



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sunil Sitaldin,  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Suriname to the United Nations  
at the High-level Event on Commemoration of International Day  
to Combat Islamophobia**

15 March 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We would like to express our appreciation for today's High-Level Event on the commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

Suriname is concerned with the manifestations of Islamophobia globally and the negative profiling and stereotyping of Muslims.

We strongly believe that any form of discrimination against individuals based on their religion is a violation of their human rights and contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Suriname, known for its diverse cultural landscape and peaceful coexistence, is home to a significant Muslim population living harmoniously with followers of other religions and beliefs.

Our Constitution stipulates that everyone has the right to freedom of religion or belief and that no one shall be discriminated against on grounds of birth, race, language, religion, origin, education, political opinion, economic position, social circumstances, or any other status.

Legislation has been enacted to preserve and promote the principle of non-discrimination and equality for citizens and foreign nationals, including provisions in the Penal Code and several labor laws.

Suriname believes that the increase of hate and hate-related racial speech on social media and other online platforms also requires urgent attention from the international community.

It is essential that we educate both our youth and communities about the devastating impacts and consequences of spreading hate speech, as well as the importance of tolerance and respect.

We must continue to foster ongoing dialogue and implement measures to cultivate trust among individuals of different religions and cultures, harnessing the power of education and media to combat hatred, prejudice, and negativity.

In addition, we must reaffirm our commitment to promoting a message of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, interfaith, and cultural harmony among all religions, races, and nations, and reiterate our common commitment to unity in diversity.

I thank you.

Check against delivery.