

**Pre-Recorded Statement by the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Tenth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC**

Mr. President, Excellencies, it is my privilege to address the Tenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC.

Mr. President, it is regrettable that the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in her presentation acted improperly by stating that she was representing “De Republic de Guyana Venezuela.” No such country exists.

Mr. President, this is in blatant disregard to the December 1, 2023, ruling of the International Court of Justice. Guyana asks that it be noted in the Conference that the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are two different countries, two thirds of Guyana does not belong to Venezuela.

Furthermore, Guyana awaits the outcome of the case which is before the ICJ as instructed by the ICJ. Guyana continues to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty and continues to rely on the rule of international law in the ongoing border controversy with Venezuela. We urge that Venezuela do the same.

International Cooperation

Mr. President, we ask the conference to pay specific attention to small developing countries which face greater challenges of available human absorptive capacity, fragile institutional capacity with many competing resources. The benchmarks for these countries must allow for greater synergies between the various anti-corruption treaty bodies.

Guyana is pleased to report that it joined the UNODC Regional Platform to Fast-Track the Implementation of the UNCAC in the Caribbean in November 2023.

Guyana also hosted the 9th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies (CCAICACB) in April 2023 to examine national and regional initiatives to combat corruption.

National Initiatives

Mr. President, Guyana established a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) in June 2021 with sixteen agencies with the objective of building greater inclusiveness, participation, and collaboration between anti-corruption agencies in the implementation of the Convention while at the same time strengthening its anti- corruption capacity to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute, and convict those guilty of corrupt practices.

In its deliberate efforts to foster accountability and transparency in keeping with the Convention, Guyana appointed several of its key constitutional oversight and anti-corruption Commissions in 2022 and 2023 and over two years held training workshops to build capacity among these institutions in the fight against corruption.

We observed International Day against corruption and International Human Rights Day a few days ago with an exhibition and panel discussion on “*Connecting the Anti-Corruption and Human Rights Agenda: Guyana’s progress.*”

Guyana submitted its checklist 2nd Assessment Report for the implementation of articles 5 thru 14 and 51 thru 59 of the Convention in October 2023.

In keeping with its anti-corruption framework and treaty obligations, Guyana in 2023 was reviewed by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and is presently under review by the Inter – American Convention Against Corruption 6th Cycle Review and the UNCAC 2nd Assessment. Guyana hopes to become a member of the Egmont Group in early 2024.

Conclusion

In closing, Guyana believes it has made substantive and significant progress from 2021 to 2023 and will continue to progressively build on these efforts. Guyana remains committed to continuing its good faith efforts with available resources to implement the Convention.

I thank you Mr. President.