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Seychelles

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.



I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

1. International human rights treaties²

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1978)	OP-CRC-SC (2012)	OP-CAT
	ICESCR (1992)		ICPPED
	ICCPR (1992)		
	ICCPR-OP 2 (1994)		
	CEDAW (1992)		
	CAT (1992)		
	CRC (1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2010)		
	ICRMW (1994)		
	CRPD (2009)		
<i>Reservations and/or declarations</i>	OP-CRC-AC (declaration: art. 3(2), 2010)	-	-
<i>Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action³</i>	ICCPR-OP 1 (1992)	OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2011)	ICERD, art. 14
	CAT, arts. 20 (1992) and 22 (2001)	OP-CRC-IC (signature, 2013)	OP-ICESCR
	OP-CRPD (signature, 2007)		ICCPR, art. 41
			CAT, art. 21
			OP-CRC-IC (signature, 2013)
		ICRMW, arts. 76 and 77	
		OP-CRPD (signature, 2007)	
		ICPPED	

2. Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	-	-
	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	-	-
	Palermo Protocol ⁴		
	1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol	-	Conventions on stateless persons ⁵
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II ⁶	-	Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions ⁷
	ILO fundamental conventions ⁸	-	ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 ⁹
	Convention against Discrimination in Education	-	-

1. In 2011, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Seychelles to ratify OP-ICESCR, OP-CAT, OP-CRPD, ICPED and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹⁰ In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Seychelles to ratify ICPED.¹¹ In 2015, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families urged Seychelles to consider acceding to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),¹² and consider making the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of ICRMW enabling communications from States parties and individuals.¹³

2. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended that Seychelles ratify ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and other relevant ILO conventions against forced labour and exploitation.¹⁴

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. While welcoming the amendment to several pieces of legislation in the area of child rights, including the Children Act, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that certain relevant legislation had not yet been amended. It urged Seychelles to amend the remaining legislation contradicting CRC.¹⁵

4. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Seychelles direct its efforts towards the formulation of a migration law in line with the provisions of ICRMW and other relevant international instruments.¹⁶ The Committee also recommended that Seychelles review its legislation with a view to facilitating the rights of Seychellois migrant workers living abroad to participate in the public affairs of their State of origin and to vote and to be elected in elections in Seychelles.¹⁷

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that there was no legislation on freedom of information in the country. It

recommended that Seychelles draft a law on freedom of information following international standards.¹⁸

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

6. In 2011, while welcoming the establishment the same year of the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern at reports that those institutions did not have their own separate offices and staff.¹⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that the National Human Rights Commission had not applied for accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and encouraged Seychelles to strengthen the independence, effectiveness and visibility of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions (Paris Principles), and provide it with sufficient resources.²⁰ The Committee on Migrant Workers made similar observations and recommendations.²¹ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission be reviewed to ensure that children's rights were explicitly covered and given priority.²² The Special Rapporteur on trafficking advised that the National Human Rights Commission be strengthened and provided with funding that would enhance its effectiveness, in accordance with the Paris Principles.²³

7. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that the Ministry of Social Development and Culture was responsible for coordinating activities relating to children's rights, and recommended that Seychelles provide it with support and resources to fulfil its role effectively at national and district levels. The Committee also recommended that the mandate, membership and working conditions of the National Commission for Child Protection be reviewed.²⁴ The Committee encouraged the reactivation of the Observatory on the Rights of the Child in the Indian Ocean Region as a regional cooperation effort for monitoring compliance on children's rights.²⁵

8. While noting the National Plan of Action for Children 2005-2009, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the adoption of a new national plan of action linked to the national strategy for development "Strategy 2017: Creating our nation's wealth together".²⁶

9. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that Seychelles was increasingly dependent on non-governmental organizations and that it delegated many of its implementation obligations under CRC to civil society. It reminded Seychelles that it had primary responsibility for the implementation of CRC.²⁷

10. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Seychelles to take the steps necessary to ensure that comprehensive measures were in place for the dissemination of the Convention, and that migration-specific human rights training programmes were available for all public officials working in the area of migration.²⁸

11. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking recommended that Seychelles accelerate, in consultation with all stakeholders, the adoption of the national action plan to combat trafficking based on a human rights and victim-centred approach, and allocate an adequate budget for its implementation.²⁹

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on Racial Discrimination	August 1988 and March 1997 (in the absence of a report)	-	-	Sixth report overdue since 1989
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1994
Human Rights Committee	-	-	March 2011 (in the absence of a report)	Initial report initially overdue since 1993 and currently overdue since 2012
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	-	2011	October 2013	Sixth report due in 2017
Committee against Torture	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1993
Committee on the Rights of the Child	October 2002	-	October 2011	Combined fifth to sixth reports due in 2016; initial report on OP-CRC-AC overdue since 2012; initial report on OP-CRC-SC overdue since 2015
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	-	2015	September 2015	Second report due in 2020
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	2014	-	Initial report pending consideration

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2015	Machinery for women's advancement; violence against women ³⁰	-
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	2017	Conditions of employment of non-Seychellois workers; remittance flows; trafficking in persons ³¹	-

12. In 2011, the Human Rights Committee reviewed the situation of civil and political rights in Seychelles in the absence of a report, of a delegation and of replies to its list of issues adopted in 2010. Provisional concluding observations were sent to Seychelles with a request to submit its initial report by April 2012; Seychelles had responded that it would submit a report by that date. At its 102nd session in July 2011, the Human Rights Committee decided to wait for the State party to submit its report before taking matters any further.³²

B. Cooperation with special procedures³³

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	Yes
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	-	Education Trafficking
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	-	-
<i>Visits requested</i>	-	Adequate housing
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, one communication was sent. The Government did not reply to the communication.	

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

13. In 2011 and 2012, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided technical advice to Seychelles with regard to the common core document, treaty-specific guidelines, treaty body reporting, individual communications and follow-up to recommendations from human rights mechanisms.³⁴

14. In response to a request for financial and technical assistance from Seychelles to the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance, during 2015, OHCHR provided

technical assistance in the areas of juvenile justice and human rights education, strengthening the national human rights institution and training representatives of the National Council for Children, the police, and health, education and social services to be trainers on child protection.³⁵

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

15. The Human Rights Committee noted that the general clause on non-discrimination in the Constitution did not list the prohibited grounds as laid down in ICCPR.³⁶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Seychelles to amend its legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, socioeconomic background and ethnicity, and adopt a comprehensive strategy that addresses all forms of discrimination.³⁷

16. While welcoming efforts made with respect to gender equality, the Human Rights Committee noted the lack of a comprehensive and systematic approach to gender mainstreaming.³⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the absence of a specific definition and the prohibition of discrimination against women in the Constitution or in other appropriate legislation.³⁹

17. The Human Rights Committee urged Seychelles to ensure that gender mainstreaming was practised at all levels.⁴⁰ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Seychelles finalize the draft national gender policy and its action plan, strengthen policies and programmes addressing gender stereotyping and strengthen the Gender Secretariat, by providing it with authority, decision-making power and resources to promote gender equality.⁴¹

18. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about persisting traditional stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in the family and in society, which perpetuated gender inequality. It remained particularly concerned that no temporary special measures were in place to accelerate substantive equality between women and men in areas in which women remained underrepresented or disadvantaged. The Committee recommended that Seychelles include in its national gender policy comprehensive measures aimed at overcoming stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society.⁴²

19. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at alleged social barriers that impeded teenage mothers from returning to school after childbirth.⁴³ In that regard, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about cases of teenage girls who had dropped out of school owing to pregnancy.⁴⁴ The Human Rights Committee recommended that Seychelles 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.⁴⁵

20. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that section 155 (c) of the Criminal Code criminalized male homosexuality⁴⁶ and that according to section 151 (c), persons in a homosexual relationship were liable to imprisonment for 14 years.⁴⁷ The Committee recommended that Seychelles decriminalize consensual sexual acts between adults of the same sex.⁴⁸

21. According to information before the Human Rights Committee, Chagossians residing in Seychelles are subjected to discrimination in various aspects of daily life.⁴⁹

22. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern at reported discrimination against non-citizens, particularly in the construction, tourism and commercial fishing sectors,⁵⁰ and recommended that non-citizens not be subjected to discrimination in work-related matters.⁵¹

23. In 2014, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) requested Seychelles to detail the steps taken to promote equality in employment and occupation, irrespective of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin, and to provide information on the results achieved. The ILO Committee of Experts also requested Seychelles to provide information on the measures taken with respect to addressing discrimination and stigmatization of workers on the basis of their real or perceived HIV status.⁵²

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

24. While noting that the police had the power to detain a person for up to 24 hours and release him or her without charge, the Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports indicating that the police detained people for longer than the amount of time prescribed by law. The Committee was also concerned at reports that pretrial detention in the country could last up to 3 years. It recommended that Seychelles investigate allegations of abuse of the 24-hour detention period by the police; adequately compensate victims; and ensure that pretrial detention was an exceptional measure.⁵³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar observations and recommendations.⁵⁴

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the National Strategy for Domestic Violence 2008-2012 and the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence 2010-2011.⁵⁵ However, it remained concerned about the relatively high rate of violence against women, including domestic violence, and the lack of legal provisions specifically criminalizing domestic violence and marital rape.⁵⁶ The Human Rights Committee regretted that reported cases of domestic violence had allegedly doubled in the past six years and that the majority of cases of violence reported were violence against women and children.⁵⁷

26. The Human Rights Committee urged Seychelles to prevent domestic violence against women and children; address violence against women in both the family and society; thoroughly investigate cases of domestic violence, prosecute perpetrators and adequately compensate victims.⁵⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Seychelles to adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women and a comprehensive law on violence against women that specifically criminalizes domestic violence, including marital rape; ensure that acts of domestic violence were tried by the criminal courts rather than the Family Tribunal; and strengthen victim assistance and rehabilitation.⁵⁹

27. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about various forms of violence against children and in particular, that corporal punishment was allowed under the common law as the right to inflict “reasonable chastisement”. It encouraged Seychelles to explicitly prohibit by law corporal punishment of children in the family, schools, alternative care settings and penal institutions; develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against and ill-treatment of children; and introduce an explicit national legal ban on all forms of violence against children in all settings.⁶⁰ The Human Rights Committee⁶¹ and UNESCO⁶² made similar recommendations.

28. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned at the prevalence of sexual exploitation of both boys and girls and the incidence of child sex tourism.⁶³ It was also

concerned that Seychelles had not yet adopted measures to protect children from activities such as child sex tourism, child prostitution and child labour.⁶⁴ The Committee urged Seychelles to undertake a comprehensive study of the root causes of child sexual exploitation and child prostitution and propose durable solutions.⁶⁵ It also recommended that Seychelles protect children from violations of their rights arising in particular from tourism and encourage operators in the travel and tourism industry to adopt a code of conduct aimed at respecting the rights of children.⁶⁶

29. While welcoming the adoption of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2014 and the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons, the Committee on Migrant Workers was concerned at the lack of data on the extent of trafficking in the country; the lack of shelters for victims of trafficking in persons; and the lack of information on the measures taken to combat reported exploitation of prostitution in the country.⁶⁷ The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Seychelles collect data in order to effectively combat trafficking in human beings; step up campaigns on the prevention of trafficking and encourage the private sector to adopt a “zero tolerance” policy on trafficking; improve the training of police officers and other law enforcement officials regarding the struggle against human trafficking; strengthen mechanisms for investigating cases of trafficking and prosecuting and punishing traffickers; afford adequate protection and assistance to victims of trafficking; and intensify international, regional and bilateral cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.⁶⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women⁶⁹ and the ILO Committee of Experts⁷⁰ made similar recommendations.

30. On the same issue, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking recommended that Seychelles create and support adequately resourced programmes and institutions to provide short- and long-term assistance to victims of trafficking; put in place a free 24-hour confidential hotline/helpline for reporting suspected cases of trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers; make this hotline/helpline accessible to foreign victims of trafficking and ensure that it is serviced by multilingual staff who have received specialized training on trafficking in persons; and establish a comprehensive and non-discriminatory compensation scheme for victims of trafficking at the national level, including a common fund for victims of trafficking in the event of the insolvency of the perpetrators.⁷¹

C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

31. While noting the efforts made under the Judiciary’s Strategic Plan 2010-2014 to reform the judiciary in order to improve its efficiency, the Human Rights Committee remained concerned at reported judicial corruption. The Committee recommended that Seychelles ensure the independence of the judiciary and that it is not influenced by the executive branch and eradicate all forms of interference in the judiciary.⁷² The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Seychelles reform its judicial system.⁷³

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about obstacles faced by women in reporting cases of domestic violence and the very low conviction rate for cases of rape. It urged Seychelles to ensure expeditious access to justice for women victims of all forms of violence, prosecute such acts of violence and punish perpetrators.⁷⁴ The Committee also urged Seychelles to provide systematic training to judges, prosecutors, the police, law enforcement and medical personnel on procedures for dealing with victims of violence against women.⁷⁵

33. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking recommended that once the anti-trafficking law was in place, the Government should, through the Attorney General’s Office and the Supreme Courts, build the capacity of prosecutors, State counsels and judges, focusing on a

human rights-based approach to prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, including provision of effective remedies for victims of trafficking. In that regard, the Special Rapporteur recommended that technical assistance might be sought from relevant United Nations agencies and States.⁷⁶

34. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the legal requirement for applicants to the Constitutional Court to submit their cases within 30 days from the date on which the claim arises and that the 30-day limitation period for Constitutional Court cases could not be waived. The Committee recommended that Seychelles ensure that litigants have effective access to the Constitutional Court.⁷⁷

35. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that despite the official minimum age of criminal responsibility of 12 years, children between 8 and 12 years could be prosecuted under certain conditions. It recommended that Seychelles fully implement international juvenile justice standards.⁷⁸

36. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that some children were detained with adults in the Montagne Posee prison.⁷⁹ The Human Rights Committee recommended that Seychelles put in place a system to segregate juveniles from adult prisoners.⁸⁰

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

37. While noting that the Civil Code was being reviewed, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was particularly concerned about existing discriminatory provisions in the Status of Married Women Act, the Civil Status Act and the Civil Code; and the absence of legislation governing de facto unions. It recommended that Seychelles repeal discriminatory legal provisions relating to marriage and family relations and include in its current review of the Civil Code legal provisions governing de facto unions.⁸¹

38. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained deeply concerned that despite its previous recommendation, Seychelles had not amended its legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls, which was between 15 and 17 years with parental consent, to that for boys, which was 18 years. It urged Seychelles to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years.⁸² The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee made similar observations and recommendations.⁸³

39. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that a large proportion of orphaned children or children who could not live with their parents were informally fostered by relatives. It recommended that Seychelles review its policies on alternative care for children deprived of a family environment, with particular focus on the best interests of the child, and monitor and assess placements of children.⁸⁴

40. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that despite its previous recommendation, no law had been enacted to ensure the right of children born out of wedlock to know their biological fathers.⁸⁵

E. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

41. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the extensive list of grounds for limiting the right to freedom of opinion and expression under article 22 (2) of the Constitution. It was also concerned at reported defamation suits by government and public

officials to silence journalists and newspapers and that, as a result of the imposition of heavy fines for libel, some newspapers had been forced to suspend their operations. The Human Rights Committee urged Seychelles to ensure that restrictions imposed on freedom of opinion and expression, as well as legislation on defamation, were in line with the Covenant.⁸⁶ UNESCO recommended that Seychelles decriminalize defamation and place it within the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards.⁸⁷

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women acknowledged the high level of participation of women in political and public life, with a high proportion of women Members of the Parliament (43.8 per cent) and civil servants.⁸⁸ The Human Rights Committee expressed concern, however, that the number of women in decision-making positions still remained low in both political and public life, including in the National Assembly, the civil service and the judiciary. It recommended that Seychelles increase the number of women in decision-making positions in all spheres.⁸⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women specifically recommended that Seychelles increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in political parties and the number of women judges in the Appeal and Supreme Courts.⁹⁰

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

43. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern at allegations that decisions to recruit people into the public service were commonly based on political affiliation. It recommended that appropriate measures be taken to eradicate discrimination on the basis of political affiliation during recruitment into the public service.⁹¹

44. While noting efforts made to finalize the Employment Act, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the lack of a definition of sexual harassment; the wage gap between women and men and the absence of legal provisions on equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value; occupational segregation of women and men, especially vertical segregation in the higher occupational category of senior officials and managers; and the practice of terminating employment contracts when a woman was pregnant. The Committee recommended that the Employment Act clearly define and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace and include the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and that Seychelles address vertical and horizontal occupational segregation of women.⁹²

45. Although the Conditions of Employment Regulations, 1991, prohibits employment of children under the age of 15, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that national laws and regulations did not define the types of hazardous work prohibited to persons under 18 years. The Committee recommended that Seychelles reinforce the labour inspection system to detect children working in the informal sector and the tourism industry. It also urged Seychelles to draw up a list of hazardous work and establish the legal requirement for the types of work in which children under the age of 18 cannot be employed, in accordance with ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).⁹³

G. Right to health

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the high rate of teenage pregnancies, the requirement of parental consent for teenage girls to have access to contraceptives and HIV testing, the increase in unsafe abortions and the Penal Code provision stipulating heavy sanctions for illegal abortion. It called upon Seychelles to put an end to the requirement of parental consent for contraceptives; to adopt

the draft national policy on sexual and reproductive health and ensure that it provides for affordable access to contraceptives and awareness-raising campaigns on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights; to repeal article 148 of the Penal Code providing for seven years' imprisonment for illegal abortion; and to provide pregnant women and girls with access to high-quality services for the management of unsafe abortion.⁹⁴ The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar observations and recommendations.⁹⁵

H. Right to education

47. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned at the high dropout rates, truancy and absenteeism, especially among boys, inadequate vocational training for girls and inadequate training of teachers. It urged Seychelles to introduce school curricula that ensure children's continuing educational or vocational training.⁹⁶

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the results achieved with regard to de facto equality between girls and boys in the education sector,⁹⁷ and noted the high level of education of girls and the high literacy rate of women.⁹⁸ It was concerned, however, about the significant underrepresentation of girls in traditionally male-dominated fields of study. The Committee recommended that Seychelles include in the draft national gender policy measures aimed at increasing the representation of girls in traditionally male-dominated fields of study.⁹⁹

49. The Special Rapporteur on education affirmed that policy measures and reforms had made it possible for Seychelles to meet the education-related Millennium Development Goals well before 2015; the emphasis on equality in education had significantly addressed differences in achievements based on gender and race and created a system which provided equal opportunity for all based on ability; public spending on education, at over 4 per cent of gross domestic product, was commendable and the establishment of the University of Seychelles in 2009 was a milestone achievement.¹⁰⁰

50. With a view to contributing to improving the education system in Seychelles, the Special Rapporteur on education recommended that the Ministry of Education and school administrators consider how they could more effectively maintain student discipline in public schools and that efforts to engage with parents and the community through the Social Renaissance Programme, as well as at the local level through school councils, be strengthened to ensure that troubled young persons were able to receive the needed early assistance and proper guidance for the pursuit of their studies.¹⁰¹

51. The Special Rapporteur also recommended that, within the framework of the Education Sector Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017, the Government develop and implement the necessary quality norms and standards, and that, in keeping with the National Assessment Framework developed in 2013, Seychelles embrace a "comprehensive system of quality education and learning" based on a holistic concept, which went beyond the instrumental role of education in mathematical literacy and numeracy, and placed a premium on the humanistic mission of education.¹⁰²

52. The Special Rapporteur on education further recommended that Seychelles review its post-secondary educational investment priorities by, inter alia, increasing funding for technical and vocational education, and training programmes and institutions to be more comparable with investments made for university education and to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education, and enhance national investment in technical and vocational education and training, including post-secondary institutions and higher technical education, to ensure that this sector of strategic importance received the necessary support as a development priority.¹⁰³

53. In 2013, the ILO Committee of Experts, considering that education contributed to preventing the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour, requested Seychelles to pursue its efforts to decrease the dropout rates and reduce the number of out-of-school children, paying special attention to boys, as well as to take measures to provide adequate vocational training for girls.¹⁰⁴

54. UNESCO referred to recommendations on the right to education that were accepted by Seychelles during its first universal periodic review,¹⁰⁵ and stated that Seychelles had adopted the Tertiary Education Act and various education-related documents and was also pursuing the implementation of its Education for All National Plan of Action 2001-2015 and its Plan of Action for Gender Equality in Education 2002-2015. However, it stated that, no further specific measures had been taken to ensure human rights education and training.¹⁰⁶

55. UNESCO recommended that Seychelles be encouraged to continue to submit State reports for the periodic consultations on its education-related standard-setting instruments; take additional measures to ensure a comprehensive education, in all its aspects, for all; and continue to provide human rights education and training, particularly for its law enforcement officials.¹⁰⁷

I. Persons with disabilities

56. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that children with disabilities were not fully integrated into the education system. It was also concerned about the lack of trained teachers for children with disabilities.¹⁰⁸ It recommended that Seychelles provide children with disabilities with facilities and access to public transportation and public buildings with the aim of fully integrating them into mainstream public schools and public life.¹⁰⁹

J. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

57. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Seychelles, inter alia, provide in its next periodic report to the Committee specific information on the labour exploitation of migrant workers, including those in an irregular situation, particularly those in the construction and fishing sectors; provide data on incidents of xenophobia, ill-treatment and violence directed at migrant workers and members of their families; and provide data on the number of migrant workers, including migrant workers in an irregular situation, who had been deported since the Convention entered into force for Seychelles.¹¹⁰

58. The Committee also recommended that Seychelles collect data on cases involving non-compliance with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, including sanctions imposed on non-compliant employers; ensure that migrant workers enjoy treatment that was not less favourable than that which applies to nationals in respect of remuneration and that such treatment was strictly enforced through the conduct of regular and unannounced labour inspections in sectors where migrant workers were concentrated, particularly in the fishing, tourism and construction industries.¹¹¹

59. The Committee further recommended that Seychelles take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of children of migrant workers from statelessness; introduce appropriate measures to facilitate family reunification of migrant workers and members of their families in line with the Convention; and provide information on the measures to ensure equal access to post-secondary education of children of migrant workers in the country.¹¹²

K. Right to development, and environmental issues

60. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was aware that climate change was a major obstacle to the achievement of sustainable development goals in Seychelles, that it added pressure on scarce arable land, limited water resources and fragile biodiversity, and that the country was also confronted with the scourge of piracy, which represented a new form of vulnerability for it and resulted in additional costs affecting budget allocations.¹¹³

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that Seychelles was vulnerable to the impact of climate change, which disproportionately affected women. It recommended that Seychelles adopt the disaster management bill that will include a gender perspective.¹¹⁴

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Seychelles from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/11/SYC/2).

² The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁵ 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

- ⁶ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.
- ⁷ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.
- ⁸ International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- ⁹ ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- ¹⁰ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 71.
- ¹¹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 47.
- ¹² See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, paras. 12-13.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, paras. 10-11.
- ¹⁴ See A/HRC/26/37/Add.7, para. 73 (a).
- ¹⁵ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 10-11.
- ¹⁶ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 9.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- ¹⁸ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Seychelles, paras. 21 and 30.
- ¹⁹ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 6.
- ²⁰ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 40-41; also CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 6; and CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 17.
- ²¹ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, paras. 18-19.
- ²² See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 17.
- ²³ See A/HRC/26/37/Add.7, para. 70 (e).
- ²⁴ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 12-13.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 24-25.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 14-15; also para. 6.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 30-31.
- ²⁸ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, paras. 7 and 17 (a).
- ²⁹ See A/HRC/26/37/Add.7, para. 67 (c).
- ³⁰ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 48.
- ³¹ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 40.
- ³² See A/67/40 (Vol. I), para. 95; and A/66/40 (Vol. I), para. 78.
- ³³ For the titles of special procedures, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.
- ³⁴ See OHCHR Report 2011, p. 102 and OHCHR Report 2012, p. 85.
- ³⁵ See A/HRC/29/22, para. 28.
- ³⁶ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 8.
- ³⁷ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 35.
- ³⁸ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 12.
- ³⁹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 8.
- ⁴⁰ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 12; also CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 17.
- ⁴¹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 17.
- ⁴² *Ibid.*, paras. 18, 20-21.
- ⁴³ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 11; also CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 8.

- ⁴⁴ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 28.
- ⁴⁵ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 11; also CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 29.
- ⁴⁶ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 8.
- ⁴⁷ See CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 9.
- ⁴⁸ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 8.
- ⁴⁹ See CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 5.
- ⁵⁰ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 10; also CMW/C/SYC/QPR/1, para. 11.
- ⁵¹ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 10.
- ⁵² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) – Seychelles, adopted 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3183402:NO.
- ⁵³ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 16.
- ⁵⁴ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 68-69.
- ⁵⁵ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 4; also CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, paras. 5 and 13; and CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 63.
- ⁵⁶ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 22.
- ⁵⁷ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 13.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 13; also CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 7.
- ⁵⁹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 23.
- ⁶⁰ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 42-43; also CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 13.
- ⁶¹ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 14; also CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1, para. 24; and CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 63.
- ⁶² See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Seychelles, para. 28.
- ⁶³ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 63.
- ⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- ⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 64.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- ⁶⁷ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 36.
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 37.
- ⁶⁹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 25.
- ⁷⁰ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Seychelles, adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3142608:NO.
- ⁷¹ See A/HRC/26/37/Add.7, para. 70.
- ⁷² See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 18; also CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 14.
- ⁷³ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 15.
- ⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 22-23.
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 23; also para. 13.
- ⁷⁶ See A/HRC/26/37/Add.7, para. 72.
- ⁷⁷ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 9.
- ⁷⁸ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 68-69.
- ⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 68; also CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 17.
- ⁸⁰ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 17.
- ⁸¹ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 38-39.
- ⁸² See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 32-33.
- ⁸³ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 38-39; and CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 15.
- ⁸⁴ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 46-47.
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 40.
- ⁸⁶ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 19.
- ⁸⁷ See UNESCO, submission for the universal periodic review of Seychelles, paras. 20 and 31.
- ⁸⁸ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 26; also paras. 6 and 18.
- ⁸⁹ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 12; also CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 26.
- ⁹⁰ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 27; also CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 12.
- ⁹¹ See CCPR/C/SYC/CO/1, para. 20.

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- ⁹² See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 30-31.
- ⁹³ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 61-62.
- ⁹⁴ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 34-35.
- ⁹⁵ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 54-55.
- ⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 59-60.
- ⁹⁷ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, para. 6.
- ⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 28.
- ⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 28 and 29; also CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, paras. 59-60.
- ¹⁰⁰ See A/HRC/26/27/Add.1, para. 81.
- ¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, para. 86.
- ¹⁰² *Ibid.*, para. 90.
- ¹⁰³ See A/HRC/26/27/Add.1, para. 97.
- ¹⁰⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Seychelles, adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3142608:NO.
- ¹⁰⁵ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Seychelles, paras. 24-27. For the full text of the recommendations, see A/HRC/18/7, paras. 100.42 (Canada), 100.67 (Cuba), 100.68 (Norway), 100.74 (Mauritius).
- ¹⁰⁶ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Seychelles, para. 27.
- ¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 28.
- ¹⁰⁸ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 59.
- ¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 48-49.
- ¹¹⁰ See CMW/C/SYC/CO/1, paras. 21 and 23.
- ¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 25.
- ¹¹² *Ibid.*, paras 27, 31 and 35.
- ¹¹³ See CRC/C/SYC/CO/2-4, para. 7.
- ¹¹⁴ See CEDAW/C/SYC/CO/1-5, paras. 36-37.
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