

Colleague Ministers,

Mr Amer Al Hammadi, Executive Director of the Planning & Infrastructure of the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council,

Mr Didier Dogley, Chairperson of the Planning Authority

Members of the National Assembly, Chief Executives,

Members of the Seychelles Planning Authority and of the Technical and Policy Steering Committees,

and representatives of the Consultant Group, ARUP

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to this first charette, which demarcates an important stage of our project to produce a Strategic Plan for the formulation of a detailed Master Plan for Greater Victoria.

This charette, which will extend over the next three days, is evidence that the project launched in the kick-off workshop in May this year is well underway. It is also evidence of the collaborative effort of the ARUP consultants, the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council and the Seychelles Planning Authority's Technical and Steering Committees, and importantly of the commitment of the consultants to deliver.

I also note, with appreciation, that since the kick-off workshop, there has been wide consultation with the public and private sectors. The level of cooperation from the consulted stakeholders is commendable. It is expected that the same level of cooperation will frame your

involvement in this first charette and throughout the duration of the project.

Through all of your collaborative efforts, the consultants have at this date produced two reports - the “Existing Conditions report and Opportunities” and “Constraints” report- which will form the basis of discussions in this first charette.

The main objectives of this charette are to reflect upon the works undertaken so far in laying the foundation for the Strategic Plan and a Master Plan for Greater Victoria as contained in the two consultant reports, agree on the key issues to be addressed in the plans and explore and agree on the vision for Seychelles 2040 and associated guiding principles.

The charette provides you, all relevant stakeholders, with a forum for discussion of the key issues to be addressed in the plan which is indispensable to the validity and enforceability of the said plans. The success of this project depends largely on inclusivity – the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and the consultation with the public.

Over the next three days, you are invited to bring together your respective knowledge and expertise to the attainment of these objectives. I am convinced that, within the same spirit of collaboration that you have displayed so far, at the close of this workshop on Wednesday you would have consolidated your findings

on the key issues for the Strategic Plan and formulated the vision for Seychelles for the 2040.

The formulation of a strategic plan and a master plan for greater Victoria has the potential to shape the future of our small island state. Getting it right is paramount to achieving our full potential for the betterment of our people and the next generation. I urge you all to contribute and participate actively and make this our plan.

Once again, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Urban Planning Council, the Seychelles Planning Authority, the consultants ARUP and all our partners for their involvement.

A special vote of thanks is extended to our two leaders, President James Alix Michel and His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for their visionary initiative and support.

Colleague Ministers, distinguished participants, I now have the pleasure to officially launch this first Charette and wish you all a fruitful participation.

I Thank you.