



*As delivered*

**Statement of the Republic of Suriname  
on the occasion of the Commemoration of  
the International Day of Zero Waste**

27 March 2024  
UNHQ, New York

Excellencies,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to add my voice in thanking the Permanent Mission of Türkiye, UNEP and UN-Habitat for convening us today.

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Suriname as we commemorate today the International Day of Zero Waste.

Suriname is proud to be a co-sponsor of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Zero Waste (77/161) adopted on December 22, 2022, which established the International Day of Zero Waste.

As we are well aware, waste is a leading contributor to the climate crisis that we are currently facing worldwide. Unsustainable production and consumption are escalating the waste pollution crisis, posing a significant threat to human health.

The observance of this international day contributes to the aim of sowing the seeds of change and encouraging a shift in people's attitudes, through promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, ultimately striving for a zero-waste lifestyle.

We acknowledge the leadership and important role of the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Emine Erdoğan, UNEP and UN-Habitat in supporting initiatives aimed at transitioning to a zero-waste world.

Suriname strongly promotes sustainable waste management, as it is crucial for avoiding a range of adverse health and environmental consequences.

Hence, our multi-annual development plan 2022-2026, identifies the need to intervene in the solid waste sector.

Additionally, we have implemented an Integrated Waste Management Plan and are executing a Clean City project, based on the 5- principles, namely Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle. Emphasis is placed on promoting effective waste solutions.

We also wish to acknowledge the commendable efforts of the First Lady of Suriname, Her Excellency Mellisa Santokhi-Seenacherry, who has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary- General as a member of the Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero- Waste in April 2023.

The First Lady of Suriname has initiated the “*Reusable Sanitary Pads*” project and launched a pilot program, distributing reusable sanitary pads across various social institutions in Suriname. This initiative serves a dual purpose, namely: addressing the pressing matter of menstrual health, while simultaneously promoting environmental sustainability.

This initiative aligns with objectives related to health, sustainability, empowerment, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In conclusion,

Suriname underscores the critical importance of working together to achieve the societal transformation required for a zero-waste lifestyle approach.

Data from the Global Waste management outlook 2024 underscores the necessity for urgent action to secure a sustainable future.

Therefore, we must pursue our zero-waste objectives, with unity and solidarity.

I thank you.