



Ministry of Finance, National Planning  
and Trade  
Liberty House, P.O Box 313/Victoria/ Mahé, Seychelles

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## Press Release

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**Wednesday 21st May 2025**

**Seychelles becomes sitting member of World Trade Organization (WTO) Fisheries Funding Mechanism (Fish Fund) Steering Committee**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Seychelles officially took its seat on the Steering Committee of the World Trade Organization's Fisheries Funding Mechanism (WTO Fish Fund).

As the first African WTO Member to ratify the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in March 2023, Seychelles joins the Committee with a continued commitment to ensuring that the Fish Fund delivers the necessary targeted support for its effective implementation by developing and least developed WTO Members. The Agreement provides for rules to curb harmful subsidies and protect global fish stocks whilst also considering the needs of fishers in developing and least developed countries. It shall enter into force upon acceptance of its legal instrument by two-thirds of the Membership.

At the Committee meeting, the Republic of Seychelles was represented by Ms. Emy-Lee Lucas in her capacity as the Trade Attaché in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva and Ms. Sheriffa Morel, Director General of the Department of Fisheries, in attendance virtually,

*"Seychelles remains deeply committed to safeguarding the sustainability of our oceans and ensuring that multilateral trade rules work in harmony with marine conservation and the livelihoods that depend on it. Our participation brings the voice and perspectives of small island developing states and contributes to a more inclusive process that reflects the interests of developing and least developed Members. We thank the outgoing Committee members for their dedication and look forward to working closely with fellow Steering Committee Members and the WTO Secretariat in the year ahead to deliver a meaningful impact through the Fund."* - **The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.**

*"Seychelles stands ready to share its experiences and reaffirms its commitment to making constructive contributions both as a beneficiary and as a collaborative partner in shaping the efforts of the Steering Committee. The nation is dedicated to advancing an inclusive, needs-driven, and results-focused implementation of the Fund."* - **The Department of Fisheries, Seychelles.**

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