



UNITED NATIONS
MAURITIUS



UNITED NATIONS
SEYCHELLES



Statement by Christine N. Umutoni

UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles

34th IOC Council of Minister

6th March 2020

Mahe, Seychelles

H.E the Vice President of Seychelles and Chair of the IOC,

Excellencies Ministers,

IOC Secretariat,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

UN colleagues,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations, I would like to thank the IOC for the invitation to this meeting as a partner. I also appreciate the work you do collaboratively for a prosperous Indian Ocean region.

The UN is not only a vital player in global affairs, it also has strong interest in fostering regional exchanges and collaboration. As demonstrated from the MOU signed between IOC and UN Secretariat, there are several areas of partnership that can be further explored including fostering peace and security as well as supporting the wider agenda for sustainable development.

During the last annual retreat of the UN family from this region that took place here in Seychelles in 2019, we realised that there is a need for the UN teams across the region to be aware of the needs of the IOC so that we can plan our support nationally and regionally to align to the objectives of the IOC member

states . Any joint UN framework to respond to transboundary challenges and opportunities must be based on the priorities set by the IOC.

Your Excellency, chairman IOC Council of Ministers

Ladies and gentlemen

As you know the IOC enjoys observer status with the United Nations and its member states are themselves members of the UN participating in its activities and objectives. As such the UN representatives in the region being observers at the IOC strengthens the work of the IOC in ensuring a stable, peaceful and prosperous Indian Ocean Region.

Several agencies are working with IOC on vital issues including labour migration and other migration related matters, maritime security, technology and submarine, drug trafficking, preventing piracy, trade, agriculture and harnessing marine resources, climate change and environment only to mention a few. A

coordinated approach both among the agencies and with the IOC will improve the way we work and will lead increased results.

I would like to conclude by reminding everyone that the year 2020 is a special one; It is the 75th anniversary of the UN, and most important it reminds us that we have only ten years to 2030. The decade of action is here! We have very little time left to mobilise every effort and all resources needed to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. WE HAVE ONLY TEN YEARS TO GO!

Big question is, are we ready?

I wish you very fruitful deliberations while trying to answer this critical question

Thank you for your kind attention.