

## **SURINAME STATEMENT**

**Mr Chairman**

**Distinguished delegates**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Suriname welcome this opportunity to Exchange views and set the regional agenda on population and development for THE Latin America and Caribbean.**

**One of the most outstanding issues that require our attention as a region at this stage is the matters concerning our adolescent and youth. They comprise in both our region's an average of 66 % of the total population and it is expected that this figure will significantly grow in THE future meaning an enormous human resource potential for our region's.**

**Youth in Suriname have always been in the forefront. A separate Department of sport and youth Affairs was set up in 2010 and efforts were made to formulate a national youth policy Aimed at alleviating the needs of our youth. THE Caricom youth Ambassador Program and our youth Parliament have served to strengthen the leadership capacity of the youth.**

**It is our plight to work tirelessly to safeguard the future of our youth. We have to address the provision of comprehensive and innovative programmes which equip them with the live skills that allow young people to contribute to the development of them.**

**To promote Heath and family live education programmes that are in alignment with the live cycle approach and linked to sexual and reproductive health services**

**To promote young people's leadership and ensure their meaningful participation in policy and decisions making processes. So they can make a different for the region.**

**THE Suriname government confirms the powerful force of internal Migration in redistributing the population between regions and the key influence of population location and mobility in the relationship between territory and sustainable development.**

**We also acknowledge the marginalized and deprived situation of thousands of urbanism people from the interior, in particular of women and children.**

**We also have a great disparity in development within the country in particular between the urban, rural and interior.**

**The government acknowledges the need for national and sub national sustainable development policy to take population location and mobility into consideration.**

**SURINAME sees poverty reduction, gender equality and gender equity as a basis for achieving the MDG, s and the commitments of ICPD.**

**Strengthen social protection system to increase support to the marginalized and vulnerable population, including the implementation of conditional cash transfer program, increase child allowance and elderly pensions, social housing program, free health insurance for groups with no or low income, innovation of the education system to improve child friendly education, expansion of schools and establishments of after school programs, including feeding and sport, with emphasize on low income urban communities.**

**As nation we have major achievements in the area of improved public health, with the significant reduction of annual numbers of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and almost zero cases of in woman or children. The challenges that we faced now is to reduce the non-communicable diseases, which is treat for our country.**

**Recently the Government of Suriname introduced the general medical provision to reach the most vulnerable groups in the society.**

**Also the strengthening of a supportive legislative framework through the adoption of the domestic act, bill against stalking and harassment. Specialized legislation on human trafficking and human smuggling.**

**We acknowledge that since 1994 there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks occurred in reaching the targets. We know that much more efforts and investments are needed to reduce complicated issues such as the high rates of teenage pregnancy, unsafe abortions, violence against women and children;**

**We acknowledge the need of expanding access to opportunities, livelihoods, health services and education to all people in particular to the marginalized and vulnerable populations.**

**Mr Chairman**

**According to the World Bank Report in terms of natural resources, my country Suriname is the tenth richest country in the world. But at the same time, Mr Chair I am not ashamed to tell you that we have in the interior parts of our country, tribes who have no access to education and health. This is what our challenge is about...**

**Today and upcoming days we as a region can make a difference.**

**As a region we have a combined population of around 600 million people with the largest tropical rainforest in the world, one of the world's biggest fresh water basins, huge deposits of strategic minerals, oil and gas and sufficient land to provide our people with enough food for a long time to come.**

**Despite all these riches we are constantly facing an uphill battle to alleviate poverty. That's why we need the political will to build a better future for everybody.**

**What we require is an all comprehensive strategy.**

**With this event we have a historic opportunity to make a mind shift to come up with new and innovative initiatives and to combine efforts to achieve our regional and national development goals.**

**Thank you**