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paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council
resolution 5/1**

Seychelles

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

<i>Universal human rights treaties²</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
ICERD	7 March 1978	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	5 May 1992	None	–
ICCPR	5 May 1992	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No
ICCPR-OP 1	5 May 1992	None	–
ICCPR-OP 2	15 Dec. 1994	None	–
CEDAW	5 May 1992	None	–
CAT	5 May 1992	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes
CRC	7 Sept. 1990	None	–
OP-CRC-AC	10 Aug. 2010	Binding declaration under article 3: 15 years	–
ICRMW	15 Dec. 1994	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No Individual complaints (art. 77): No
CRPD	2 Oct. 2009	None	–

Treaties to which Seychelles is not a party: OP-ICESCR³, OP-CEDAW (signature only, 2002), OP-CAT, OP-CRC-SC (signature only, 2001), CRPD-OP (signature only, 2007) and CED.

<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>	<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Yes
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Yes
Palermo Protocol ⁴	Yes

<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>	<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>
Refugees and stateless persons ⁵	Yes, except the 1954 and 1961 Conventions relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁶	Yes, except Additional Protocol III
ILO fundamental conventions ⁷	Yes
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	Yes

1. In 2002, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Seychelles continue to pursue its efforts to, inter alia, ratify OP-CRC-SC.⁸

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. In 2002, CRC encouraged Seychelles to continue its efforts at legislative reform and take all necessary measures to ensure that its domestic legislation in all areas concerning children conforms fully to the principles and provisions of the Convention.⁹

3. CRC recommended that Seychelles ensure that the best interests principle is reflected in all relevant legislation, policies and programmes for children, in particular in the proceedings and decisions of the country's Family Tribunal.¹⁰

4. CRC also recommended that Seychelles review its legislation with a view to rectifying differences in the minimum age of marriage by raising the age for girls to that for boys; and establish a clear age for compulsory schooling and ensure that it is enforced.¹¹

5. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (the ILO Committee of Experts) indicated that section 46A of the Employment Act, as amended by the Employment (Amendment) Act (Act 4 of 2006) did not provide for equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value. Although the Constitution guaranteed fair and equal wages for work of equal value, the ILO Committee of Experts considered it desirable to include in the legislation provisions giving full expression to the principle of Convention No. 100.¹²

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

6. As of January 2011, Seychelles does not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).¹³

7. The United Nations Seychelles Common Country Assessment (CCA) 2006-2008 indicated that Seychelles had an Ombudsman office whose main function was to investigate and report on action taken by a public authority or the President, a Minister, officer or member of a public authority. The Ombudsman may also investigate and report on any allegation of fraud or corruption in connection with the exercise by a person or a function of a public authority.¹⁴

8. In 2002, CRC encouraged Seychelles to pursue its efforts to develop and establish an independent and effective mechanism, provided with adequate human and financial resources and easily accessible to children, and in accordance with the Paris Principles, that would monitor the implementation of the Convention, deal with complaints from children

in a child-sensitive and expeditious manner and provide remedies for violations of their rights under the Convention.¹⁵

D. Policy measures

9. CCA 2006-2008 stated that a series of policy documents and strategic plans existed in health, environment, social development, education and community development, among others. Examples of these were the Environment Management Plan of Seychelles 2000-2010, National Plan of Action on Social Development (NPASD) 2005-2015 and the National Population Policy for Sustainable Development (2007). However, these policy documents sometimes contain duplication in terms of national action and efforts and, in addition, the level of implementation for most of them was low. Furthermore, most of these documents did not explicitly incorporate and refer to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which created difficulties in the monitoring and reporting of the MDGs.¹⁶

10. While recognizing the existing economic difficulties, in 2002, CRC encouraged Seychelles to pay particular attention to the full implementation of article 4 of the Convention by prioritizing budgetary allocations to ensure implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights of children “to the maximum extent of ... available resources”. Furthermore, it recommended that Seychelles undertake an evaluation of spending and resources in the public and private sectors, including by NGOs, to assess the cost, accessibility, quality and effectiveness of services for children.¹⁷

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body¹⁸</i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	–	Review of implementation in 1997	–	Fourth report overdue since 1997.
CESCR	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 1994.
HR Committee	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 1993.
CEDAW	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 1993.
CAT	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 1993.
CRC	2001	Sept. 2002	–	Second to fourth reports received 2009.
OP-CRC-AC	–	–	–	Initial report due 2012.
CMW	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2004.

11. In March 2010, the Human Rights Committee adopted a list of issues to be taken up in the absence of the Seychelles' initial report.¹⁹ The examination of the country situation in Seychelles will be considered, in the absence of a report, under the Committee's review procedure, during its 101st session in New York, on 21 March 2011.²⁰

12. In 2002, CRC, aware of the considerable delay in Seychelles's reporting, underlined the importance of reporting. It added that children have the right to have the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as the responsible body, regularly examine the progress made in the implementation of their rights, and that it should have the opportunity to do so. Moreover, it expressed its understanding that Seychelles has had difficulties with timely and regular reporting.²¹

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, no communications were sent.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i>	Seychelles did not respond to any of the 26 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders. ²²

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

13. OHCHR's Regional Office for South Africa (ROSA) provided human rights advice and assistance to the Government and to civil society in Seychelles. ROSA participated in workshops on reporting to treaty bodies and the UPR for Government representatives and the Government of Seychelles had requested OHCHR support with a view to submitting a number of long overdue treaty body reports.²³

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

14. CRC was encouraged by Seychelles's efforts, together with the National Council for the Disabled, to combat discrimination against children and adults with disabilities. Nevertheless, it was concerned that children with disabilities have limited access to public facilities and services because the physical environment is not appropriately designed or because staff and programmes have not been designed to ensure integration of children with disabilities.²⁴ It recommended that Seychelles continue its cooperation with the National Council for the Disabled and other relevant civil society organizations, in particular in: developing and implementing a policy aimed at the full integration of children with disabilities into the mainstream school system and in assessing the extent to which current services and public facilities are accessible and appropriate for the needs of children with disabilities with a view to improving the physical environment, the coordination of service

delivery and the capacity of all staff and professionals working for and with children to include children with disabilities in their programmes, thereby facilitating their active participation in society at large.²⁵

15. In 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the HIV epidemic had been growing amongst young people and that discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) was still prevalent.²⁶

16. In 2009, ILO Committee of Experts reiterated its previous comments that the discrimination provisions contained in the Employment (Amendment) Act (Act 4 of 2006) did not include the ground of social origin and expressed the hope that the new legislation would include an explicit prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination based on all the grounds of Convention No. 111, including social origin.²⁷

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

17. In 2009, the Working Group on Disappearances noted that three outstanding cases had been retransmitted to the Government of Seychelles and that regrettably no response had been received from the Government.²⁸ The three reported cases of disappearance allegedly occurred on the main island of Mahé in the years 1977 and 1984. All three persons were allegedly abducted shortly after they left their homes by persons believed to belong to the security forces. At least two of the persons were reportedly known opponents of the Government.²⁹

18. CCA 2006-2008 stated that a considerable number of women still reported being victims of domestic violence, though some institutional actions were being taken to provide them with greater protection. Constraints included the lack of a clear understanding of gender and its role in the country's development, as well as the absence of a coordinated plan of action to initiate gender related action and to monitor gender progress.³⁰

19. In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts reiterated its previous observations that, by virtue of article 4, paragraph 1 of Convention No. 182, the types of hazardous work prohibited to young persons under 18 years shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority. It once again requested the Government to indicate the steps taken or envisaged to determine the types of work to be considered as hazardous.³¹

20. In 2002, CRC noted Seychelles's prohibition of corporal punishment in the home, schools and all other institutions involved in the care or protection of children.³² It remained, however, concerned that children may still be subjected to violence in the home, schools or institutions.³³ It recommended that Seychelles: carry out public education campaigns about the negative consequences of ill-treatment of children and promote positive, non-violent forms of discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment; provide further training for all professional groups working with or for children, including police and detention officials, on alternative forms of discipline and on how to detect and address signs of ill-treatment in a child-sensitive manner; ensure that child victims of ill-treatment have access to psychological counselling and recovery services and establish a complaints mechanism that is accessible to all children.³⁴

21. CRC was concerned at the lack of reliable information on child abuse and neglect in the home and care institutions.³⁵ It recommended that Seychelles: undertake studies on domestic violence, ill-treatment and abuse, including sexual abuse, within the family in order to assess the extent, scope and nature of these practices; develop awareness-raising campaigns, with the involvement of children, in order to prevent and combat child abuse; ensure that all victims have access to recovery and social reintegration programmes; establish effective procedures and mechanisms to receive, monitor and investigate complaints, including intervening where necessary and investigate effectively cases of

domestic violence and ill-treatment and abuse of children, including sexual abuse, through a child-sensitive inquiry and judicial procedure in order to ensure better care and protection of child victims, including the protection of their right to privacy.³⁶

22. CCA 2006-2008 raised similar concerns regarding a lack of information on child abuse and indicated that a review of existing laws, policies and mechanisms on child protection was necessary. Similarly, there was a need to train and sensitize all stakeholders, including children, on issues surrounding child abuse.³⁷

23. CRC recommended that Seychelles undertake a comprehensive study of child sexual exploitation and prostitution which assesses the magnitude of the problem, proposes possible solutions that address its root causes and evaluates the availability and appropriateness of services for the care and protection, recovery and social reintegration of the victims, taking into account the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996 and 2001 World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.³⁸

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

24. In 2002, CRC was concerned that although the minimum age for criminal responsibility is 12 years, prosecution of children between the ages of 8 and 12 is possible under certain conditions. In addition, it was concerned that conditions at the Youth Residential Treatment Centre were very poor, that it had few programmes for rehabilitation or education and that its location limits contact between children and their families. Finally, it was also concerned about the lack of community-based rehabilitation alternatives for juvenile offenders.³⁹ It recommended that Seychelles take additional steps to reform legislation and the system of juvenile justice in line with the Convention, in particular articles 37, 40 and 39, and other United Nations standards in the field of juvenile justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the Vienna Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System.⁴⁰

25. CRC further recommended that Seychelles increase the number of probation officers and community-based alternatives to detention for juvenile offenders; establish a clear minimum age of criminal responsibility at an internationally acceptable level and ensure that children under that age are not held in police custody or other forms of detention; improve the conditions at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre and ensure that rehabilitation and education programmes are provided while continuing consideration of the possibilities of relocating the Centre to the main island in order to facilitate contact between children and their families.⁴¹

26. While acknowledging Seychelles's efforts to destigmatize and streamline judicial proceedings with respect to family issues through the creation of a Family Tribunal, CRC was concerned that the functioning of the Tribunal was not always in conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention.⁴² It recommended that Seychelles ensure that the general principles of the Convention, in particular the best interests principle and respect for the views of the child, are integrated into all proceedings and decisions of the Family Tribunal; improve the professionalism and qualifications of all staff and members of the Family Tribunal through further training which includes the principles and provisions of the Convention and ease the burden on child witnesses and victims by minimizing delays and postponements, ensuring their right to privacy and providing training for staff on how to work with these victims and witnesses in a child-sensitive manner.⁴³

27. In 2010, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicated that the international community has enlisted Seychelles among other countries to assist in combating piracy, and that piracy suspects often remain in jail awaiting trial and this was taxing its criminal justice system.⁴⁴ UNODC stated that it had worked with Seychelles, among others, to provide support to the police, courts, prosecutors and prisons to ensure that the trials of suspects of piracy were effective, efficient and fair. In the course of such collaboration, improvements had been made to the local criminal justice institutions to the benefit of all who use them, not only the suspects of piracy that had appeared before the courts.⁴⁵

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

28. In 2002, CRC noted with deep concern the spreading phenomenon of family disintegration in Seychelles, including the large number of single-parent families. It recommended that Seychelles continue ongoing efforts at legal reform with regard to parental responsibilities and continue to develop measures for the prevention of family disintegration and the strengthening of family development together with public agencies, civil society organizations and families themselves.⁴⁶

29. CRC also recommended that Seychelles review its policies on alternative care for children deprived of a family with a view to developing a more integrated and accountable system of care and support by strengthening and expanding the foster care system through improved training of social workers and increased counselling and support for foster families; enhancing coordination between all persons involved in the care of children deprived of a family environment, including police, social workers, foster families and the staff of public and private orphanages and by establishing a set of standards and procedures for all public and private organizations working with these children that encompass the principles of the best interests of the child and respect for the views of the child and that ensure that their placement is periodically reviewed, in accordance with article 25 of the Convention.⁴⁷

30. CRC was concerned that the right of children born out of wedlock to know their biological fathers can be limited, *inter alia*, owing to the right of the mother not to reveal the name of the father, and that children of divorced or separated parents may not be able to preserve their identity. It recommended that Seychelles review its legislation in order to ensure that all children born out of wedlock have, as far as possible, the legal right to know and maintain contact with both their biological parents, and that all children of divorced or separated parents have the legal right to maintain their identity.⁴⁸

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

31. In 2002, CRC recommended that Seychelles continue to involve systematically communities and other elements of civil society, including children's associations, throughout all stages of the implementation of the Convention, including the formulation of policies and programmes.⁴⁹

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

32. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that, while the total number of female and male active jobseekers is more or less the same, female active jobseekers were primarily concentrated in the clerical and services occupational groups and to a lesser extent in the occupational group of professionals, and that occupational gender segregation of the labour market exists both in respect of vacancies and active jobseekers. The Committee of Experts asked Seychelles to indicate the measures taken to address

occupational segregation of men and women and to promote women's access in a wider range of occupations and industries.⁵⁰

33. CCA 2006-2008 stated that girls continued to be underrepresented in technical and vocational education areas and that women continued to have lower status jobs and on average, earn less than men.⁵¹

34. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts requested once again that Seychelles amend the Industrial Relations Act so as to bring it into full conformity with Convention No. 98. It requested, *inter alia*, that provisions be adopted providing for protection against acts of interference by employers or their organizations into workers' organizations.⁵²

35. Also in 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts, concerning the issues of trade union registration and the exercise of the right to strike, requested once again that Seychelles amend, among others, section 56(1) of the Industrial Relations Act (IRA), which imposes penalties of up to six months of imprisonment for organizing or participating in a strike declared unlawful on the basis of IRA provisions, some of which were not in conformity with the principle of freedom of association.⁵³

36. In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts noted, regarding the issue of hazardous work as from 16 years, that there had been no change in legislation or measures. It once again requested Seychelles to take the necessary steps so that young persons aged 15 might not be authorized to take up such employment or work. It also requested Seychelles to indicate the measures taken so that the health, safety and morals of young persons aged 16 and 17 were fully protected.⁵⁴

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

37. In 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that, while Seychelles had been able to achieve relatively high levels of GNP per capita, this significant social and economic progress had not yet led to the total elimination of poverty.⁵⁵ CCA 2006-2008 indicated that widespread and absolute poverty did not exist in Seychelles. However, there were "pockets of poverty", where vulnerable groups in society, e.g. single female headed households, unemployed, retired, lived below an indicative national poverty line. The key challenge was to develop a comprehensive policy to eliminate existing pockets of poverty, based on a common understanding and definition of poverty in Seychelles.⁵⁶

38. CCA 2006-2008 underscored that, as a result of the Government's focus on health care as a national priority, Seychelles had achieved rather impressive health-care indicators, e.g. very low infant and maternal mortalities, high life expectancies and the disappearance of vaccine preventable diseases. However, non-communicable diseases were still most prevalent, e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, etc. The gains made in the health sector were being threatened by, among other factors, macroeconomic instability; the emergence of an ageing population; unhealthy lifestyle; substance abuse; rise in crime and violence and the increase in the number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.⁵⁷

39. CCA 2006-2008 stated that, notwithstanding the relatively small number of HIV/AIDS cases in Seychelles, it was to be noted that the rate of HIV prevalence had multiplied by 25 in the last 20 years, and the number of AIDS cases had tripled. In addition, it is believed that many cases may go unreported. The epidemic might threaten the socio-economic achievements in the Seychelles.⁵⁸

40. CRC was concerned, *inter alia*, at the lack of mental health professionals and services for children and adolescents throughout Seychelles. It recommended that Seychelles establish specialized mental health services specifically for children and adolescents staffed with specially trained and qualified professionals.⁵⁹

41. CRC recommended that Seychelles: increase its efforts to promote adolescent health, including mental health, by focusing, in particular, on the issues of reproductive health, substance abuse and health education in schools and institutions; consider means of reducing teenage pregnancy, including through strengthened reproductive health education and access to contraception without parental consent for adolescents and ensure the provision of comprehensive health services, counselling and support for pregnant girls.⁶⁰

42. CRC was concerned at the increasing use of marijuana and other illicit substances by children in Seychelles and at the lack of adequate data and treatment programmes specifically for children abusing drugs.⁶¹

43. CCA 2006-2008 stated that though data was incomplete, there were indications that drug related problems were on the rise. It added that the unavailability of relevant statistics undermined the effectiveness of preventive and control strategies. Relevant authorities lacked capacity and resources to deal with the problems, though certain measures did try to counter this.⁶²

44. CRC was concerned with the limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation on some islands. It recommended that Seychelles enforce existing environmental regulations so as to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation.⁶³

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

45. CCA 2006-2008 indicated that the quality of education was mixed, with room for improvement. Some 20 per cent of teachers at primary level did not have the required certification for teaching. A centrally planned national curriculum for schools existed since 1978; a system for effective differentiated learning for all had not developed apace.⁶⁴

46. In 2002, CRC recommended that Seychelles: consider creating study groups in schools involving students at higher and lower levels in order to contribute to the improvement of the achievements of students with learning difficulties; undertake a study of the reasons why students drop out of school in order to develop solutions that ensure their continuing educational or vocational training, and further opportunities for employment and integration into society and review the curriculum and teacher training programmes with a view to incorporating human rights education, including children's rights, into the curriculum and implementing more participatory teaching methods.⁶⁵

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

47. In 2002, CRC noted Seychelles's strong commitment to education and child and maternal health and the significant improvements that have been made in these areas, as well as with respect to health indicators in general.⁶⁶

48. CRC acknowledged that, despite a relatively high standard of living, Seychelles still faces socio-economic conditions which place limitations upon Seychelles's financial and human resources.⁶⁷

49. CCA 2006-2008 stated that Seychelles was still highly dependent on its natural resources; in conjunction with the economic disadvantages and threats to small island states, this rendered the Seychelles economy very vulnerable to natural disasters and other forms of exogenous shocks.⁶⁸

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

N/A

V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

50. In 1997, CERD suggested that Seychelles may wish to avail itself of the technical assistance offered under the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, with the aim of drawing up and submitting as soon as possible an updated report drafted in accordance with the reporting guidelines.⁶⁹

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 1 April 2009* (ST/LEG/SER.E/26), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>.

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that “The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant”.

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁵ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁶ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at

- www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.
- ⁷ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- ⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.189), para. 58.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 8.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 27.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 22.
- ¹² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092009SYC100, first paragraph.
- ¹³ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/65/640, annex I.
- ¹⁴ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 59 available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ¹⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 12.
- ¹⁶ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 39, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ¹⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 14.
- ¹⁸ The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
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| CERD | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination |
| CESCR | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee |
| CEDAW | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CAT | Committee against Torture |
| CRC | Committee on the Rights of the Child |
| CMW | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
- ¹⁹ List of issues to be taken up in the absence of the initial report of the Republic of Seychelles (CCPR/C/SYC/Q/1).
- ²⁰ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs101.htm>
- ²¹ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 60.
- ²² The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2006 and 31 October 2010. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, and referred to in the following documents: (a) E/CN.4/2006/62, para. 24, and E/CN.4/2006/67, para. 22; (b) A/HRC/4/23, para. 14; (c) A/HRC/4/24, para. 9; (d) A/HRC/4/29, para. 47; (e) A/HRC/4/31, para. 24; (f) A/HRC/4/35/Add.3, para. 7; (g) A/HRC/6/15, para. 7; (h) A/HRC/7/6, annex; (i) A/HRC/7/8, para. 35; (j) A/HRC/8/10, para. 120, footnote 48; (k) A/62/301, paras. 27, 32, 38, 44 and 51; (l) A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1, footnote 29; (m) A/HRC/11/6, annex; (n) A/HRC/11/8, para. 56; (o) A/HRC/11/9, para. 8, footnote 1; (p) A/HRC/12/21, para. 2, footnote 1; (q) A/HRC/12/23, para. 12; (r) A/HRC/12/31, para. 1, footnote 2; (s) A/HRC/13/22/Add.4; (t) A/HRC/13/30, para. 49; (u) A/HRC/13/42, annex I; (v) A/HRC/14/25, para. 6, footnote 1; (w) A/HRC/14/31, para. 5, footnote 2; (x) A/HRC/14/46/Add.1; (y) A/HRC/15/31/Add.1, para. 6 – for list of responding States, see http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/iexpert/written_contributions.htm; (z) A/HRC/15/32, para. 5.
- ²³ 2009 OHCHR Annual Report on Activities and Results pp. 85-86.
- ²⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 44.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, para.45.

- ²⁶ WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy 2008-2013 Seychelles, WHO Regional Office for Africa 2009, p. 10, available at http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_syc_en.pdf.
- ²⁷ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092009SYC111, first paragraph.
- ²⁸ A/HRC/13/31, para. 473.
- ²⁹ E/CN.4/2006/56, para. 478.
- ³⁰ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 17, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ³¹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010SYC182, sixth paragraph.
- ³² CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 5.
- ³³ Ibid., para. 32.
- ³⁴ Ibid., para. 33.
- ³⁵ Ibid., para. 40.
- ³⁶ Ibid., para. 41.
- ³⁷ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 11, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ³⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 51.
- ³⁹ Ibid., para. 54.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 55.
- ⁴¹ Ibid., para. 56.
- ⁴² Ibid., para. 34.
- ⁴³ Ibid., para. 35.
- ⁴⁴ UNODC, Promoting health, security and justice, 2010 Report, Vienna, 2010, p. 18, available at http://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/UNODC_Annual_Report_2010_LowRes.pdf.
- ⁴⁵ Economic and Social Council, Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2010/3-E/CN.15/2010/3), para. 54, available at http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-Uploads/CND-53-RelatedFiles/ECN72010_3eV1050600.pdf.
- ⁴⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.189, paras. 36 and 37.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid., para. 39.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., paras. 30 and 31.
- ⁴⁹ Ibid., para. 20.
- ⁵⁰ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092009SYC111, fifth paragraph.
- ⁵¹ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 17, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ⁵² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092009SYC098, first paragraph.
- ⁵³ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009SYC087, first paragraph.
- ⁵⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010SYC138, fifth paragraph.
- ⁵⁵ WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy 2008-2013 Seychelles, WHO Regional Office for Africa 2009, p. 4, available at http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_syc_en.pdf.
- ⁵⁶ UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 4, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., para. 8.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., para. 9.
- ⁵⁹ CRC/C/15/Add.189, paras. 42 and 43.

⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 47.

⁶¹ Ibid., para. 52.

⁶² UNCCA 2006-2008, para. 12, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.

⁶³ CRC/C/15/Add.189, paras. 42 and 43.

⁶⁴ UNCCA 2006-2008, para.10, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.

⁶⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.189, para. 49.

⁶⁶ Ibid., para. 4.

⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 6.

⁶⁸ UNCCA 2006-2008, para.2, available at http://un.intnet.mu/undp/downloads/seychelles/Seychelles_CCA_2006-2008_main_text.pdf.

⁶⁹ CERD, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No.18 (A/52/18)*, para. 376.
