



Republic of Suriname

Statement on the occasion of the 59th Session of the Commission on Population and Development United Nations Headquarters, New York

**New York
13 April 2026**

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Suriname is honored to address the 59th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

The Commission's work remains vital in guiding Member States toward policies that place people at the center of development. For Suriname, with its rich cultural mosaic and vast natural resources, the link between population dynamics and sustainable development is not only vital, but central to our national priorities.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which continues to serve as a compass for advancing human rights, dignity, and equality.

In Suriname, we are working to ensure universal access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, and to strengthen education systems that empower our youth.

We believe that investing in young people - particularly girls - creates ripple effects across society, fostering resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Our population policies are guided by the principle that diversity is a strength. Suriname is home to indigenous peoples, Maroon communities, and citizens of Asian, African, and European descent.

This multicultural fabric enriches our society, but it also requires deliberate policies to ensure that no group is left behind.

We therefore emphasize the importance of inclusive development strategies that address inequalities, particularly in rural and interior regions, where access to services remains limited.

Mr. Chair,

Climate change is an existential challenge for Suriname and for many small states. Rising sea levels, shifting rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events threaten livelihoods, food security, and health outcomes.

These environmental pressures intersect with population dynamics, influencing migration, urbanization, and economic vulnerability.

We urge the Commission to integrate climate resilience into its deliberations, recognizing that sustainable development cannot be achieved without environmental sustainability.

As one of the few countries in the world with a high forest cover and low deforestation rate, Suriname's forests are not only a global carbon sink, but also the foundation of our communities' cultural and economic life. Protecting these ecosystems is inseparable from protecting our people.

We call for strengthened international cooperation and robust financing mechanisms to support countries that safeguard global public goods, while simultaneously striving to meet their development needs.

It is essential that the international community recognizes that these nations shoulder a dual responsibility: on the one hand, preserving natural wealth and ecosystems that are vital to the entire world and on the other, advancing social and economic progress for their populations.

Only through collective efforts, equitable access to resources, and sustainable partnerships can a balance be achieved between global obligations and national development priorities.

In addition, reliable demographic data remains essential for effective policymaking.

Suriname is investing in strengthening its statistical capacity to better understand population trends, gender disparities, and the needs of vulnerable groups.

We welcome the continued support of the United Nations system to Member States in building robust data systems, particularly in the context of the digital divide.

Mr. Chair,

Suriname believes that the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are mutually reinforcing. Achieving the SDG's requires upholding the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

We therefore call for renewed global solidarity, respect for sovereignty, and shared responsibility in addressing the challenges of population and development.

In closing,

Suriname reiterates its commitment to multilateralism.

We stand ready to work with all Member States to ensure that population and development policies advance dignity, equity, and sustainability for present and future generations.

Thank you.