



STATEMENT

by

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President of the Republic of Suriname

on the occasion of the General Debate
of the
79th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

New York
25 September 2024

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- President of the General Assembly,
 - Secretary-General of the United Nations,
 - Excellencies,
 - Heads of Delegations,
 - Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Mr. President, this General Assembly, is of historic significance, as we embark,
 - on a process, of recalibrating, international relations, and establishing, a more effective, multilateral framework.
 - I therefore, extend, my heartfelt congratulations, to you, Mr. President,
 - on your election, to preside, over this esteemed body, and allow me, to congratulate,
 - the outgoing chair, of Trinidad and Tobago, on a job well done, under difficult circumstances.

- Mr. President, this organization, was founded, after two, devastating world wars.
- Its original purpose, remains relevant today, to save current, and future generations,
- from the, disastrous consequences, of wars, and armed conflicts, and foster peace, and political stability, for sustained, prosperity for all.
- We, however, observe instead, that the world is marked, by a complex, political and security crisis,
- weakening, our global, multilateral framework, of collective solidarity; international law; and respect, for humanitarian law.
- The conflicts, that divide us, are not isolated incidents.
- They are symptoms, of deeper, systemic challenges; rising inequality; environmental degradation; and the breakdown, of global trust.

- The time has come, to dare, to make bold decisions, revisit, our global, governance architecture,
- and to recommit, to the original goals, of the United Nations.
- Mr. President,
- with statistics, showing that countries, are off track, on the 2030 Agenda, for Sustainable Development,
- while projections, estimate, that almost 600 million people, will continue to live, in extreme poverty in 2030,
- it is incumbent on us, to close the gap, between aspiration, and financing.
- I wish to emphasize, the urgent need, for accelerated reforms, and coordination, within, the international financial architecture,
- especially the international financial institutions.

- The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), offers a comprehensive, and inclusive framework, that goes, beyond traditional metrics,
- to capture, the true complexity, of the vulnerabilities, of small island developing, and low-lying coastal states.
- We urge, that the MVI, is embedded, in the operations, of the international, financial institutions,
- Especially, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.
- Apart from the MVI, we see other, financial obstacles in place, that have a major, negative impact, on our ability, to generate development.
- Especially, de-risking measures, of international banks which,
- are based, on general assessments, and do not consider the countries reality and, the severe impact, on development objectives of the country.

- This, must be addressed head on, if we want, to be inclusive, rather than exclusive.
- Suriname can attest, to the importance, and urgent need, to reform, the global financial, and political system,
- and to build greater trust, in the multilateral system.
- Because of our ranking, we were not eligible, for several, global financial instruments, to the detriment, of my people.
- Since taking office, in July 2020, my government has successfully, started a policy, of financial-economic reforms,
- Including, restructuring the debt portfolio, supported, by an IMF program, and international, financial institutions.
- The impact, of the various crises, and national efforts, to reform the economy,
- has not been easy, for the population,

- but we are, on the road, to recovery now, macro-economic stability, has been achieved.
- We established, a social safety net, and increased several, social benefits,
- all meant, to make sure, that we did not forget, or excluded, that part of our population, from restoring, a healthier economy.
- Mr. President, 2024 statistics, reveal that progress, in the area, of climate action, is inadequate,
- with global, greenhouse gas emissions, still rising, despite the need, for reductions.
- Climate action, can no longer, be postponed, nor ignored.
- Soon we will meet, in Azerbaijan for COP 29.
- Will we, be repeating ourselves, with empty promises, and pledges?

- Or will we, take decisive action, to save this planet, from extinction.
- Mr. President, Suriname is committed, to the Paris Agreement.
- Suriname has also, submitted ambitious, nationally determined, contributions,
- and has recently, started the process, of carbon credit trading.
- Suriname aims, to remain, a carbon negative country, with a high level, of biodiversity, and more than, 90% forest coverage.
- With this conscious choice, to limit deforestation, we sacrifice, economic development, for our people.
- For this we are not compensated, while everyone, benefits, from our decision.
- Carbon negative, and carbon neutral countries, must be supported, for maintaining that status.

- We are in favor, of a just transition, to a carbon-less economy, over the coming decades,
- but we also expect, to be allowed, to develop, our natural resources,
- in an environmentally, friendly and balanced manner, in compliance, with international standards, and practices.
- In fact, we have already, embarked, on such a development path,
- by introducing, more renewables, to our energy grid, utilizing, technological innovations,
- to reduce, our carbon footprint, even further.
- Suriname delegates has had, over the past, hundred years, industrial production of bauxite,
- onshore oil, gold, as well, as agricultural production.

- Despite these activities, Suriname is among, the three carbon, negative countries in the world.
- At the same time, Suriname is among, the seven most, vulnerable countries, with respect, to the effects, of rising sea levels.
- Mr. President,
- not only, have the international pledges, for climate financing, not materialized, in the way pledged,
- but access, to the available resources, is an enormous challenge.
- Simplification, of the application, and appraisal procedures,
- must be put, in place, to have the required impact, at a local level.
- Regretfully, we also observe, that a large part, of these funds, finds their way, in time consuming and expensive studies, consultancies, and advisory services.

- In the meantime, the situation on the ground, in the affected regions, and countries, is deteriorating.
- Often, the requested assistance, comes too late.
- Mr. President, to transform, the well-being, of our communities,
- we must embrace, diversity, and work, toward social justice, and inclusion.
- That is, what responsible leaders, do.
- Making sure, no one, is left out, or excluded.
- We must practice, what we preach!
- Mr. President, while the humanitarian, and security situation, in the Republic of Haiti, remains of concern,
- we are pleased, to note that, also through leadership, of the Caribbean Community,

- a road map, towards free, and fair elections, has been initiated and, a transition government, with a clear mandate, has been installed.
- We cannot leave Haiti, and its people, alone and behind.
- Haiti fatigue, is not an option.
- We urge, the international community, to financially, and technically, supporting Haiti, on its path forward.
- Suriname will contribute, to the MSS, with security personnel, and remains committed, to assist, in whatever, way we can.
- We urge, and call, for a more effective, coordinated and coherence approach,
- and the transparent sharing, of information, regarding the different initiatives, to serve more effectively, the objectives,

- of facilitating peace, security, and prosperity in Haiti, and the Haitian People.
- Leaving no one behind, should also include, lifting the longstanding, economic embargo, against Cuba and its people.
- Adopting, the Pact of the Future, represents an opportunity, to redirect, a new path, for humanity,
- to address, current challenges, while laying the groundwork, for sustainable solutions.
- We need to foster, collaboration, and strengthen partnerships,
- to address, the long-term global issues, as climate change, social inequality,
- and access, to affordable health care, and quality education for all.

- Small nations, need the support, for digital transformation,
- providing the tools, and capacity-building initiatives, needed, to fully integrate, into the global, digital economy.
- We must, Mr. President, utilize technology, in a positive, and constructive manner, to facilitate, financial inclusion for all,
- access to general education, and skills training, but also, to tele-medicine and treatment,
- as well, as instant Government services.
- Mr. President, 2024 marks, the fifth time, for me, to address, the General Assembly.
- In 2020, I made, my maiden address virtually, through the optimal use, of modern technology.
- At that time, I remarked, that multilateralism, came under attack, on several occasions.

- And four years onwards, we still have, a long way to go.
- We must work, collectively, and with a sense, of urgency, and positive attitude,
- Towards, a renewed commitment, to a multilateral framework, that is more inclusive, more equitable, more accountable,
- with the ultimate goal, to create a better, safer, and more productive planet, for our people now, and in the future.
- In conclusion, Mr. President, the theme, “Leave no one behind”, is a call to action, but is also, a challenge.
- For smaller countries, like Suriname, the global system, often continues exclusion, sometimes in new version and style.

- As we continue, our renewed commitment, to building,
- a more just, inclusive, and equitable international system, where accountability is important.
- Together, we must ensure, that no nation, no community, and no individual, no women and no children is excluded, or left behind,
- from the promise, of peace, prosperity and dignity.
- Let's live up, to the spirit, of "one for all, and all for one".
- I thank you, may God bless you!
