

**Closing remarks of the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Suriname, Her Excellency Jennifer van Dijk- Silos, Minister of Justice and Police at the adoption of the**

**report of the UPR Working Group**

**May 6, 2016**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

Mr. President,

It was indeed an honour to participate in the constructive dialogue in the context of the presentation of the report of the Government of the Republic of Suriname in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Our high level participation in this process is indicative of the importance the Government of the Republic of Suriname attaches to the promotion and protection of all human rights.

On behalf of the delegation, I wish to express our appreciation to you Mr. President for the cooperation and skillful leadership of the session and the Members of the Human Rights Council for the constructive spirit of discussions in the Working Group. We thank the representatives for the positive feedback and the recommendations made to Suriname to improve the various aspects of human rights. I assure you that it was much appreciated.

It would be remiss of me not to specifically acknowledge the invaluable assistance received from the members of the Troika, namely the representatives of Paraguay, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic) and the Philippines.

In addition we highly acknowledge the assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Government of the Republic of Suriname remains committed to ensure the enjoyment of all human rights for all, in particular the right to development. In its Development Plan 2012-2016 the Government of Suriname dedicates itself to promote the welfare of all its citizens in the broadest sense and human rights are therefore of the highest priority and this is repeated and confirmed in the draft Development Plan 2016- 2020. In the strategic plan of the ministry of Justice and Police the mission is formulated as follows : The optimal protection of the Rule of State. This means that we will therefore establish the Institute of Human Rights to ensure the continuously safety and security of all inhabitants of the Republic of Suriname.

 In this regard we will continue to exert all efforts to ensure that the rights of all rights holders in the country are respected and upheld. The collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the civil society and NGO’s will also be continued, empowered and deepened.

We strongly commit ourselves to implementing the recommendations that we support during this cycle and will work towards addressing the challenges faced, with the expectation that we will receive the support and assistance of you all.

Finally I wish to state that we look forward to participate in the formal adoption of the Report at a subsequent Plenary Session of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you so much for your participation and attention and I congratulate the UPR working group for a job very well done.

Good afternoon.