

Committee on the Application of Standards

Date: 18 May 2021

Governments appearing on the preliminary list of individual cases have the opportunity, if they so wish, to supply on a purely voluntary basis, written information before 20 May 2021.

▶ Information on the application of ratified Conventions supplied by governments on the preliminary list of individual cases

Seychelles

Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

(Ratification: 1999)

The Government has provided the following written information.

The Government of Seychelles would like to inform the Committee that it has intention to amend the Employment Act 1995 to align with the Convention Worst forms of child labour (No.182). Once the Employment Bill is approved, provision for the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under 18 years will be made under the Employment (Conditions of Employment) Regulations, 1991. According to our national procedure, an enabling provision must be added in the Employment Act, in order to enable the introduction of the list. The enabling provision has been delayed as it is part of the review of the Employment Act which remains ongoing. Further tripartite consultations on the review of the Employment Act are expected to be held in year 2021. With regards to the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as noted by the CEACR on Articles 3 and 7 of the Convention no.182, the Government would like to inform that the Social Services and partners have continuously delivered prevention and awareness activities to inform the public about recognizing the signs, the channels for reporting and about the individual's duty to report. Numerous capacity building sessions have been held on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) for front line officers, law enforcement officers, non-governmental organizations and journalists. An awareness raising campaign was launched on the media and a session was also held with Members of the National Assembly in March 2014. Awareness raising campaigns is a common feature of the annual commemoration of the international day against TIP. These efforts have however been hampered in 2020 with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Judiciary also informed that they received training on the law in respect of child labour in Seychelles and international best practices. The Social Services also advised that any form of child abuse can be reported on the children helpline. The helpline is manned by social workers equipped to assist and refer as necessary. The Police also has a special unit equipped to handle such cases. They work in parallel with

the Social Affairs Department to identify and investigate cases. Moreover, in regards to the CEACR comments, the outcome of the four reported cases of child prostitution was a landmark case in 2020. Three men pleaded guilty and were convicted on charges stemming from the sexual abuse of girls aged between 12 to 18 years. They were sentenced to 25, 12 and 8 years' imprisonment respectively on 26 sexual offences against children. The counts included sexual assault, extortion, and possession of indecent photographs and of prohibited visual recordings. The case was investigated and prosecuted in strict confidence preserving the identity of the victims. The public was only made aware at the time of sentencing. Lastly it must be noted that no cases of worst forms of child labour have been reported to the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs.