



**Ministry of Social Affairs, Community Development & Sports
Press release**

March 2012

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Victoria, Mahé:

“Women are the barometers of society. Where women suffer, so too do the societies in which they live. Where women prosper, societies prosper.”

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma made this statement in his Commonwealth Day Message in 2011.

In line with this dictum and with the global effort to achieve MDG1 of the Millennium Declaration towards the eradication of poverty and promotion of gender equality, the international community once again convened in its 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at UN Headquarters from 27th February to 9th March 2012.



Ms Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women & Mrs Bonne

The fora gathered together UN heads, Vice Presidents, Ministers, policy and decision makers, and non-state actors in one arena to consider progress being made at the international, regional, and local levels with respect to the promotion of gender equality.

The Theme of CSW56 was "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges". The Review theme was "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" (agreed conclusions from the fifty-second session). The Emerging theme was "Engaging young women and men, girls and boys, to advance gender equality". Many good practices were shared, and fresh and creative ideas were presented on how national policies, legal reforms and services

could change the lives of rural women and girls. Once again this year, the strides that Seychelles has made with respect to mainstreaming gender in national development was highlighted, situating the three themes within our national context.

The Republic of Seychelles was represented by Special Adviser to the Minister for Social Affairs, Community Development and Sports, Mrs Marie-Josee Bonne, who prior to the CSW56 attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group (CGPMG), and the meeting of the National Women's Machineries of the Commonwealth. The participants in the Commonwealth meeting discussed key areas of concern such as social protection and other national policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability. The Samoan Minister for Women, Community and Social Development has been elected to Chair the current CGPMG. This year Seychelles has been rotated into the CGPMG and Ms Tessa Siu, head of the Gender Secretariat and Mrs Marie-Josee Bonne are the Seychelles representative on this body. The main conclusion arising from the CGPMG meeting is the need to strengthen regional and national mechanisms to monitor progress. The introduction of a Monitoring and evaluation framework to measure outcomes will be the priority area of action for the group.

Editors note:

For further information, consult "www.unwomen.org"