



REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

4th Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean Santiago, Chile October 9th 2019

Madam chair, ladies and gentlemen good afternoon. I am proud to share with you Suriname's progress on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. And would like to emphasize on the progress made since the 3rd Regional Conference on population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Suriname is committed to involving everyone in the economic and social development of the country. To this end, we strive very hard to introduce innovations in our organizational structure with data driven planning as one of the important aspects.

Madam chair...

The challenges are great. More than ever, the path taken with regard to economic reforms is aimed at achieving well-being and prosperity for everyone living in the country, no one excluded.

Issues of population and development, protecting the human rights and freedom of our citizens are therefore important national priorities. In doing so, we must take into account the pluralistic society in which we live and where each group has its own culture, religion and traditions.

Important gains have been achieved in different areas madam chair. Allow me to share some of the progress made since the 3rd Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Adoption of the “Work Protection family Act” that makes paid maternity leave compulsory for both fathers and mothers.

The launch of the Gender vision document 2019-2035. The gender vision policy document should be seen as a guideline for tackling gender inequality collectively, in accordance with the planning and, above all, in a structured manner.

The launch of the National Strategic Plan for Health and Wellbeing 2019 – 2028. The main strategy presented in this document is the development and implementation of a new Model of Care for Suriname. The health system in this context encompasses the four essential functions, in other words governance, financing, resources, and delivery of services. The new Model of Care is therefore a model of care that specifies how these functions interact in the production of health and wellbeing. This Model of Care for Suriname will require new organizational arrangements to be effective, efficient and quality oriented.

Implementation of Ministerial Planning Units is our newest endeavor and priority in realizing the SDG's, namely the strengthening of our National Planning Institute. This institute has been extending its reach to all bodies of government and applying result based management to our annual plan and annual budget and will be instrumental in realizing a long term strategy for development.

Suriname is currently conducting her first **Population Situation Analysis** based on the revised guide of the UNFPA. The Results of the PSA will serve as the baseline for the National Development Plan 2022-2026 and the formulation of our population policy.

The implementation of the **sixth round of MICS** gave Suriname a measurable advantage by providing baselines for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. In addition, the survey provided opportunities to build the country’s capacity in research and monitoring, data interpretation and collection of data.

With the aim to unlock the interior, access to internet in the interior has recently been increased and the water supply network has been expanded to different districts as wel.

With the progression in mind madam chair, we do not forget the important matters that still remain, such as the issues related to migration, violence against women and girls and the chances for development of the youth . Together with the NGOs, CBOs, the Private sector, religious groups and individuals, we will have to make efforts to ensure that nobody is overlooked in the development that we all strive for.

Madam chair...

An obstacle that's still unresolved and if not addressed, will make the achievement of the SDG's practically unattainable. That is our classification as a middle income country. Like many other developing countries including the Caribbean this classification is based on GDP per capita only and does not reflect our vulnerabilities which disregards the full set of challenges that we face. Access to concessional financing for our development is critical to allow for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Going forward the government of Suriname will continue to work on further implementation of the Montevideo Consensus paying special attention to our national priorities as laid down in the National Development Plan. In closing we finally would like to reiterate that it is critical that we continue in the spirit of the ICPD, and therefore strongly reaffirm our political will to the objectives of the Program of Action of ICPD and its follow up progresses, The Montevideo Consensus, its Operational guide and the common recognition that development should be based on human rights and therefore inclusive of all. .

I thank you