

Final

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Statement by

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of the  
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on the occasion of the  
Twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly on the Follow-up to the Programme of  
Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

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Mr. Chairman,

I am honoured to participate in this Special Session of the General Assembly as we reflect on the past 20 years following the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We welcome and endorse the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014" as well as the Index Report on the interactive debate of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development. We align to the continued prioritization of sexual and reproductive health in the report and a people-centered approach for the Post-2015 agenda.

Today, more than ever, the principles agreed in Cairo in 1994, remain particularly relevant, in particular that it is from a human rights based and gender perspective that we should continue to invest in human capital, equity and dignity throughout the life-course as the foundation of sustained economic growth and sustainable development for everybody, including adolescents, women, men, children, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

The global review of ICPD+20 indicates that despite remarkable achievements in some areas, many challenges remain, including new and emerging challenges.

Moreover the ongoing global crises severely hampers the ability of States to sustain the gains that they have so painstakingly made over the years.

This Special Session therefore comes at an opportune time for the international community as we are in the process of elaborating the development framework that will guide the development discourse at the global and national level for the coming 15 years.

It is crucial that we agree on an ambitious future development framework that is inclusive and has people at the center of development. The future development agenda should address inequality and ensure "*that no one is left behind*". It should be all inclusive and address discrimination of any kind such as based on, age, sex, race, ethnicity, origin migratory status, religion, economic or any other status.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to note that the national survey for ICPD beyond 2014 was conducted with the participation of representatives from a wide cross section of our society.

In my address to the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development a few months ago, I shared with the international community the progress achieved in Suriname. Guided by our national development plan and specific national policies in the areas of youth, sexual and reproductive health, safe motherhood, HIV and AIDS, adolescent health, NCD's, we have developed and implemented successful programs for adolescents, mothers and children, people in the interior, and most at risk populations. We are, furthermore, guided by the provisions in our Constitution as well as in all the major human rights instruments to

which we are a party to. There are significant achievements with regard to improved access to education, improved access to maternal health services, increased knowledge about HIV prevention and access to testing, early treatment and availability of anti-retrovirals.

Provision of free healthcare for children up to age 16 and older persons as well as the adoption of legislation on violence against women was also implemented in our efforts to improve the well-being of the population.

Despite these significant gains we acknowledge that many challenges persist, in particular with regard to equal access to quality education and healthcare, social protection as well as the protection of human rights.

Of particular concern to us are the high rates of adolescent pregnancies putting a further strain on young girls to develop themselves to their fullest potential; increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases with hypertension and obesity presenting major obstacles to the productive capacity of a small developing country; unacceptable high rates of violence against women and girls and its consequences of further eroding the gains made on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Notwithstanding the challenges at the national level the Government remains resolute in its commitments to ensure that all within its territory would benefit from social, economic and environmental programmes, in particular the most excluded marginalized groups and persons in vulnerable situations.

Mr. Chairman,

An international enabling environment is crucial for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this regard a true global partnership is required to continue addressing the eradication of poverty which has been referred to on many occasions as and I quote "*the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development*" unquote.

This partnership should not only involve Governments, with the support of international and regional organizations, but should also be extended to all sectors of society including the private sector and civil society.

We stress the importance of mobilizing domestic resources in our efforts to achieve sustainable development and to improve the well-being of our population. However we continue to place emphasis on the need for significantly scaling up resources, including through the fulfillment of all commitments related to official development assistance. We also express our support for South-South cooperation as this would provide additional opportunities for the implementation of development policies and programmes.

In closing Mr. Chairman,

As we deliberate on renewing our global commitments made at the conclusion of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, we have to be mindful that especially the young people are closely following us to ensure that we arrive at the appropriate decisions and commitments for them to live and love a life that is free from any form of discrimination, violence and poverty.

The Government of Suriname would like to recommit itself to the global commitments made in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development.

We look forward to an advanced post 2015 agenda, which will build on the subsequent intergovernmental agreements and the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Index report which are based on the lessons learned, the identified gaps and the recognition that development should be human rights based and therefore all inclusive.

Thank you for your attention.