

**Signing Ceremony of the  
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2024 –  
2028)**

**Statement by Minister Sylvestre Radegonde  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Your Excellency Madam United Nations Resident Coordinator,  
Colleague Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

I am pleased to welcome you all to the signing ceremony of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028 (UNSDCF).

The signing of the Cooperation Framework today, which coincides with the United Nations' Day, marks a significant milestone in our collective journey towards a sustainable and prosperous future for all. It also testifies to our Government's commitment to the implementation of the joint strategic partnership between the United Nations (UN) and Seychelles.

As a Small Island Developing State, we recognise the critical importance of sustainable development in ensuring the well-being of our people and the preservation of our unique environment. We understand that our actions today will shape the world we leave behind for future generations. Therefore, we are fully committed to the principles and objectives outlined in the UNSDCF.

It provides us with a comprehensive roadmap, offering strategic guidance and support in our efforts to build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The formulation of this new Cooperation Framework, which was initiated in May 2022, has been an intensive exercise. I am pleased to recognise the extensive consultation process between the United Nations Country Team and the Government sector, civil society, the private sector and academia in Seychelles. Such collaboration has enabled us to identify the priority areas outlined under this partnership, obtained through the collection of empirical data and during sessions whereby national stakeholders articulated their ambitions for Seychelles over the next five years.

The Cooperation Framework has therefore been designed to incorporate UN programmes across multiple sectoral areas, with the aim to support Seychelles' achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Inclusive and sustainable development remains the priority for Seychelles –encompassing not just economic prosperity and environmental conservation, but also promoting a people-centred development.

Over the next five years, Seychelles will spare no effort to implement the UNSDC, focusing on key priority areas that align with our national development agenda. We will prioritise the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable economic growth, the conservation and sustainable use of our marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and the enhancement of social inclusion and gender equality.

This necessitates the availability of and accessibility to additional financial and technical resources and capacity-building, in addition to the strengthening of our institutional capacities and policies.

**Madam United Nations Resident Coordinator,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

People, Planet and Prosperity, the three Ps, underpin the priority areas set out under the 2024–2028 UN-Seychelles Strategic Partnership Framework. Moreover, they complement the objectives the Government has set out in the National Development Strategy, 2023 - 2027.

In our pursuit of sustainable economic development, we will leverage our natural resources to develop a thriving and responsible tourism industry. We will invest in renewable energy sources and promote green technologies to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Central to our efforts is the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources. We are committed to preserving our unique ecosystems for future generations. We will strengthen our protected areas, combat illegal fishing and promote sustainable fisheries management practices. We will work in partnership with local communities, civil society organisations, and international stakeholders to safeguard our natural heritage.

Additionally, we will foster innovation and entrepreneurship, creating an enabling environment for sustainable business development and job creation.

Recognising the integral role of education and capacity building, we will prioritise investments in our education system, ensuring that our youth have access to quality education and skills training. We will also promote lifelong learning and knowledge sharing, enabling our citizens to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Implemented to its full extent, the outcomes of this joint Cooperation Framework will bring about considerable improvements to the lives of our people:

- ❖ with its aim to improve access to sustainable services, protection for and opportunities for all Seychellois;
- ❖ with its ambition to create a resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy, enabled by a responsive public and private sector;
- ❖ and its plan to prepare people and institutions for disaster risks while building more resilient natural ecosystems towards climate change, biodiversity losses and pollution, and many more.

In this regard, we must all recall the lessons learnt during the implementation of the previous Strategic Partnership Framework 2019-2023. Many challenges were faced – primarily, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but also as a result of institutional bottlenecks and budgetary constraints.

With this in mind, we endeavour, therefore, to ensure that an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is established by a Joint Steering Committee, to be co-chaired by the Minister of Finance, National Planning and Trade and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism. The Committee’s primary function will be geared towards the strategic oversight and coordination of the objectives of the Cooperation Framework.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The UNSDCF is not merely a document or a set of goals; it is a call to action. It requires collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment from all stakeholders. Seychelles recognises that we cannot achieve sustainable development in isolation. We must forge strong partnerships with the United Nations, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector.

We call upon the international community to stand with us in our pursuit of sustainable development. We urge our global partners to provide financial and technical support, capacity-building support and technology transfer to enable us to implement the UNSDCF effectively. Together, we can create a more just, prosperous, and sustainable future, leaving no one behind.

Allow me, in conclusion, to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed, in one way or another, towards the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024-2028). On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, I reiterate my Government’s full commitment to its implementation.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to you, Madam Resident Coordinator as well as to your team, for your efforts, dedication and contribution in preparing this document. I hope to see the continuation of such joint efforts between us for building a long-term and strategic partnership. Seychelles stands ready to embrace this new era of sustainable development with enthusiasm and determination.

I thank you and wish you all a Happy UN Day!