

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by the  
Special Envoy of the President and First Lady of Suriname**

**H.E. Liesbeth Venetiaan**



ON THE OCASSION OF THE **HIGH** LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE  
49TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
AGENDA ITEM 3

NEW YORK, 1 MARCH 2005

Please check against delivery!

Madame Chair,

My delegation, is very well aware of your and the members of your Bureau's and Secretariats tireless efforts to use the possibilities of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in an optimal way to empower Women, and to improve their life, the life of their Children and their families all around the Globe.

My Country attaches great importance to the UN CSW membership; the Commission you are chairing so ably, may count on our continued attention and cooperation.

On behalf of the women of my Country, the President, who has the Gender Issue in his CARICOM portfolio and the Minister of Internal Affairs (responsible for Gender Affairs), I wish to congratulate you, to thank you and wish you all success with this special commemorative Session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, his Excellency Ambassador Stafford O. Neil on behalf of G77 and China. We would like however to make some remarks of us own.

Madame Chair,

In the Surinamese contribution of April 2004 to the UN DAW/CSW Questionnaire, we have listed our achievements, the lessons learned in various fields such as: Women and Human Rights, Women and Education, Women and Poverty; we have also shared our concerns with you, our weak points since Beijing and Beijing +5, and developments which are pivotal to gender equality policy formulation.

We have furthermore informed you through the Questionnaire about the content of and the activities based on the Surinamese National Integral Gender Action Plan 2001 — 2005.

Madame Chair,

The year 2001 has been a significant year for gender equality in Suriname.  
In January of that year the government initiated a nationwide information program on gender equality.  
This activity was part of an effort to formulate a gender main streaming program.

In June 2001 a gender management system was put in place; a network of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the various focal points of the different ministries.

In the same year Suriname ratified the Convention of Belem do Para; an Inter American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Removal of Violence against Women.

In August 2001, the Government of Suriname established a commission on gender legislation. The commission is to advise the Government on and submit draft legislation in conformity with the spirit and aim of the CEDAW Convention and the Inter American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

In December 2001 the government, presented its integral gender action plan, based on the gender main streaming action plan and the views of NGO's .

In that same period we initiated an "effective personal leadership programme" for gender focal points across the country.

Madame Chair

Allow me now, to touch some crucial issues in the Beijing Platform for Action and Beijing +5, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals have both opened new avenues for the advancement of gender equality and these documents have served to fine-tune national policy in this area.

We are really shocked by the devastating consequences of the hurricanes last year in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, whereby countries like Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Columbia, and later also Guyana, Venezuela are so severely hit by elements of Nature

And the Tsunami horrific disaster is still like a bad dream.

Those disasters have devastating impacts on women, men, girls and boys.

It is important to include an explicit gender perspective in all humanitarian and recovery needs

Especially women and girls are in those situations subject of trafficking and sexual exploitation

The above mentioned conference of the CARICOM Heads of Government also paid attention to the necessity to create a disaster plan for the Caribbean including a disaster fund.

Allow me at this stage Madame Chair to express on behalf of my People and  
governments and Peoples of all the affected Countries.

Let us pray and work for lasting solutions and lasting peace

Finally, empowerment of women / promotion of Gender equality, one of the main Goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and Beijing + 5 is included in all eight MDG's.

In other words the commitment in September 2000 of all Leaders of the World, as contained in Goal three is related to all other Goals:

We women, we participants in this 49<sup>th</sup> commemorative CSW Session owe it to our sisters, to our peoples to lobby our Governments, the Developed World, the International financial Institutions to realize concrete implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Our utmost duty as Women during this commemorative CSW is to ensure, that the MDG's will happen, will come to reality for all Countries.

I call therefore upon all First Ladies, Heads of Delegations and participants at this 49<sup>th</sup> Session, to join hands together to make the MDG's come true, in the best interest of all Women, all Children, and all Families.

Thank you Madame Chair.