



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE MIDTERM  
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION,  
“WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, 2018-2028.**

**24 MARCH 2023**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

**NEW YORK**

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Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,

Seychelles commends the global attention that is being given to our world's most precious resource – water. Our global water system is under immense stress due to the needs of an increasing world population, rapid development and industrialization.

In spite of the unprecedented advances made by humankind, we cannot relegate our obligation to provide safe and ready access to water as a fundamental human right, nor can we ignore its place in a fragile ecosystem upon which our very survival is dependent.

The pressure being exerted on the water cycle, is numerous as it is intense. The link between water and climate change is inextricable and one that needs to be delicately balanced to ensure that the vulnerabilities of states are not compounded.

For small island developing states such as Seychelles, that simply do not have large water reserves, the consequences of a changing climate is even more acute. Severe droughts and water-related disasters are aggravating the scarcity of water. Higher temperatures and Sea-Level Rise will see coastal and low-lying settlements disappear, while freshwater stores will become contaminated.

In addition, the unfettered pollution of our oceans and water sources is having a detrimental impact on the health of wildlife and ecosystems. For many, sustenance comes from ecosystems: what can grow and live within them. Vegetated areas and wildlife, oceans and marine organisms are so vital to our access to water. Loss of biodiversity and the degradation of our common water resources threaten the diversity of life forms, food and water supply and the functionality of our societies.

We simply cannot continue on this trajectory if the generations to come are to have a future.

Striking the right balance between development and protecting our natural environment has never been more necessary. Seychelles remains committed to investing in sustainable solutions and conservation of ecosystems, with the country placing 50 percent of its limited land, and over 30 percent of its oceanic space under protection.

The health of our planet is critical to the sustainability of water. As an international community we need to strengthen our collaboration and we have to address the gaps that are undermining effective action.

Seychelles welcomes the frank discussions and commitments from this conference and joins the renewed call for accelerated action during this Water Decade.

I thank you.