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**REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

**32nd SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW –– VANUATU**

24th January 2019

*Statement delivered by Ms Gayethri M Pillay, Chargé D’affaires/Counsellor*

Thank you, Mr President.

Seychelles welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu and thanks them for their informative national report and interventions thus far.

As fellow Small Island Developing States, Vanuatu and Seychelles are acutely aware of the adverse impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. In this view, Seychelles appreciates the adoption of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 – 2030 and the establishment of a National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Seychelles puts forward the following **three recommendations:**

1. First, to review existing policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation in view of ensuring that a human rights based approach has been adopted;
2. Second, to become a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights;
3. Thirdly, to put in place legislative and administrative measures to make primary education free and compulsory for children in urban and rural areas.

Seychelles wishes the delegation of Vanuatu a fruitful session ahead.

Thank you, Mr President.