



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora Republic of Seychelles

Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

July 2026, Issue 20

Celebrating 50 Years of Diplomatic Friendship

The Republic of Seychelles marked a historic milestone on Monday 29 June 2026 as it commemorated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with its longstanding bilateral partners alongside the Golden Jubilee of Independence. Hosted by the President, Dr. Patrick Herminie at State House, the commemorative cocktail reception brought together members of the diplomatic corps, government officials and distinguished guests in a celebration of five decades of friendship, cooperation and shared progress.

Held on the very day Seychelles celebrated 50 years of nationhood, the event paid tribute not only to the



Minister Faure addresses the guests

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country's journey as an independent republic but also to the enduring partnerships that have accompanied its development since 1976. Adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the evening, each resident diplomatic mission showcased the traditions, flavours and cuisine of their respective countries through national pavilions, offering guests an opportunity to experience the diversity of cultures that have enriched Seychelles' diplomatic landscape over the past five decades.

Delivering the commemorative toast, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr Barry Faure, described the occasion as a landmark in the life of the republic and reflected on the nation's remarkable diplomatic journey since independence.

"Today, we gather not only to commemorate the birth of an independent Seychelles, but also to celebrate the friendships and partnerships that have accompanied our nation from its earliest



days," he said, noting that many of the countries represented established diplomatic relations with Seychelles shortly after independence. Over the years, these relationships have evolved into enduring partnerships that have become an integral part of the nation's story.



Minister Faure paid tribute to the resilience, determination and ingenuity of the Seychellois people while acknowledging the invaluable support of international partners in shaping the country's development. He highlighted the contributions of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in advancing education, healthcare, infrastructure, environmental protection, maritime security, trade and economic development, all of which have strengthened national institutions and improved the lives of Seychellois.

Reflecting on Seychelles' foreign policy over the past five decades, the Minister reaffirmed that the country's diplomacy has consistently been guided by the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful dialogue, respect for international law and constructive cooperation. As a Small Island Developing State, he noted that Seychelles has never measured its influence by size, but rather by its credibility, consistency and ability to build consensus.



He further highlighted Seychelles' growing role on the international stage, from championing the interests of Small Island Developing States and promoting climate justice to advancing sustainable ocean governance through its pioneering Blue Economy initiatives. These achievements, he emphasised, have been made possible through close collaboration with governments, international organisations and development partners around the world.

Looking towards the future, Minister Faure reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to strengthening existing friendships, cultivating new partnerships and working alongside the international community to address shared challenges through dialogue, mutual respect and solidarity. He concluded his address by inviting guests to raise a toast to the Republic of Seychelles on its Golden Jubilee of Independence, to the enduring friendship between Seychelles and all nations represented, and to a future marked by peace, prosperity and cooperation.

Speaking on behalf of the diplomatic corps, its Dean, Ambassador Artyom Khozin of the Russian Federation, congratulated Seychelles on reaching this historic milestone. He commended the country's achievements over the past fifty years, describing its development as a testament to the vision, resilience and dedication of the Seychellois people.

Ambassador Khozin recognised Seychelles' success in building strong national institutions, expanding access to education and healthcare, promoting environmental stewardship and establishing itself as a respected voice for Small Island Developing States. He also reaffirmed the diplomatic corps' continued support for Seychelles as it confronts emerging global challenges, expressing confidence that the country will continue to uphold its longstanding commitment to international law, multilateral cooperation and its reputation as "a friend to everyone and enemy to none."



The evening served as a fitting celebration of the partnerships that have shaped Seychelles' diplomatic journey over the past fifty years, while reaffirming the country's unwavering commitment to friendship, cooperation and constructive engagement with the international community as it embarks on the next chapter of its history.



The Diplomatic Circle

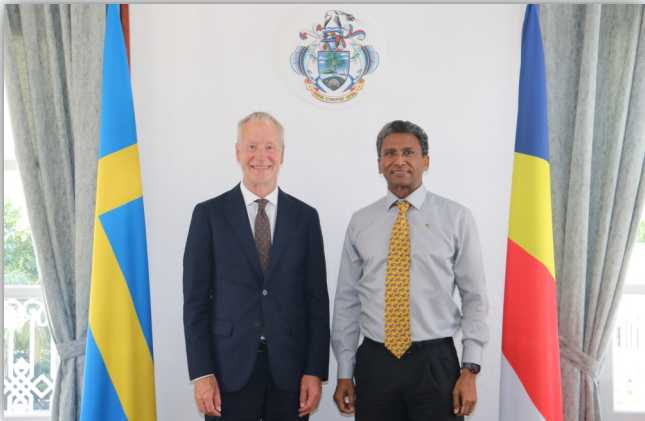
Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles



The Ambassador-designate of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. George Psiachas met with the Principal Secretary, Ambassador Ian Madeleine ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The Ambassador-designate of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Alessandro Azais Tatistscheff paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure during his Accreditation visit



The Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Lars Håkan Åkesson paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Vincenzo Del Monaco paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The Ambassador-designate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mrs. Tran Thi Thu Thin paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of her Credentials



The High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Zambia to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Alfred Musemuna paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials

Farewell calls



The Ambassador-designate of the Dominican Republic to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Renso Antonio Herrera Franco paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Christian Fellner paid a farewell call on Minister Barry Faure

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



Ambassador Beryl Samson, in her capacity as Acting Principal Secretary, met with the Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa Regional Office of the UNFPA, Ms. Young Hong WON



Ambassador Beryl Samson, in her capacity as Acting Principal Secretary, met with H.E. Ambassador Wolfgang Hermann Dodd on his official visit to Seychelles, as Special Envoy to Campaign for a Non-Permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council



Minister Barry Faure and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Seychelles, H.E. Ms Lin Nan signed an agreement for a grant of RMB 100 million



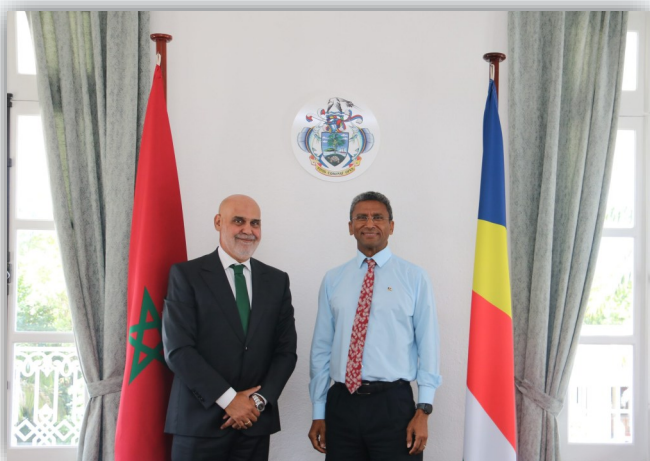
The Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Artem Kozhin, paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure following President Herminie's State Visit to Russia



The Principal Secretary, Ambassador Ian Madeleine met with H.E. Mr. Marcin Kubiak, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland



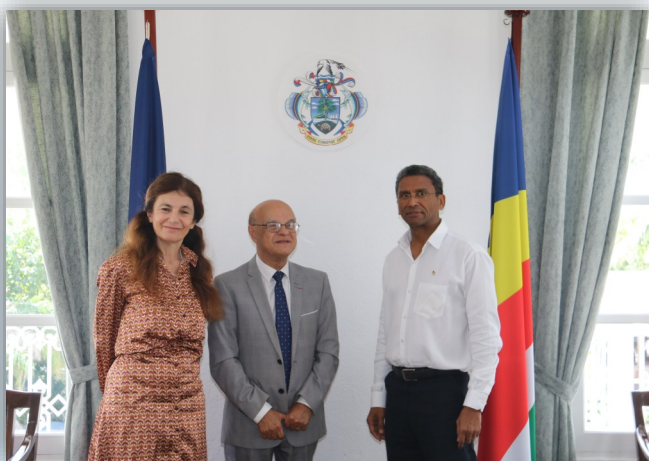
The High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Zokey Ahad paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



Le ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Diaspora, M. Barry Faure, a reçu l'ambassadeur du Royaume du Maroc aux Seychelles, M. Mohammed Benjlany pour une visite de courtoisie



Minister Barry Faure, received the Indian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Rohit Rathish accompanied by the Commanding Officer of the Indian Naval Ship Tarkash, Captain Rohit Mishra



Le Conseiller régional de la Réunion, M. Wilfrid Bertile, accompagné de l'Ambassadrice de France aux Seychelles, S.E. Mme Anne Tallineau, ont rendu une visite de courtoisie au ministre Barry Faure



The High Commissioner of Australia, H.E. Ms Kate Chamley paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



Le Ministre Barry Faure, a reçu au nom du Président de la République, le Dr Patrick Herminie, un don des Archives diplomatiques françaises, remis par l'Ambassadrice de France aux Seychelles S.E. Mme Anne Tallineau



The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Seychelles and Mauritius, Ms. Lisa Singh paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



Minister Barry Faure received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Seychelles, H.E. Ms Lin Nan, and the Commanding Officer of PLANS Tangshan, Captain Li Chao



The Senior Military Official and Defense Attaché for Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, Commander Michelle Calarasu, paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



Minister Barry Faure met with Dr. Emma Orefuwa, the head of delegation of the Enterprise Angels, a Nigeria - UK - Seychelles diaspora engagement group



The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Hatem Yousri Hosni paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



Minister Barry Faure received the Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme, Ms. Alka Bhatia

Accreditation of Seychelles Ambassadors



Ambassador Andre Pool presented his Credentials to H.E. Mr Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Republic of Cuba

Did you know?



Seychelles was uninhabited when European explorers first documented the islands in the 16th century. The islands were formally claimed by France in 1753, and the first permanent settlement was established in 1770. Under French rule, Seychelles developed as a plantation colony.

Following the Napoleonic Wars, Seychelles was ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1814 and remained a British colony for more than 160 years. During British rule, slavery was abolished in 1835, and the islands continued to develop economically and socially. Seychelles became a separate Crown Colony in 1903, distinct from Mauritius, which had previously administered the islands.

Seychelles gained independence from Britain on 29 June 1976 and became a sovereign republic within the Commonwealth. Its history and culture today reflect the enduring influences of its African, French, British, Indian and Chinese heritage.

This year, the country celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its Independence.

Events attended by FAD Overseas

Minister Barry Faure leads Seychelles delegation at the 9th Indian Ocean Conference

The Seychelles reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation and maritime governance through its active participation in the 9th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC), held in Balaclava, Mauritius, under the theme "Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance." The annual forum brought together Heads of Government, ministers, policymakers and experts from across the Indian Ocean region to deliberate on the evolving geopolitical, economic and security challenges facing the region.



The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr Barry Faure, led Seychelles' engagement at the conference through a series of strategic bilateral meetings and high-level interventions that advanced the country's diplomatic, economic and maritime priorities. On the margins of the conference, he held discussions with counterparts from India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Tanzania, Nepal, Singapore and Bhutan, as well as senior representatives from Australia, Egypt and the European Union. These engagements reinforced Seychelles' longstanding partnerships while identifying new opportunities for cooperation in maritime governance, the Blue Economy, trade, connectivity, digital transformation, capacity building, tourism and institutional development.

The Minister also exchanged views with his counterparts on the impact of the ongoing instability in the Middle East, particularly its implications for energy security, supply chains and economic resilience for Small Island Developing States. He reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and collective responses to shared challenges, while advancing initiatives to deepen bilateral relations through new legal frameworks, structured political consultations and enhanced people-to-people exchanges.

Addressing the conference, Minister Faure positioned Seychelles as a champion of collaborative ocean governance by highlighting the joint management of the Saya de Malha Bank with Mauritius as a pioneering and successful model of shared stewardship. He emphasised that the stewardship of the Indian Ocean is a global public good and called for collective action to translate shared responsibility into practical outcomes. He underscored the need for greater investment in maritime infrastructure, protection of critical undersea infrastructure, sustainable Blue Economy initiatives, and stronger legal and enforcement frameworks to safeguard the region's maritime domain.



Seychelles further demonstrated its regional leadership by convening a Friends of the Chair Meeting of the Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA) in its capacity as Chair. Chaired by Chief of Defence Forces Major General Michael Rosette, the meeting brought together representatives of partner states, regional and international organisations, maritime security practitioners and experts to assess the evolving maritime security landscape. Discussions focused on the implications of tensions in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz, alongside persistent threats such as piracy, trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the protection of critical undersea infrastructure.

The conference and accompanying engagements underscored Seychelles' proactive diplomacy and reaffirmed its role as a respected advocate for regional cooperation, maritime security and sustainable ocean governance in the Indian Ocean.



Seychelles and Russia strengthen labour cooperation

During President Dr. Patrick Herminie's State Visit to Moscow on 24 April 2026, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Labour Inspection and Promotion of Employment with the Federal Service for Labour and Employment of the Russian Federation on behalf of the Ministry of Employment and Human Resource Planning.

The MoU establishes a framework to strengthen bilateral cooperation in labour inspection, employment services and the enforcement of labour laws, while promoting workers' health and safety. It also supports the integration of digital technologies to modernise public employment services and improve access for job seekers and employers.

During discussions with Director General Mikhail Ivanko, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation through training

programmes for labour inspectors and the development of a joint action plan. The agreement reflects the shared commitment of Seychelles and Russia to strengthening labour standards and improving employment services.



Minister Barry Faure conducts successful working visit in Central Asia

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr Barry Faure, undertook a successful working visit to Central Asia from 27 April to 5 May 2026, reinforcing Seychelles' commitment to expanding its diplomatic engagement and strengthening partnerships across the region through high-level bilateral meetings in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.



The visit commenced in Tajikistan, where Minister Faure held the first ministerial-level meeting between the two countries since diplomatic relations were established in 2017. Discussions with Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin focused on renewable energy, trade, tourism, air connectivity and the fight against drug trafficking. Both sides agreed to advance negotiations on visa waiver arrangements and a General Cooperation Agreement, while Minister Faure also explored tourism cooperation with the Chairman of the Committee for Tourism Development, offering Seychelles' expertise in sustainable tourism and destination management.

In Turkmenistan, Minister Faure paid the first official visit by a Seychellois Foreign Minister to the country, where he met President Serdar Berdimuhamedow and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov. The discussions laid the foundation for stronger political dialogue and expanded cooperation in trade,

tourism, fisheries, transport and textiles. Both sides also agreed to strengthen the legal and institutional framework governing bilateral relations and explore greater private sector engagement through business forums and trade exhibitions.

The Minister's visit to Uzbekistan marked another historic milestone as Seychelles and Uzbekistan signed a General Cooperation Agreement, providing a comprehensive framework to deepen collaboration across political, economic and tourism sectors. The two countries also agreed to establish structured bilateral consultations, while Seychelles welcomed an invitation for President Herminie to attend the 2027 Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Uzbekistan.

The final leg of the visit took Minister Faure to the Kyrgyz Republic, where Seychelles signed a landmark Visa Waiver Agreement to facilitate travel and strengthen people-to-people exchanges. During meetings with Foreign Minister Kulubaev Jeenbek Moldokanovich and President Sadyr Japarov, discussions centred on expanding cooperation in tourism, digitalisation, agriculture, education, trade and sustainable development. Minister Faure also confirmed Seychelles' support for the Kyrgyz Republic's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2027–2028 term.



Seychelles and Moldova establish diplomatic relations

On the 28th of April 2026, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Moldova established diplomatic relations in the spirit of promoting bilateral cooperation and the strengthening of friendship.

The establishment of diplomatic relations is founded on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for fundamental norms of international law. Similarly, to Seychelles, Moldova is a fellow member of the Forum of Small States and the Organization of La Francophonie.

The signing of the Protocol took place in New York between the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations, Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave, and the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations, Ambassador Gheorghe Leucă.



Seychelles joins UNESCO SIDS Forum

The Ambassador of Seychelles to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Mr. Georges Tirant, participated in a high-level panel on “Partnerships and Financing” at UNESCO Headquarters, marking the International Day for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Ambassador Tirant highlighted progress in advancing the SIDS agenda, including the establishment of the SIDS Group and Group of Friends of SIDS, while advocating for stronger climate action and dedicated financing. He also promoted Seychelles’ World Heritage nomination for the Mission Ruins of Venn’s Town, which would become the country’s first historic site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Ambassador further highlighted Seychelles’ innovative Blue Bond and stressed the importance of integrating the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index into global decision-making.



Seychelles participates in the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue

High Commissioner Lalatiana Accouche led the Seychelles delegation at the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue, organised in collaboration with India’s Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association under the theme “Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World.”

Serving as a panellist during the Blue Economy session, High Commissioner Accouche highlighted Seychelles’ pioneering blue economy framework and commitment to sustainable ocean governance. She called for stronger regional cooperation to advance ocean resilience and support the domestication of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, emphasising its importance for protecting marine biodiversity and ensuring sustainable ocean resource use.

Seychelles’ participation reaffirmed its leadership in promoting the blue economy and strengthening collaborative efforts across the Indian Ocean region.



Seychelles participates in the fourth Universal Periodic Review in Geneva

Seychelles successfully underwent its fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 8 May 2026 at the United Nations in Geneva, reaffirming its commitment to advancing and protecting human rights. Led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure, the Seychelles delegation highlighted progress in legislative reforms and strengthening national institutions, while acknowledging ongoing challenges and reaffirming its commitment to implementing its human rights obligations.

On the sidelines of the UPR, Minister Faure held bilateral meetings with Swiss Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Discussions with Mr. Cassis focused on the longstanding Seychelles-Switzerland relationship and opportunities to deepen cooperation in areas including health, tourism, environment, drug rehabilitation and climate financing. Minister Faure also expressed Seychelles' appreciation for Switzerland's support and highlighted the importance of Seychelles' first resident Ambassador in Switzerland in strengthening bilateral engagement.

During his meeting with the UN Geneva Director General, Minister Faure underscored Seychelles' strong support for multilateralism and the United Nations, while discussing sustainable development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Seychelles delegation included representatives from the Permanent Mission in Geneva, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora and Social Affairs, Family and Equality, as well as the Judiciary.



Seychelles strengthens partnerships at Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi

Vice President of Seychelles, Mr. Sébastien Pillay, led the Seychelles delegation to the Africa Forward Summit, hosted by France and Kenya in Nairobi. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure, participated in the high-level Summit, which brought together African and international leaders to discuss the continent's priorities and its role in a changing global landscape.

On the margins of the Summit, Minister Faure held bilateral discussions with his French counterpart, H.E. Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, reaffirming the longstanding partnership between Seychelles and France, which celebrates 50 years of formal diplomatic relations in 2026. Discussions focused on maritime security, climate action, sustainable ocean governance and regional cooperation, particularly as France prepares to assume the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Commission. The Ministers also highlighted the shared historical and cultural ties between the two countries and their common vision for a secure and resilient Indian Ocean region. Minister Faure also

met with Nigeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation. Discussions included a proposal to elevate relations through the establishment of a Bi-National Commission, as well as renewed collaboration in tourism, travel and private-sector partnerships, with both sides expressing a commitment to developing a roadmap for enhanced cooperation.



During a Ministerial Meeting on United Nations Security Council Reform and the Use of the Veto, Minister Faure reaffirmed Seychelles' support for the Common African Position on Security Council reform and meaningful African representation. He also expressed support for the Franco-Mexican Initiative calling for voluntary restraint in the use of the veto in situations involving genocide, crimes against humanity and large-scale war crimes, underscoring Seychelles' commitment to principled multilateralism and a stronger, more accountable UN system.

Minister Barry Faure conducts first official visit to the Maldives

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure, undertook his first official visit to the Maldives, where he met with the Maldivian Foreign Minister, H.E. Iruthisham Adam. The landmark visit, which was also the first official visit to the Maldives by a Foreign Minister of Seychelles, reaffirmed the close and longstanding friendship between the two Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



During high-level bilateral talks in Malé, the two Ministers discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation in tourism, trade, investment, climate change and people-to-people exchanges. They also agreed to prioritise the implementation of existing bilateral agreements and enhance coordination in multilateral fora, including the United Nations, Commonwealth, Alliance of Small Island States and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The visit coincided with the entry into force of the Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements between Seychelles and the Maldives on 15 May, marking a significant step towards facilitating travel and strengthening people-to-people links between the two countries.

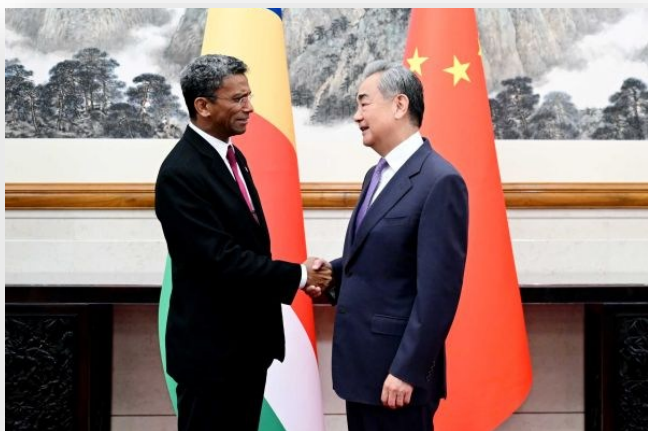
To commemorate the occasion, Minister Faure and Minister Adam participated in a joint tree-planting ceremony at Lonuziyaaray Park in Malé.

The initiative symbolised the shared commitment of Seychelles and the Maldives to environmental stewardship, sustainability and climate action. The trees were planted as part of the Maldives' Five Million Trees Project, reflecting the two nations' common recognition that the resilience and future of SIDS depend on protecting their natural environments.



Minister Faure holds talks with counterpart during first official visit to China

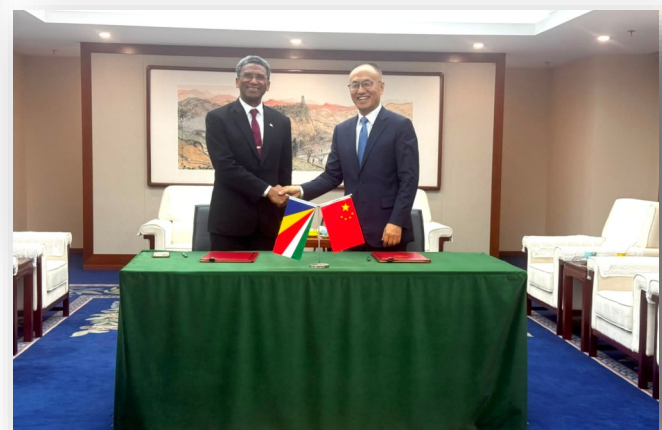
Minister Barry Faure, undertook his first official visit to Beijing in his current ministerial capacity, at the invitation of the Chinese Foreign Minister, H.E. Wang Yi. The visit took place as Seychelles and China commemorate 50 years of diplomatic relations, established on 30 June 1976, shortly after Seychelles gained independence.



During the bilateral talks, Minister Faure and Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed preparations for a State Visit by President of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie, following a cordial invitation extended by the Chinese President Xi Jinping. Expected to take place in the first quarter of 2027, the visit will serve as a key highlight of the golden jubilee celebrations and

further underscore the longstanding partnership between the two countries.

During the visit, Minister Faure also met with Chairman Chen Xiaodong of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). The two sides reviewed successful bilateral cooperation and discussed proposed new projects. The meeting culminated in the signing of an exchange of letters providing for the dispatch of Chinese experts to Seychelles to undertake technical feasibility studies and on-site inspections for priority social, economic and infrastructure projects.



Les Seychelles participent à la 40e Session du Conseil des Ministres de la COI

Les Seychelles ont participé à la 40e Session ordinaire du Conseil des Ministres de la Commission de l'océan Indien (COI), tenue le 8 juin 2026 à Moroni, aux Comores. La délégation seychelloise était conduite par l'Ambassadeur Nicholas Préa, représentant le Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Diaspora, M. Barry Faure.

La session a permis aux États membres d'examiner les principales priorités de coopération régionale, notamment la sécurité maritime, la réduction des risques de catastrophes, la santé, la culture, la sécurité alimentaire, la connectivité et le renforcement institutionnel. Les ministres ont adopté le Plan d'actions prioritaires 2026-2029 de la COI ainsi que plusieurs mesures visant à renforcer la mobilisation des ressources et l'intégration régionale. À l'issue de la réunion, les Comores ont transmis la présidence de la COI à la France, dont les priorités porteront notamment sur la sécurité maritime, la

gestion des risques naturels et le renforcement de la résilience régionale.



Conclusion of EU-ESA Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

On 10 June 2026 in Balaclava, Mauritius, the European Union and four Eastern and Southern African States - Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles - announced the successful conclusion of negotiations to deepen the existing

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) into a modern and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The Seychelles delegation was led by Minister Véronique Laporte and included Ambassador Kenneth Racombo, whose participation contributed to Seychelles' engagement in this significant milestone in EU-ESA relations. The delegation also comprised Principal Secretary Natalie Edmond, Director General Ricky Barbe and Principal Trade Officer Aissata Dia.

The Agreement, the first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, covers trade in goods and services, investment, digital trade and sectoral cooperation, while promoting local processing, industrial transformation, value addition and sustainable development. Following seven years of negotiations, the parties will now proceed with legal review and the necessary steps towards signature and ratification.



Seychelles participates in IORA Committee of Senior Officials meeting

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) convened in New Delhi on 15 and 16 June 2026, marking the first physical meeting of the Committee in five years. The Seychelles delegation was led by Mrs. Lalatiana Accouche, High Commissioner for the Republic of Seychelles to India, accompanied by Mr. Christian Faure and Ms. Rebecca Julienne of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora.

As IORA's principal senior-level body, the CSO oversees the implementation of the Association's programmes and provides strategic guidance ahead of the Council of Ministers Meeting. Seychelles contributed to discussions across the agenda, reaffirming its commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development. High Commissioner Accouche also provided an update on Seychelles' IORA-funded Ocean Knowledge Education Programme, which promotes ocean

literacy and advances blue economy objectives across the region.



National Day Events

Constitution Day 2026

As is customary, 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 2026.



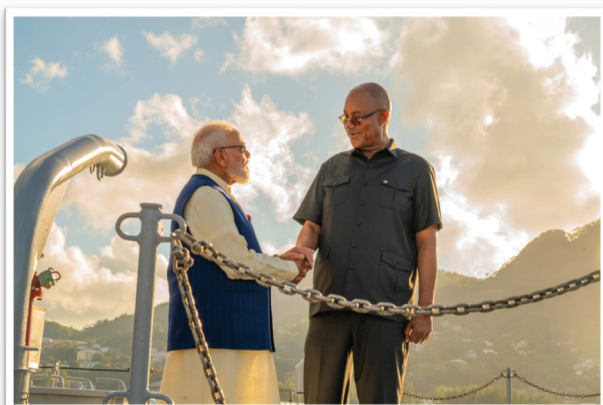
National Day Parade 2026

This year, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, the National Day Parade was held on June 28th. The military parade was joined by foreign contingents from six countries as well as youth platoons falling under the Seychelles National Youth Council. High level dignitaries from India, Mauritius, the African Union Commission, China and Russia joined high ranking government officials to mark the auspicious occasion.



State Visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi conducted a three-day State Visit, at the invitation of President, Dr. Patrick Herminie, on the occasion of the Seychelles' Golden Jubilee celebrations. The visit also coincided with the celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Seychelles and India. The handing over of various donations and unveiling of projects, the exchange of legal instruments and bilateral discussions were held during the landmark visit which served as a reminder of the strong relationship the two countries share.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Protocol and Etiquette Training

During the second quarter of 2026, officers from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted a series of Protocol and Etiquette sessions for staff of the Judiciary, the Seychelles Investment Bureau, the Trade Division and newly appointed officers within the Ministry. The sessions provided participants with an overview of the Ministry's various Divisions, the principles of diplomatic protocol and etiquette, and the significance and proper use of the National Symbols of Seychelles.

These sessions aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of official protocol, enhance professional conduct, and promote consistency in the application of national and diplomatic practices across Government institutions.



Our Staff Activities and others

The Regional Affairs Division commemorates Africa Day

To commemorate Africa Day on 25 May 2026, staff members of the Ministry proudly celebrated the rich cultural heritage and diversity of the African continent by dressing in traditional African attire. The colourful display of garments reflected the spirit of unity, identity, and cultural appreciation associated with the occasion. To mark the celebration, staff gathered at Maison Quéau de Quinssy for a commemorative group photograph, capturing the Ministry's collective participation in this important annual observance.



The Legal Affairs Unit celebrates National Day

The ladies of the Legal Affairs Unit took some time out of their busy schedules to dress up in the colours of our national flag on the occasion of our National Day, a fun way of displaying their national pride.



International Day of Women in Diplomacy

On June 24th, the ladies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora celebrated, for the first time, the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. Aside from the commemorative photo, a five-day social media campaign was launched where five women diplomats shared how they felt women had contributed to diplomacy.



International Day of Women in Diplomacy - cont.

Ms. Maria Vital - Second Secretary - Legal Affairs Unit

Over the years, women have significantly shaped diplomacy by bringing diverse perspectives and a leadership style which strikes a balance between practicality and emotion.

By combining emotional intelligence with strategic decision making, women diplomats have helped build trust, facilitate dialogue and have promoted inclusive approaches to conflict resolution. Their ability to understand human concerns without losing sight of political, legal or economic realities has strengthened conflict settlement whilst also advanced peacebuilding initiatives and promoted more inclusive international cooperation. As a result, the growing participation of women in diplomacy has enriched decision making processes and contributed to more effective and people-centred foreign policy outcomes.



Ms. Wendy Isnard - Director - Bilateral Affairs Division

Over the last fifty years, women have been at the heart of Seychelles diplomacy. The journey took shape with Minister Danielle de St. Jorre in 1989, whose pioneering leadership set the tone for a Foreign Service where women became central to national policy. Since independence in 1976, women have stood as co-architects of Seychelles' foreign relations, navigating complex negotiations and ensuring Seychelles consistently punches above its weight on the global stage. Our presence across every layer of the Foreign Service reflects dedication, resilience, and vision. We are the enduring pillars of our nation's diplomacy.



Ms. Amenda Padayachy - Director General - Multilateral Affairs Division

In my view, women continue to shape diplomacy by bringing resilience and a deeper understanding of human needs to the forefront on international relations. Our experiences and perspectives have broadened diplomatic dialogues, ensuring that policies are more reflective of the diverse societies we serve. This has strengthened diplomatic outcomes and contributed to more balanced decision-making. In this regard, women have had a clear and meaningful influence on diplomacy, including within Seychelles' foreign policy and development agenda.

Beyond this, women also play an important role in challenging the perception that diplomacy and foreign affairs are predominantly male domains. In Seychelles, the appointment of women to senior positions in the field has created greater opportunities for us to participate in pertinent debates where key decisions on development and global advancement are made.



In recent years, senior leadership within the Seychelles foreign ministry has had a strong representation of women; currently half of the technical Divisions and Unit at Headquarters are led by qualified women. This reflects the significant contribution of women in this profession that is defined by constant responsiveness, demanding operational requirements, and high-pressure environments. Traditionally, such roles have been easier for men to navigate due to social expectations surrounding family and caregiving responsibilities. Despite these realities, women in diplomacy in Seychelles continue to demonstrate that leadership and effective representation are determined by capability, commitment, perseverance and competence, rather than gender. Collectively, these developments underscore the growing recognition that women are not only participants in diplomacy, but also essential contributors to its effectiveness and evolution.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy - cont.

Ms. Beryl Samson - Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles

Throughout my career in the Seychelles Foreign Service, I have witnessed the invaluable contribution women make to diplomacy through their leadership, resilience, empathy and ability to build bridges across cultures and perspectives. Women bring diverse experiences to the negotiating table and often promote a more inclusive approach to addressing complex challenges, from peace and security to climate change, sustainable development and the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing states. In the Seychelles context, women diplomats have played an important role in advancing our national interests, strengthening international partnerships and ensuring that our country's voice is heard on the global stage. As a female Ambassador, I am proud to be part of this legacy and firmly believe that empowering more women to lead in diplomacy will contribute to more balanced, innovative and lasting solutions for our shared future.



Mrs. Nisha Chengo - Second Secretary - Regional Affairs Division

Women have transformed diplomacy not just by taking a seat at the table, but by changing the very nature of the conversations that happen there. They have brought empathy without sacrificing strength, built bridges where walls once stood, and championed solutions that centre people and communities. My own journey into this work has been driven by a deep passion and commitment to bettering the communities we live in and shaping a more just world through strengthened partnerships and sustained dialogue. A conviction that has only deepened through my work with the African continent, its people, and its institutions.

What moves me most is seeing more women step confidently into this space at the negotiating table, in the corridors of multilateral institutions, and in the quiet, persistent work that rarely makes headlines but changes lives. Each of us who walks through that door holds it open a little wider for the next. Earlier this year, I was humbled to be recognised among ABCD Africa's 100 Most Impactful Voices of 2026 but what that honour truly reflects is the collective strength of women in diplomacy everywhere, including right here in Seychelles, who show up every day with purpose, resilience, and heart.



Did you know?



- The UN General Assembly declared 24 June as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, encouraging global awareness and recognition of women's contributions to diplomacy.
- Women remain significantly underrepresented among heads of state and government worldwide, with only a small proportion of countries led by women at any given time.
- Women continue to hold less than one-quarter of cabinet minister positions globally and remain underrepresented in influential portfolios such as foreign affairs, defense, and security.
- Within the United Nations system, women remain underrepresented among permanent representatives and ambassadors, and numerous countries have yet to appoint a woman to these senior diplomatic positions.
- Female representation in diplomatic services and international missions continues to lag behind that of men, particularly in ambassadorial and other top-ranking leadership roles.
- Despite progress in gender equality, women continue to face structural, institutional, and cultural barriers that limit their advancement to the highest levels of diplomacy and international decision-making.

Source: UN Women

Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

New Faces and Promotions:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora is thrilled to welcome the following new staff and announce the following promotions :

Overseas Postings



Ms. Trisha Hoareau

Has been posted to the Seychelles Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as a Second Diplomat



Mr. Herve Pool

Has been posted to the Seychelles Embassy in Beijing, China as a Second Diplomat

Promotions



Ms. Hezra Pool

Has been promoted to Senior Office Assistant in the Multilateral Affairs Division



Mr. James Carpin

Has been promoted to Second Secretary in the Bilateral Affairs Division



Mrs. Rennie Mondon-Toriola

Has been promoted to Second Secretary in the Multilateral Affairs Division



Ms. Rafaella Guy

Has been transferred and promoted to Senior Office Assistant in the Diaspora Division

Newcomers



Ms. Valerie Monnaie

*Joined as a Third Secretary in the
Diaspora Division*



Mrs. Stacy Kimani

*Joined as an Office Assistant in the
Development Cooperation Division*



Ms. Stephie Clarisse

*Joined as a Third Secretary in the
Development Cooperation Division*



Ms. Rehannah Moses

*Joined as an Accounts Technician in the
Accounts Section*



Ms. Elia Savy

*Joined as a Third Secretary in the
Regional Affairs Division*

Did you know?



Seychelles has had three national flags since gaining independence. The first flag, adopted at independence in 1976, featured two horizontal bands of blue and red, symbolising the sea and the people's determination.

Following the coup in 1977, a new flag was introduced, consisting of a red field with a green band and a white stripe, reflecting the ruling party's colours. This flag remained in use until 1996.

The current national flag was adopted on 18 June 1996. Its five dynamic colours—blue, yellow, red, white and green—radiate from the lower hoist, symbolising the sky and ocean, the sun, progress, harmony and the land. The design represents Seychelles moving confidently into the future.