



Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

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La présidence seychelloise de la COI donne un coup de pouce à l'organisation

Les Seychelles ont accueilli en avril dernier, précisément du 15 au 16 avril 2025, la 39^e session ministérielle de la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI), donnant par la même occasion un coup de pouce à cette organisation régionale aspirant à une complémentarité et une solidarité régionales renforcées. Une session qui s'est déroulée dans un contexte régional marqué par des défis climatiques, économiques et sécuritaires, et qui a du coup permis de renforcer les liens entre les cinq États membres que sont les Comores, Madagascar, Maurice, les Seychelles et la Réunion (France).



Le Ministre Radegonde ouvre le 39^e Conseil des Ministres

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C'est l'Hotel Eden Bleu, à Mahé, qui a été le cadre de cette importante session au cours de laquelle le président en exercice, le Ministre Sylvestre Radegonde, s'est appesanti lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture sur certains facteurs essentiels, notamment la démarche visionnaire des pères fondateurs, le travail de fond abattu par ses prédécesseurs seychellois ainsi que les accomplissements clés de sa présidence.

Autant d'éléments qui ont, selon lui,

permis, l'édification et le succès de la COI, qui s'affirme aujourd'hui comme une organisation régionale reconnue au niveau mondial. Le Ministre Radegonde dont le mandat a pris fin avec cette session, a également remercié au cours de son allocution tous ceux qui lui ont apporté leur soutien durant cette présidence, notamment le Secrétariat général, le Président de la République et ses Ministres, les OPL et les Points focaux, sans oublier les fonctionnaires de son ministère.



« Je tiens à remercier le Secrétaire général de la COI et son équipe pour leur travail productif, ainsi que le personnel de la COI, qui, bien que souvent dans l'ombre, est l'artisan principal de nos progrès. Leur travail quotidien est un atout précieux pour notre organisation. Je remercie également le Président de la République, M. Wavel Ramkalawan, ainsi que tous les membres de son gouvernement, pour leur soutien indéfectible tout au long de cette présidence. Sans oublier tous les Points focaux nationaux et les équipes qui ont travaillé dans l'ombre pour faire de cette présidence un succès », a-t-il souligné.

Pendant leur rencontre, le 16 avril, le Conseil des Ministres a approuvé l'adhésion officielle de la République de Corée en tant qu'État observateur, élargissant ainsi les perspectives de coopération en matière de sécurité maritime, de climat, de pêche durable et d'innovation technologique.



Les discussions ont porté sur des axes prioritaires, dont:

- La sécurité maritime, face à la piraterie et à la pêche illégale.
- Le changement climatique, qui menace directement les États insulaires.
- La souveraineté alimentaire, avec un accent mis sur la pêche responsable et l'économie bleue.

L'un des moments clés a été la passation de la présidence du Conseil des Ministres, assumée jusqu'ici par M. Sylvestre Radegonde, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et du Tourisme des Seychelles. La présidence tournante est désormais assurée par M. Mbae Mohamed, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale de l'Union des Comores. Dans son discours d'acceptation, ce dernier a affirmé sa volonté de



donner un « nouvel élan à la COI » en mettant l'accent sur l'intégration régionale, la résilience climatique et les partenariats stratégiques.



La 39^e session du Conseil des Ministres de la COI aura ainsi marqué un tournant par la mise en place d'une nouvelle direction comorienne, motivée à insuffler une dynamique plus inclusive et tournée vers l'action. Elle a renforcé également le rôle de la COI comme plateforme régionale incontournable, prête à relever les défis communs grâce à la coopération, la solidarité et l'ouverture à de nouveaux partenariats.



Congratulations!

The Foreign Affairs Department wishes to congratulate Mrs. Ewa Ossowska on her appointment as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Seychelles.



The Diplomatic Circle

Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles



The Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Ms. Morakot Janemathukorn paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of her Credentials



The High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Rwanda to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. General Patrick Nyamvumba paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Tanzania to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Bernard Yohana Kibesse paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The High Commissioner-designate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Syed Zahid Raza paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



Le nouveau Représentant régional de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) pour l'océan Indien, S.E. M. Traian Laurentiu Hristea, a présenté ses lettres de créance au Ministre Sylvestre Radegonde, l'accréditant auprès de la République des Seychelles.

Farewell calls



H.E. Mrs Caroline Vicini, outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Seychelles, paid a farewell visit to Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The outgoing Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund, Mrs. Aissatou Diallo paid a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr Pirkka Tapiola paid a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde

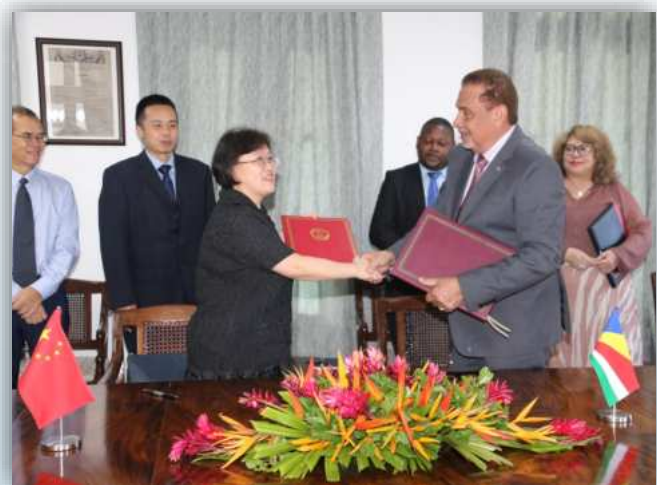


The outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr Gunnar Andrea Holm bid farewell to Principal Secretary Fock Tave after a 3-year tenure

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Madagascar, H.E. Mrs Rafaravavitafika Rasata, and Minister Sylvestre Radegonde signed a General Cooperation Agreement (GCA) between the Governments of the two countries on the sidelines of the IOC's 39th Council of Ministers meeting



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Seychelles, H.E. Ms Lin Nan signed an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement for a grant of RMB 100 million (approximately SCR 200 million)



Ambassador Beryl Samson met with the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Mr Saud Bin Hilal Al Shidhani



The Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr Henry Jardine called on the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave during his working visit



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde met with the all-female crew of the IASV TRIVENI from the Indian Defence Forces



H.E. Mr. Sebastian Groth, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Seychelles, called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Resident Representative of the UNDP for Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms. Amanda Serumaga presented a copy of the Human Development Report 2025 to Minister Sylvestre Radegonde during her courtesy call



Captain Vikas Guleria, Commanding Officer of the INS TEG paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde met with the Head of the European Union Delegation for the Seychelles, H.E. Ambassador Oskar Benedikt during his working visit



H.E. Henry Jardine, United States Ambassador to Seychelles, and Rear Admiral Michael Mattis, Director of Strategic Effects at U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAF), paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Party Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Sichuan Provincial Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. WANG Xiaohui was on a 2-day official visit to Seychelles. He was welcomed by the Minister for Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, Mrs Devika Vidot

Accreditation of Seychelles Ambassadors



Ambassador Georges Tirant presented his Credentials to H.E. Mr Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy



Ambassador Georges Tirant presented his Letters of Credence to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Qu Dongyu as the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the FAO



Ambassador Gervais Moumou presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Ambassador Gervais Moumou presented his Letters of Credence to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar



Ambassador Conrad Mederic presented his Letters of Credence to H.E. Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana

Le saviez-vous?



COMMISSION DE
L'Océan Indien

La Commission de l'océan Indien (COI) est une organisation intergouvernementale qui regroupe cinq États membres : l'Union des Comores, la France au titre de La Réunion, Madagascar, Maurice et les Seychelles. Créée par 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».

Seule organisation régionale d'Afrique composée exclusivement d'îles, elle défend les spécificités de ses États membres sur les scènes continentale et internationale. Bénéficiant du soutien actif d'une dizaine de partenaires internationaux, la COI donne corps à la solidarité régionale à travers des projets de coopération couvrant un large éventail de secteurs: préservation des écosystèmes, gestion durable des ressources naturelles, sécurité maritime, entrepreneuriat, santé publique, énergies renouvelables ou encore culture.

Tout en veillant à respecter les principes de coordination, de complémentarité et de subsidiarité, la COI assume un rôle d'accompagnement, voire d'impulsion, dans des domaines où ses États membres ont besoin d'un soutien spécifique et où l'action collective constitue une valeur ajoutée.

Source: COI

Events attended by FAD Overseas

Seychelles participates in High-Level SIDS AIS Meeting in Cabo Verde



The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, attended a High-Level Meeting of Small Island Developing States of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (SIDS AIS) which took place in Cabo Verde from the 15th to 16th of May 2025. The meeting was held under the theme “United in Resiliency for a Sustainable Future”.

The meeting was convened to strengthen coordination among the AIS SIDS with the objective of collectively addressing the pressing challenges currently confronting these nations. One of the key outcomes was the establishment of a coordination mechanism to facilitate sustained collaboration and joint action among this group of island states.

Minister Radegonde was accompanied by Ambassador Ian Madeleine, the Seychelles Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.



Seychelles Participates in the 3rd EU-AU Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting in Brussels



Ambassador Kenneth Racombo, Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles to the European Union, represented Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, at the 3rd EU-AU Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting, held in Brussels on 21 May 2025.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, and H.E. Mr. Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council.

Ministers approved a joint communiqué which highlighted key areas of progress and renewed commitments with particular emphasis on the following:

- Implementation of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package
- Scaling up cooperation on the blue economy, with a focus on the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), along with commitments to enhance food security, nutrition, and the sustainable development of both continents,
- Strengthening cooperation on peace, security and good governance.
- The Ministers also engaged in an exchange of views on five topics namely: peace, security and good governance, multilateralism, prosperity, migration and mobility.

This Ministerial meeting is a preparation for the upcoming 7th AU-EU Summit to be held in Africa later in 2025, marking 25 years of strategic partnership since the inaugural summit in Cairo in 2000.

Le Ministre Radegonde participe à la Messe Solennelle du Pape Léon XIV

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et du Tourisme, Monsieur Sylvestre Radegonde, a assisté à la Messe Solennelle d'intronisation, le 18 mai 2025 sur la Place Saint Pierre, pour marquer le début du Pontificat de Sa Sainteté le Pape Léon XIV, suivant son élection le jeudi 8 mai 2025.

A la suite de la messe, le Pape Léon XIV a tenu une rencontre générale avec les Chefs de délégation venus du monde entier pour cette occasion.

Lors de sa rencontre avec Sa Sainteté le Pape Léon XIV, le ministre Radegonde a transmis les félicitations et les meilleurs vœux du président de la République des Seychelles, M. Wavel Ramkalawan, et du peuple seychellois.



Ambassador Anne Lafortune represents Seychelles at the FOCAC Coordinators meeting in Changsha



Ambassador Anne Lafortune, the Seychelles Resident Ambassador in Beijing, People's Republic of China, attended the Ministerial Meeting of Coordinators on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit, the latter was held in Beijing in September 2024.

The meeting took stock of the current achievements since the 2024 FOCAC Summit, and discussed ways to advance the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and its Action Plan (2025-2027), which outlined China-Africa cooperation for the three years.

In her statement, Ambassador Lafortune reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to the implementation of the principles and objectives of the FOCAC, which continue to unlock Africa's full potential. She commended President Xi's ten (10) partnership actions announced in September 2024, which responded to the evolving and distinct development needs of African countries. She also stated that "*Seychelles is proud to be part of this transformative endeavour*".

Ambassador Lafortune was accompanied by Ms. Wendy Isnard, Director of Bilateral Affairs in the Foreign Affairs Department and staff from the Seychelles Embassy in Beijing.

Seychelles and Lebanon establish Diplomatic Relations

In the spirit of promoting bilateral relations and the strengthening of friendship, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Lebanon have formally established diplomatic relations through the signing of a Joint Communiqué on the 25th of June 2025.

The establishment is founded on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for international law and cooperation, and will allow for the promotion of exchanges in various fields of mutual interests for the benefit of the two countries.

The signing took place in New York between the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations, Ambassador Ian Madeleine, and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations, Ambassador Hadi Hachem.



National Day Events 2025

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 2025.



National Day Parade 2025

As is customary, the National Day Parade was held on June 29th to commemorate Seychelles' Independence Day. The military parade was joined by foreign contingents as well as youth platoons from the Seychelles National Youth Council and the Seychelles Scouts.



Seychellois Diaspora celebrate Constitution Day and National Day

Seychellois diaspora scattered around the world, celebrated Constitution Day and National Day in various ways.

Below is a snippet of how they celebrated their identity and expressed their love for their country.



The Honorary Consul of Seychelles in Milan, Italy, Mr Maurizio Mengassini had the honour of presenting two Seychellois citizens with their new passports on Constitution Day (June 18th).



Seychelloise Cecile Hobson had the opportunity to hoist the Seychelles flag on National Day (June 29th) whilst staying at a famous venue in Northern Island (Bushmills Inn). The hotel flies flags from all around the world daily, choosing from the nationality of the guests they have in-house. Photo contributed by Paul Campbell, Honorary Consul of the Seychelles in Northern Ireland.

The Honorary Consul of Seychelles in Perth, Australia, Mr. Patrick Barallon, held a Family Fun Day which doubled as a fundraising activity to commemorate our National Day.



The funds raised will be donated to the Seychelles Cancer Concern Association.



Seychellois Diaspora celebrate National Day

Aside from the Honorary Consuls, our Ambassadors also hosted events to celebrate the occasion.



Seychellois Community in the UAE Celebrates 49th Independence Day with Pride, Unity, and Resilience

“Sesel ou menm nou sel patri” — these stirring words from the Seychelles national anthem echoed with pride and emotion during a heartfelt celebration of Seychelles’ 49th Independence Day, held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Organized under the patronage of the Seychelles Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the event was a vibrant reflection of national pride, cultural identity, and the unity of the Seychellois diaspora.

This year’s celebration was uniquely led by a dedicated committee composed entirely of Seychellois residents in the UAE. From the soulful rhythms of Creole music to heartfelt

speeches and decor inspired by the Seychelles flag, the evening brought the islands’ spirit to life in the heart of the Emirates.

Ambassador Gervais Moumou, addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of national celebrations in preserving identity and fostering unity. He also highlighted the strengthening ties between Seychelles and the UAE and praised the creativity, resilience, and accomplishments of Seychellois youth who are making a global impact.

A special highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated raffle draw, featuring prizes sponsored by both UAE-based and Seychelles-based businesses. Notably, Laïla Hotel & Resort and Del Place Restaurant offered enticing rewards that brought an authentic taste of the islands to the celebration.

This Independence Day event stood as a powerful reminder that distance does not diminish national pride. With music, laughter, and a shared sense of belonging, the Seychellois community in the UAE came together to joyfully proclaim: “Bonn fèt lendepandans tou Seselwa!”



Article contributed by Ambassador Gervais Moumou

High Commissioner Lalatiana Accouche brings a slice of Seychelles to New Delhi



The High Commission of the Republic of Seychelles in India hosted a vibrant event on June 30, 2025, at ITC Maurya, New Delhi, to commemorate the 49th Anniversary of Seychelles’ Independence. The evening brought together dignitaries, ambassadors, Indian government officials, business leaders, and friends of Seychelles to celebrate the nation’s culture, partnerships, and progress.

Shri Periasamy Kumaran, Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, attended as the chief guest. In his remarks, he extended heartfelt congratulations to the people and government of Seychelles and

praised the strong and enduring ties between the two nations.

High Commissioner Accouche, in her address, reflected on Seychelles’ journey since gaining independence in 1976. She emphasized the country’s achievements on the global stage, particularly in ocean governance and environmental leadership, despite its status as Africa’s smallest state. She also highlighted Seychelles’ pioneering role in the blue economy. However, she acknowledged the persistent challenges that Small Island Developing States face, such as vulnerability to climate change, economic fluctuations, and political uncertainty. “*Our prosperity does not insulate us from climate shocks, global economic shifts, or political instability,*” she said.

A key focus of the evening was the growing partnership between Seychelles and India. This cooperation spans high-level visits, joint defense initiatives, scholarships, healthcare collaborations, and infrastructure development. The celebration concluded with a colorful showcase of Seychellois culture. Guests enjoyed traditional performances by artist Taniah and her dancers, island-inspired cuisine, ambient lighting, and a spirit of warm camaraderie.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Protocol and Etiquette Training

During the second quarter of 2025, representatives from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted Protocol and Etiquette Sessions with students of the Seychelles Tourism Academy and also gave an intensive session over two days to newly appointed Ambassador Miss Celia Mangroo. Ambassador Mangroo will be based in Geneva, Switzerland.



FAD Administration staff come together to beautify outdoor common areas



Members of FAD's Administration Team initiated a flower planting activity to help beautify the Jacques Hodoul Atrium as well as the surrounding areas of the Department's compound. This also served as a team-building activity for the Unit.

The Regional Affairs Division commemorates Africa Day

The Regional Affairs Division hosted an exhibition showcasing artifacts, traditional clothing, cuisine, and information from the five regions of Africa—East, West, North, Central, and South. To celebrate the occasion, staff members from the Department dressed in vibrant African attire.

Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, Principal Secretary Vivianne Fock Tave, and other staff took part in various activities, including an African geography quiz and a map exercise where participants marked the countries they had visited, among others.



Minister Radegonde hosts thank you cocktail for FAD staff following successful IOC Council of Ministers Meeting

Minister Sylvestre Radegonde hosted a cocktail for members of staff of the Foreign Affairs Department to thank them for their hard work and dedication towards making the Indian Ocean Commission's 39th Council of Ministers Meeting a success. In his speech, Minister Radegonde said that the success of the event was a whole team effort and that each and every team member played a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the event.



Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

New Faces and Promotions:

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



Ms. Tira Hoareau

Joined as a Telephone Operator in the Administration and Support Services Division



Mr. Jean-Phillip Banane

Has resumed his duties as Third Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division following a 2-year training



Mr. Marco Larsen

Promoted from Second Secretary to First Secretary in the Multilateral Affairs Division



Ms. Trisha Hoareau

Promoted from Third Secretary to Second Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division