



REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

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Chair,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

At the outset Suriname congratulates you, Chair, and members of the Bureau on your appointment, and thanks the Secretary General, UNFPA and UN DESA for their valuable work.

Thirty years ago, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) outlined a course for a more just and equitable world. While recognizing that progress has been made in the last three decades, we still face many challenges, because of the ever changing socio-economic, demographic and climate landscape.

Allow me to outline some measures taken at our national level:

- With support of the UNFPA, Suriname has worked on developing a population policy, a gender vision policy, a maternal health strategy, an adolescent health strategy and thus created a good policy environment for acceleration towards the goals.
- With regard to gender equality, legislation has been adopted, focusing on improving the position of women and other vulnerable groups at the workplace, and on equal treatment in the labour market.
- In collaboration with Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, living in the interior, CSO's, NGO's and several UN Agencies, programs are carried out in the field of drinking water supply, electrification, smart agriculture, economic independence and livelihood.

Participants in these projects received training in gender awareness, doing business, and farming methods and techniques that can withstand major climate changes.

- A roadmap of sustainable finance has been designed with the aim of giving men, women, and vulnerable groups equal access to financial services.
- To leave no one behind, a multisectoral and inclusive approach is used to address the needs of vulnerable groups.

Chair,

As reflected in the report of the Secretary General on “assessing the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, there are continuing and emerging challenges, despite significant socioeconomic progress. These challenges include shrinking workforces, population ageing, environmental degradation, increased immigration, persistent inequalities, human rights violations, and ageism.

The report also highlights that these challenges have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and digital transformations.

Suriname recognizes that accelerating progress in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving the SDGs, requires particular attention to the interrelationship between population dynamics and sustainable development.

Hence, we believe that action in the following areas is imperative:

- Addressing the three transformative goals, namely ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices. We must prioritize sustainable development that safeguards access to reproductive healthcare and empowers women.
- Education and skills development, particularly for young people, allowing them to make informed choices about their families, and contributing to population stabilization and economic growth.

- Bridging the digital divide and promoting digital literacy.
- Access to affordable finance.
- Addressing climate change and recognizing the importance of mitigation and adaptation, as well as access to climate finance.

Chair,

In conclusion, the Government of Suriname remains committed to the accelerated implementation of the objectives outlined in the ICPD Programme of action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Hence, we believe that further strengthening national and international cooperation and solidarity is essential to avoid a setback in the progress made since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action and for achieving the SDGs.

Looking ahead to the upcoming Summit of the Future and the World Social Summit next year, the world community must work together to ensure sustainable development and a habitable planet for present and future generations.

Thank you.