**Statement by Ms. Bibi Sheliza Ally, Minister Counsellor**

**Permanent Mission of Guyana**

**Third Cycle of the UPR: Presentation of Report by Costa Rica**

**May 13, 2019, Palais des Nations**

**TIME: 1 minute 20 seconds**

Madam Vice President,

On behalf of the Government of Guyana, I welcome the Costa Rican delegation to Geneva and thank them for the constructive Report presented to this UPR.

We take this opportunity to commend the Government of Costa Rica for its efforts at ratification of several human rights related international treaties and for its submission of a number of treaty body reports. Additionally, the Labour Reform Act which came into force in 2017 is laudable.

**Recommendations:**

1. We commend Costa Rica for the Executive Decree No. 40.932 which establishes a general mechanism for consultation with indigenous persons and we recommend continued efforts towards greater respect for the cultural norms and practices of the indigenous populations and for greater access to all aspects of social services, in particular, health and education.
2. We commend the efforts made towards gender equality in Costa Rica and we recommend strengthened efforts at tackling all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

1. We also recommend continuing and increased efforts at tackling discrimination against people of African Descent and all minorities.

We thank the Government of Costa Rica for their presentation and we wish them success in this UPR.