

**Madam Chair,
Leaders of the world,**

Good morning,

We have gathered again to demonstrate that collectively we can achieve and set out a path towards sustainable development. In doing so, we must be **realistic, forward-looking and balanced** in our intentions.

We must be realistic because:

1. By signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, almost the entire world, agreed to keep the expected rise in temperature, well below 2 Centigrade and preferably below 1.5° centigrade.
2. I cannot express my profound disappointment, that neither the financial support, nor the mitigation measures, and the reduction of emissions promised in 2015 have been realized.
3. Countries with low lying coastal areas, like Suriname and small island developing states, are amongst the most vulnerable countries, yet these countries

received no more than 2% of global climate finance, between 2016 and 2018.

4. The compassion demonstrated in 2015, seems to be lost and these countries, that are in no way responsible for the devastating triggers of climate change, are facing mounting fiscal and debt problems, caused by, inter alia, climate loss and damage.
5. These countries are also facing the financial and social impact of the enduring COVID-19 pandemic.

We have to look forward too because:

1. The future is NOW ! We have no choice than to act NOW in a cooperative and collective manner! Only by working together, we will be able, to face the challenges of climate change.
2. The people and the private sector have embraced the objectives of climate mitigation and adaptation policies.
3. There is widespread support for the transition towards a green economy. Let us agree on mechanisms that will support countries, especially the small island developing states and countries with low

lying coastal areas, like Suriname, in making this transition.

4. We must be innovative in our thinking. Our dreams of carbon emission reduction will not just happen because we want it. We will need to continue investing in developing carbon-reduction end user products and more cost-effective carbon-removal technologies.

We also must follow a balanced approach because:

1. We must recognize the different levels of development in a historical perspective.
2. We see double standards creeping in our thinking, whereby those who have already benefitted from carbon driven economies, would like to prevent emerging economies to lay similar foundations for political stability, social development, and economic prosperity.
3. We also must realize that all the good intentions will mean less or nothing if not underpinned by new concessional financing; existing financial instruments must be reviewed regarding their efficiency and effectiveness.

Suriname, as a carbon negative nation, during difficult times and many temptations, so far has managed to retain 93 percent of its forest cover, its wide range of ecosystems and its rich biodiversity. And we remain committed to maintain this commitment, as we have demonstrated by endorsing the Glasgow Declaration on forest and land use.

We see our commitment as a moral, developmental and environmental investment, for which appropriate compensation means and mechanisms need to be created to support sustainable transition in a green economy, based on renewable energy sources.

Our ambitious NDC's identify four sectors that generate 70 percent of Suriname's emissions, while at the same time, they generate most income, for the people of our country.

Chair, Suriname, being one of the few carbon- negative countries in the world, has taken bold steps, to identify mitigation and adaptation measures to build resilience to counteract the effects of climate change, and to reduce emissions, while continuing to conserve our biodiversity and strengthening sustainable forest management.

We hope, that the world recognizes our efforts and supports us, while we create a new architecture of green development, where nature and modern development exist in harmony.

Suriname remains committed to the Paris Agreement, and with its limited means, will continue to protect, preserve, and maintain our forests and biodiversity in a positive and balanced manner.

Chair, we expect the same commitment from all those gathered here today, and those who are not here. Our decisions and commitments must be global, forceful, trustworthy, but above all realistic and supported by political will and financial means.

Leaders ! Our youth is waiting to see what we decide to create a secure and sustainable future, and what we leave them behind to built on.

No doubt, an enormous task, but we owe it to this and next generations, and with collective will we can save the world. We must exercise leadership, we must assume responsibility and we must make the difference in saving our planet.

I thank you for your kind attention.

God bless all of us!
