

**Fifty-sixth Session  
of the  
Commission on the Status of Women**



Statement by,

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Chairperson,

I am honored to address the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Suriname in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Please allow me to express our appreciation for the able manner in which you have been guiding the proceedings of this session. We look forward to a successful and fruitful conclusion of this meeting.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements on behalf of the G-77 and China, CELAC and CARICOM delivered yesterday. We are distinguished representatives of Colombia and Jamaica.

Chairperson,

Suriname acknowledges the role of women in socio-economic life. In its *Development Plan 2012-2015* titled "Sustainable Transformation", the Government of Suriname commits itself to accord high priority to gender as an essential cross cutting issue in its national policy.

There is an increased recognition of the importance of education and skills training for social mobility and the improvement of the situation of rural women. It is worth noting that recently the first rural woman was appointed as the leader of the first rural women's organization.

The Government is also committed to the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at realizing gender equality and the empowerment of rural women. Different agricultural programmes and other measures are tailored to the needs of rural women.

To this end the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry has set up development centers throughout the territory with the aim to train particularly rural communities, in particular women, given that the tobacco sector is the main producer. Furthermore an Agricultural Credit Fund was established which improved access for women producers. Women have been making use of this fund in order to set up their own business.

Agricultural training programs were conducted in the rural districts Para, Essequibo and Nickerie to support women in increasing their income from productive activities.

The Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Regional Development was supported by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in conducting a research and culture program. To this end a document was developed entitled "Impact study for the Agricultural Development in the Interior of Suriname".

Farmers of the Amerindian villages in the interior were able to increase production through the introduction of improved methodology and technology provided by IICA. In addition the women adopted improved cassava processing technologies.

Several NGOs that focus on gender equality are doing significant work in creating gender awareness among rural women. A priority of the national women's movement is to strengthen the capacity of women groups. Nationwide more than 30 women groups are being guided. With the exception of Paramaribo, Suriname's capital, the NVB is active in 17 other districts, empowering women to enhance their quality of life, including by developing small businesses.

The NVB is also assisting women in the interior to participate in the non-ferrous sector which provides an extra source of revenue. Women are also being trained in setting up enterprises in husband-and-wife professions for instance in handicrafts.

#### Chairperson

The National Bureau for Gender Policy, which is tasked with promoting and monitoring gender equality and the empowerment of women in Suriname is currently in a process of a transformation. The vision for a transformed Bureau is to increase its focus on research in regard to gender issues, gender support, consultation and sharing, including for rural women.

The Government's national gender policies will be a priority in its national development and implementation of these policies, in this case the main committee will play an important role.

This new gender policy will therefore be directed at equal access to education, employment and the elimination of discrimination of women in their practices.

It is in the view that solidarity between all social partners, organizations, groups and individuals is a precondition to realize the gender equality. A continued dialogue between Governments, non-governmental organizations, labour stakeholders, therefore necessary. The Government of Suriname remains committed to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in every policy area and therefore to a continuation of this dialogue.

In closing Chairperson,

If we all agree that investing in women is investing in our development. We will have to redouble our efforts in implementing the Beijing Plan for Action and the MDG's.

We have to create strong global partnerships for accelerated actions on living conditions, wellbeing and opportunities for all women and girls in particular for rural women and women of disadvantaged populations.

Suriname reiterates its commitment to the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as the commitment to the MDG's under CEDAW and Beijing Plan for Action and in this regard the cooperation with local, regional and international organizations will be intensified.

Thank you!