



STATEMENT
by the
**Minister of Labour, Technological Development and
Environment**

of the Republic of Suriname,

H.E. CLIFFORD MARICA

**on the occasion of the
International Meeting to Review the Implementation
of the Barbados Programme of Action
for the
Small Island Developing States**

10- 14 JANUARY 2005

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING,
EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT,
EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF DELEGATION,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

MR. PRESIDENT,

AT THE OUTSET, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WARM HOSPITALITY GRANTED TO US UPON ENTERING THIS BEAUTIFUL ISLAND OF MAURITIUS AND WE THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS FOR THEIR GENEROUS OFFER TO **HOST THIS** IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THIS CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT OF WARMTH AND KIND HOSPITALITY WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE ARDUOUS TASK AHEAD OF US DURING THIS MEETING IN WHICH WE PRESENT OUR CASE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THIS IN ORDER TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP THAT WAS INITIALIZED 10 YEARS AGO IN BARBADOS.

THE DELEGATION OF SURINAME WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ASSUMPTION OF YOUR DUTIES AND WE COMMEND YOU ON THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN GUIDING THE AFFAIRS OF THIS AUGUST GATHERING.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME WISH TO JOIN OTHERS IN EXPRESSING THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY WITH THE COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT TSUNAMI.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THIS MEETING MARKS A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, **FOR WE ARE** AT THE CROSSROADS IN DELIBERATING ON THE WAY FORWARD. SURINAME THEREFORE REAFFIRMS THE CONTINUED VALIDITY OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION, AS THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES. IT IS SURELY ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT SIDS, MOSTLY THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS, MADE SOME PROGRESS, HOWEVER MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

WE THEREFORE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND ALL GENERATIONS TO COME, TO WORK TOWARDS THE ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT WAS AGREED A DECADE AGO AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS IN 1994. IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY AND WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF SIDS.

THE BPOA. IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, WHICH IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT PREVAILED 10 YEARS AGO. WE WITNESS THE EMERGENCE OF SEVERAL NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES THAT

CONSEQUENTLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE SIDS IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATING BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL THEIR PEOPLE. IT IS IN THIS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE CANNOT DISCARD (ISSUES SUCH AS THIS THREAT OF HIV/AIDS ON OUR ALREADY SMALL POPULATIONS, THE NEW SECURITY CONCERNS AND THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN THESE CONCERNS IMPOSE ON OUR COUNTRIES AND THE EFFECTS OF EROSION OF TRADE PREFERENCES AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION.

IT IS THEREFORE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT SIDS BE GRANTED A DIFFERENTIATED AND FAVOURABLE TREATMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS FOR OUR PRODUCTS, A GREATER SAY WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE AMONG MANY OF THE ASPECTS THAT SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED WHEN DESIGNING OUR STRATEGY FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **BPoA**.

WE THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST SIDS IN BUILDING THE MUCH-NEEDED CAPACITY IN ORDER TO BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND INCREASED RATE OF INVESTMENT SHOULD FACILITATE SIDS IN BUILDING RESILIENCE AND CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

AN ENHANCED PREPAREDNESS IN DEALING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS SHOULD ALSO BE ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY WHEN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE. ALTHOUGH WE CAN BARELY FIGHT THE FORCES OF NATURE, WE SHOULD WORK TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. THIS WILL PERMIT US TO MINIMIZE THE SUFFERING, AFTER WE HAVE BEEN HIT BY THE FORCES OF NATURE.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES OF SIDS WERE DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN WHEN HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS BROUGHT ABOUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO SEVERAL CARIBBEAN NATIONS AND IN SOME INSTANCES COMPLETELY RAVAGING AN ISLAND IN A MATTER OF A FEW MINUTES.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO MIND THAT THE DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE BEGAN NAMELY AFTER THE ENORMOUS EMISSIONS OF GHG, WHICH LEAD TO GLOBAL WARMING. TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM A PROTOCOL WAS NEGOTIATED TO SET UP MECHANISMS TO REDUCE THE GHG EMISSIONS. THIS MAY HAVE THE POSSIBILITY IN TURNING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THIS IS WHY I MAKE USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IN WELCOMING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND AM PLEASSED TO ANNOUNCE THAT SURINAME HAS ALREADY STARTED THE PROCESS WHICH WILL BRING US TO RATIFYING THE PROTOCOL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

BOTH THE DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALIKE REACHED CONSENSUS ON THE COMMON RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADDRESSING ISSUES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELD. SEVERAL MEETINGS WERE HELD AND IN THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO ONE OF THE LANDMARK PARTNERSHIPS, LAUNCHED BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AT THE DAWN OF THIS MILLENNIUM, UPON AGREEING TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, A SET OF LOFTY BUT ALSO ATTAINABLE GOALS, AS OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO MEASURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINED GROWTH.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME IS OF THE CONSIDERED VIEW THAT FOCUSING ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BPOA WILL POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE IN ASSISTING SIDS TO ACHIEVE SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG's), NOTABLY THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND HUNGER AND ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

MR. PRESIDENT,

A DECADE AGO SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND DONOR NATIONS AGREED TO COLLECTIVELY TACKLE THE CHALLENGES SIDS FACE IN A SPIRIT OF A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP. I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS SPIRIT OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP STILL PREVAILS AND I WOULD LIKE TO URGENTLY CALL ON OUR PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT TO HONOUR THEIR COMMITMENTS IN ASSISTING SIDS IN THEIR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED GROWTH.

IT IS ALSO NECESSARY THAT SIDS WORK TOWARDS CREATING STRATEGIES FOR THE SHARING OF BEST PRACTISES AND LESSONS LEARNED, THIS SHOULD FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BPOA AND EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WELL BEING OF THE MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

IT IS HIGH TIME THAT WE MOVE FROM POLITICAL WILL TO ACTIONS AND FROM COMMITMENTS TO IMPLEMENTATION.

I THANK YOU.