

**The High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2022
Intervention Civil Society on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Republic of Suriname**

Wednesday July 13th 2022

United Nations Headquarters

Conference Room 4

Delivered by a representative of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group, in consultation with the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders Suriname (VIDS) and the civil society network BINI Suriname

Thank you (vice) President,

We thank the government of Suriname for this report and its first ever engagement in the VNR process as part of the ongoing review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Suriname's Civil Society welcomes the "SDG-Commission" and "SDG-Platform", two national mechanisms tasked with evaluating, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs. While the Commission consists only of representatives of government ministries, The last month established Platform includes representatives of civil society and the public and private sectors. Contributions by civil society to this VNR-report were limited and not made via the SDG-platform. It was done on an ad hoc basis, thus not based on a coordinated and transparent process.

The Platform has only one civil society representative, in addition to one Indigenous and Tribal peoples' representative. There is no clarity on how the two mechanisms will effectively address the interests of specific population groups that are often discriminated against, such as women, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+-people, migrants and refugees, and Indigenous and tribal communities.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the VNR-report speaks of an alignment of Suriname's Multi-Annual-Development-Plan 2022-2026 with the SDGs. However, the plan lacks concrete strategies with perspectives crucial to all populations vulnerable to systematic and ongoing human rights' violations. It was also designed without sufficient civil society participation and lacks specific mechanisms to ensure that SDG related efforts "leave no-one behind". Also lacking is disaggregated, context-specific and culturally sensitive data needed to highlight results and make decisions on further actions.

Therefore: How will the government of Suriname ensure a national inclusive process and strategy in further monitoring the implementation of the SDGs?

In conclusion, despite all the concerns expressed, we, civil society, see an opportunity for effective engagement through the SDG-platform. We remain committed to making the best use of the two national mechanisms to contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs for all.

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