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**REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

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

28th January 2019

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

Thank you, Mr President.

Seychelles welcomes the distinguished delegation of Eritrea. Seychelles recognizes the positive steps taken since Eritrea’s last UPR, including the finalization of the National Child Policy and the commitment demonstrated towards providing universal primary education. Seychelles furthermore recognizes the significant contributions of Eritrea to the peace processes in the Horn of Africa.

Seychelles nonetheless notes the gaps in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights, and in this view puts forward the following **three recommendations:**

1. First, to put in place measures to ensure that the rights to liberty, security and fair trial enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are fully respected with regards to detainees;
2. Second, to review and amend legal and procedural barriers which may hinder the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression and access to information;
3. And thirdly, Seychelles recommends the timely establishment of a National Human Rights Institution that is in line with the ‘Paris Principles’.

Seychelles wishes the delegation of Eritrea a fruitful session ahead.

Thank you, Mr President.