

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

48th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - Outcome Adoption of Seychelles

Oral statement delivered by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

Thursday, 30 September 2021

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) commends the Republic of Seychelles for accepting 208 recommendations fully and one partially out of the 215 recommendations received during this UPR cycle. We appreciate its commitment towards promoting and protecting human rights through important legislative developments and structural reforms since its previous review.

First, we welcome the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission in 2018 and call on the Government to ensure that the Commission is adequately resourced and is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

Secondly, we welcome the adoption of the Access to Information Act 2018 to give effect to the constitutional right under Article 28 and to enhance transparency and good governance. We urge the Republic of Seychelles to ensure compliance of proactive disclosure requirements, improve its records management, and further review the Act to bring it in line with international standards.

Thirdly, while consensual same-sex relations between adults were decriminalised in 2016, Seychelles has noted two recommendations on giving legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. We hope that the Law Reform Commission approved by the Cabinet would meaningfully address these concerns to ensure dignity and equality for the LGBTI+ communities.

Deeply appreciating the continued efforts towards gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, we urge the Government of Seychelles to engage in active awareness building programmes at all levels and effectively implement of the new Domestic Violence Act 2020, including provisions for victims' and survivors' access to support services.

Lastly, we urge Seychelles to continue to take steps towards acceding to the Optional Protocols and effectively domesticating the core human rights treaties, and to implement action plans to comply with its reporting obligations, including by considering technical assistance from the OHCHR.

Thank you.