



Foreign Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism
Republic of Seychelles

Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

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Diplomatic Cocktail 2025

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr Sylvestre Radegonde hosted the Diplomatic Cocktail on February 7th 2025. The annual event, which opens the diplomatic calendar, was held at the Fisherman's Cove Resort in Belombre.

In his speech under the theme *"Bridging Oceans, Building Connections: Seychelles at the Heart of Global Dialogue"*, Minister Radegonde began by thanking the Diplomatic and Consular Corps as well as the resident representatives of International Organisations for their dedication towards the wellbeing of the people of Seychelles and for contributing towards the strengthening of relations between



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde addressing the guests

What's inside?

The 2025 Diplomatic Cocktail –
Page 01 - 02

The Diplomatic Circle - **Pages 02 - 06**

Activities attended by FAD
overseas - **Pages 07 - 08**

Five Minutes with a Diplomat -
Page 09

Training Sessions and FAD's Social
Engagements - **Pages 10 - 11**

Our Staff Activities and Others -
Page 12

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their respective countries and the Republic of Seychelles.

On speaking on Seychelles' accomplishments on the international scene, Minister Radegonde pointed out that *"We have only been able to get to where we are because we are uncompromising on matters that are critical to us. And guided by principles which we set for ourselves and reflect who we are as a people. We are a recognised global leader in ocean governance, having been the first*

country in Africa and fourth in the world to ratify the BBNJ Treaty. We pioneered the blue bonds and protected thirty percent of our territory ten years ahead of schedule. Our determination to pursue our interests and objectives on our own terms is how we deliver for our people and remain a reliant partner to all who wish to work with us. We are proud of our accomplishments. But we rue that safeguarding them is not solely in our control. We are helpless against the external factors that threaten our development: foreign conflicts, economic shocks, climate change."



...Continues from page 1

Minister Radegonde also underscored the importance of ensuring maritime security for the country and noted, *“The protection of our vast maritime zone remains our biggest logistical challenge and we cannot overcome alone. Seychelles remains committed to protecting its waters as we assume chairmanship of the Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities later this month.”*

Reflecting on his time as the Chairman of the Indian Ocean Commission, Minister Radegonde remarked that *“Regionally, Seychelles has taken a leading role. As chair of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), we have championed resilience, solidarity, and sustainable development. From addressing maritime security to tackling climate change, our leadership has strengthened regional cooperation. As we hand over the chairmanship to the Union of Comoros, we do so with pride in the progress achieved.”*

He also added that Seychelles’ active engagement in La Francophonie further highlights Seychelles’ commitment to cultural diplomacy and multilateralism, reinforcing the country’s place as a bridge between nations.



In her speech, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Alexander Azais, spoke of the importance of diplomacy and remarked that, *“We live in a time of global turmoil, with many nations suffering from devastating conflicts.”*



War spares no one: it creates countless victims, and leaves behind a trail of devastation. I firmly believe that diplomacy remains our most powerful tool to build equitable, lasting peace. It is a privilege and a responsibility for all of us in this field to use our influence to achieve this noble cause.”

Ambassador Azais also expressed *“If I could offer a gift to my fellow diplomats, it would be nothing less than the world itself—imperfect as it may be. And with that gift, I would impart a wish: that if any part of this world does not align with their vision of fairness, justice, or peace, they would embrace the courage and determination to transform it. Diplomacy is, after all, a vocation rooted in the belief that meaningful change is always possible, no matter how complex the challenge. This gift would symbolise not only our shared responsibility to create a better world but also the power we hold collectively to shape it—one negotiation, one resolution, one act of kindness at a time. Let us approach this responsibility with hope and unwavering commitment, striving to leave behind a world that future generations will cherish.”*

Congratulations!

The Foreign Affairs Department wishes to congratulate Dr. Carol Nalletamby, Mr. Michael Wilford, Mr. Djoudjou Kibe and Mr. Selwyn Edmond on their appointment as new Honorary Consuls. Dr Nalletamby is the Honorary Consul of Seychelles in Cote d’Azur (France), Mr. Wilford is the Honorary Consul of Seychelles in Antwerp (Belgium), Mr. Kibe is the Honorary Consul of Seychelles in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mr. Edmond is the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Spain in Seychelles.



The Diplomatic Circle

Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles

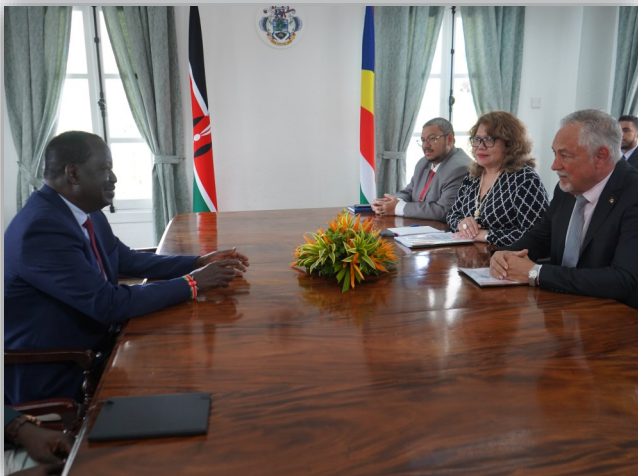


The High-Commissioner-designate of the Kingdom of Eswatini to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Mlondi Solomon Dlamini paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Stephan Schonemann paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



In the absence of Minister Radegonde, Principal Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari received Mr. Raila Odinga to discuss his candidature for the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC)



Vice President Afif received a Special Envoy of the His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini as part of his campaign for the position of African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment



Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave met with Mrs. Pimwadee Sovaratanapang, the Deputy Director General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde received H.E. Mr. Abdelhak Saihi, Minister of Health and Special Envoy of the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to discuss Algeria's candidature for the post of Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission



US Ambassador to Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Henry Jardine, called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde to discuss new USA Visa application procedures



Dr. Hanan Morsy, together with the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Wael M. Nasr Eldin M. Attiya called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde to present her vision for the post of Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission



Ambassador Selby Pillay received the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat upon his arrival at the Seychelles International Airport ahead of his farewell call on President Wavel Ramkalawan



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde received the Vice Minister of Culture of Cuba H.E. Mrs Lizette Martinez Luzardo at Maison Queau de Quinssy



A delegation from the SADC Electoral Advisory Council, led by Deputy Chairperson of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council, Mrs Jennifer Chiriga, called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Ambassador of Norway to the Seychelles, H.E Mr Gunnar Andreas Holm called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, received a delegation from the African Commission on Human and People's Rights led by Honourable Commissioner Solomon Ayele Dersso



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde met with the Commanding Officer of the Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Saksham', DIG Shatruejt Singh



Mr. Yuan Mindao, the Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and his delegation, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde



The Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Gustavo Martins Nogueira met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde



Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, and H.E. Mrs. Olivia Berkeley-Christmann, the Ambassador of France, formalised an Extradition Agreement between Seychelles and France



The Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Eastern Africa, Ms. Ashita Mittal, paid a courtesy visit on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde

Accreditation of Seychelles Ambassadors



Ambassador Racombo presented his Credentials to the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra' John Dunlap



Ambassador Gervais Moumou presented his Credentials to H.E. Mr Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait



Ambassador Conrad Mederic presented his Letters of Credence to H.E. Mr Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco

Le saviez-vous?

L'Organisation Internationale de la francophonie est un dispositif institutionnel voué à promouvoir le français et à mettre en œuvre une coopération politique, éducative, économique et culturelle au sein des 93 Etats et gouvernements de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Ce dispositif est fixé par la Charte de la Francophonie, adoptée en 1997 : sa plus haute instance est le Sommet de la Francophonie ; sa clé de voûte la Secrétaire générale de la Francophonie, poste occupé par Louise Mushikiwabo.

La Francophonie a pour missions de :

- Promouvoir la langue française et la diversité culturelle et linguistique
- Promouvoir la paix, la démocratie et les droits de l'Homme
- Appuyer l'éducation, la formation, l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche
- Développer la coopération économique au service du développement durable

La francophonie est célébrée tous les 20 mars.



Events attended by FAD Overseas

Seychelles participates in the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, led the Seychelles delegation at the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, which took place from 12th to 13th February in Addis Ababa at the African Union Headquarters.

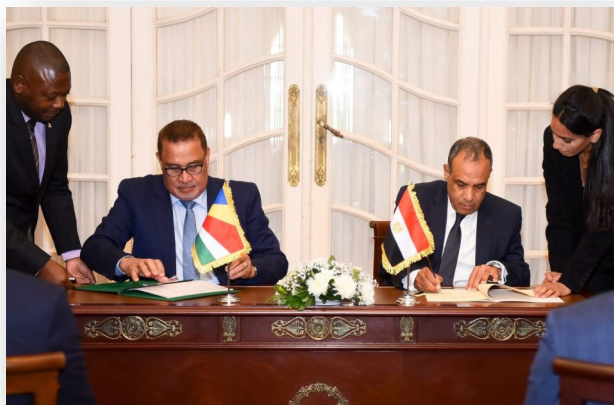
In his intervention on the Permanent Representatives Committee Report, Minister Radegonde expressed Seychelles' sincere appreciation for the donation of USD 200,000 towards the country's recovery efforts following the disasters of December 2023.

The Minister touched on the importance of the blue economy for Seychelles and also recognised that the Continent is a distance from achieving the targets set out in Agenda 2063 and that all parties need to collectively work together to maximise the impact of continental

projects. Minister Radegonde also cast Seychelles' votes during the election of four Commissioners of the African Union Commission. Representatives from the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of South Africa, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Ghana were elected.

On the margins of the Executive Council Meeting, Minister Radegonde met with H.E. Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Expatriate Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The two Ministers discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations in key areas of cooperation, notably tourism, healthcare, investment, and trade. They agreed to pursue these endeavours through knowledge-sharing practices, capacity building and exchange of experts between the two countries.

Minister Sylvestre Radegonde heads delegation during official visit to Cairo



Seychelles and Egypt signed a Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic and Official passport holders in Cairo, Egypt.

This was on the margin of a two-day official visit of Foreign Affairs and Tourism Minister, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, H. E Badr Abdelatty, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates Affairs from 5th to 6th April 2025.

During a bilateral meeting, the two parties discussed the possibility of also extending the visa waiver to ordinary passport holders. They also held discussions on several areas of mutual interest such as climate change and maritime security. The Egyptian minister reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to continue to support Seychelles in its capacity building efforts.

Minister Radegonde also held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar. Their discussions centered on cooperation in the health sector, including training, the recruitment of medical practitioners and the procurement of pharmaceutical products from Egypt. Minister Radegonde also had discussions with the Minister for Tourism and Antiquities, Mr Ahmed Issa. Both Ministers expressed their interest in exploring new opportunities for collaboration in the field of training and hospitality staff exchanges.

Minister Radegonde also took the opportunity to visit the three Seychellois presently incarcerated in Egypt and held discussions with the Assistant Minister of Interior for Community Protection, Major General Hazen Ezzel-Arab.

Minister Radegonde was accompanied on this visit by Ambassador Conrad Mederic and senior officials from the Foreign Affairs Department.



Seychelles participates in the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, represented President Wavel Ramkalawan at the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held on 15th to 16th February in Addis Ababa, under the theme: “Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations”.

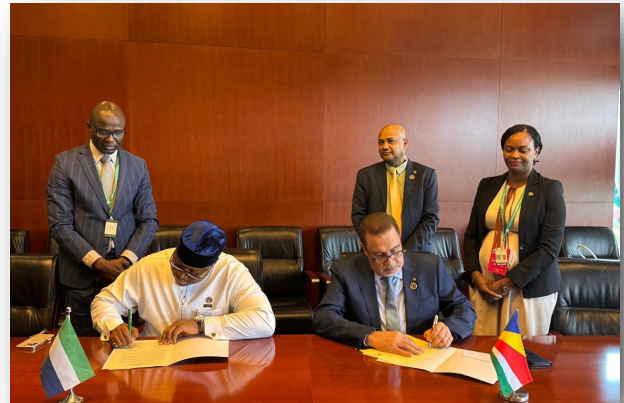
The highlight of the two-day event was the election of new senior leadership of the African Union Commission. H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf from the Republic of Djibouti was elected as the new Chairperson of the Commission, and H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi from the People’s Democratic of Algeria was elected as the new Deputy Chairperson. They will both serve a four-year term. Member States took this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, for his commendable leadership over the past eight years.



The Assembly also witnessed the handing over ceremony of the Chairperson of the Bureau of the African Union as H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, took over from H.E. Mohamed Ould El Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

On the margins of the Assembly of the Union, Minister Radegonde presented the Report of the Africa Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) at the annual Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), chaired by H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya. In his intervention, Minister Radegonde reiterated the Commission’s urgent call for a progressive transition toward green and blue economies, fostering sustainability, resilience and environmental protection for future generations. Furthermore, he urged all partners to continue assisting Member States in securing climate finance through mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the newly established Loss and Damage Fund.

On behalf of Minister Peggy Vidot, Minister Radegonde met with the Director-General of the Africa CDC, Dr. Jean Kaseya, accompanied by PS Valentin and Dr. Cynthia Noshir. During the meeting, Minister Radegonde expressed gratitude to Africa CDC for its support to Seychelles through capacity building, training, equipment, and human resources, which have



contributed to improving Seychelles’ health system. Additionally, Minister Radegonde engaged in bilateral meetings with Japan’s Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Eri Arfiya, and Germany’s Special Envoy for their UN Security Council candidature, H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Dold, whereby they discussed the strengthening of diplomatic ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation.

Minister Radegonde also attended the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government where Seychelles was featured as a case study in the African Governance Report (AGR 2025) for its leadership in the Blue Economy sector.

On 16th February, Minister Radegonde and H.E. Mr. Alhaji Timothy Musa Kabba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, signed a Joint Communiqué to formally establish diplomatic relations between the two countries as a first step to cooperate in areas of mutual interest.

Minister Radegonde was accompanied by Mr. Conrad Mederic, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the African Union, Mrs. Veronique Morel, Director for Regional Affairs Division, Mrs. Patricia Ilunga, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Seychelles in Ethiopia, and Ms. Vanessa Seth, African Union Desk Officer.



Five minutes with a Diplomat

We had a sit down with newly promoted First Secretary Melissa Stravens for our first quarter newsletter of 2025, to learn more about her and the work she does at FAD.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am originally from Belombre but I now reside at Au cap. I am married and mom to a little boy who keeps me busy. As any other parent, he keeps me motivated and make me want to work harder.

When I have time to spare, I'm usually spending quality time with my family or watching some form of documentary. I also enjoy seeing and learning about new places, in the world which makes the Foreign Affairs Department an ideal place to work, providing both the space to develop and explore.

I have a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law (LLM). Before embarking on my University education, I enjoyed learning about the interactions of states and was geared towards subjects such as history where I was able to gain some understanding of international relations and have knowledge of the different characteristics and the systems of different states. I also studied Literature and Sociology which requires quite a bit of interpretation and analysis and where I suppose my desire to study law came about.



How long have you been with the Department and what is your favorite part of your job at FAD

I've been with the Department for eight years now. Prior to that I worked at the Ministry of Finance, with the Trade Department. That is actually where I started to really understand the dynamics of international law and have a feel of the practical side of it. I decided to make

a move to the Foreign Affairs with a view to expand my knowledge on international law and develop in other ways at a professional level. In addition to my new responsibilities under the Legal Affairs unit, I also developed a keen interest in the field of human rights which is in itself a component of international law and part of the diplomatic work that we do.

I don't know if I can say that I have a favorite part of my job here at FAD as there are different interesting work that we do. However, I do enjoy finding solutions to issues that require different legal interpretations, perspectives and a lot of brainstorming. The networking element to my work is also interesting and often results in lasting personal and professional relationships, which I value very much. I think the work that I do here at FAD has in many ways built my character and resilience as a person. Sometimes the work gets very challenging and I find it necessary to adjust my focus, remain objective and continue with the tasks at hand. At the end of the day, I think if you are able to do your work with passion and dedication, the end product will always be fulfilling and satisfying.



As someone who has studied in the field of law, why did you choose to practice it in the field of diplomacy. Is there any field of law that you specialize in?

During my studies, I got a fair understanding on international law, human rights, international agreements and other factors that govern the interactions between states. I think my background has supported my interest in the Diplomatic field and enhanced my ability to navigate the multifaceted landscape of diplomacy. To put it simply I think both areas, law and diplomacy are interlinked, so the decision to enter the diplomatic field was not a hard one to

make.



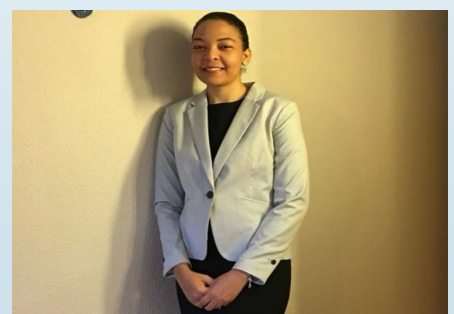
My academic background is what made me want to understand the legal side to global politics and international relations. At a more practical level, I now witness in action, the power that diplomacy has in resolving conflicts and upholding legal principles. My decision was also motivated by the desire to represent my country, to foster international collaboration, and bring forth meaningful contributions to solving many of the existing and emerging global issues.

As a youth yourself, what advice would you give to younger people who wish to join FAD?

I would encourage anyone who is aspiring to join the Diplomatic field to go for it!

It is a very rewarding career and the exposure you get from it would be extremely beneficial at professional level. Diplomacy is all about understanding different cultures, developing communication skills, being attentive and aware about global affairs, learning to handle conflict constructively, amongst many other things.

If you are seeking an intellectually stimulating field - then a career with the Foreign Affairs would be a good fit. It's a journey that requires a lot of dedication, an open mind, and ultimately a passion for service.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Protocol and Etiquette Training

During the first quarter of 2025, representatives from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted Protocol and Etiquette Sessions with staff members from the Agency for Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Financial Intelligence Unit and World Health Organization. These sessions are integral to the Department's objective of enhancing collaboration with our partners and stakeholders.



FAD commemorates World Autism Awareness Day



Staff of the Foreign Affairs Department Team came together to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day – celebrated every April 2nd.

The colour blue is traditionally worn to show support to the cause as it is often associated with calmness, serenity, and acceptance, which are seen as positive qualities for individuals on the autism spectrum.

We stand united with persons on the autism spectrum.

FAD Members of staff all wearing blue

International Women's Day Activity

To mark International Women's Day, the Human Resource, Budget Management, and Administration Division, in partnership with the 'Quatre Epices' Social Committee, organized a special gathering for the female employees of the Department. As a gesture of appreciation, the male staff took the opportunity to present gifts to the female staff.



Protocol and Etiquette Session for new staff

On Monday 24th February 2025, the staff from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted a session with newly appointed staff to give them an overview of the various Divisions within the Foreign Affairs Department, protocol etiquettes and the National Symbols of Seychelles.



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 :



Mr. Luca Soleil-Arnephy

Third Secretary in the Consular Affairs & Diaspora Division



Mr. Travis Thomas

Driver in the Administration and Support Services Section



Ms. Joanna Salome

Third Secretary in the Development Aid Unit



Mr. Davis Mathiot

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



Mrs. Melissa Stravens

Promoted from Second Secretary to First Secretary in the Legal Affairs Unit



Ambassador Cillia Mangroo is the newest addition to Seychelles' team of Ambassadors.

Ambassador Mangroo will be based in the Diplomatic Mission in Geneva and will be accredited to the Swiss Confederation as well as International Organisations based in Switzerland.

The Department of Foreign Affairs would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Mangroo on her appointment and wish her every success in her upcoming posting.

Seychelles gains a new Ambassador

