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PRESS RELEASE

'SEYCHELLES IS A TRUSTED FRIEND OF INDIA': LOK SABHA SPEAKER

New Delhi, 10 August 2017: The Parliamentary Delegation from Seychelles led by Speaker of National Assembly of Seychelles, Mr. Patrick Pillay called on Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan in Parliament House today.

Recognizing that India considers Seychelles not only as a maritime neighbour but also as a trusted friend and a strong strategic partner, Smt. Mahajan said that the Indian Diaspora in Seychelles constitutes an important link between the two countries. She noted that relations between India and Seychelles are further cemented by strong people-to-people bonds and cultural exchanges.

Smt. Mahajan emphasized that India is keen to expand and intensify parliamentary interactions with Seychelles. She mentioned that India regularly invites Parliamentarians from Africa, including Seychelles under various programmes. She referred to the Familiarization Programme which was conducted by BPST recently from 30 July - 5 August 2017 in which 25 Young Parliamentarians from Africa, including 2 from Seychelles, had joined. Smt. Mahajan assured of continued support of Indian Parliament to conduct capacity building programmes for young Parliamentarians and Parliamentary officials of Seychelles.

Observing that India would continue its developmental assistance to Seychelles to help the island nation achieve its developmental goals, Smt. Mahajan called for enhanced bilateral engagement in healthcare, solar energy and other environment-friendly technologies. She hoped that the National Assembly of Seychelles would ratify the International Solar Alliance soon, enabling Seychelles to become a founding member of the Alliance.

Smt. Mahajan also noted that there is a strong bilateral strategic and security cooperation between India and Seychelles. She expressed confidence that these collaborations would enhance the overall maritime security of the Republic of Seychelles and Indian Ocean region.

The Speaker of Seychelles, Mr. Patrick Pillay thanked Smt. Sumitra Mahajan for the warm hospitality extended to his Delegation.