



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

**His Excellency Sunil Sitaldin**

**on the 2024 celebration of  
the International Day of Forests on the theme  
“Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World”**

**New York  
21 march 2024**

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**Madam Chair,**

Suriname is delighted to be part of today's Celebration of the International Day of Forests.

Forests are not just repositories of biodiversity; they are the lifelines of our planet, providing essential ecosystem services, regulating climate, conserving water, and supporting livelihoods of millions worldwide!

Suriname, rich in biodiversity, recognizes the urgent need for innovative approaches to conserve and manage our forests effectively.

Suriname takes great pride in its status as one of the most forested countries in the world, with approximately 93% of our land covered by forests.

This vast expanse of pristine forest also plays a critical role in regulating global climate patterns and sustaining the livelihoods of our people.

Suriname's financial challenges associated with the implementation of environmental policies is a common issue faced by many nations. The strain on resources poses a significant challenge to our efforts in safeguarding our natural heritage.

Nonetheless, we remain committed to continue our endeavors in this regard and it is with great responsibility that Suriname approaches the task of safeguarding our forest heritage.

We are pleased to highlight that Suriname remains carbon negative, as affirmed by our third national communication on climate change. This accomplishment reinforces our unwavering commitment to environmental protection.

In addition, we reaffirm our commitment to the agreement on the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, underscoring our determination to uphold the principles of sustainable development and environmental integrity.

In our joint efforts to protect our invaluable rainforest ecosystems, Suriname has partnered with the FAO to develop a comprehensive forest finance strategy.

Additionally, Suriname has actively contributed to the forest management strategy of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in addressing transboundary environmental challenges.

As we all know, the Amazon's preservation is crucial for global biodiversity and climate regulation.

**Madam Chair,**

Addressing climate issues and forest protection demands innovative solutions and a collective effort involving political will, commitment, inclusivity and solidarity.

It is crucial to rethink our lifestyles and consumption habits to ensure sustainability.

Remembering that we have only one livable planet for humankind underscores the importance of preserving it for our current and future generations.

We must recognize our interdependence with our planet and take responsibility for its care and preservation!

Thank you for your kind attention.