REPUBLIEK SURINAME

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE, H.E. STUART GETROUW, AT THE SIXTY- SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, RELATING TO THE NATIONAL DRUG POLICY OF SURINAME IN LIGHT OF SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE THROUGH STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT 2019,
GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 62nd MEETING
VIENNA, SWITSERLAND
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EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME IN THIS AUSPICIOUS EVENT.

THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM IS A PRIME CONCERN FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME. STATING THIS I HAVE TO THANK THIS MECHANISM AND OTHER RELEVANT MECHANISMS FOR ACCORDING HIGH ATTENTION TO NOT ONLY TRENDS AND CHALLENGES BUT MOREOVER THE FUTURE ENDEAVORS ON THE BASIS OF COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES.

AS A YOUNG AND DEMOCRATIC NATION, THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG RELATED ISSUES.

AT PRESENT, THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL DRUGS POLICY OF SURINAME, WITHIN THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY REDUCTION PORTFOLIO, CONSISTS OF 3 PILLARS OF IMPLEMENTATION, NAMELY:

- PREVENTION AND ADDICTION CARE;
- COUNSELING AND TREATMENT;

- REDUCTION OF DRUG SUPPLY THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT, BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION;
- WITHIN THIS STRATEGY IT IS IMPORTANT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL DRUG USERS IN SURINAME BY MEANS OF AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS, WITH THE AIM TO GUARANTEE CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO SERVICES IN THIS FIELD;

IT IS RECOGNIZED BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES THAT SURINAME IS A TRANSIT COUNTRY, BUT SURINAME, DUE TO ITS POROUS BORDERS IS A VICTIM OF THIS HENIOUS ACT. THEREFORE IT IS NECESSARY TO CURB IT BY DEPLOYING LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHILE EMPHASIS IS ALSO PLACED ON BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE SURINAMESE SOCIETY.

A NUMBER OF ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN.

THE REVISED NATIONAL DRUG MASTER PLAN (NDMP) WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, H.E. D.D. BOUTERSE, IS A REPRESENTATION OF A RENEWED STRATEGY WHICH FOCUSES ON SAFETY AND SECURITY, HEALTH, WELFARE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THESE REFLECT THE PRESIDENT'S VISION OF RAISING THE DRUGS PROBLEM TO TOP PRIORITY AND THEREBY TO THE LEVEL OF NATIONAL SECURITY. THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF WILL CONSIST OF A SUSTAINABLE, BALANCED AND INTEGRAL APPROACH, WHILST SPECIAL EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON CAPACITY BUILDING AWARENESS AND THE TIGHTENING OF THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE.

THIS PLAN ENABLES US TO TACKLE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE DRUGS PROBLEM AND THE CHALLENGE WHICH SURINAME ENDURES, DUE TO ITS EXTENSIVE BORDERS. IN ORDER TO DO SO TARGETED ACTIONS AT NATIONAL, BI-REGIONAL, BILATERAL AND ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL LEVEL SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

IN THIS CONTEXT IT IS OF PIVOTAL IMPORTANCE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME ACTIONS:

SETTING UP A NATIONAL OBSERVATORY TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN RELATION TO RELIABLE, ACCURATE AND EVIDENCE BASED DATA, WITH THE AIM TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN A SOUND MANNER;

- STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS A COUNTER MEASURE WITH REGARD TO MONEY LAUNDERING;
- INTENSIFIED POLICIES ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES;
- THE EXPANSION AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE PORT CONTROL UNIT (CONTAINER SCANNING PROGRAM);
- DRUG TREATMENT COURT (DTC): SURINAME ACQUIRES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP FORMULATE OPERATIONAL LAWS AND IMPLEMENT THE DTC-SURINAME;
- STRENGTHENING CROSS-BORDER, BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS WITH INTERPOL AND DEA AS WELL AS JOINT IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THE SEAPORT AND AIRPORT SECURITY PROGRAM (SEACOP), PROGRAM ELPACCTO POLICE, JUSTICE AND PENITENTIARY SYSTEMS, THE CITIZEN SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, THE COCAINE ROUTE PROGRAM ON COCAINE AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND WEST AFRICA;
- UPGRADING OUR BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.THE ADAPTATION OF THIS SYSTEM, MAINLY RELATES TO THE EFFECTIVE ERADICATION OF ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING IN HUMANS. IN THIS REGARD THE FRUITFUL COOPERATION AND SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS WITH CARICOM – IMPACS, INCLUDING THE REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE FUSION CENTRE (RIFC) AND JOINT REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE (JRCC) SHOULD BE MENTIONED.

MR. CHAIR,

TO ACHIEVE GREAT SUCCESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS AS A GLOBAL THREAT, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT SURINAME MAINTAINS AND ENHANCES COLLABORATIONS AND COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL, SUB - REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL, THAT CONTINUOUS WORK IS CARRIED OUT ON DIVERSE LEVELS OF JOINT COOPERATION, MAINLY FOCUSING ON THE LEVEL OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN MULTILATERAL SPHERE.

MR. CHAIR,

WITH OUR OUTSTRETCHED BORDERS THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME RECOGNIZES THAT ILLEGAL DRUG CRIME IS A MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH, NOT ONLY AT NATIONAL LEVEL,

BUT CERTAINLY AT MULTILATERAL LEVEL, BECAUSE OF THE CROSS-BORDER NATURE OF THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM.

STATING THIS SURINAME CALLS ON ALL COUNTRIES, MULTILATERAL AND RELEVANT INSTITUTES TO SUPPORT IN PARTICULAR THE SMALLER COUNTRIES , WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE NOT ABLE TO MEET ALL BASIC REQUIREMENTS IN THE CONTAINMENT OF THIS ORGANISED CROSS-BORDER CRIME.

THIS IS A CONSEQUENCE EMERGING FROM THE FACT THAT SMALL COUNTRIES AND SMALL ECONOMIES ARE OFTEN CHARICTERIZED AS A HUB FOR ILLICIT DRUGS, WHICH RUNS IN TANDEM WITH ATTRACTING FORCES FOR SUPPLY AND DEMAND LOCATED IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN THIS RESPECT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD CALL UPON THE BIG ECONOMIES TO TAKE UP THEIR RESPONSIBILTIES ON THE BASIS OF COMMON INTEREST AND A JOINT APPROACH IN ERADICATING THIS GLOBAL THREAT. IN DOING SO THE SMALLER ECONOMIES COULD BE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT. (CAPACITY BUILDING).

MR CHAIR,

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS SESSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT AND SUBSTANTIVE AND PROFOUND AWARENESS ON THIS WORLD PROBLEM.

LET US JOIN FORCES AND STRIVE TO JOINTLY COMBAT THIS GLOBAL THREAT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE.

THANK YOU.