' rehabilitation, including the Resettlement Day Release Programme and an Outreach Programme, which allows prisoners to leave the prison to do voluntary work in the community.

19. The delegation reported that following UPR recommendations received in 2011, Seychelles issued a standing invitation to the special procedures. Since then, Seychelles hosted the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. Both rapporteurs issued recommendations which the Government is in the process of implementing.

20. The delegation recalled that the Seychelles Treaty Committee on Human Rights had been established in 2012. This coordinative Committee, composed of governmental and non-governmental agencies, is primarily tasked to assist in the preparation of treaty reports, to ensure the dissemination of treaties and treaty body recommendations, as well to promote the conformity of national laws with accepted human rights standards. The delegation reported that since its last review, Seychelles had submitted reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Protection of the rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Reports under other treaty bodies are also being finalized.

21. Concerning the Treaty Committee on Human Rights, the delegation added that it was also charged with overseeing the development of a five year National Action Plan on Human Rights that should be adopted and implemented very soon.

22. The delegation took the opportunity of the UPR to present its call for the world to pay attention to the issue of the protection of the environment and especially the reduction of gas emissions, given the irrefutable link between climate change, environment and human rights. The delegation further called for this issue to continue being formally and urgently addressed under the legal frameworks of the UN and the Human Rights Council. The delegation reported the creation a new governmental Department for Climate Change and Energy, as well the adoption of numerous measures and projects to mitigate the effects of climate change in Seychelles, which include flood mitigation, increased drainage, and recharging sandbanks.

23. The delegation also noted that Seychelles had been advocating the concept of the Blue Economy, which refers to those economic activities that directly or indirectly take place in the ocean and coastal areas, use outputs from the ocean, place goods and services into activities, and the contribution of those activities to economic growth, and social, cultural and environmental well-being. A new Blue Economy Department has been established under the Governmental Structure to implement this goal.

24. To conclude, the delegation stated that Seychelles remained dedicated to progress and improvement in human rights and would continue working with the civil society and the National Human Rights Commission in the follow-up of today's dialogue.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 60 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the progress achieved in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the efforts of the Government to uphold children's rights, such as the adoption of a national plan for child protection and setting up awareness programs to combat violence against children.

27. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland applauded Seychelles for its recent Presidential election, peaceful but contested. It welcomed the replacement of the Public Order Act with more progressive legislation. It expressed concern that the National Human Rights Commission did not comply with the Paris Principles.

28. The United States of America noted the recent presidential election with the participation of international and local observers but was concerned by reports that some candidates were not able to exercise freedom of expression and association. It commended the Constitutional Court's decision to strike down the Public Order Act.

29. Uruguay commended Seychelles for extending a standing invitation to special procedures and receiving two rapporteurs. It expressed concern about the absence of a definition and explicit prohibition of discrimination against women. It welcomed that the Education Act was being revised to eliminate corporal punishment of children in schools.

30. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the efforts of the Government to implement the recommendations of its first UPR despite the delicate situation generated by climate change. It welcomed the ratification of OP-CRC-SC and the implementation of the National Plan to combat domestic violence.

31. Zambia welcomed the appointment of women in decision making positions and the measures taken to prevent violence against women. It regretted that the police could detain a person for 24 hours without a charge, the fact that domestic violence was not criminalised and the high prevalence of sexual exploitation.

32. Zimbabwe welcomed that Seychelles was constantly improving the existing human rights legislation. It commended a number of measures to protect the rights of women including the appointment of women to high-level decision-making positions and the adoption of a National Plan to combat gender based violence.

33. Algeria commended Seychelles for the important reforms adopted since 2011 in the fight against human trafficking, protection of the environment, food security of the population and management of disasters. It noted with satisfaction the efforts to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights.

34. Angola appreciated the determination with which Seychelles continued to review and strengthen its national legislation to make it compatible with the promotion and protection of human rights. It supported Seychelles in its efforts to combat crime and amend its penal code relating to the minimum age of crime.

35. Argentina welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations received during the first cycle, in particular the measures taken to improve the education system and guaranteeing the right to education.

36. Australia noted the recent focus on good governance and encouraged the Government to ensure that democracy and rule of law are upheld through transparent, strong, effective and independent institutions, including the Human Rights Commission. It expressed concern regarding freedom of expression and commended efforts to address

domestic violence.

37. Benin appreciated the national framework plan against drugs 2014-2018, the advancement of gender equality in national development plans, the appointment of women at high-level decision making positions, the National Action Plan for Gender Based Violence 2011-2015, and the enactment of the law on domestic violence.

38. Botswana noted policies addressing human trafficking, gender-based violence, education, food security and administration of justice. It welcomed the Police Child Protection Team and asked more information on how the team operated and whether it had registered any significant achievements. Reports of judicial corruption were still worrying.

39. Brazil welcomed the National Gender Policy and Plan of Action and the Gender and Law Manual. It was pleased about progress in Seychelles' penitentiary system, including the opportunity for inmates to take courses and implementation of the Resettlement Day Release, and Outreach Programmes. It acknowledged amendment of the Probation of Offenders Act.

40. Burundi welcomed measures concerning the rights of children, women, and persons with disabilities and the right to health. It congratulated Seychelles for establishing the Human Rights Treaty Committee and its cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders, to whom it had issued a standing invitation.

41. Cabo Verde noted that the National Action Plan on Human Rights would be an important framework for human rights efforts. Institutional solutions concerning the right to information and independence of the media should be pursued. Cabo Verde hoped that the small island state of Seychelles would benefit from substantial international cooperation.

42. Canada commended Seychelles for its commitment to the principles of equal opportunity and social justice through targeted social programmes and investments in healthcare and education. It encouraged continued efforts in these areas.

43. Chad noted that Seychelles were a party to most of the international legal instruments and cooperated with treaty bodies, both at the regional and international levels. It also noted Seychelles' legislative and institutional framework to strengthen the rights of children, women, and persons with disabilities, the media and press.

44. Chile valued the information contained in the National Report that reflected progress in the area of human rights.

45. China appreciated the efforts made by Seychelles to implement first cycle recommendations related to the enhancement of human rights mechanisms and the rule of law, and improve the cooperation with human rights bodies. It noted the progress achieved in the enjoyment of the rights to education and health.

46. On the comment made on children' participation, the delegation of Seychelles stated that this issue was of great importance for the Government and this participation was encouraged through many platforms, such as the National Youth Assembly and the National Youth Committee.

47. On the question of the Government's plans to improve the electoral process in advance of Assembly Elections in 2016, the delegation noted the Electoral Reform Process which had been undertaken from 2011 to 2013, which had already brought significant legislative amendments and improvements to electoral processes. The delegation also noted that further changes to the electoral process must be initiated by the Electoral Commission, which the Government can subsequently consider.

48. Regarding the query on how the Government intends to improve the Ombudsman and National Human Rights Commission to enable them to meet international standards,

the delegation stated that the Government initiated the review of the legal and administrative frameworks of the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman, in view of strengthening both institutions and making them fully Paris Principles compliant. The delegation added that the Government recognized that both institutions required further human and financial resources in order to fulfil their mandates effectively, and would address this challenge as part of the review.

49. On the issue of when the Government of Seychelles intends to repeal section 151 of the Penal Code to decriminalize same sex relationships, the delegation reported that the Government was conducting an overarching review of the Penal Code, under which Section 151 would also be considered. No decision has been taken as to whether Section 151 will be amended. The delegation noted that no person had ever been tried under Section 151(c) on the basis of their sexual orientation.

50. Regarding the question on the steps undertaken to prevent domestic violence, the delegation replied that sensitization programmes were used to educate the general population at all levels. The Government is also placing a lot of emphasis on capacity building of law enforcement officers. The delegation added that victims of domestic violence could seek for protection orders under the Family Violence Protection of Victims Act through the Family Tribunal. This Tribunal will be placed under the administration of the Supreme Court in a near future. The delegation stated that a new Police Child Protection Team had been established in 2015 to respond to child's abuse and police stations had been decentralised to facilitate reporting of domestic violence cases. Furthermore, a Domestic Violence Bill is expected to be adopted this year.

51. On the question on Seychelles' plans to decriminalise defamation and what measures had been taken to ensure that restrictions on freedoms of expression and opinion were compliant with international standards, the delegation recalled that these freedoms were fundamental rights protected in the Constitution. However, the delegation noted that a balancing act was needed when human rights conflict with one another, for example the right to privacy and dignity versus the freedom of expression. According to the delegation, the provision of defamation is necessary to maintain the effective protection of persons and prevent infringements of fundamental rights.

52. Regarding the implementation of social policies, the delegation reported that in 2011, the country had launched a Social Renaissance Campaign aimed at strengthening social policies. A national policy on family awaits governmental approval and a policy on elderly is currently under development.

53. To reply to comments on freedom of expression for political parties, the delegation stated that all political parties, including the opposition ones, had equal access to media. The Elections Act allows every registered candidate to broadcast matters related to elections. Taking note that there had been complaints that one or two candidates had not the right to express themselves, the delegation stated that there had been total freedom of expression and equal access to media.

54. With regards to the efforts made by Seychelles to promote gender mainstreaming and to provide a specific definition to discrimination of women under the law, the delegation made a few comments. It stated that the National Gender Management Team, composed of state and non-state actors, continued to provide support and directions for gender mainstreaming initiatives within the national institutions. It added that the Constitution guarantees that every person has the right of an equal protection of the law without any discrimination on any grounds. Finally, the delegation noted that a Gender and Law Manual had been published in 2013 to guide the judiciary to interpret the laws in a manner consistent with the human rights obligations.

55. On the issue of the detention of persons over 24 hours without a charge, the

delegation stated that 24 hours gave the time to the police to investigate the alleged offence against the suspect in accordance with the Penal Code and the Constitution.

56. Pakistan commended measures to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman Office, the legal and judicial system, rights of women such as the National Action Plan for Gender-based Violence, rights of persons with disabilities, rights of migrant workers and measures against human trafficking.

57. The Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated Seychelles for providing housing to its citizens, especially through programmes concerning social housing and aiming at allowing citizens to own their own housing. It noted that the Ombudsman also being President of the National Human Rights Commission, did not guarantee the independence of these institutions.

58. Denmark welcomed that Seychelles accepted recommendations to ratify OP-CAT during its first UPR and hoped steps were being taken towards this. It noted Seychelles' initial report to the Committee against Torture was long overdue. It highlighted that the Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to assist Seychelles on these issues.

59. Djibouti commended the literacy rate among women but was concerned at social obstacles young pregnant women were facing in continuing their schooling. Persons with disabilities did not have adequate access to health care, information, education and decent work. It referred to the Committee on the Rights of the Child's finding that children with disabilities were not fully integrated in the school system.

60. Egypt commended progress on rights of children, women and persons with disabilities, political participation, education and health. It acknowledged the Seychelles Human Rights Treaty Committee and implementation of a legal and policy framework on human trafficking. It was encouraged by the development of a National Action Plan on Human Rights.

61. Ethiopia commended the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, the Food Act and the Local Government Act. Seychelles' submission of treaty reports and establishment of the Human Rights Treaty Committee, amidst its financial and expert constraints, demonstrated political commitment. Ethiopia called upon the international community for financial and technical assistance.

62. Fiji noted Seychelles faced unique human rights challenges as a Small Island Developing State. It would be important to make a linkage on how climate change consequences impact on the rights of Seychelles' citizens. It was concerned about over reliance on pre-trial detention and increase in prison population.

63. Germany commended Seychelles for its engagement with international human rights mechanisms and its willingness to further improve the legislative framework for human rights.

64. Ghana recognized the 2014 Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act. It was concerned that contrary to its prohibition in the Children's Act, corporal punishment was still prevalent in homes, penal institutions, day care centres and schools.

65. Haiti noted Seychelles' self-evaluation of the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman, in order to bring them into compliance with the Paris Principles.

66. The Holy See acknowledged the development of a five year National Action Plan on Human Rights and recognized the attention given to promoting education through the Education Medium Term Strategy 2013-17 and Beyond.

67. India encouraged the Government to further review the effectiveness of the current

framework of the National Human Rights Commission and welcomed the efforts to eliminate the judicial backlog. It also encouraged Seychelles to continue harmonizing domestic legislation with CRC and to take a systematic approach to gender mainstreaming.

68. Indonesia welcomed the efforts to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission in conformity with the Paris Principles and develop a National Action Plan on Human Rights. It also recognised the measures taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of international human rights instruments ratified by Seychelles.

69. Iraq expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Government to implement first cycle recommendations. It noted the achievements of the Government in the area of human rights such as the establishment of a national human rights commission and the adoption of a Medium-term Strategy for the Education Sector 2013-2017.

70. Jamaica noted that since its first review, Seychelles had made strides in reforming and enacting legislation in various areas, in cooperation with civil society and the international community. It commended the Government for its advocacy on behalf of the Blue Economy, Climate Change and strides made in renewable energy.

71. Libya commended Seychelles for the positive developments since the first cycle of its UPR, including a national campaign to combat smoking and the adoption of the Flexible Employment Programme aimed at increasing employment opportunities for vulnerable groups.

72. The Maldives noted high levels of educational enrolment and achievement of girls. It encouraged Seychelles to continue reaching out to international partners, including OHCHR for financial and technical assistance and commended Seychelles for raising challenges of Small Island Developing States in international fora, and for initiatives combating effects of climate change.

73. With regards to the concrete measures that the Government was taking to shorten the length of pre-trial detention, the delegation of Seychelles indicated that the Strategic Plan of the Judiciary 2010-14 recognized case backlogs as a key area in need of attention, and significant improvements had been made in this view. The number of judges has been increased and the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal have moved into new premises, enabling the improved use of technology in court proceedings, which has allowed for easier disposal of cases and reduction of delays. The introduction of an electronic case flow management system has also improved upon the speed and efficacy of case flow management. The delegation stated that such measures had led to all criminal cases filed prior to 2008 having been concluded in the Court of Appeal, Magistrate Court and Supreme Court. 96 percent of ongoing cases are those that were filed from 2013 to 2015.

74. On the question on the ways in which Seychelles enforced existing laws to protect women and children from domestic violence and abuse, the delegation noted that domestic violence and gender based violence cases can often go unreported – an unfortunate occurrence seen across the world. It added that legislative measures against domestic and gender-based violence must be implemented in a cohesive and harmonized manner in order to effect change. In this view, numerous awareness raising activities and training sessions have been held for law enforcement officers, social workers and health workers, in order to build upon their capacities and skills with regards to responding to, identifying and prosecuting cases of domestic and gender based violence, as well as providing effective protection to victims.

75. The delegation recalled that a new Police Child Protection Team had been established in February 2015 specifically to respond to cases of child abuse. The Director for Social Services is also empowered by the Children's Act to intervene in ongoing cases for the protection of children when the need arises.

76. Towards the question on what concrete measures Seychelles was taking to enhance the plurality in the media, the delegation reported that Seychelles had made amendments which significantly reduce the license fees for the operation of commercial radio, television and newspaper outlets. The delegation stated that the Government continued fostering an atmosphere that was conducive to imparting and receiving diverse points of views.

77. The delegation stated that the Government treated the issue of drugs and narcotics with the greatest seriousness. It has set up a Detox Unit and Wellness Centre which provide rehabilitation services for drug users. The delegation added that the authorities continued to liaise with its international partners for further supports, especially for capacity building and training of staff. Furthermore, Seychelles implements strict laws on the use and trafficking of drugs and can impose a life sentence upon the perpetrators of drug trafficking.

78. The delegation noted that efforts to improve the access to services, such as education and health, to persons with disabilities were ongoing. It mentioned that a National Policy and an Action Plan on Disability had been finalised; the Inclusive Policy on Education and Training was adopted in 2014 and the National Council for the Disabled continued to undertake actions towards disability mainstreaming.

79. Regarding the issue of outstanding reports under treaty bodies, the delegation stated that Seychelles' resources were very tight and it was difficult to keep up with the heavy reporting burden. However, as mentioned in the introductory statement, Seychelles has submitted various reports since its last review.

80. The delegation noted that Seychelles would carefully study the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in view of possible signature and ratification.

81. The delegation stated that the Minister of Education's policy allowed for teenage mothers to continue to go school while pregnant and to come back to school after giving birth. Teenage mothers support from different government agencies to continue their education if they choose to.

82. The delegation reported that the Education Act will be amended to prohibit corporal punishment in schools.

83. On the question of improving the education, the delegation mentioned that the Education Medium Strategy 2015-2017 covers 13 main components and related interventions or actions and that Seychelles would receive the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank regarding the implementation of this Strategy.

84. With regards to the question of strengthening the Gender Secretariat, the delegation recalled that this Secretariat had a monitoring and evaluation role. It develops policies and guidelines and seeks to mainstream gender across the sectors. The Government is committed to strengthen the Gender Secretariat but it is also affected by human resources constraints that the country faces in many expert fields.

85. Mauritius commended multiple developments, including enhancing the credibility of the electoral process and congratulated the successful 2015 elections. It commended the development of a National Action Plan on Human Rights and acknowledged initiatives boosting economic prosperity. Mauritius encouraged Seychelles to pursue awareness-raising efforts on workers' rights issues.

86. Mexico welcomed the progress made by Seychelles in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle, in particular the adoption of a Gender Policy and Plan of Action to eliminate gender inequality. It also praised the national policy aimed at guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities.

87. Montenegro noted concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and asked Seychelles about steps undertaken to protect children. It wanted to learn more about

investigation of domestic violence cases, the adoption of a comprehensive law specifically criminalizing domestic violence, including marital rape, and activities strengthening victim assistance and rehabilitation.

88. Morocco commended Seychelles Human Rights Treaty Committee and the Institute of Early Childhood Development. It encouraged Seychelles to request technical assistance to strengthen its National Human Rights Commission and bring it into compliance with the Paris Principles. Morocco underlined efforts to promote equality in the workplace.

89. Namibia applauded Seychelles for their legislative reforms such as the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, the Animal and Biosecurity Act, the Food Act and the Disaster Management Act, and for strides made since 2011 towards eliminating case backlogs in the criminal justice system.

90. The Netherlands welcomed the inclusion of a wide range of women's rights in national legislation and the high level of female representation in national institutions, but remained concerned about the state of enforcement of the legislature eliminating gender-based violence.

91. Niger noted with satisfaction the reinforcement of the legislative framework on media independence and radio broadcasting, the prohibition of trafficking in persons, protection of victims of trafficking and prevention measures. It welcomed the creation of the institute for the development of youth.

92. Nigeria commended efforts at promoting the right of the child through, *inter alia*, the revamping of the National Commission for Child Protection and the establishment of a Police Child Protection Team, and the enactment of the Local Government Act of 2015 aimed at involving people in local governance and decision making processes.

93. Cuba noted the progress achieved in the protection of the rights of the child, the provision of primary health services to the entire population and in protecting the rights of people with disabilities. It also commended the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights Treaties.

94. Panama recalled that, as a result of the first UPR of Seychelles, the Government established a national human rights institution and passed laws aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights.

95. The Philippines welcomed the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Treaty Committee. It was concerned with the apparent lack of strategy on promoting education and continued lack of appropriate treatment accorded to persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees as well as inadequate freedom of expression.

96. Portugal welcomed the standing invitation to the special procedures. It also commended Seychelles for considering establishing an inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations. Portugal was concerned about the incidence of sexual exploitation of children, including child sex tourism.

97. Senegal welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission; the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office as well as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. It called on the international community to provide Seychelles with the necessary assistance.

98. Singapore commended Seychelles' efforts to provide full access to safe water and sanitation for all persons in the country and also welcomed its commitment to the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in prison in order to help them to gain vocational skills and employment by the national programs created.

99. Slovenia was concerned about the child legislation which has not been yet fully aligned with the CRC and about the lack of a comprehensive and systematic approach to gender mainstreaming; also regretted the reports of a persistence of stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in family and society.

100. South Africa commended Seychelles for its political will and efforts in promoting and protecting the human rights in its country including the adoption of several legislative and institutional measures as well as the noticeable women representation in decision making bodies and the roll-out of the Housing Programme and Education Strategy.

101. Spain commended Seychelles for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol as it was recommended by Spain the previous review and also recognized the progress for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and the existence of a National Council for this matter

102. Togo commended Seychelles for its determination in its combat against the traffic in persons as well as for the creation of the National Commission for the Protection of the Child. It also welcomed the efforts undertaken to reform the judicial system to make it more efficient.

103. Trinidad and Tobago commended Seychelles for the introduction of several pieces of legislation and review of policies relating to, *inter alia*, early childhood development, tertiary education, employment and health. It added that programmes for rehabilitation, reconciliation and reintegration into Seychellois society were exemplary.

104. Noting that Seychelles had already signed several international agreements on corruption, Turkey encouraged the Seychelles' Government to start the enactment process of the law establishing an independent anti-corruption commission. It commended Seychelles for having issued a standing invitation to the special procedures.

105. Ukraine was pleased to observe that in 2015, the presidential elections had been held in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and that the fundamental rights of electorate had been respected. It also acknowledged positive developments in the legislative process, in particular the adoption of legal acts in the areas of education, media and security.

106. Aware of the impact of climate change on Small Island Developing Nations, Italy welcomed the Government's leadership and efforts on this issue and the decision to progressively increase the use of renewable sources of energy. It praised the attention devoted to women's and children's rights.

107. France commended the enactment of the 2014 Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act and the ratification of the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

108. The delegation of Seychelles responded to the advance question on the achievements of the National Commission for Child Protection with regards to the improvement of the system of protection of children and adolescents, and the reform of the Education Act with specific reference to corporal punishment. The National Commission for Child Protection was set up under the Children Act in 2005 as an advisory body bringing together all stakeholders to propose policies and advise Government on all matters pertaining to child protection. The delegation noted that since its inception, the Commission had coordinated actions to domesticate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and had validated the reports to the UN Committee on the Convention. The Education Act is in the process of being reformed, and is going through the necessary governmental approval processes.

109. On the question of what laws, campaigns or policies have been enacted since the last cycle to eliminate gender inequalities in access to opportunities and remuneration for men

and women, and whether a gender perspective been incorporated into other national development plans, the delegation noted that the National Employment Policy of 2014 seeks to promote gender equality and aimed to put in place mechanisms to ensure equal and fair treatment for both men and women. Mainstreaming gender into National Development Plans is an ongoing activity and is supported by the National Gender Management Team. The delegation mentioned that the National Gender Policy was expected to be launched during the first quarter of this year.

110. Regarding the advance question on efforts made to improve the capacities of the police and national security forces vis-à-vis human rights, the delegation responded that modules on human rights as well as humanitarian law had been incorporated into the Police Academy. Specific trainings on issues such as gender based violence and trafficking in persons have also been held for front-line law enforcement officials. The delegation added that in light of Seychelles' fight against piracy and the capture and prosecution of Somali pirates, Seychelles defence forces had received capacity building and training, which had improved upon the skills of national security forces to treat captured pirates in a manner that is fully respectful of human rights.

111. The delegation responded to the advance question on the implementation of its former recommendation issued in 2011 regarding access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the current status of these services. As of 2010, 93 percent of households in Seychelles had treated water, and 97 percent of the population had sanitation facilities. The delegation added that the Public Utilities Corporation in Seychelles continued to strive towards ensuring full access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons. With regards to sanitation, refurbishment of existing sewer networks is ongoing, and there are plans to expand the existing networks.

112. The delegation stated that the Government was considering the provisions of the Kampala Amendments and their implications for implementation in order to determine Seychelles' position towards ratification.

113. The delegation mentioned that Seychelles was currently developing specific legislation to address domestic violence and that the Penal Code already criminalises any sexual assault or rape.

114. On the protection of children's rights, the delegation recalled what it said earlier that a new Police Child Protection Team had been established to respond to cases of child abuse and that the Director for Social Services could intervene in ongoing cases for the protection of children.

115. The delegation noted that a National Health Policy had been approved in 2015 and that a National Health Strategic Plan had been developed. It also thanked Cuba for providing technical assistance to the national health sector.

116. The delegation underlined that Seychelles already had an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights which plays a role in drafting the report under treaty bodies.

117. The delegation noted that Seychelles had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and was in the process to carry out consultations for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

118. On the issue of human rights education, the delegation mentioned that the secondary school students were taught their rights and freedoms which include Chapter III of the Constitution, the Seychelles' Charter on Fundamental Freedoms and Rights. Citizenship education has also been incorporated in primary school curriculum which touches upon human rights issues. The delegation added that the National Action Plan on Human Rights that the Government was working on was expected to develop a roadmap for human rights education.

119. To conclude, the delegation stated that the Government of Seychelles would study the recommendations received during the review with great interest and looked forward to communicating its views to the UPR Secretariat and the Troika in due course. It also reiterated the country's plea regarding the human rights and climate change. Noting that not enough had been done to prevent and to mitigate the erosion of the planet; the delegation called upon the States and organisations present at this session to push this agenda further at all fora for the right for Seychellois to exist now and in the future.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations[□]

120. The following recommendations will be examined by Seychelles which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:

- 120.1. **Ratify all the international instruments on human rights (Iraq);**
- 120.2. **Accede as soon as possible, to the human rights international instruments to which it is not yet a party (Uruguay);**
- 120.3. **Speed up Seychelles' domestic processes with the view to ratify international human rights treaties (Philippines);**
- 120.4. **Continue efforts with regard to the ratification and implementation of the core human rights treaties and develop further the institutional framework for the implementation of human rights standards contained therein (Slovenia);**
- 120.5. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 120.6. **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Benin);**
- 120.7. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Senegal);**
- 120.8. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Montenegro) (Morocco) (Panama) (Portugal) (Turkey);**
- 120.9. **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cabo Verde) (Spain);**
- 120.10. **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**
- 120.11. **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**
- 120.12. **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Benin);**
- 120.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Burundi) (Chile) (Portugal);**
- 120.14. **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,**

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- signed in 2007 (Senegal);
- 120.15. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chile);**
- 120.16. **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**
- 120.17. **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana) (Niger);**
- 120.18. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (Chile) (Montenegro);**
- 120.19. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as soon as possible (Germany);**
- 120.20. **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Cabo Verde);**
- 120.21. **Speed up the ratification procedure of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);**
- 120.22. **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 120.23. **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (Burundi);**
- 120.24. **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Chile);**
- 120.25. **Harmonize national legislations, including in particular human rights legislations, with international human rights standards (Philippines);**
- 120.26. **Enact legislations to combat domestic violence (Maldives);**
- 120.27. **Fully criminalise domestic violence against women and children, including marital rape and ensure that such acts are tried by Criminal courts as opposed to a family tribunal (Zambia);**
- 120.28. **Pass the Domestic Violence Act and ensure adequate resources and training for officials dealing with gender-based violence (Australia);**
- 120.29. **Ensure the participation of civil society in the drafting of a new law on domestic violence (Italy);**
- 120.30. **Adopt specific legislation and measures under the Human Rights National Plan to help prevent, prosecute and punish domestic violence against women and also to end women's discrimination within the society (Spain);**
- 120.31. **Continue taking measures to combat gender-based violence and to take further measures to ensure the effective implementation of laws offering protection against this violence (Namibia);**
- 120.32. **Take measures to ensure that existing laws criminalizing rape and domestic violence are fully enforced, and cases are fully investigated and prosecuted consistent with these laws (United States of America);**
- 120.33. **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women and a comprehensive law on violence against women that specifically criminalize domestic violence (Turkey);**
- 120.34. **Implement measures to improve enforcement of laws criminalizing**

rape and domestic violence, including by thoroughly investigating and prosecuting all acts of violence against women, and by providing training to law enforcement officials (Canada);

120.35. Amend the Criminal Code to raise the age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards (Chile);

120.36. Reform the juvenile justice system, raise the age of criminal responsibility, and safeguard the integrity of minors who are held in detention centres (Mexico);

120.37. Review the Penal Code so that the age of criminal responsibility is in accordance with relevant international standards (France);

120.38. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility according to the General Observation No. 10 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay);

120.39. Continue to enact specific legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Pakistan);

120.40. Amend laws that could contradict the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Panama);

120.41. Introduce a legal ban on various forms of violence against children in all settings (Ukraine);

120.42. Expressly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings including the home, penal institutions, schools and day care centres and also take steps to explicitly repeal the right “to administer proper punishment” in the Children’s Act (Ghana);

120.43. Ensure the explicit inclusion in the national legislation, of the prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment of minors, whether in the home, child care facilities, schools and education centres in general (Uruguay);

120.44. Criminalise the act of exploiting both boys and girls and the incidence of child tourism as well as prosecuting the perpetrators in travel and tourism industry by impose stiffer punishments on them (Zambia);

120.45. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Netherlands);

120.46. Reinforce the relevant legal framework in order to contrast discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Italy);

120.47. Implement its commitment to repeal Section 151 of the Penal Code to decriminalise same sex relationships (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.48. Repeal laws criminalising consensual, same-sex relationships between adults (Australia);

120.49. Repeal the provisions criminalizing same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults, to respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination among all persons (France);

120.50. Decriminalize consensual sex relations between adults of the same sex and strengthen legislation punishing all forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);

120.51. Expressly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and

gender identity, and decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults (Canada);

120.52. Guarantee that LGBTI persons fully enjoy their human rights, on equal terms, by repealing norms that criminalise and stigmatise them (Argentina);

120.53. Repeal national provisions that discriminate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same gender (Germany);

120.54. Strengthen legislative, policy and institutional measures to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking; and ensure that victims are identified, aware of their rights, and referred to appropriate services (Canada);

120.55. Amend the Public Order Act to allow for freedom of assembly and remove restrictions on freedom of the press by relaxing libel laws that could impede journalists (Australia);

120.56. Amend the Civil Code regarding defamation to be in line with international standards on the right to freedoms of expression and opinion (Botswana);

120.57. Review its legislation in order to protect and promote the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including on the internet, also providing protection to journalists against harassment by police and other authorities (Brazil);

120.58. Issue a law on freedom of the press (Iraq);

120.59. Allocate more resources to its human rights bodies in order to ensure their effective functioning in line with international standards (Turkey);

120.60. Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is in line with the Paris Principles and that the Ombudsman is fully independent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.61. Provide the National Human Rights Commission with all the necessary resources to make it fully compliant with the Paris Principles (A Status) (Portugal);

120.62. Accelerate the on-going exercise to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and to make it fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Zimbabwe);

120.63. Devote sufficient resources to the National Human Rights Commission (Algeria);

120.64. Complete the process of bringing the national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and allocating it the adequate resources (Cabo Verde);

120.65. Continue the necessary legal and institutional steps to reform the National Human Rights Commission so that it meets the Paris Principles (Germany);

120.66. Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the work of the National Human Rights Commission and establish a central mechanism for human rights education (Libya);

120.67. Provide all necessary resources, including financial and human

resources to the National Human Rights Commission to enhance its activities (Mauritius);

120.68. Ensure the independence and effectiveness of the National Commission on Human Rights, in particular through the allocation of adequate resources in order to bring it in conformity with the Paris Principles (France);

120.69. Expedite the review of the effectiveness of the current framework of the office of the National Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman (Ethiopia);

120.70. Proceed to the separation of the Ombudsman's Office and the National Human Rights Commission (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

120.71. Maintain and strengthen the institutional independence of the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Commission (Mexico);

120.72. Speed up the process to formulate a five years National Action Plan on Human Rights and implement it at an earlier time (China);

120.73. Finalize the ongoing five year National Action Plan on Human Rights and put in place the necessary mechanisms for its implementation (Ethiopia);

120.74. Do whatever is necessary to continue to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens (Nigeria);

120.75. Further strengthen measures to provide protection and support to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);

120.76. Ensure that human rights education and training addresses also the rights of the child and women's rights in a comprehensive and systematic way (Slovenia);

120.77. Finalise the draft national gender policy and its action plan (Turkey);

120.78. Finalise the National Gender Policy and its Plan of Action, so to further promote women's rights, and create an enabling environment for women (Italy);

120.79. Develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against ill-treatment of children (Turkey);

120.80. Consider establishing a coordination mechanism between stakeholders in charge of children rights to optimize child protection (United Arab Emirates);

120.81. Encourage the participation of children in all the programs and initiatives concerning them, whenever feasible (United Arab Emirates);

120.82. Take effective measures to fully implement its national framework plan against drugs for the period 2014 to 2018, in order to reduce the demand for drugs among the most vulnerable category of the population, namely children and young people (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

120.83. Ensure implementation of the country's National Drug and Control Master Plan in order to address the high prevalence of drug consumption (South Africa);

120.84. Step up national efforts in combatting all forms of human trafficking (Egypt);

120.85. Ensure the successful implementation of their National Action Plan

and Strategic Framework on Trafficking in Persons (Nigeria);

120.86. Ensure efficient implementation of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act to combat trafficking in human beings, by collecting data, improving the training of police officers and other law enforcement officials, strengthening mechanisms for investigating the criminal cases of trafficking and prosecuting and punishing traffickers (Slovenia);

120.87. Continue and enhance its efforts towards the full implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families (Indonesia);

120.88. Continue efforts aiming at enhancing human rights education including training and capacity-building for the public sector (Egypt);

120.89. Further involve civil society as a partner of the Government in promoting and protecting human rights (Indonesia);

120.90. Continue its collaboration with the UN to improve the submission of human rights reports (Jamaica);

120.91. Expedite the submission of reports to treaty bodies (Chad);

120.92. Take the necessary measures to submit overdue reports to treaty bodies (Togo);

120.93. Hand in its initial report to the Committee against Torture as soon as possible (Denmark);

120.94. Engage actively to implement treaty body recommendations (Slovenia);

120.95. Undertake necessary steps aimed at adopting a comprehensive strategy that addresses all forms of discrimination (Ukraine);

120.96. Prohibit discrimination on gender, disability, ethnicity and socioeconomic grounds, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of discrimination (Panama);

120.97. Continue taking measures to increase the participation of women in all social and economic spheres of Seychelles and continue implementing regulations to end all forms of discrimination against them (Pakistan);

120.98. Take measures to protect the rights of non-citizens and migrant workers, and eliminate discrimination against them in all areas (Mexico);

120.99. Adopt better measures on discrimination against migrants and non-citizens (Nigeria);

120.100. Ensure the protection of children of migrant workers from statelessness (Ukraine);

120.101. Take appropriate measures to facilitate family reunification of migrant workers and members of their families (Ukraine);

120.102. Continue to fight against all forms of discrimination affecting religious minorities (Angola);

120.103. The need for police officers to undergo compulsory training in the field of human rights (Zambia);

- 120.104. **Provide adequate resources and training, including to law enforcement officials, to ensure effective institutions that comply with human rights norms and standards (Australia);**
- 120.105. **Review its prison conditions in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and implement the results of such review before the third cycle of its UPR (Fiji);**
- 120.106. **Continue efforts to reduce pre-trial detention by expanding at the national level, the rehabilitation programme Coetivy (Haiti);**
- 120.107. **Improve the “Phoenix Programme” in order to facilitate the social integration of women upon their release from prison (Haiti);**
- 120.108. **Step up efforts to rehabilitate and re-integrate offenders, including through the introduction of formal education programmes in prisons (Singapore);**
- 120.109. **Take concrete measures to fight domestic violence, to prosecute perpetrators and to protect the victims of such practices, as well as to enhance the effectiveness and the financing of the police’s specialized unit, the “Family Squad” (Brazil);**
- 120.110. **Increase its efforts to safeguard women and children from domestic violence and to protect persons with disabilities (Holy See);**
- 120.111. **Continue efforts in the fight against impunity for domestic violence and develop accommodation facilities and support mechanisms for victims of such violence (France);**
- 120.112. **Continue pursuing child protection measures (Djibouti);**
- 120.113. **Take all necessary measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation (Portugal);**
- 120.114. **Spare no effort in fighting violence against children and the drug trafficking of which they are victims (Angola);**
- 120.115. **Intensify the Government's efforts with a view to the most effective protection possible against the risk of child sexual abuse (Cabo Verde);**
- 120.116. **Fully investigate alleged elections irregularities and ensure proper due process is followed in all court challenges (United States of America);**
- 120.117. **Ensure prompt access to justice for women victims of all forms of violence, as well as prosecute all acts of violence and punish the perpetrators (Mexico);**
- 120.118. **Adopt measures to combat corruption, especially in the judiciary and ensure independence of the judiciary (Botswana);**
- 120.119. **Increase efforts to fight against money laundering (Haiti);**
- 120.120. **Continue efforts to fully ensure respect for fundamental freedoms, especially the freedom of assembly and the freedom of association as well as the freedom of the press (France);**
- 120.121. **Enforce Seychelles’ international human rights obligations and constitutional guarantees regarding the rights to freedom of religion, association and expression (United States of America);**
- 120.122. **Establish clear processes and procedures for the selection of**

independent and impartial members of the National Media Commission (Germany);

120.123. Increase the financial resources and the staff of the National Media Commission so that it can carry out its mandate, promoting and protecting by this way the freedom of the press (Spain);

120.124. Continue to strengthen its social policies in order to provide the greatest possible well-being to its people, especially to the most vulnerable sectors (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

120.125. Continue to implement policies for development of its people under SDGs (Pakistan);

120.126. Initiate a national dialogue on a universal basic income (Haiti);

120.127. Organize awareness campaigns for foreign migrant workers about their social and economic rights and ensure that migrant workers enjoy treatment that is not less favourable than that which applies for nationals including through labour inspections in sector where migrant workers are employed (Slovenia);

120.128. Strengthen gender equality particularly for wage remuneration (Algeria)

120.129. Implement the "National Health Policy" as a way of promoting the right to health (Cuba);

120.130. Continue to strengthen policies and programmes to ensure that all in Seychelles have access to safe water and sanitation (Singapore);

120.131. Strengthen efforts aimed at improving the national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic (South Africa),

120.132. Establish protective measures that would allow young students to re-enter the mainstream education system after childbirth (Djibouti);

120.133. Put in place protection measures that would allow girls to return to school after giving birth and raise awareness with a view to eliminating the existing prejudices that impede and discourage teenage mothers from returning to school (Netherlands);

120.134. Prioritise the implementation of a formal education programme for incarcerated men, women and youth; with appropriate support from the private sector and civil society (Jamaica);

120.135. Continue its efforts in order to place a premium on education, particularly by assuring that there be a sufficient number of properly trained local teachers (Holy See);

120.136. Increase the inputs in education and give special attention to vocational training, improving quality of its labour force, and guarantee the right to work (China);

120.137. Renew its focus on technical and vocational training through its proposed Skill Development Programme for the youth (India);

120.138. Take measures to integrate technical vocational education and training into formal education (Maldives);

120.139. Continue pursuing initiatives at improving the educational system with a view to further developing technical and vocational education and

training (Trinidad and Tobago);

120.140. Integrate human rights education and training in the various levels of schooling (Morocco);

120.141. Maintain as a Government priority awareness and education on human rights (Cuba);

120.142. Enhance measures to ensure education for all (Namibia);

120.143. Continue to implement laws and regulations for protection and promotion of rights of people with disabilities (Pakistan);

120.144. Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the provision of adequate infrastructure (South Africa);

120.145. Adopt tangible actions to assist persons with disabilities, particularly in terms of access to labour market and fight against poverty and social exclusion (Spain);

120.146. Improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities, particularly children, to education and key services (Trinidad and Tobago);

120.147. Facilitate the access and integration of children with disabilities in public schools (Djibouti);

120.148. Provide children with disabilities greater access to facilities as well as to public transportation and public buildings, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and in keeping with the Government's existing thrust (Jamaica);

120.149. Explicitly task the department of Climate Change and Energy to examine the human rights implications of climate change, particularly as it relates to the State's ability to realise socio-economic rights (Fiji);

120.150. Continue to raise awareness among the population on the impact of climate change (Haiti).

121. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Seychelles was headed by H.E. Ambassador Barry Faure (Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs Department) and composed of the following members:

H.E. Ambassador Selby Pillay, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva;

Ms Michelle Sharon Marguerite, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Social Affairs, Community Development and Sports;

Ms Gayethri Murugaiyan, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport;

Ms Audrina Dine, Attaché/Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva;

Ms Gyllianne Irene Sirame, Assistant Legal Draftsperson, Attorney General’s Chambers.
