



Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

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Le Ministre Radegonde présidera le Conseil des Ministres de la COI pendant un an

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et du Tourisme, M. Sylvestre Radegonde, assure la présidence de la COI suite à la décision de la 38ème session ordinaire de son Conseil des ministres qui s'est tenue à Port-Louis, Maurice, le 16 mai 2024. Le Chef de la diplomatie seychelloise succède au Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Maurice, l'Hon. Maneesh Gobin.

C'est la 8ème fois que les Seychelles accèdent à la présidence de la COI qui dure en principe 1 an.



Le Ministre Sylvestre Radegonde s'adressant au Conseil des Ministres de la Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI)

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Dans l'allocution prononcée à cette occasion, le Ministre Radegonde a exprimé sa gratitude au Secrétaire général de la COI, le Pr. Vêlayoudom Marimoutou et son équipe, pour leur dévouement et leur professionnalisme au service de l'organisation et de la coopération régionale. Il s'est engagé à s'appuyer sur les succès et les acquis de la COI.

« Au cours de notre mandat, nous comptons donner un nouvel élan à la coopération régionale à travers deux axes principaux : le renforcement des institutions de la COI et la promotion des projets qu'elle soutient. L'agenda de la présidence seychelloise sera articulé autour de deux volets : les priorités de la présidence et les initiatives de la



présidence, faisant de cette 8ème présidence une présidence innovante. Les priorités ont été regroupées sous trois piliers appelés 'axes prioritaires', à savoir, 'connectivité', 'l'institutionnel' et 'diplomatie'. À chaque 'axe prioritaire' correspond un objectif et une série de résultats attendus. Les initiatives de la présidence sont des activités que le gouvernement des Seychelles entreprendra et qui feront avancer l'agenda de la COI. »

Le Ministre Radegonde a précisé que le thème choisi pour accompagner cette présidence est : 'La jeunesse, moteur de la modernisation'. Il a expliqué l'importance de placer la jeunesse au cœur de tous les efforts et a invité l'organisation à s'engager résolument dans une démarche de réforme institutionnelle et de modernisation qu'elle ne peut esquisser, au risque de rater un moment crucial de l'histoire.

Abordant ce qui unit au premier chef géographiquement les 5 Etats membres, c'est-à-dire la mer, le Ministre Radegonde a mis l'accent sur le travail d'équipe en matière de sécurité maritime et a promis que : « nous travaillerons en étroite collaboration avec nos partenaires pour promouvoir la sécurité maritime et la lutte contre la piraterie, pour développer un tourisme durable et responsable, pour encourager la recherche scientifique et la préservation de la biodiversité marine, pour favoriser le commerce et les investissements, et pour renforcer les liens culturels et sociaux entre nos peuples. »



Il a terminé son allocution en promettant de « travailler avec détermination, passion et dévouement. Nous serons à l'écoute de vos préoccupations, de vos idées et de vos aspirations, et nous nous efforcerons de les transformer en actions tangibles. Nous sommes convaincus que, grâce à notre coopération, nous pourrions relever les défis qui se posent à nous et réaliser notre vision commune d'un océan Indien pacifique, prospère et durable.

« Ensemble, nous sommes plus forts. Ensemble, nous pouvons façonner un avenir meilleur pour nos nations et pour les générations à venir. »



Photos courtoisie de la Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI)



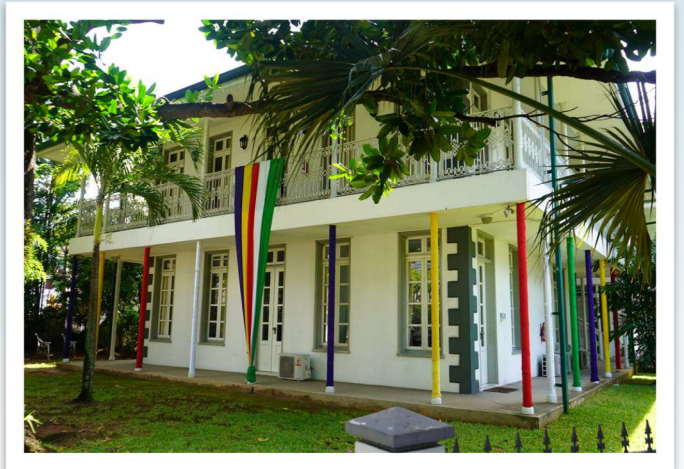
INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION

A noter que la COI regroupe cinq États membres qui sont Madagascar, Maurice, les Seychelles, l'Union des Comores et la France au titre de La Réunion.

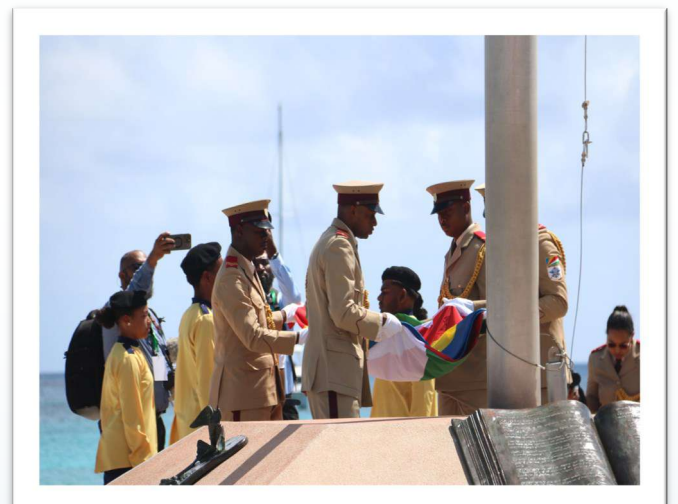
Conçue depuis la Déclaration de Port-Louis en 1982, la COI a été institutionnalisée aux Seychelles en 1984 par l'Accord général de coopération, plus connu comme "l'Accord de Victoria".

National Day Events 2024

To commemorate the country's 48th Independence Day, the Foreign Affairs Department's Head Office was decorated in the colours of the national flag.



Flag raising ceremonies were held at the Peace Park on Constitution Avenue on Mahe, Anse Calice on La Digue and Eve Island on Praslin to celebrate Constitution Day on June 18th 2024



National Day Parade 2024

This year's National Day Parade saw the participation of 25 platoons, which included military personnel from India, France, the United Kingdom, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates.



Seychellois Community in the UAE celebrate National Day

The gathering held on Saturday, 29 June 2024, at the Radisson Blu Hotel Yas Island brought together over 100 Seychellois residents and friends of Seychelles in the UAE to celebrate the 48th National Day of Seychelles. The event was a lively and festive occasion that showcased a strong sense of pride, unity, and community spirit among the attendees. Delectable dishes were served, providing guests with a delightful culinary experience.

Ambassador Gervais Moumou delivered a touching speech, expressing his profound honor in serving the Seychellois community in the UAE. He also recognized the invaluable support provided by the community to Embassy and to the Seychelles.



The Diplomatic Circle

Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles



High Commissioner-designate of the Commonwealth of Australia, H.E. Mrs. Kate Chamley, met with Principal Secretary Fock Tave ahead of the presentation of her Credentials.



Ambassador-designate of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Muhammed Mutair Ammash Al-Shmalani Al-Enazi, met with Principal Secretary Fock Tave ahead of the presentation of his Credentials.



High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Isaac Njenga Gatitu, met with Principal Secretary Fock Tave ahead of the presentation of his Credentials.



High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Ms. Chadapiwa Nteta, paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of her Credentials.

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



The Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Oskar Benedikt, met with Principal Secretary Vivianne Fock Tave



Italian Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Roberto Natali paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. Henry Jardine, met with Principal Secretary Fock Tave



The Head of the European Delegation to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Mr Oskar Benedikt and Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, sign the EnSEL Agreement



Official Visit of the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, Honourable Cai Dafeng



Japanese Ambassador, H.E Okaniwa Ken and the Commander of the visiting Japanese Training Squadron, Rear Admiral Nishiyama Takahiro paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde

Farewell call



High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E Mr Muhammah Arshan Jan Pathan paid a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde

Congratulations!



The Foreign Affairs Department would like to congratulate Mr Orhan Karadeniz on his appointment as the Honorary Consul of Seychelles in Istanbul, Türkiye!

Accreditation of Seychelles Ambassadors



Ambassador Morel presented his Credentials to the President of the Union of Comoros, Mr. Assoumani Azali



Ambassador Racombo presented his Credentials to the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, His Royal Highness Henri of Luxembourg



Ambassador Tirant presented his Credentials to the Secretary General of the International Organisation of the Francophonie, H.E Mrs Louise Mushikiwabo



Ambassador Racombo presented his Credentials to the President of the European Commission, H.E Mrs Ursula Von der Leyen



Ambassador Racombo presented his Credentials to the President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E Mr Zoran Milanovic



Ambassador Racombo presented his Credentials to the President of the Republic of Hungary, H.E Mr Tamas Sulyok

Events attended by FAD Overseas

Seychelles at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, with the Secretary of State of Norway, Mr Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik on the sidelines of SIDS4

During the SIDS4 Conference, Minister Radegonde held separate bilateral meetings with Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, State Secretary of Norway, and Mr. Eduard Hulicius, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

In these meetings, Minister Radegonde discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation and identified key areas where Seychelles would benefit. With Norway, the discussions focused on climate resilience and sustainable ocean management, leveraging Norwegian expertise and resources to bolster Seychelles' initiatives.

The meeting with the Czech Republic highlighted collaboration on issues of importance to SIDS, particularly in tourism and the adoption of much-needed reforms in the global financial architecture through the adoption of a multidimensional vulnerability index.

During the Conference, Minister Radegonde also met with Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation from Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This meeting provided an opportunity to meet with Mukhtar Babayev, President of COP29 and Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, to discuss SIDS-related matters within the COP framework. The Commonwealth Secretary-General co-chaired the meeting.

This meeting presented Minister Radegonde with the opportunity to highlight the importance of building sustainable growth and achieving climate resilience, stressing the need for developed countries to reduce their emissions and increase investments in countries vulnerable to the climate crisis. He emphasized that scaling up climate finance for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries, particularly SIDS, was essential.



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, with the Heads of Delegation from Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



During the SIDS4 Conference, Minister Sylvestre Radegonde met with H.E. Mr. Nikolaus Marschik, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry of Austria, to discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation, focusing on sustainable tourism and renewable energy. Mr Marschik also presented Austria's vision and priorities for its UN Security Council candidacy for 2027-2028. Both officials affirmed their commitment to advancing mutual interests in international fora.



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde and the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Mark Brown signed a joint communiqué, to mark the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two nations. This underscores the shared commitment of Governments to deepen friendship and cooperation across political, economic, cultural, and other fields. President Wavel Ramkalawan was also present to witness the signing.

Seychelles at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

In his role as the President of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Minister Radegonde delivered a keynote address at the IOC's side event, at the SIDS4 conference. This event focused on addressing health and climate risks prevalent in Western Indian Ocean Island States. Minister Radegonde highlighted the implications of climate change, emphasising its dual threat to the planet and public health.

His address underscored the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to safeguarding human and ecosystem well-being, with a specific emphasis on the WHO One Health concept. This approach offers a unified framework to address the interconnected challenges posed by climate change and health risks.

Minister Radegonde also took the opportunity to share the IOC's efforts in promoting regional health initiatives, notably through the 'Sega One Health' project - an initiative that centres on epidemiological surveillance and alerts.



Minister Radegonde and Professor Velayoudom Marimoutou, then Secretary General of the IOC



Minister Flavien Joubert participating in the IOC's panel discussion on accelerating the implementation of a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity (ABAS)



Minister Radegonde and United State Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Mr Richard Verma

Minister Radegonde engaged in further bilateral talks at the SIDS4 Conference, meeting with Mr. Richard R. Verma, United States Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, to discuss progress in key areas of US and Seychelles cooperation, notably maritime security and defence



Minister Radegonde and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Second Minister for Education and for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman

The Minister held discussions with Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Second Minister for Education and for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, focusing on collaborative efforts regarding climate change, digitalization, and global challenges. Dr. Osman provided insight into Singapore's new technical assistance package, "SIDS of Change," aimed at enhancing SIDS' capacity to implement the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

Five minutes with a Diplomat

In this second quarter, we take a look at Ms Marie-May Hollanda's journey with the Foreign Affairs Department. Marie-May is currently working in the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Marie-May Hollanda, and I have had the privilege of dedicating nearly 15 years to the Foreign Affairs Department. Beginning as a Telephone Operator, I have progressed through various roles, including Office Assistant, where I gained valuable insights and skills.

Currently, as a Protocol Assistant, I am entrusted with orchestrating diplomatic events and ensuring adherence to protocol standards. I also serve as the Officer responsible for all protocol-related matters, including visits and clearances for the Middle East, Asia, and other regions under the department's jurisdiction.



How long have you been with the FAD?

In September will be my 15th year of service in the Department

What posts have you held within the Department?

Throughout my career at the Department of Foreign Affairs, I have had the opportunity to undertake various roles that have significantly contributed to my professional development.

Beginning in September 2009, I started as a Telephone Operator, moved up to Office Assistant, and in April 2016, I was promoted to Protocol Assistant to date.

What would you describe as your most memorable moment?

One of the most memorable aspects of my career has been the opportunity to organize and facilitate high-profile diplomatic events.

These experiences have underscored the significant impact of diplomacy in action, particularly within the realm of protocol.

They have been deeply fulfilling, emphasizing the importance of careful planning, cultural awareness, and effective communication in fostering successful international relations and achieving diplomatic goals.



Are there any benefits with working at the Department?

Working at the Foreign Affairs Department, particularly in protocol, offers substantial benefits including making meaningful contributions to international relations, gaining cultural exposure and understanding, professional development through specialized training programs, enhancing one's professional reputation, opportunities for career advancement in international diplomacy, and the privilege of contributing to high-profile diplomatic engagements.



Do you have any advice to give to someone who is thinking of pursuing a career at the Foreign Affairs Department?

For individuals contemplating a career at the Foreign Affairs Department, I recommend prioritizing the development of robust communication skills, both verbal and written, crucial for effective engagement in diplomatic contexts.

It is equally imperative to maintain a comprehensive understanding of global affairs and geopolitical trends.

Actively engaging in networking within the department and demonstrating a proactive approach to continuous learning and personal growth will significantly enhance career opportunities.

Additionally, mastering the art of staying composed under pressure and honing negotiation skills is essential.

From my experience in the Protocol field, these competencies play a pivotal role in successfully organizing diplomatic events, navigating cultural nuances, and fostering strong international relations with professionalism and confidence.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Handing over ceremonies under the 'Adopt a District' Programme



On 15th April 2024, young individuals residing in Takamaka received a donation of SCR 70,000, which was jointly sponsored by Seychelles Ag Consul General in Shanghai, China, Dr. Sydney To, and Seychelles Honorary Consul General in Hong Kong, China, Ms. Diana Chen.

During a Handing Over Ceremony on Friday, 21st June 2024, held at Maison Quéau de Quinssy, five districts were beneficiaries of donations under the Adopt a District Programme. Mont Fleuri Secondary School's after-school IT programme was gifted 10 laptops from the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles in Eswatini, Mr. Nasser Ahmed Mansoor.

The Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Seychelles for Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Ahmad, in collaboration with the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles for Mombasa, Ms. Natasha D'Suza, supplied a consignment of sports gear and equipment to Pointe Larue district.

In Roche Caiman district, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles for Mozambique, Mr. Umar Abdul Shakoor Sorathia, contributed Euro 2,800.

The male beach soccer team and the female volleyball team, in Takamaka District, received high-quality sportswear from the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles for Mauritius, Mr. Ahmed Parkar.

Au Cap district was granted a donation of United States Dollars 500 from the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles for Ghana, Mr. Kwame Acquah.

Additionally, the Seychelles Honorary Consul in California, Mr. Shane Hensinger, donated United States Dollars 4,950 from the Friends of Seychelles in the United States for the purchase of playground equipment for Bel Air district. Laptops, cash donations, and sports gear and equipment were also donated by the Seychelles' Honorary Consul General in Seattle, Mrs. Lise Church, and Seychelles Honorary Consul in Texas, Ms. Elizabeth Willis.



Protocol and Etiquette Training

The staff from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted Protocol and Etiquette Sessions on the 7th June 2024 with representatives from the Electoral Commission from Praslin and La Digue, Nouvobanq, Grand Anse DA Praslin, Baie Ste Anne Praslin.

On the 4th July 2024, Protocol and Etiquette sessions was held with Nouvobanq staff on Mahe.



Talks in Secondary Schools and Professional Centres

In order to raise awareness on the work done by the Foreign Affairs Department, in the second quarter of 2024, a series of talks were conducted with students from Independent School Seychelles, Seychelles Business Studies Academy and Vijay International School, Praslin.



Training by Ambassador Allain Butler-Payette

On the 25th April 2024, staff from the Foreign Affairs Department had the chance to participate in a Diplomatic Writing training conducted by Ambassador Alain Butler-Payette.

This was followed by a talk on Bosnia and Herzegovina which was jointly delivered by Ambassador Butler-Payette and Dr. Miodrag Todorovic on the 6th June 2024.



Joint Sports Day

On Friday 26th April 2024, staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism participated in a joint sport event at the Beach Soccer Stadium at Roche Caiman. Staff were able to participate in sports event which included volleyball, football and domino amongst others.



Social Committee Activities

Africa Day

The Social Committee organised a staff get together on the 24th May 2024 to celebrate Africa Day. Staff from the Department participated in the event dressed in African clothes.



Team Building Event

To commemorate Labour Day, a Team Building session was organised for the staff of the Foreign Affairs Department at Au Cap. The session was facilitated by members of the of the Seychelles Defence Forces.



Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

New Faces, Postings and Promotions:

The Foreign Affairs Department is thrilled to welcome the following new staff and announce the following promotions and postings:



Ms. Lisa Beaudoin
*Accounts Technician in
the Accounts Section*



Ms. Hezra Pool
*Office Assistant in the Multilateral Affairs
Division*



Ms. Heather Siu
*Third Secretary in the Consular Affairs &
Diaspora Division*



Ms. Selma Payet
*Promoted to Senior Office Assistant
in the Regional Affairs Division*



Mrs. Katesine Rose
*Promoted to Human Resource & Budget
Management Officer*



Ms. Theresa Laurencine
*First Secretary in the Legal Affairs Unit has been posted to the
Seychelles Mission to the United Nations in New York, USA*



Ms. Bellinda Mirabeau
*Promoted to Human Resource & Budget
Management Assistant*