

**OPENING REMARKS BY  
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

**AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM) NATIONAL  
STRUCTURES REVITALISATION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING  
WORKSHOP**

**TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST 2023 AT 0930HRS**

**AT SAVOY SEYCHELLES RESORT & SPA  
BEAU VALLON**

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the African Peer Review Mechanism Workshop. On behalf of the government and the people of Seychelles, I extend a warm welcome to all the participants, experts and stakeholders who have made the effort to attend this important event.

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the importance of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and its crucial role in promoting good governance, democracy, and socio-economic development in Africa. The APRM is an initiative that embodies the African Union's commitment to promoting sustainable development, peace, and security on the African continent.

It is also important to remind ourselves that the APRM is not just a review process, but it is also a platform for sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned among African countries. It is through these exchanges that we can learn from each other and develop African solutions to African problems.

Seychelles became the 40th member of the APRM upon its accession to it in February 2020. However, owing to different circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic we have not yet been able to set up our national structures. We hope that through this Workshop, through exchanges and knowledge-sharing with other participants, we will be able to address this matter very soon.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We meet in challenging times. We are still struggling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The persisting climate change crisis, food insecurity on the continent, conflicts and instability on our continent and in the other parts of the world all converge to compound the difficult circumstances that we face. Notwithstanding those challenges, we must not waver from our commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy, good governance, accountability, and transparency. Seychelles recognises these principles as key factors for sustainable development and as a formula to maintain resilience against external shocks. We strongly believe that the absence of these in society impede growth and development, cause instability, increase corruption, and erode the very fabric of society, leading to failed states.

Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State has done relatively well in maintaining its reputation as a regional leader in the practice of good governance.

For the first time in its history, in October 2020, Seychelles elected an opposition candidate as President. Following this, we witnessed the peaceful transition of power from one political party to another. Seychelles has been commended ever since for setting an example for other countries, particularly in the region.

More recently, the President himself has been engaging with the population through public meetings at the district level. This has provided an opportunity for the public to freely express their views on the performance of the Government and also provide suggestions to improve our socio-economic development.

Various published indexes and projects funded by international partners demonstrated this such as:

- The Ibrahim Index of African Governance ranked Seychelles second in 2022 amongst 54 African States for its governance performance.
- The Governance and Economic Reforms Support Program funded by the African Development Bank completed in December 2022. It targeted the strengthening of economic governance reforms that will sustain inclusive growth and mitigate the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic while reinforcing green growth, and environmental and climate resilience.

We do recognise, however, that there are still shortcomings and that there is always room for improvement. That being said, we remain committed to identifying more innovative and sustainable ways of reinforcing good governance in our country. Now with the APR process and our national structures soon to be in place, we will be in a much stronger position to fully comply with African and international governance commitments.

Achieving Agenda 2063 should also remain an integral part of our national and continental priorities in order to attain the Pan-African Vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

During this workshop, I urge all participants to engage in frank and open discussions, to share their experiences and best practices, and to contribute to the strengthening of the APRM. The success of the APRM depends on our collective efforts, and I am confident that this workshop will provide us with an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to good governance, democracy, and socio-economic development in Africa.

I wish you all a productive and fruitful workshop, and I look forward to the outcome of this workshop that will contribute to the strengthening of the APRM.