

Thank you Mr. President (Chairman),

The Government of the Republic of Suriname is fully aware of its obligations to which she has committed herself under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Even before its ratification of the convention on 14 October 1997, the Government of the Republic of Suriname has taken efforts in the area of climate change by participating in the first phase of a climate change studies assistance programme of the Netherlands which resulted into 7 country sector studies. These studies determined the high vulnerability of the coastal zone to the adverse effects of climate change and various economic sectors (such as mining, agriculture, fisheries and forestry) that are vital for our economic development. The low lying coastal zone has, due to the concentration of largest part of the population (about 80%), fertile land, complex ecosystems and natural resources an immense value for Suriname. The government of Suriname has therefore given high priority to the formulation of a climate policy.

At this moment we are continuing this process with the second phase of this programme which will focus on completing the necessary data with the objective to formulate adaptation and response (mitigation) measures, to reduce the vulnerability of the various economic sectors to climate change.

Mr. President (Chairman),

The formulation of these measures implies that alternative technologies have to be identified to reduce the negative impacts or new technologies introduced to respond to anticipated impacts of climate change. The implementation of these measures can only be successful when applying the appropriate technologies that respond to the local needs and priorities of the country. Like most developing countries the Republic of Suriname is in need of rapid economic growth and has the obligation to bring socio-economic development for its people. The vulnerability of the economic sectors which are an important source of income for our country, has indicated the importance of the use of environmentally friendly technologies which are consistent with the sustainable development objective. We therefore strongly support the building of partnerships on the national and international level, which will help us to enhance the need for technology transfer and to develop human and institutional capacity in this area. This will enable us to assess the technology needs and identify appropriate technologies that respond to the local circumstances.

Suriname also has great potential in the area of clean energy in particular hydro energy. The availability of these potentials has created an incentive for the Government of Suriname to prepare for the ratification of the Kyoto protocol. Capacity building to gain knowledge on CDM projects and green house gas inventories is essential to explore our possibilities on renewable energy. The Government of Suriname gives great importance to the development and implementation of renewable energy projects as part of the development process. This will contribute to the enhancement of the livelihoods of rural communities which are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change especially in the absence of alternative income generating activities than agriculture, which they rely on. New (alternative) income opportunities will be created leading to poverty alleviation. The use of environmentally sound technologies will enable Suriname to effectively respond to the objectives of the convention and fulfil its obligations.

Thank you Mr. President (Chairman)