**38th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Adoption of the Report of the Seychelles’ Review**

**Closing remarks by Principal Secretary Vivianne Fock Tave**

Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Good afternoon.

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde and the delegation of Seychelles, I wish to express our most sincere appreciation to the UPR Secretariat for the excellent support provided to our delegation during the preparatory process of our Review and its adoption.

I would also like to thank the members of Seychelles’ Troika for diligently completing their task.

The Government of Seychelles also warmly welcomes the interest and constructive engagement of the 83 States that made contributions during Seychelles’ Review.

Whilst acknowledging the significant progress that has been achieved since our first UPR exercise, we remain cognizant, Madam Chair, of steps to be taken to address our shortcomings.

Out of the 215 recommendations received this week, Seychelles has accepted 113 and will be studying the remaining ones with great care. Seychelles will provide positions on each one of them at the upcoming Plenary Session of the Council later this year.

This deferment is necessary to ensure that adequate consultations at the national level are undertaken and to assess our ability to implement the recommendations in the next four years, taking particular account of Seychelles financial, human and resource capabilities.

Once again, the Seychelles Government has fully experienced that the UPR is an important exercise that reinforces our national framework of accountability and transparency.

I would like to reiterate my country’s steadfast commitment to continue working towards the full realization of the enjoyment of rights by all persons in Seychelles.

We remain determined to continue cooperating efficiently with the UN human rights mechanisms as well as the international community in order to uphold the principles of democracy, good governance and peace, and ensuring that all persons are equal in dignity and rights.

Madam Chair, I would like to conclude by once again extending my gratitude to all stakeholders who have worked towards making Seychelles’ third UPR a success.

I thank you.