

**REMARKS BY
MR. SYLVESTRE RADEGONDE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MUTUAL
RECOGNITION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION AND
RECOVERY CERTIFICATES BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC
OF SEYCHELLES AND THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

17TH JUNE 2021

Your Excellency, **Dr Abdullatif Bin Rashid Al Zayani**, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dear Colleague,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted humanity with an unprecedented challenge. The world is in the grip of the Covid 19 pandemic and its devastating impact. Neither Seychelles nor Bahrain has been spared of it. Both our nations have been affected in terms of the loss of life and the adverse impact on our economy. More than ever, this crisis keeps reminding us of the importance for global solidarity and unity. It is only through unity and solidarity that we can contain and overcome this scourge.

It is, therefore, a pleasure and an honour that I welcome you and everyone here today, for the signing of the **Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of COVID 19 vaccination and recovery certificates.**

The signing of this MoU marks an important milestone in the long-standing and multi-faceted partnership between Seychelles and Bahrain. It will provide a framework for the revitalisation of the civil aviation and tourism sectors between both our countries. The MoU not only embodies the solid basis for cooperation between our two countries in mitigating the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it also provides the scope to facilitate and enhance the safe travel of our citizens and residents.

Given the long-standing ties between Seychelles and Bahrain, and the understanding between our two countries, this MoU represents yet another event in our bilateral relations. It is no surprise, therefore, that we managed to conclude it in record time. I wish to commend the joint efforts and hard work of our respective teams for their meticulous and diligent work in negotiating and concluding the documents. Congratulations to all of you!

Excellency,

The signing of this agreement today testifies to our strong commitment to re-invigorate our bilateral relations during this difficult time. It is my hope that it will serve as an example to encourage other countries to come together to explore ways in which we can better manage health crises of this magnitude, while progressively restoring the economic activities of our nations. For my part, I wish to assure you of the full support of my government and of my personal commitment in implementing this agreement. I hope to have the pleasure to welcome you to Seychelles soon!

Thank you.