



Sixty-ninth Meeting of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa

And

Thematic Conference on “*Strengthening Human Capital to Boost Africa’s Tourism Growth*”

Victoria, Mahé, Republic of Seychelles, 2 - 4 July 2026

Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 1st of July 2026

Venue: Kempinski Seychelles Resort (Baie Lazare)

14:00 – 18:00 **Registration of Participants**

Thursday, 2nd of July 2026

Venue: Kempinski Seychelles Resort (Baie Lazare)

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration of Participants**

09:00 – 09:45 **Official Grand Opening**

Raymond CLARISSE, Master of Ceremony

Welcome Remarks

- **H.E. Amanda BERNSTEIN**, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Republic of Seychelles
- **H.E. Shaikha AL NUWAIS**, Secretary-General, UN Tourism

Keynote Address:

- **Guest of Honour**

**Group photo*

09:45 – 10:05 **Presentation on “Promoting Access to Tourism Education and Human Capital Development”**

Key Survey Results

- **Elcia GRANDCOURT**, Regional Director for Africa, UN Tourism

Case Study – “Tourism Human Resources Development Strategy in Seychelles”

- **Sherin FRANCIS**, Principal Secretary for Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Seychelles

10:05 - 11:05

High-Level Dialogue: Strengthening Tourism in Africa through Human Capital Development and Mobility

To advocate for the central integration of Human Capital Development into national tourism policies. This session aims to shift policy focus from traditional infrastructure to talent-led growth, seeking high-level commitment to a continental cross-border qualification recognition system. This framework will ensure professional mobility and standardized excellence across the region's tourism value chain.

Moderator:

- **Elcia GRANDCOURT**, Regional Director for Africa, UN Tourism

Panellists:

- **H.E. Amanda BERNSTEIN**, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Republic of Seychelles
- **H.E. David Claude PIERRE**, Minister of Education & Human Resource Development, Republic of Seychelles
- **H.E. Shaikha AL NUWAIS**, Secretary-General, UN Tourism
- **H.E. Márcio DE JESUS LOPES DANIEL**, Minister of Tourism, Vice-Chair of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa (CAF), Republic of Angola
- **Victor CHALFOUN**, Vice President, Operations, Sub-Saharan Africa & Indian Ocean, Hilton

11:05 – 11:15

Fire-Side Chat “From Academia to Inspiring Tourism Career Paths”

Moderator:

- **Kojo BENTUM-WILLIAMS**, Senior Communication Specialist for Africa, UN Tourism

Panellists:

- **Vanessa ALBEST-FABIEN**, Hotel Manager, Canopy by Hilton Seychelles
- **Anisselle CHETTY**, Student in Tourism and Travel and Secretary of the Student Council, Seychelles Tourism Academy (STA)

11:15 – 11:25

Setting the Scene – “Education and Human Capital Development in Africa”

- **Lisa SINGH**, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles

11:25 – 12:25

Panel Discussion 1: Synergizing Industry Needs with Academic Output: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Human Capital

To bridge the gap between classroom theory and industry reality by creating a formal feedback loop between educators and private sector leaders. The panel

seeks to identify mechanisms for real-time curriculum updates and apprenticeship programs, ensuring that the next generation of tourism professionals possesses the needed skills required by modern employers.

Moderator:

- **Antonio LOPEZ DE AVILA**, Director, Innovation, Education, Investment, UN Tourism

Panellists:

- **Jean ALCINDOR**, Principal Secretary for Human Resource Development, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, Republic of Seychelles
- **Andrew MOLD**, Director, UNECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
- **Anne KAOMA**, Executive Director, Zambia Institute for Tourism and Hospitality Studies (ZITHS)
- **Stephane DUCHENNE**, General Manager, Constance Ephelia Resort, Seychelles
- **Diana KÖRNER**, Co-Founder, Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation

12:25 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 14:10

Setting the Scene – “Shaping the Future of Africa’s Tourism Talents”

- **Kwakyie DONKOR**, CEO, Africa Tourism Partners (ATP)

14:10 - 15:10

Panel Discussion 2: Next-Gen Talent: Driving a Digital and Sustainable Tourism Sector

To align national human capital strategies with the global shift toward green and digital tourism. The panel seeks to establish continental "micro-credentials" for sustainability and tech skills, allowing the existing workforce to upskill rapidly to meet the requirements of the modern, eco-conscious, hyper-connected/smart traveler.

Moderator:

- **Kwakyie DONKOR**, CEO, Africa Tourism Partners (ATP)

Panellists:

- **Olivier PONTI**, Director of Market Intelligence & Insights, Amadeus
- **Cyril SIMEON**, General Manager, Cloudbay Solutions
- **Antonio LOPEZ DE AVILA**, Director, Innovation, Education, Investment, UN Tourism
- **David GONAHASA**, Managing Director, Tripesa
- **Maureen KAHONGE**, Director Commercial & Communications - African Airlines Association (AFRAA)

15:10 – 16:00	Fire-Side – “Inside the Investor’s Brain” Moderator: • Linh VU, Special Advisor to the UN Tourism Secretary-General Panellists: • Hamza FAROOQUI, CEO, Millat Group
16:00 - 16:20	Key Takeaways and Final Remarks • Shijun LIU, Executive Director, UN Tourism • Sherin FRANCIS, Principal Secretary for Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Republic of Seychelles
17:00 – 19:00	Welcome Cocktail Venue: Cap Lazare Nature Reserve <i>*Dress Code: Tropical / Appropriate Beachside Footwear</i>

Friday, 3rd of July 2026

Venue: Kempinski Seychelles Resort (Baie Lazare)

08:00 – 09:00	Registration of Participants
09:00 – 09:30	69th UN Tourism Commission for Africa (CAF) Welcome Remarks • H.E. Amanda BERNSTEIN, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Republic of Seychelles • H.E. Shaikha AL NUWAIS, Secretary-General, UN Tourism
09:30 – 13:00	Working Session – 69th Meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for Africa (CAF)
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 16:00	Working Session – 69th Meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for Africa
16:00 – 16:30	Press Interaction
19:00	Gala Dinner Venue: Avani+ Barbarons Seychelles Resort <i>*Dress Code: Island Chic / Appropriate Beachside Footwear</i>

Saturday, 4th of July 2026

09:00 – 17:00

Social Programme

OPTION 1

Cultural Savoir-Faire Experience

An immersive journey into the heart of the Seychelles' Creole heritage, blending culinary artistry, craftsmanship, and local flavours. Guests will take part in hands-on experiences, including the preparation of traditional delicacies at Maison Marengo Restaurant, creative ateliers such as *Weave & Sip* and *Paint & Sip*, and curated tasting moments featuring local highlights, including Takamaka Rum and Zil Kreol craft brews. This experience celebrates the essence of Creole living through interaction, creativity, and authentic connection.

OPTION 2

Mahé Eco-Cultural Discovery

A curated eco-cultural and scenic journey across the island of Mahé, showcasing its most iconic landscapes, cultural landmarks, and authentic local experiences. This guided tour blends breathtaking viewpoints, heritage sites, and immersive stops, offering visitors a rich and well-balanced introduction to the island's natural beauty and vibrant Creole identity.

OPTION 3

Tropical Escape – Coastal Cruise

Chill out on a laid-back daytime escape along the northern coastline of Mahé, designed for pure relaxation and effortless enjoyment. Guests will cruise through calm island waters, taking in scenic coastal views while unwinding to a slow island rhythm. A leisurely lunch onboard completes the experience, offering the perfect balance of comfort, discovery, and tropical ease; a true "Another World" moment at sea.

**Participants are kindly requested to select their preferred option among the three social activities listed above via the online registration form. Please note that, due to limited capacity, preferences will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.*