



**Republic of Suriname**

**Statement by Mrs. NICOLE HEW A KEE, First Secretary, at the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development, New York, 2 April 2019**

***Agenda item 3 (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels***

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies,

Suriname acknowledges that development is challenged by many variables such as changing population structures, sexual and reproductive health, population distribution and migration. We need to closely consider the impact that these factors have on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs and targets.

25 years after the adoption of the Cairo Programme of Action, we have indeed come a long way in the development of individual human rights, capabilities and dignity across multiple sectors. The importance of, for instance, sexual and reproductive health and rights to the well-being of people, communities and nations has been well established.

As a result of the commitment made in 1994, Suriname committed itself to placing individual dignity, human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality as well as the right to plan one's family, at the very heart of development. The result, 25 years later, is seen in laws and regulations that cover all subjects of the Programme of Action.

Furthermore, the National Strategic Plan for Health and Welfare in Suriname 2019-2028 was recently launched. In this approach, the government works closely with NGOs to develop the healthcare system in Suriname.

To reduce territorial inequality, efforts were made to unlock access to the interior by making various basic needs available to the indigenous and tribal peoples living in those areas. As a result, large parts of the interior now have telecommunication, audio and video capabilities that bring information and a platform for exchange to relevant areas. Expanding the electricity grid and supplying water in parts of the interior, is also an important development.

To guarantee healthcare in the interior, various services such as mother and child care, family planning, school health programs, and preventive programs are provided

Also important in the context of the implementation of the Cairo Program of Action is the formulation of a Population Policy, based on a Population Situation Analysis. The Gender Vision 2021 – 2035 is based on gender mainstreaming in policy making and implementation. This approach aims to strengthen equality between men and women in society and covers all sectors.

Mr. Chair,

Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action has not been without challenges. Territorial inequality, a shortage of disaggregated data to formulate evidence-based policies, and the shortage of available resources to implement our plans and programs are some of the challenges we face. However, in order to achieve our sustainable development goals by, we continue to work towards a situation where nobody is left behind.

In closing, my delegation would like to emphasize that implementation of the Programme of Action requires adequate mobilization of resources, both at the national and international levels, and we look forward to the continued support of our development partners.

Suriname reaffirms its commitment to the Programme of Action of the ICPD, including the outcomes of its reviews and the key actions for further implementation. We pledge our support in addressing, with others, population and development issues in an integrated and comprehensive manner .

Thank you.