



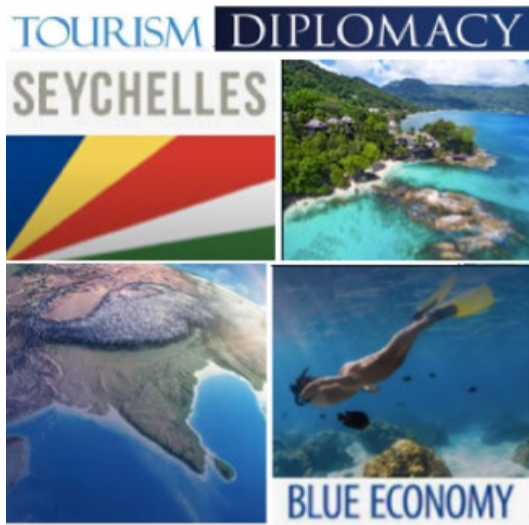
*Opinion*

# Seychelles and its neighbouring islands: Charter of the UN at San Francisco pivotal achievement in the realm of global affairs

by Dr. Srimal Fernando

The United Nations Charter, adopted during the San Francisco Conference in 1945, represents a monumental achievement in international diplomacy, encapsulating the collective aspirations of a war-torn world yearning for peace and cooperation. The phrase "We the People" encapsulates the ethos of the charter, emphasising the role of individual nations represented by their citizens in the pursuit of global harmony. This emphasis on dialogue signifies a paradigm shift from unilateral action to collaborative approaches in addressing international problems.

The preamble famously begins with We, the Peoples of the United Nations, signalling a historic move towards recognising the individual as central to international relations. This departure from state-centric diplomacy paved the way for addressing global issues such as poverty, inequality, and conflict through a humanitarian lens. The emphasis on human dignity and rights would later catalyse broader social movements worldwide, laying the foundation for modern human rights frameworks. Moreover, the establishment of key organs such as the General Assembly and the Security Council within the Charter aimed to institutionalise dialogue and conflict resolution, thus attempting to prevent the recurrence of the devastating wars that plagued Europe and Asia. The conference resolutely committed to the collective security principle, asserting that an attack against one member state would be considered an attack against all, signifying a pivotal step towards global unity. These aspects reflect the UN's comprehensive approach to promoting global well-being, acknowledging that security and development are intertwined. The inclusion of the Indian Ocean



islands—Mauritius, the Seychelles, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka—reflects the broader commitment of the UN to recognise the aspirations of all nations, no matter how small or geographically isolated. In this context, the contributions of the Indian Ocean islands continue to shape the evolving narrative of the UN's mission.

**The UN Charter and the Seychelles'**

The UN Charter's core tenets advocate for peace, security, human rights, and development, aligning closely with the aspirations of the Seychelles and similar nations. As a member of the global community, the Seychelles' participation underscored the significance of collective action in addressing global challenges. The islands promote

these tenets by participating in various UN initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby reinforcing the importance of environmental preservation and economic resilience. The engagement of the Seychelles and its continuing commitment to the UN Charter highlight the importance of small island states in the broader context of international dialogue and cooperation. Through collaborative efforts, the Seychelles embodies the ethos of "We the People," advocating for a more equitable, sustainable world for future generations. By aligning its national policies with the UN's mandates, Seychelles demonstrates its commitment to collective international responsibility and solidarity. In essence, Seychelles exemplifies the pivotal role that smaller nations can play in upholding the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Its commitment to sustainable development, regional security, and climate action stands as a testament to how its strategic position in the Indian Ocean is leveraged for broader global benefit.

**UniSey and the Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage**

The University of Seychelles (UniSey), celebrating its 15th anniversary, marks a significant milestone in its mission to provide quality higher education. Among its diverse offerings, the Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage stands out by launching the BSc Honours in Travel, Tourism, and Economics Degree course (BTTE). This innovative program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the complexities of the tourism sector and contribute to its sustainable development. The introduction of the BTTE degree program positions the University of Seychelles as a leader in education, offering students not just a degree

but also a pathway to becoming pioneers in sustainable tourism.

**Mauritius, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka**

Following its independence on 12 March 1968, Mauritius was admitted to the United Nations as the 124th Member on 24 April 1968. On 21 September 2024, the Maldives will observe its 59th anniversary of membership in the United Nations (UN). In 1960, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) was chosen to serve as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

**The UN and the Indian Ocean Region**

The San Francisco Conference in 1945 itself symbolised a breakthrough in international diplomacy, as it brought together representatives from 50 nations, including former adversaries, to collaborate in building a new world order. The Charter's adoption was both an expression of hope and a commitment to international cooperation. Thus, the UN Charter remains a cornerstone of contemporary international relations, continuously guiding efforts to promote peace and cooperation among nations.

**About the author:**

*Dr. Srimal Fernando is a Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage at the University of Seychelles. Dr. Fernando is the author of Politics, Economics and Connectivity: In Search of the South Asian Union and holds a PhD in International Affairs. (email srimal.fernando@unisey.ac.sc)*

*Law and order*

# Authorities call for public support in ongoing fight against drug trafficking

Compile by F.J. Cétoupe

In a communiqué released on Saturday, the Seychelles Police Force (SPF) outlined significant drug seizure cases from the second week of October. During a coordinated operation, authorities conducted a drug bust on a local boat, uncovering substances suspected to be narcotics hidden in five gas cylinders. As a result, three Seychellois men were arrested and are currently remanded in police custody. The

operation yielded approximately 142 kg of cannabis resin, around 53 kg of cannabis herb, and about 26 kg of heroin.

This successful interception was made possible through a collaborative effort involving the Seychelles Defence Forces, the Seychelles Police Force, and various partner agencies after the Seychelles Air Force Maritime Patrol identified the suspicious vessel during a surveillance mission. The communiqué also revealed that linked to the same investigation, a 25-year-old man

from the Beau Vallon district was apprehended on October 10 in Au Cap, where he was working.

In a separate joint operation between the police and military on October 9 and 10, further drug-related arrests were made. On October 9, a suspect was found in possession of SCR 180,000 and approximately 260 grammes of suspected cocaine while being transported along Sans Soucis Road. This individual was subsequently remanded in police custody after a court appearance.

Additionally, on October 10, five suspects were arrested, leading to the confiscation of SCR 434,725 and a range of drugs, including approximately 95 grammes of cannabis resin, 20 grammes of cocaine, and 26 grammes of heroin. All five suspects have been released while investigations continue into their activities. In the same communiqué, the SPF reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to combating drug-related crime.

They expressed gratitude to all local and international partners and the general public for their ongoing support in the fight against drugs. The police are encouraging community members to utilise their anonymous reporting hotline to report any drug-related activities, emphasising that public involvement is crucial in creating a safer environment for all.



The gas cylinders retrieved by the SCG

**United Nations Development Programme**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles wishes to recruit (1) position for the Seychelles Office.

**1) National Gender and Social Exclusion Expert for Long-Term Visioning document**

**Reference: UNDP-MUS-00135**

Interested candidates are invited to view the link:  
[https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_negotiation.cfm?nego\\_id=26c43](https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=26c43)  
 to view the position's Terms of Reference and application.

**Closing date: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 03:29 AM (New York time)**

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. UNDP reserves the right not to make any appointment following this advertisement.*