Seychelles

Seychelles is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System

Seychelles has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State’s reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Seychelles has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints concerning human rights violations committed by Seychelles to the African human rights system. For example, the Commission decided to strike out a complaint concerning harassment and intimidation of a farming family, because the complainants failed to maintain communication with the Commission. See ACommHPR, *Morin Family (Represented by Small Island Institute) v. Seychelles*, Communication No. 374/08, 14th Extra Ordinary Session, 21-25 July 2013.

The Seychelles has fallen behind in submitting its periodic reports to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several promotion missions to the Seychelles, including in 2004 and 2015.

Seychelles has ratified the following regional human rights treaties:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Seychelles is subject to the oversight of various UN human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and thematic special procedures. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Seychelles’ policies and practices are monitored by UN treaty bodies. It has accepted the complaints procedure of three treaty bodies.

Seychelles has ratified the following UN human rights treaties:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (CED)

Seychelles has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Seychelles has a duty to submit State Reports to each UN treaty body associated with the relevant treaty Seychelles has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Seychelles has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Seychelles has ratified optional protocols and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit complaints against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, and CAT. Additionally, certain UN treaties include inquiry procedures, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Seychelles has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CED.

On November 5, 2012, Seychelles extended a standing invitation to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Seychelles. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education went on a mission in October 2013, and published a report in May 2014.

For more information on Seychelles’ engagement with UN human rights bodies, visit http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SCIndex.aspx.

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