



**Intervention by the Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Suriname**

**His Excellency Sunil Sitaldin**

**on the occasion of 2024 Coordination Segment**

*Interactive discussion*

*Closing the digital divide: towards achieving a global digital  
transformation*

New York  
31 January-1 February 2024

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***Closing the digital divide: towards achieving a global digital transformation***

**1 February 2024**

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Excellencies,  
UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I thank you for convening today's interactive discussion on ***Closing the digital divide: towards achieving a global digital transformation***

In a world full of threats and challenges we believe that the developments in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) have the potential to provide powerful and indispensable tools to help close the digital gap and assist in achieving global digital transformation.

We stress the important role of STI that is also acknowledged in ***the HAVANA DECLARATION ON "CURRENT DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION"*** and we underline the urgent need to act together to address the current digital challenges and the commitment to strengthen the unity and solidarity to achieve our global digital transformation.

The challenges that we face require stronger international cooperation and the development of a Global Digital Compact as underscored in the Secretary-General's Policy brief on *A Global Digital Compact — an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All*.

As the impact of digital technologies will only continue to increase in the coming years, it is crucial that our people are able to leverage the benefits of this innovation.

With all of this in mind, the Government of Suriname has a vision for digital transformation in Suriname that is embedded in our *National Digital Strategy 2023-2030 plan*.

By 2030, our goal is to shape Suriname to an accessible, transparent, safe and secure digitally transformative environment, that sustainably enables the prosperity and universal well-being of all citizens of Suriname based on national and international collaboration.

To reach our digital goals, we have set strategic priorities, founded on key actions and activities, and through collaborative efforts, such as:

1. Strengthening digital infrastructure;
2. Providing accessible and affordable internet;
3. Delivering digital identity to improve the delivery and functioning of public and private digital services;
4. Improving access to government services;
5. Ensuring hybrid and distance digital learning;
6. Increasing citizen awareness and creating a mindset shift.

We are convinced that strategic global partnerships with public and private stakeholders and international cooperation, will enable us to achieve digital transformation, which is a national and development imperative for Suriname.

In closing, we strongly believe that only by working together we can create a safe and transparent digital world that strengthens human rights, advances peace and security and improves the lives of our people!

Thank you for your kind attention.