



XIV Regional Conference
on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 4–8 November 2019

Fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on
Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 4-8 November 2019

**National Report on Progress in the Application of the Montevideo
Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within
the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030**

SURINAME



Suriname Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Strategy October 2016 - May 2019

Ministry of Home Affairs, May 2019

PART ONE: THREE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS REGARDING WOMEN'S AUTONOMY AND GENDER EQUALITY SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY IN 2016

Strengthening of the legal context and development of policies and (action) plans

- Progress has been achieved in the adoption and strengthening of national legal framework to further support the implementation of the Development plans of the Government of Suriname 2012-2016 and 2017- 2021, relevant international agreements and other related national policy. In this regard the Government of Suriname ratified the convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2017. Suriname also ratified three (3) ILO Conventions namely the Conventions on Equal Remuneration, 1951(No. 100), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) both in 2017 and Minimum Age, 1973 (No. 138) in 2018. The implementation of these ILO conventions will entail more activities towards the full and equal participation of women on the labour market. Also the draft law on sexual harassment / intimidation have been made into 1 law and is applicable to the public and private sectors. This concept has already passed the Labor Advice College and has been presented to the State Council. The draft law equality of treatment in employment” has been presented to the State Council.
- To eradicate child labour and with the view to harmonize the Surinamese labour law concerning child labour to the present context as well as to the ILO standards (ILO-convention 138 and 182), the Law containing rules to combat child labor and work performed by young persons (Law Workers and Children Youth Act) has been adopted in 2018 and replaces the previous labor legislation concerning children and young persons dating from 1963.
- In the past, women employed in the private sector by companies without a collective labour agreement had no legal coverage for maternity leave services provided by their employers. With the adoption of the law on protection of the family in employment (2019), employed women will be entitled to paid maternity leave for 16 weeks and men to 7 days paternity leave. Women who give birth to multiple births, i.e. three or more children, are entitled to maternity leave up to a maximum of 24 weeks.
- National policies and (action) plans have been developed, among others: draft Gender Vision policy document 2021 - 2035 and Gender Action Plan for 2019 and 2020; National Strategy Plan HIV 2014-2020; the National Strategic Plan ‘Renewal and Strengthening of Primary Health Care 2014-2018’; Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action Plan, based on the Safe Motherhood Needs Assessment 2014 and the National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy of Suriname, 2013-2017; National Action Plan to combat Child Labor (NAPKA) 2019-2024; Draft National Action Plan Children (NAPK) 2019-2021; Decent work country program 2014-2016.

Increased availability of strategic information for monitoring purposes

- The General Bureau of Statistics (GBS), Suriname’s National Statistics Office (NSO) is responsible for the production of gender statistics. The first publication ‘Selected Gender Statistics’, launched in 2002 is published every odd year by the GBS. In 2017 the GBS published the last publication under a different title “selected Statistics about women and men in Suriname”.
- Statistical papers produced by the GBS “A statistical study from a gender perspective on Surinamese women and men(2016) and the Housing situation of Female Headed Households (FHH) In Paramaribo (2015)
- To meet the lack of gender disaggregated data, the Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau Gender Affairs has executed the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) model with support of CARICOM and UNWOMEN and in close collaboration with the General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname. The main goal of this initiative was to develop a set of indicators (the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model) parallel to the Global Set of Minimum Gender Indicators to identify, assess, measure and track the persistent gender equality concerns and disparities across the CARICOM Region, in accordance with the newly adopted SDGs. Suriname was one of the four pilot countries (apart from Dominica, Grenada, and Jamaica). This study was conducted between January and July 2017 and did not only provide in recent data but also revealed the shortcomings in the collection of gender-related data.
- During the drafting of this report the results of the most recent MICS study (2018) and the study to measure the existence of violence against women (2018) were not available.

Increased enrollment of women at all educational levels

There are no significant differences in the enrollment of boys and girls in primary schools. From the secondary junior level to tertiary education the gender parity ratio is still in favor of girls, as in all these educational levels more women than men are enrolled.

Table 1: GPI Primary, secondary and tertiary education

Period	Educational Level			
	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Tertiary
2012-2013	0.93	1.2	1.79	2.49
2013-2014	0.96	1.2	2.02	2.21
2014-2015	0.94	1.09	1.69	2.04
2015-2016	0.94	1.12	1.65	2.01
2016-2017	0.93	1.11	1.57	2.01
2017-2018	0.93	1.04	NA	NA

PART TWO: USEFULNESS OF THE MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC POLICIES TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AUTONOMY AND RIGHTS

Worth mentioning is that the Montevideo Strategy has been shared with the gender focal points of the different ministries. Where applicable the strategy is integrated in the overall development of policy, plans and programs. The elements that have been most relevant are e.g. the modification or adaption of the national legal framework, the mainstreaming of gender; strengthening of the gender machinery, support women's leadership in public and private sphere, design and implement continuous training, working towards the availability of gender data.

Pillar 1: Normative framework

Discriminatory legislation has been removed/ new legislation has been adopted or aligned with international conventions to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. In this regard the law on protection of the family in employment has been adopted. The draft law on sexual harassment / intimidation have been made into 1 law and is applicable to the public and private sectors. This concept has already passed the Labor Advice College and has been presented to the State Council. The draft law equality of treatment in employment has been presented to the State Council. In 2017 Suriname ratified the Convention on the rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD).

A Masculinity Training has been carried out in collaboration with Stichting Man' Mit Man (Foundation Man' mit Man) in 2017. Men with different social backgrounds and different occupations (taxi drivers, government officials, barbers, fire men) have been trained. The purpose of this training was to stimulate discussions regarding masculinity in relation to gender base violence. One of the expected outcomes of this training is that it will contribute to adverse shifts in values, beliefs, behaviors and practices that promote gender-based violence. A discussion on deep-rooted causes of gender-based violence, including the concepts of masculinity has been held.

Pillar 2: Institutional architecture: multidimensional and comprehensive gender equality policies

In order to ensure a systematic and effective response that connects to the specificities of the Suriname context, national policies and (action) plans have been developed such as:

National Strategic Plan HIV 2014-2020, National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy of Suriname, 2013-2017, National Strategic Plan Renewal and Strengthening of Primary Health Care 2014-2018, draft Gender Vision policy document 2021 - 2035 and Gender Action

Plan for 2019 and 2020.

Because of among other things the high prevalence of domestic violence within the District Nickerie, the branch office of the Bureau Gender Affairs in this district has been revitalized in March 2016. Intensified cooperation with stakeholders is needed to tackle the different gender related issues within this district. The branch office acts as the coordinating body.

Furthermore a Gender Platform has formally been set up in 2019 in abovementioned district. The Gender Platform Nickerie consists of government organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals. The platform has the task of identifying the gender inequalities in Nickerie, submitting solutions, proposals and taking decisions as a platform about the actions to be taken, as well as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the actions.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Justice and Police launched the National Human Rights Institute. The planning is that a transition period will be implemented in 4 years, wherein the institute will be arranged in such a way that it will comply with the requirements according to the Paris Principles. This means that in this period the Institute will be made into an independent institution. In the final phase of this transition, the Institute will thus completely stand alone. This institute will deal with the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Also, a general ombudsman will be linked to this institute. The ombudsman will be divided into two divisions, being one for children and one for adults.

The National Council Domestic Violence (NCDV) was installed in June 2017 by the Minister of Justice and Police for a period of 3 years. The main task of this council is to update the National Policy Plan Structural Approach Domestic Violence and to formulate a Work plan for the integral approach of domestic violence; the monitoring of the implementation of all the activities mentioned in these documents. The NCDV consists of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Police (The Public Prosecutor's Office, the Bureau Victim Aid, the Bureau Women and Child Policy and the Police Corps of Suriname), the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH), the Ministry of Education Science and Culture (MINOWC), the Ministry of Health, the Foundation Stop Violence against Women and the Foundation "de Stem".

Pillar 3: Popular and citizen participation: democratization of policy and society.

With the formulation of the draft Gender Vision Policy document 2021- 2035 and the draft Gender Action plan 2019-2020 different NGO's and CBO's have been consulted.

NGO's are also members of the National Council Domestic Violence that was installed by the Ministry of Justice and Police in 2017. Also NGO's have the opportunity to submit project

proposals at the Bureau Gender Affairs. The Bureau also works in close collaboration with NGO's and provide training on gender and genderrelated issues for NGO's upon request.

Pillar 4: state capacity-building and – strengthening: public administration based on gender equality and non- discriminatory

The Ministry of the Home Affairs offers training on gender, women's rights, violence and other gender-related issues to various ministries, religious organizations and NGOs. These trainings are also conducted in the different districts.

Since 2016 gender is included in the curricula of the annual courses of the Civil Servants education of the Ministry of the Home Affairs. Different topics such as gender stereotyping, gender discrimination, gender equality, violence against women are addressed in these courses.

Pillar 5: Financing

The Government of Suriname collaborates with both national and international organizations. This collaboration is reflected in supporting the government of Suriname through technical and financial assistance. A Results-Based Management and Gender Equality Training (RBM & GET) workshop, was held in October 2018. The purpose of the training workshop was to assist the Bureau Gender Affairs in developing a Gender Policy and accountability framework including increased understanding by selected stakeholders of: a) gender inequalities in Suriname and how to address those through policy; and b) results based management including its application in policy development, execution, monitoring and evaluation. The training is part of the process that lead to the development of the draft Gender Vision policy document 2021 - 2035 and Gender Action Plan for 2019 and 2020. The training was conducted by a volunteer advisor to the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) and was initiated by the BGA in collaboration with the UNDP and The Office for Services to NGOs (Het Bureau voor de Dienstverlening aan NGO's (Stichting BFN)).

Pillar 6: Communication: access to information and cultural change

The government has set up a website (www.gov.sr) to inform the society regarding the policy/ activities of the different ministries. Information regarding gender can also be obtained from this website.

The ministry of Home Affairs has a facebook page where information is placed on regular basis with regard to e.g violence against women, Orange Day and other gender related issues.

Other methods to inform the society is through the publication of articles in daily newspapers with regard to e.g. violence against women, International day of the Girl Child, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, International women's day.

In November 2016, students of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname have been trained in domestic violence. These students were nominated by the minister of Home Affairs as Ambassadors of Domestic Violence. The aim of the training is to involve students to make a major contribution to reducing, preventing and combating domestic violence.

In November 2018, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture started with an analysis of gender inequality within the current curriculum of primary education (sample). The final results still have to be presented by the consultant. The staff of the department Curriculum Development of the MINOWC will be trained in how to develop curricula based on gender equality. Based on this training, the curricula for grades 7 and 8 of primary education will be developed or renewed. The aim is to complete these curricula by May 2020.

At the University of Suriname within the subjects "Gender and Development" of the study branch Sociology; "Gender in International Relations" of the study branch Public Administration; and "Gender in International Perspective" of the Master program in Education, Research and Sustainable Development (MERSD) the following topics are addressed: gender, gender equality, international women conferences and treaties.

School teams (pilot phase of 10 schools) are trained in gender-sensitive prevention and approach to behavior problems (GPAG). Tools have been provided to teachers, so that they recognize gender and behavioral problems of students and address them as effectively as possible

Pillar 7: Technology

The government has improved its information flow to the society. This is done through the National Information Institute (NII). The NII has been created to share government information with the population. In addition, government policy is shared through the government news site "www.deboodschap.today" and other official social media channels and broadcasting radio and TV productions.

Pillar 8: cooperation: towards democratic multilateral governance

The government of Suriname works closely together with various UN agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO and UNWOMEN for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights.

Pillar 9: Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions

To increase the availability of reliable data, many efforts have been made. On national level data have been collected through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018 and the study to measure the existence of violence against women (2018). Worth mentioning is that the results of above-mentioned research are not yet available. In addition the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) started in 2002 with the publication ‘Selected Gender Statistics’ and publishes every odd year. In 2017 the GBS published the last publication under a different title “selected Statistics about women and men in Suriname”. The GBS also produces statistical papers “A statistical study from a gender perspective on Surinamese women and men(2016) and the Housing situation of Female Headed Households (FHH) In Paramaribo (2015)

In 2018 the BGA executed the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) model. The CARICOM GEI Model is used for addressing key policy concerns identified in international and regional commitments that cover national norms and laws on gender equality across 5 domains: Economic Activity, Education, Health, Public Participation, and Human Rights.

Also a introductory presentation on gender for ministers and the parliament have been conducted by the BGA. These groups of High Level Government Officials were informed on topics such as gender and gender mainstreaming, the gender management system, CEDAW and the recommendations, the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicator model and the challenges with regard to data collection. They were also informed about legislation which were submitted for approval and are still pending, and legislation which contains discriminatory provisions for women.

PART THREE: RELEVANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION PILLARS FOR PUBLIC POLICIES

PHYSICAL AUTONOMY

Pillar 2: Institutional architecture

To promote access to contraceptives in the interior, contraceptives are distributed through the Malaria Program of the Ministry of Health. In 2017 an agreement has been signed with NGO’s to also distribute contraceptives in the mining fields while conducting their outreach programs.

The installation of the National Council Domestic Violence.

The National Council Domestic Violence (NCDV) was installed in June 2017 by the Minister of Justice and Police for a period of 3 years. The main task of this council is to update the National Policy Plan “Structural Approach Domestic Violence” and to formulate a Work plan for the integral approach of domestic violence; the monitoring of the implementation of all the activities mentioned in these documents. The NCDV consists of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Police (The Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Bureau Victim Aid, the Bureau Women and Child Policy and the Police Corps of Suriname), the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH), the Ministry of Education Science and Culture (MINOWC), the Ministry of Health, the Foundation Stop Violence against Women and the Foundation “de Stem”.

The finalization of the National Policy Plan “Structural approach Domestic Violence” and the Work plan Domestic Violence and the presentation of these documents to the Minister of Justice and Police was in July 2018.

“Meldpunten” (centers) for Childprotection has been set up.

The Ministry of Justice and Police has set up three child protection centers (One in Apoera, one in Coronie and one in Paramaribo-Zuid). The main objective of the child protection centers is the comprehensive approach to child abuse. This project started in 2016. The ministry has also implemented awareness programs through community participation (focus group) sessions with children and adults in the three above mentioned communities. In collaboration with the UNICEF these three centers were evaluated and the ministry is now working on the strengthening of these centers. The Ministry has the intention to extend the centers to all districts.

Pillar 4: State capacity-building and strengthening: public administration based on equality and non-discrimination

The development and approval of a standard registration form domestic violence.

For the implementation of the law Combating Domestic Violence, the Ministry of Justice and Police have carried out a 1 day training course for the completing of the standard registration form Domestic Violence in June 2018 in cooperation with Women’s Right Centre and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In this training about 50 persons from the Police Corps of Suriname and assisting authorities from the Government and NGO’s have participated. During four and a half month these persons applied the form in practice. After an evaluation this form was adapted, presented and submitted to the Minister of Justice and Police. This form is already established by the Minister of Justice and Police in December 2018 and will be distributed to all relevant stakeholders to use it.

Pillar 6: Communication

For the awareness on child rights and violence against children several films (sketches) were developed. These films were launched in November 2017. Through these films children and adults in the city and the communities (districts) were informed about child rights, how they can protect themselves from the various forms of violence and how and where they can report cases of violence.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AUTONOMY

Pillar 1: normative framework

Draft legislation on “sexual harassment on the work floor” and “equality of treatment in employment” has been formulated and has been submitted to the State Council. Also the decent work country program 2014- 2016 has been developed to guarantee full and productive employment opportunities and equal work for all.

Suriname also ratified three (3) ILO Conventions namely the Conventions on Equal Remuneration, 1951(No. 100), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) both in 2017 and Minimum Age, 1973 (No. 138) in 2018. The implementation of these ILO conventions will entail more activities towards the full and equal participation of women on the labour market.

Since 2016, a pregnancy protocol has been established by the MINOWC through a ministerial decision so as to ensure regulation at secondary schools and prevent school principals from taking their own decisions on removal of pregnant adolescents and mothers from school. The protocol is followed and schools are called upon that pregnant students also have right to education at all education levels. In case of pregnancy, the pupil is offered the opportunity to receive education as long as possible and / or to come back after giving birth. This also depends on the student's condition and the doctor's advice.

With regard to pregnant adolescents who drop out of the formal school system, they are offered an opportunity to continue their education through training-courses offered by the Ministry of Labour and NGOs.

Pillar 3: Popular and citizen participation: democratization of policy and society

The agricultural cooperative *Wi Uma fu Sranan* is the first women's agro cooperative in Suriname (launched in February 2016). It consists of 40 Maroon women. This cooperative aims

at jointly developing the interior of Suriname by increasing employment opportunities for Maroon women. The cooperative is active in the districts of Brokopondo, Saramacca, Para and Wanica, and works with strategic partners, including the government. Currently the cooperative produces and sells a variety of cereals made from cassava.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing has financed a training program for entrepreneurship in 2018. This project stems from an assessment made within several vulnerable communities. Based on that and the validation meetings held within these communities, the priorities are listed. For 2019 a follow up training in manufacturing of garments for 50 persons is planned.

Specialized training was provided to indigenous and tribal peoples in accordance with their needs and competencies, and they received support for entrepreneurship, for example, through cooperatives that assisted them in processing and selling goods. Women also participated in these trainings.

Pillar 4: State capacity-building and -strengthening: public administration based on equality and non-discrimination

Different trainings have been conducted to empower women economically. In 2017 the BGA, with support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and the United Nations Development Fund carried out a phase one of the project Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in the district of Nickerie. It was a training in plant propagation techniques to economically empower (unemployed) women, so that they will be able to generate an own income.

WOMEN'S DECISION-MAKING AUTONOMY

Pillar 3: Popular and citizen participation: democratization of policy and society

In March 2019, UNDP and the Ministry of Home Affairs signed the agreement for "Technical Assistance towards the 2020 Elections in Suriname". Activities to be implemented include: capacity strengthening for relevant institutions, support towards the participation of women, the indigenous population and persons with disabilities, training sessions for the media and a voter outreach campaign.

The gender action plan 2019 - 2020 also contains activities to increase women political participation and presentation.

From February 2017 until June 2017, information-sharing sessions were held in the different Maroon and Indigenous communities. The communities were informed about climate change,

the current phases of the REDD+ project, and how REDD+ can contribute to Suriname and the different specific target groups such as women, children, youth, etc. Consultations to develop an REDD+ National strategy have also taken place in different Maroon and Indigenous communities. During these information-sharing sessions and consultations the participation of the women of these communities was a requirement. Women participated at different levels in the framework of the REDD+ National Strategy.

The interior is a specific focus area for the National Coordination Center for Disaster Management (NCCR) because of the increasing frequency of flooding versus the vulnerable situation of population, who are highly dependent on their natural environment for their daily subsistence. NCCR strives to ensure the effective participation of Indigenous and Maroon women during its activities in the interior, among others, during the coordination of emergency assistance where women are usually the recipients. An increasing number of the traditional authorities of the Indigenous and Maroon peoples (captains or chiefs, and basjas or assistants) with which NCCR works with are female and many villages have women organizations. These authorities and organizations are involved at community level when discussing disaster management, including response and prevention. Furthermore, NCCR is currently in the process of training regional district administration offices (“Bestuursdienst”) in disaster management procedures and planning, where a substantial number of the staff is female and from the local communities.

Pillar 8: Cooperation

One of the projects of the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) which is being implemented by Ministry of Regional Development early 2017 named *Enhancing access to drinking water for the Maroon community of Asigron Brokopondo*, states that 42% of the persons participating were women, while there were 47.8% female-headed households. The youth (of which 53% girls) and elderly (of which 55 % women) also participated.

Three main challenges to be overcome in order to eliminate the structural challenges of gender inequality identified in the Montevideo Strategy

- Insufficient capacity to develop, execute, monitor and evaluate a gender strategy and policy. The BGA lacks sufficient staff to make society in general and in particular school-age youth in the whole country aware of gender, education and upbringing, and human rights (women, men and children).
- Insufficient statistical and other information, including qualitative data to determine specific policy and to make problem-solving interventions. To stop the increase of cases of domestic violence, the Combating Domestic Violence Act was adopted in

2009, which allows a victim to apply for a restraining order against a perpetrator.

- Little experience in and lack of gender integration processes, where equality goals are added to all policy goals during policy development, in both public and private sectors.

To overcome these challenges the Ministry of Home Affairs signed, through the Ministry of Finance, an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for technical assistance for the period 2019-2022 for the institutional strengthening of the BGA. The main goal of the project is to develop the institutional capacity of the BGA to fulfill its role to advocate for women's needs and priorities within national policies and government agencies. The specific objectives of the project are to i) develop the capacity of the BGA to formulate, monitor and evaluate the National Gender Policy, conduct policy analysis, advocate, and monitor the countries mainstreaming of women's needs and priorities within national policies and government agencies; ii) establish institutional framework to guide the work of the BGA; iii) develop a national gender database to monitor and report on the countries efforts and achievements in meeting its national development objectives and international commitments and iv) conduct research to identify key issues that generate social and economic inequalities within the country. With this project the BGA also aims at closing the gaps in sex disaggregated data, which will make it possible to present trends over time in the situation of women in Suriname and meet the national and international reporting obligations. The Technical Assistance will support the establishment of a robust data collection system, strengthen the capacity of the BGA as the national authority in charge of executing and monitoring of the gender policy and strengthen the Gender Management System to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the national targets on gender.

Activities to be carried out in this regard are the following:

- Strengthen the research departments of social ministries: Health; Justice and Police; Education, Science and Culture; Labour; Social Affairs and Housing; and key government officials (e.g. policymakers) in order to increase the reliability, regularity and use of the gender statistics collected within the national and international framework and disseminate the findings to inform policy development with respect to national and international framework.
- Develop gender expertise in the BGA in various thematic areas such as health, education, power and decision making, employment and violence.
- Strengthen the capacity of key government officials (e.g. policymakers) in the application/ translation of available sex disaggregated data to the development of evidence-based formulation of policies and programs.
- Provide guidance and training to gender focal points (GFPs) on gender mainstreaming
- Strengthening the national data collection system in capturing measurable gender indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress made towards the

realization of women's empowerment in all areas covered by the CEDAW Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.

Other challenges include:

- Lack of gender awareness at the highest governmental level and also in the community
- Underreporting of complaints and not applying for restraining orders may contribute to an increase in the number of spousal killings.
- Lack of clear mandates, adequate resources, and ability to influence policy in our gender management system;
- Implementation of gender budgeting;
- Insufficient capacity to develop, implement and monitor/assess a gender strategy and policy
(shortage of high level staff at the BGA)
- Little experience and no processes for gender mainstreaming in policy development, implementation and assessment, both in the public and in the private sector.

FINAL REMARKS

Though several activities have been executed with regard to gender equality and women's right, still much have to be done to eliminate the disadvantage of women. The government is aware that cooperation with all relevant stakeholders is necessary.

Suriname will continue its efforts to empower women in all areas of life. Thereby it will work in close collaboration with non – governmental organizations.

SOURCES:

- Combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of States parties due in 2014, CEDAW
- List of issues and questions in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname
- 6th Round of article 8 Political dialogue with the EU
- Suriname Progress report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus 2013-2017
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Sixty-ninth session
Summary record of the 1585th meeting.
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (*continued*)
Fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname (continued)
- Suriname Progress report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, 2013-2017
- Preliminary Report, national Review of the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action+20

1. Normative framework: equality and the rule of law

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
1.a Incorporate the commitments undertaken by governments in the Regional Gender Agenda of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, into national, subnational and local policies, plans and programmes on equality, women's rights and sustainable development.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	Advanced meaning that several actions have been carried out. Not all measures have been evaluated as yet. This meaning is applicable throughout the document
1.b Ratify and enforce human rights treaties; review laws, policies, plans, programmes and protocols periodically, and modify them if necessary, to bring them into line with international standards on women's human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination; and ensure that all women's rights are respected, protected and guaranteed and prevent setbacks.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
1.c Modify or adapt the national legal framework by incorporating the principle of equality and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex as set out in articles 1 and 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
1.d Adopt comprehensive and specific laws and regulations on gender equality and women's human rights, including legislation on the right to a life free of all forms of gender-based violence, and ensure their full and effective implementation.	Advanced		
1.e Design and execute plans on gender equality, depatriarchalization and women's rights with non-transferable, progressive and sufficient budgets and targets engaging different levels of government.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
1.f Mainstream gender equality and women's rights in national development plans and planning instruments.	Implemented	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
1.g Establish mandatory periodic reviews of the implementation of gender equality plans and modify policies and programmes by incorporating recommendations to overcome any obstacles.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

<p>1.h Design and implement comprehensive and intersectoral intervention protocols, with an intersectional, intercultural, gender and human-rights-based approach, that establish quality standards to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of gender and the adaptability of programmes and services, which should have sufficient, non-transferable allocations of financial resources and be applied at different levels of the State.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>		
<p>1.i Remove all legal and institutional barriers to women's effective and equal access to justice, without discrimination, by ensuring participation, transparency, independence and high-quality, timely assistance from specialized personnel, and access to comprehensive remedies for damages in the event of rights violations in order to end impunity.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>		
<p>1.j Ensure that laws, regulations and protocols include mechanisms and procedures to ensure the enforceability of women's rights.</p>	<p>At initial process</p>	<p>Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>1.k Adopt laws and norms to ensure women's equal access to political power, by fostering gender parity in participation throughout the public sphere.</p>	<p>At initial process</p>	<p>Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>1.l Endeavour to ensure that the position of Latin American and Caribbean countries in international discussions on macroeconomic policy, and trade, investment and financial agreements, incorporates the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and their link with Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular that the position on sustainable development be transmitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>1.m Promote measures, policies and programmes for the full engagement of boys, young men and men as strategic allies in achieving gender equality, promoting and guaranteeing women's rights and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	

2. Institutional architecture: multidimensional and comprehensive gender equality policies

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
2.a Afford machineries for the advancement of women the highest level in the institutional hierarchy, supported by the normative framework, so that, in executing their functions, they can fulfil their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy, and ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the State structure.	At initial process	Machinery for the Advancement of women exclusively	
2.b Strengthen machineries for the advancement of women by providing sufficient technical, human, political, administrative and financial resources and guarantee their sustainability over time, with a particular focus on the subnational and local levels.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of women exclusively	
2.c Promote the establishment and consolidation of gender equality and women's rights bodies in sectoral ministries (including ministries of public administration, where they exist), decentralized agencies, subnational, municipal and local governments, and the legislative and judicial branches, by providing them with human, technical and political resources and a specific budget.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of women together with other State Institutions	
2.d Establish permanent government mechanisms, with specific mandates, division of duties, resource allocations and work plans, for intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination, especially between machineries for the advancement of women and central planning and budgeting units, to participate in the preparation and implementation of development plans and public budgets, mainstreaming the gender perspective in planning and budgeting at the national, subnational and local levels	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of women together with other State Institutions	
2.e Ensure ongoing coordination, facilitated by the technical secretariat of the Conference, among the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in order to ensure coordinated follow-up to the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with their respective mandates.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of women exclusively	

3. Popular and citizen participation: democratization of policy and society

Measures		Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
3.a	Support women's leadership in social and political organizations, promoting parity-based participation in democracy, institutionbuilding and the advocacy capacities of civil society organizations, women's and feminist movements, and, in particular, leadership among adolescents, young women, indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, women with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons, respecting their organizational expressions	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
3.b	Establish mechanisms that guarantee participation on a parity basis by women in all their diversity in the public sphere, in elected and designated positions encompassing all functions and at all levels of the State	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
3.c	Create and maintain a safe and supportive environment for the full and effective participation of civil society through an enabling policy framework, a human rights protection system that safeguards freedoms and ensures effective access to justice, timely public information and citizen participation channels, including mechanisms for the free, prior and informed consent of rural and campesino communities and different indigenous peoples and ethnic groups.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
3.d	Establish or strengthen effective, institutionalized and permanent citizen participation mechanisms that are representative of the diversity in civil society organizations, to ensure their contribution to the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of public policies on gender equality and women's human rights, especially macroeconomic, production and sustainable development policies and policies on the mitigation of and response to extreme weather events, risk management and resilience-building at the regional, national, subnational and local levels.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

3.e	Foster the development of online participation and consultation platforms to involve all citizens, individuals and groups in decisionmaking, particularly young people and women of all ages, Afrodescendent women and those who live in rural, ethnic or indigenous communities or far from decision-making structures, ensuring equal access to information and broad-based consultations.	At initial process	Other State Institutions exclusively	
3.f	Allocate sufficient budgets for the functioning of social oversight and accountability mechanisms, observatories and other instruments, and for the participation of civil society organizations, particularly feminist movements and organizations of women of all age.	Not started		
3.g	Promote spaces for the participation of civil society, especially women's and feminist movements, in the framework of regional integration bodies and regional and global intergovernmental bodies, such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up.	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
3.h	Work towards the creation of a regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements and organizations, taking into consideration the input of civil society	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

4. State capacity-building and -strengthening: public administration based on equality and non-discrimination

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
4.a Design and implement plans for training and ongoing education, in partnership with academic centres, feminist organizations and international organizations, on gender equality, women's rights, intersectionality and interculturality in all public institutions particularly the justice system, security forces and the health and education sectors, in order to have human resources skilled in the design and implementation of sectoral and cross-cutting gender policies nationwide.	Implemented	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other state Institutions	
4.b Incorporate continuing training on gender equality and women's rights, intersectionality and interculturality into civil service training programmes, and attach importance to this training as part of civil servants' development and career advancement.	Implemented	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other state Institutions	
4.c Design, and implement continuing training, management and evaluation strategies to build an organizational culture open to gender, intersectional and intercultural policies.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other state Institutions	
4.d Design specific training processes to build the leadership capacities of women of all ages in order to achieve parity-based participation in decision-making roles and, in particular, in senior management, executive and technical positions.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other state Institutions	
4.e Implement regional training, capacity-building and experienceexchange programmes (online and in-person) on the Regional Gender Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and development planning, with the support of ECLAC.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other state Institutions	

5. Financing: mobilizing sufficient and sustainable resources for gender equality

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
5.a Design, implement and evaluate macroeconomic policies, particularly iscal policies (income, spending and investment), from a gender equality and human rights perspective to safeguard the progress made and mobilize the maximum available resources.	Not started		
5.b Assess, using costing exercises with a gender perspective, the budgetary needs of various State institutions linked to achieving the Regional Gender Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and identify available and potential sources of public inancing that respond to the economic and social needs of each country	At initial process	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
5.c Promote and adopt progressive iscal policies and allocate budgets with a gender perspective to ensure suficient, non-transferable, sustainable resources that cover all levels and areas of public policy aimed at reversing gender inequalities and guaranteeing women’s right	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of women together with other State Institutions	
5.d Ensure that iscal adjustment measures or budget cuts aimed at addressing economic slowdowns are in line with the principles of human rights and non-discrimination, bearing in mind that these measures should be temporary and used exceptionally for the duration of the crisis, and should avoid worsening women’s poverty rates, increasing their burden of unpaid and care work, and reducing inancing and budgets for equality policies and machineries for the advancement of women.	Implemented	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
5.e Monitor changes in the amount, level, composition and disbursement of budget allocations for policies aimed at reducing gender inequalities and guaranteeing women’s rights, and disseminate that information.	Implemented	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
5.f Ensure that the private sector, particularly the corporate sector, contributes effectively to the financing of women’s entrepreneurship, public services and social protection by paying progressive taxes, and that the State avoids the granting of tax privileges.	Implemented	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
5.g Carry out gender impact assessments of iscal policies before and after implementation, to ensure that these policies do not have a negative effect, explicit or implicit, on gender equality, women’s rights or autonomy, for example, increasing the unpaid and care workload or women’s poverty rates.	Not started		

5.h Strengthen regional cooperation to combat tax evasion and avoidance and illicit financial flows, and improve tax collection from the wealthiest and highest-income groups by introducing corporate income, wealth and property taxes, among others, in order to have greater resources for gender equality policies.	At initial process	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
5.i Urge the agencies of the United Nations and the inter-American system to ensure that their gender machineries have sufficient resources for the full implementation of policies on gender equality and women's rights.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of women together with other State Institutions	
5.j Allocate sufficient financial resources for human resource and institutional capacity-building and -strengthening, in particular in small, highly indebted Caribbean countries for the full and effective implementation of women's human rights and gender equality policies.	At initial process	Other State Institutions Exclusively	

6. Communication: access to information and cultural change

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
6.a Design and implement communications plans, with earmarked resources and impact measurement, aimed at the civil service, civil society, the academic sector, the media and society as a whole, to systematically disseminate the agreements, commitments and obligations of the Latin American and Caribbean States relating to women's and girls' human rights and gender equality, and their linkages with global, national, subnational and local priorities.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	The government had set up an website "www.gov.sr" and a television station to inform the society regarding the policy/ activities of the different ministries. Information regarding gender can also be obtained from this website. Parliament also has their own television station through which information is being broadcasted.
6.b Establish, using information and communications technologies (ICTs), communication plans for different specific audiences in order to ensure the continuous dissemination of legislation and regulatory policies to eliminate gender inequality and guarantee women's human rights.	Advanced	Other State Institutions exclusively	
6.c Conduct continuous communication campaigns based on quantitative and qualitative studies, with the aim of producing cultural change for gender equality in all areas.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

7. Technology: towards e-government and innovative and inclusive economies

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
7.a Design and carry out periodical ex ante and ex post assessments of the effects of technologies with respect to gender equality in such areas as women's employment, health, the protection of the ancestral knowledge of women of different indigenous, ethnic and racial groups, harassment and violence through technological means, natural resources and production methods.	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
7.b Formulate and implement e-government policies, with a gender equality, intersectional and intercultural perspective, thereby enhancing the efficiency and quality of public services, access to information, transparency, use of open data, public participation and accountability, as well as ensuring data confidentiality and protection of users	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
7.c Incorporate gender equality, intersectional, intercultural and intergenerational perspectives into the design and application of digital agendas and national strategies for innovation and ICTs.	Not started		
7.d Design and execute specific programmes to close the gender gaps in access, use and skills in science, technology and innovation, and encourage the parity-based participation of women in this area.	At initial process	Other State Institutions exclusively	
7.e Encourage, in the framework of the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism, commitments regarding access to and the exchange, transfer and dissemination of technology under favourable, concessional and preferential conditions, and promote multidimensional evaluation to ensure that technology transfers are safe, socially appropriate, environmentally sustainable, and in keeping with commitments relating to women's rights and gender equality.	At initial process	Other State Institutions exclusively	

8. Cooperation: towards democratic multilateral governance

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
8.a Harmonize regional norms consistent with women's human rights, and evaluate the extraterritorial effects of the legislation and policies adopted, with respect to transnational issues such as migration, trafficking of women and girls, smuggling of migrants, international organized crime, drug smuggling, forced displacement and the situation of refugees, global value chains and global care chains, inancial volatility, wealth concentration, climate change, portability of pensions and the rights of Afro-descendent women and women of different indigenous and ethnic group	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
8.b Implement development cooperation agreements between countries and subregions, particularly to address extreme natural events or other critical situations, in the technical, scientiic and inancial ields and in relation to labour standards and the social, economic, cultural and environmental rights of women.	Advanced	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
8.c Increase resources and technical support to build resilience in small island developing and coastal States that are susceptible to the impacts of climate change, disasters and extreme weather events.	Advanced	Other State Institutions	
8.d Strengthen the coordination between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the gender machineries of the inter-American system and the regional and subregional integration blocs in order to ensure synergies in the implementation and follow-up of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	Advanced	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
8.e Urge developed countries to meet their oficial development assistance commitments, particularly by devoting 0.7% of gross national income to this purpose, and contributing 0.15%-0.20% to the least developed countries.	At initial proces	Other State Institutions Exclusively	
8.f Promote cooperation and support for middle-income countries, particularly highly indebted and vulnerable Caribbean countries, by defining comprehensive methodologies for classifying countries based on structural development gaps in order to evaluate levels of development and gender inequality more accurately and comprehensively.	Not apply	Not apply	

8.g Urge developed countries to increase non-conditional official development assistance planned, in a concerted manner, with sufficient resources to fund gender equality policies and mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals.	At initial proces	Not apply	
8.h Promote the representation of Latin American and Caribbean countries, with delegations composed on the basis of parity, in global economic governance institutions that design and implement international norms on inance, trade and debt, and ensure that these norms are consistent with women’s human rights.	Implemented	Machinery for the Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
8.i Explore debt relief options for highly indebted and vulnerable Caribbean countries, promote solutions to address the debt overhang and guarantee the necessary resources for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and the achievement of sustainable development	Not apply	Not apply	

9. Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions

Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
9.a Establish and strengthen national statistical systems with a gender perspective, which requires improving the coverage, quality and periodicity of sociodemographic and economic statistics through surveys, censuses and administrative records, using common classiications that ensure comparability.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.b Ensure the disaggregation and dissemination of data by sex, age, race and ethnic origin, socioeconomic status and area of residence, in order to improve analyses to relect the diversity of women’s situations.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.c Develop and strengthen instruments to measure gender inequalities, such as surveys on time use, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and use of public spaces, and ensure their funding and periodicity.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.d Design and incorporate into public information systems indicators to measure the level of commitment to and guarantee of women’s human rights, differentiating structural, process and outcome indicators, and signs of qualitative progress.	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

9.e	Build or strengthen inter-institutional partnerships between bodies that produce and use information, particularly between machineries for the advancement of women, national statistical offices, academic institutions and national human rights institutions.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.f	Publish and disseminate, through open-access digital means, good-quality, timely and free information on legislative discussions, approved and executed budgets and judicial decisions.	Not apply		
9.g	Strengthen the statistical capacities of machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream the gender perspective in all statistical generation or integration projects.	At initial process	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.h	Promote the production of information for follow-up on the commitments assumed under the Regional Gender Agenda, seeking complementarity with the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
9.i	Intensify coordination between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourage cooperation between countries and participation in the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

10. Monitoring, evaluation and accountability: guaranteeing rights and transparency

	Measures	Implementation status	Actors involved in the implementation	Observations
10.a	Create or strengthen monitoring systems, according to agreed criteria, that comprehensively and periodically evaluate the level of implementation of laws, norms, policies, plans and programmes on gender equality and women's rights at the regional, national and subnational levels.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	
10.b	Take into consideration the information compiled from monitoring and evaluation to create or strengthen accountability mechanisms relating to advances concerning and fulfilment of the Regional Gender Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, particularly, allocated budgets at all levels of public administration.	Advanced	Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions	

<p>10.c Promote inter-institutional coordination among machineries for the advancement of women, national human rights institutions and the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and the Protocol of San Salvador, to ensure complementarity and avoid overlap in the monitoring and evaluation of policies on gender equality and women's rights.</p>	<p>At initial process</p>	<p>Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>10.d Ensure that the reports presented by countries to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are broader and more detailed, and that they are submitted in accordance with the schedule set out by the United Nations, that civil society is consulted in the follow-up and evaluation of the policies to which the reports refer, and that legislative changes made are consistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>10.e Report to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on the fulfilment of the agreements and commitments undertaken under the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>10.f Report on the regional advances and obstacles concerning the full and effective implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and its synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	
<p>10.g Ensure that civil society organizations enjoy effective access to public information so that they can fulfil their role of monitoring policies on equality and women's rights.</p>	<p>Advanced</p>	<p>Machinery for Advancement of Women together with other State Institutions</p>	