

## **114th Session of the Council on Migration**

Plenary intervention

**Country: SURINAME**

**Name and title of the speaker: Mr. Ritesh Sardjoe MSc. Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment.**

Thank u Mister Chair,

As Suriname takes the floor for the first time, we would like to extend our gratitude to the IOM for organizing the 114th Session of the Council on Migration and congratulate the new general director. Her energy brings new dimension to the work of the IOM.

As we convene at this council meeting, it is imperative that we recognize the link between human mobility and Climate Change.

Therefore, it is very important to take actions to combat the impacts of global warming and climate change, and the responsibility we bear to make the world more climate friendly and resilient for future generations.

Suriname's forests are of global importance, both as a biodiversity hotspot and a carbon sink. The efforts to protect this natural resource are key to the country's commitment. Suriname maintains its contribution as a high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) country committed to maintaining 93% forest cover. Significant international support is needed for the conservation of this valuable resource in perpetuity. Suriname's forests store 20.1-million-ton CO<sub>2</sub> and is one of the carbon negative countries.

On the other hand Suriname is a low-lying coastal state prone to natural disasters and climate change. According to estimates, a 1-meter rise in sea level would have an impact on 80% of its population who live along the low-lying coast. Moreover, Indigenous and Maroon communities are at risk, considering the economic situation and location in remote areas where extreme droughts and floods have been recorded in the past.

Vulnerability assessment, including impact assessment and climate scenarios, have been conducted, leading to some proposed associated adaptation measures

for the following sectors: energy, water resources, agriculture, cross-cutting (including biodiversity and forestry).

It is time for action – bold, decisive, and immediate. We call upon the international community to mobilize the necessary resources for adaptation finance. Developing nations, like Suriname, have been affected by the effects of climate change, subsequently requiring adequate assistance to build resilient infrastructure, implement sustainable practices, and adapt to the inevitable changes that climate change brings.

Adequate and accessible funding mechanisms must be established to support adaptation action at the local, national, and international levels. This includes investments in early warning systems, infrastructure resilience, and capacity-building initiatives. The global community must fulfill its commitment to mobilize climate finance, recognizing that the cost of inaction far exceeds the cost of adaptation.

Thank you.