

# **Foresight and Systems Thinking for Strategic Planning and SDG Financing**

## **Opening Remarks**

**Principal Secretaries,**

**Chief Executive Officers,**

**Distinguished participants,**

Good day to you all!

It is with great pleasure and a sense of purpose that I address you today as we embark on a journey of knowledge, transformation, and innovation. Today marks the commencement of a Strategic Foresight and Systems Thinking Capacity Building Session, a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of a more adaptive, responsive, and visionary governance framework.

Today, we gather with a shared vision to reinvigorate and refine our internal policies and coordination strategies, aligning them with the priorities of the National Development Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals. This workshop is not just a formality; it is a commitment to empower officials from line Ministries, equipping them with the skills to navigate the intricacies of planning and budgeting. By embracing systems thinking and strategic foresight, our aim is to fortify collaboration across Ministries for more effective resource allocation and short- to long-term planning. Let's not see this just as a gathering of individuals; it is a convergence of minds committed to catalyzing positive change. Our goal is clear—to foster a collective understanding of how foresight and systems thinking can become powerful tools in our strategic planning endeavors. This session signifies our shared commitment to fostering a public sector that is not just dynamic but resilient, capable of navigating the complexities of an ever-evolving future.

As we step into the realms of strategic foresight and systems thinking, let us recognize the swift and dynamic changes in our global landscape. Financial prudence, forward-thinking strategies, and holistic systems understanding are imperative for our journey toward sustainable development. Our national budget is not merely a financial document; it is a blueprint that reflects our collective aspirations and commitments to creating a Seychelles that is not only economically robust but environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.

The alignment of budgeting with foresight and systems thinking is a powerful concept. It underscores the importance of not only addressing immediate fiscal needs but also anticipating future challenges and opportunities. Foresight allows us to peer into the future, to understand the evolving landscape, and to make informed financial decisions that resonate with our long-term vision for Seychelles.

The challenges and opportunities we face are intricately woven together, demanding from us a holistic approach. In a world characterized by rapid technological advancements, geopolitical shifts, and unprecedented social and environmental changes, our traditional methods of decision-making may prove inadequate.

The true essence of this journey lies in the power of strategic foresight. It empowers us not only to anticipate and adapt to emerging trends but also to be the architects of proactive policies and strategies. As custodians of our nation's destiny, it is imperative that we cultivate the foresight to identify potential risks and seize emerging opportunities with unwavering determination.

In addition to strategic foresight, let us embrace the transformative potential of systems thinking. It is the key to unraveling the intricacies of our interconnected world. Our policies and actions resonate beyond conventional boundaries. Through understanding the systemic nature of our challenges, we can forge solutions that transcend the superficial and address the very roots of our complex issues.

This gathering is more than just a capacity-building session; it is an investment in our collective ability to envision a future where our nation not only survives but thrives economically, socially, and environmentally. It is a resounding declaration of our commitment to infuse innovation, resilience, and adaptability into the very fabric of our government institutions. As we delve into discussions, let us keep in mind that our decisions today have ripple effects far into the future. The budget we shape, informed by foresight and systems thinking, can become a powerful tool for transforming challenges into opportunities, for bridging gaps, and for building a Seychelles that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

As such, I implore each one of you to immerse yourselves in the material, collaborate passionately with your peers, and embrace a transformative mindset. The knowledge and skills acquired in this session are not merely tools; they are catalysts for a profound change that will not only enhance your individual capabilities but will also elevate the effectiveness of our government as a whole.

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, I wish to also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the United Nations Team for their unwavering dedication and invaluable support in enhancing the capabilities of government officials through continuous capacity-building initiatives. Your steadfast commitment to fostering knowledge transfer and skills development has played a pivotal role in empowering our officials to meet the complex challenges of governance. The collaborative efforts between our government and the United Nations Organisations have not only strengthened the competency of our officials but have also contributed significantly to the overall progress and effectiveness of our administration. We deeply appreciate your dedication to promoting sustainable development and fostering positive change, and we look forward to continued collaboration for the betterment of our society.

In conclusion, let us approach this capacity-building session with boundless curiosity, unwavering openness, and a shared commitment to instigate a mindset change. Together, we have the power

to shape a vision for our nation that promotes resilience, reaching toward a future that is not just proactive but one that exudes positivity and sustainability for all.

Let us embark on this transformational journey with a sense of shared responsibility and commitment. Our potential is boundless, and the future awaits our collective vision and action.

Wishing you all an enlightening and productive workshop!

Thank you!