

## **Seychelles VNR – MgoS Statement - 2025**

We commend the government of Seychelles for the participative approach taken in developing its VNR.

We noted the transparency in acknowledging the remaining challenges needing acceleration, such as social protection, youth employment, gender equality, climate resilience, and the digital economy. While we could find the elements envisaged or planned to address the gap in social protection, we could not find potential plans to improve youth employment, gender equality, climate resilience, and the digital economy and would be grateful if you could expand on those plans.

Seychelles has made gains in governance and anti-corruption, and ranks high in regional indices. However, civil society remains concerned about limitations on freedom of expression and assembly. Public criticism and independent advocacy should be protected, not discouraged, in a healthy democracy. This is especially important as we face growing climate risks, economic shifts, and global uncertainty.

We support the focus on human capital and equity. Still, more disaggregated data is needed to track the experiences of women, youth, migrants, and people with disabilities. Strengthening civic education and ensuring access to justice for all will also be key to leaving no one behind.

As digital tools increasingly support governance and service delivery, a crucial question arises: **Will these platforms be made fully accessible across the country and inclusive of persons with disabilities?**

**How will the government ensure that civic space remains open and protected, so that civil society can fully contribute to shaping inclusive, sustainable development over the critical years ahead?**