



STATEMENT
Republic of Suriname

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity**

New York
6 July 2026

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Madam President,

Suriname welcomes this timely debate on sustaining the Responsibility to Protect against mass atrocities.

First and foremost, we reaffirm that the primary responsibility for protecting populations from these horrific crimes rests with each State. Prevention begins at the national level through strong institutions, respect for human rights, inclusive governance, and the rule of law.

In Suriname, we remain committed to strengthening our national human rights architecture. This includes ongoing efforts toward the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution, as well as the development and advancement of legislation aimed at safeguarding the rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

We are equally determined to ensuring that the sustainable and transparent management of our natural resources, including our offshore oil sector, contributes to reducing inequalities, protecting our unique biodiversity, and promoting inclusive development that leaves no one behind.

Madam President,

While national ownership is paramount, the credibility, consistency and impartiality of the United Nations most critical body, the Security Council, remains essential to the effectiveness of the Responsibility to Protect.

In this regard Suriname shares the concern expressed by many regarding the perception of double standards in the application of the Right to Protect.

For this Responsibility to retain its moral and legal authority, it must be applied consistently, objectively and without selectivity. The international community must ensure that responses to atrocity crimes are guided by international law and the gravity of the situation, rather than by geopolitical considerations.

In this context, Suriname reiterates its conviction that the veto should not be exercised in situations involving genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity. We therefore welcome the French-Mexican Initiative on the Suspension of the Veto in Cases of Mass Atrocities, and are pleased to support this important initiative as a co-sponsor.

Suriname remains firmly committed to a rules-based international order. We will continue to support nationally owned prevention strategies, strengthen the conditions for early warning and early action, protect civic space, and uphold human dignity as the foundation of lasting peace and sustainable development.

I thank you!