



**UPR WORKING GROUP – ELEVENTH SESSION
(02-13 May, 2011)**

**UPR of SEYCHELLES – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(04 May 2011)**

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Seychelles led by and thanks the delegation for its presentation. The National Report presents an overview of the achievements of the Government of Seychelles over the last three decades, which have significantly contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Notable progress has been made in the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in the sectors of health and education, as is substantiated by the country's rising rank on the Human Development Index. The statistics for universal access to education and primary school enrolment for both boys and girls are at an impressive 100%; and adult literacy rate stands at 96%. Moreover, the inauguration of the first Seychelles University in 2010 to impart high level education is indeed a noteworthy development.

02. In recent years, Seychelles has witnessed a strengthening of its institutional set-up, with the reform of the judiciary and the establishment of the Elections Advisory Board, the Seychelles Media Commission and the Public Officers' Ethics Commission. In addition, the Government has launched a number of Action Plans and Strategies in the field of social development, which directly impact upon the human rights of its population. These include, *inter-alia*, the National Policy for Sustainable Development, the National Gender Communication Strategy and the National Strategy on Domestic Violence. Further, the National Plan of Action for Children and the establishment of the National Commission for Child Protection reflect the Government's commitment to the protection of child rights.

03. Notwithstanding the relatively small number of HIV/AIDS cases in Seychelles, the rate of HIV prevalence has multiplied by 25 in the last 20 years, and the number of AIDS cases had tripled. While we take note that Anti-Retro-Viral treatment is delivered free of charge to patients, we would request the delegation to inform us if any efforts are being made to raise awareness amongst the population through targeted campaigns.

4. In conclusion, Mr. President, we would encourage the Government of Seychelles to ensure that its National Human Rights Commission, established in 2009, is in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We would also encourage the Government to continue to pursue its efforts to ratify the OP-CRC-SC.

Thank you, Mr. President.
