



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sunil Sitaldin
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Suriname to the United Nations
Sixty-second session of the Commission
for Social Development**

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Thank you for giving me the floor Madam Chair.

We are delighted to see you lead the work of the sixty-second session of the Commission for Social Development.

Suriname aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representative of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM and the distinguished Representative of Uganda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Madam Chair,

As we all know, the multiple global and national crises, including international finance and debt challenges, effects of the climate crisis and the impact of the alarming geopolitical tensions, have put tremendous pressure on the implementation of the SDGs.

No country is spared from the effects of these crises, especially developing countries, like Suriname. At the same time no country can solve these challenges alone.

We must work together and redouble our efforts to create better conditions for sustainable, inclusive, and sustained economic growth, while fostering inclusive social development and social justice for all.

It is important to identify the root causes, address the challenges and find durable solutions, through public, private, domestic, and global partnerships.

As underscored by the Secretary General in his report on the current theme of the Commission for Social Development, and I quote: “a fundamental shift is needed in commitment, solidarity, financing and action”, end quote.

Within this context Suriname believes that the following actions are crucial to foster social development and social justice for all:

- Ensuring peace and security, because we cannot achieve sustainable development without peace, nor ensure peace and security without sustainable development.
- Creating descent jobs and investing in human capital.
- Creating fiscal space for social development.
- Mobilizing predictable and adequate support to developing countries, including development finance, climate finance and adaptation finance.
- Access to technology and its markets.
- Closing the digital gap and ensuring access to digital technologies for all.
- Rebuilding of social systems, guaranteeing inclusive and affordable healthcare, education and social services.
- Investments in modernization and innovation in the economic sectors through production, entrepreneurship, and employment, and
- Strengthening of key institutions.

Madam Chair,

In Suriname several measures are undertaken, including through cooperation with local and international partners, to enhance social development and social justice, such as:

- Increased investments in the 2024 Government budget for the execution of policies aimed at social development.
- Through a Social Beneficiary Program, the first steps have been set towards financial inclusivity. A purchasing power boost is provided to senior citizens, persons with disabilities and vulnerable households.
- Increase of social benefits for the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities and efforts to improve the living conditions of vulnerable families in society.

- Support for social housing, renovation and repair for those who cannot afford to improve their housing situation. The Affordable Housing Project, aims to contribute to the housing problem for low income groups.
- Building plots for students and graduates.
- Raising the tax-free limit of employees in the payroll tax and adjustment of the tax brackets.
- Basic goods are exempt from value added tax.
- Basic health insurance
- The poverty reduction programme aims at supporting the most vulnerable groups within society and addressing issues, such as food insecurity, access to safe drinking water, sanitation, health, education, and shelter.
- Ongoing investments to guarantee access to education, educational innovation, and reform, emphasizing technical and vocational education.
- Execution of a National Digital Strategy Roadmap and Implementation Plan to ensure an inclusive, accessible, transparent, safe, and secure digitally transformative environment for all.
- As economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components for sustainable development, Suriname, as one of the only three carbon-negative countries in the world, is committed to remain carbon negative to contribute to sustainable and resilient climate solutions.

In closing, Suriname believes that our success to foster social development and social justice to accelerate progress on the implementation of the SDGs and to achieve overall poverty eradication, depends on our ability to strengthen national and international cooperation and solidarity.

I thank you.