

Remarks  
by the  
President of the Republic of Suriname  
Her Excellency Jennifer Geerlings-Simons  
on the occasion of the  
High-level Meeting in Commemoration of the  
Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women  
New York, 22 September 2025

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Your excellency, President Annalena Baerbock  
Your excellency, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General,

Excellencies,

It is with great honor and responsibility that I stand here as the first female President of the Republic of Suriname and first Member State speaking today, as we commemorate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

I can safely conclude that this is a testament of the historic achievements of this landmark World Conference.

This historic occurrence has not only cracked the glass ceiling, but more importantly paved the way for particularly girls, both nationally and globally, to dream about something that was perceived uncommon some 3 decades ago.

*If we say that achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, **girls and boys**, it is also our obligation as a global community to ensure that the dreams and aspirations of every child, can become a reality”.*

Today we celebrate the work and advocacy of many pioneers at both political and inter- governmental levels in bringing the cause of women’s empowerment and gender equality to the center of the global agenda.

Madam President,

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains a bold and visionary framework to guide global and national progress in the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality.

As I pause to reflect on the role of women in Suriname, I can conclude that women of my country have always been on the forefront in the fight for freedom, justice and economic development.

Suriname remains committed to the Beijing Declaration and has made gradual progress in strengthening legislation, advancing gender-sensitive policies, and implementing programs to address persistent inequalities.

Persistent challenges such as economic disparities, gender-based violence, underrepresentation of women in leadership, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls. This must be addressed with renewed urgency and vigor. We also face new challenges like the negative influence of social media on the self-image of many girls and young women.

In this regard, Suriname recognizes the valuable role of international partners and agencies in supporting national efforts towards women's advancement and achieving gender equality.

In closing, Madam President,

Suriname reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing the rights, empowerment, and full participation of women and girls in every aspect of life.

As priority actions, my government commits to further improve access to STEM education and the protection of woman and girls against gender-based violence.

Let us redouble our efforts in ensuring that girls grow up safe and no one is left behind.

Advancing gender equality means progress in achieving sustainable development for all.

Let us therefore redouble our efforts in ensuring that **no one**, men, boy, woman nor girl is left behind. Because also as women and men we are better together.

I thank you.