

Seychelles Remarks

Sustainable development is enshrined in the constitution of Seychelles. It pledges the commitment of the Seychellois people to partake in the sustainable economic and social development of the country. For a small island state such as ours, there are many challenges and obstacles in reconciling economic and social development and building our resilience in a sustainable manner.

Climate change and other closely linked factors, such as water scarcity, pollution and food security pose serious risks which need to be accounted for. As a country, we need to be proactive and agile when planning and always include the considerations of sustainability and resilience.

Seychelles' National Development Strategy 2019-2023 identifies the country's most critical development priorities and highlights what needs to be done to overcome these. The national development agenda followed a consultative process, abiding to the principle of leaving no one behind and is completely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments such as the SAMOA Pathway and the Sendai framework.

Furthermore, the National Development Strategy provides for the inclusion of the Environmental Sustainability and Resilience pillar which aspires to enhance the resilience of the people and the economy and to bring about a change in consumption patterns, promote technological shifts and encourage the adoption of more sustainable lifestyles.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has proven the critical importance of contingency planning and crisis response for disaster risk management. The Department of Risk and Disaster Management in Seychelles has put in place a number of policies and strategies which aim to prevent, mitigate and adapt to risk. Currently, we have a COVID-19 preparedness plan which has proven to be successful to a large extent, given that Seychelles has had no community transmission to date. This plan has highlighted the importance of good governance and proper coordination between stakeholders to build and ensure resilience.

Here in Seychelles, we welcome this course on Advancing Government Innovation and Leveraging Frontier Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Resilience, by the United Nations agencies, especially at such a critical point in time.

We see this as an opportunity to enhance our governance in relation to all risks and also become more acquainted with innovative technologies for disaster risk reduction. We thank the organizers for inviting us to participate in this course and we wish all participants fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.