

HIS EXCELLENCY CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME | SPEAKING NOTES
REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE- SUNDAY 22
SEPTEMBER 2024

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As we gather, at this Summit, we are called upon, to transform, our deeply inter-connected world, for the benefit, of current, and future generations.
- The theme, of our summit, underscores, a critical need, and truth: Multilateral Solutions, for A Better Tomorrow.
- Today, I find myself, reminding ourselves, of the reality, that many, of the commitments, and declarations,
- made today, echo those, that have been voiced, time, and time again.
- Therefore, our first, decisive action, must be to deliver, on promises, and pledges made.
- We must **ACT** now, with urgency, to make this world, a better place.
- **INACTION**, is not an option!

- The Caribbean, to which, my own country, Suriname, belongs, is a region, that is confronted,
- with existential, climate threats, and financial-economic distortions, among which high debt.
- These nations, struggle with enormous challenges, in their pursuit, of sustainable development,
- as they lack, the financial resources, to invest, in critical sectors, such as health, education, and infrastructure.
- In 2022, low- and middle-income countries, paid a record, US\$ 443.5 billion,
- to cover, their external debt, as reported, in the World Bank's, International Debt Report 2023,
- funds, that could have been, directed, towards building schools, hospitals, and resilient infrastructure, to mitigate, the effects, of climate change.
- Yet, the global, financial system, continues, to disadvantage, and at times, alienate, these nations.

- Now, that the Multidimensional, Vulnerability Index (MVI), has been adopted,
- we expect, that this mechanism, will be effectively, introduced, in the operations, of international, financial institutions.
- Suriname, for instance, a carbon negative nation, with an abundance, in resources,
- is burdened, by significant, financial, and economic challenges.
- We are successfully, implementing reforms, and adopting, innovative strategies,
- to ensure fiscal stability, sound economic, and monetary outlook, sustainable resource management,
- protect biodiversity, and promote, renewable energy, and food security.
- We also, face challenges, such as, inequality, and marginalization, of certain groups,
- including indigenous, and tribal communities, healthcare access, and quality education, particularly, in rural and remote areas, and inadequate infrastructure.

- All of these, are bottlenecks, in achieving, sustainable development.
- The 2030, Agenda, for Sustainable Development, remains our blueprint, for a better future.
- Yet, we are acutely aware, that progress, has been uneven, and, in some areas, alarmingly slow.
- It is incumbent, upon us, to accelerate, our efforts, to meet the SDGs.
- Small, and vulnerable nations, must be assisted, in their sustainable, development efforts,
- Recognizing, that the principal obstacles, to growth, and progress, are not of their doing.
- Let us include, the youth, in designing the future, as part, of a “whole of society” approach, based, on multi-stakeholder partnership.
- Let’s us foster, national and global consensus.
- Let us be a united force!

- We must transition, from fragmented, and divisive approaches, to comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent, global rule-based, governance structures.
- In an increasingly, multi-polar world, burdened as we speak, by globally, impactful regional conflicts, of war and humanitarian disaster,
- it is, the responsibility, of all of us, to call, for a strengthened, multilateral system.
- One that conforms, with international law, global, humanitarian solidarity, and one, that aims, to achieve global peace, and security.
- One that, will be, a lasting platform, for collective action, and leaving, no one behind!
- I thank you!
- God bless!
