



**Address by the**  
**President of the Republic of Suriname**  
**H.E. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan**  
at the  
**General Debate of the Sixty First Session**  
of the  
**United Nations General Assembly**

**New York**  
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Madam

President,

On behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Suriname I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you, Madam President, and to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Bahrain my sincere congratulations for your election to preside over the Sixty First Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

We express our gratitude to H.E. Jan Eliason, President of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, for his contribution to the work of the Organization.

Allow me to continue in pledging our support to the Secretary General, His Excellency Kofi Annan, for his leadership and valuable contribution towards the resolution of global challenges and his constructive role in restructuring the United Nations.

Madam President,

In today's world, guaranteeing the availability of the necessary infrastructure, health services and education for all is still a major challenge.

The world order continues to deny the vast majority of the international community the opportunity to escape poverty and to utilize its ability and skills to achieve progress and prosperity

There is need for enhanced cooperation in areas of relevance to humanity if we are to create an international community that will be able to offer all of its members a fair chance to a decent life.

The call for an enabling international environment for sustainable development and poverty eradication is still a vivid one.

The international community needs to support the call of the vast majority of its members for fair terms of trade, increased market access for products from the developing countries and for a more effective and supportive international financial architecture.

Given the international state of affairs Suriname supports the implementation of the international global partnership for development.

The partnership for development can obtain guidance for its decisions from the many commitments adopted at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular from millennium development goals and those of the Monterey consensus.

This partnership should aim at energizing the political will of all states to implement those commitments and to create genuine opportunities for all states in the field of trade as well as for investments that would promote sustainable development and poverty eradication.

My delegation continues to plead for a rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system; for an international system that promotes decent and productive work and extends the benefits of new technology to all corners of the globe.

The focus of the partnership for development must be the establishment of a supportive international environment to realize in particular goal 8 of the millennium development goals and its constituting targets.

Building a global partnership for development will require involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders - governments, private sector and civil society - alike.

This partnership should enhance the involvement of the private sector taking into account the redefinition of the role of the private sector in society, based on a common understanding of the influence of business in spurring development and improving the human condition.

The contribution of the private sector is pivotal to a national policy geared towards enhancing human capital and infrastructure and towards having access to world markets.

We note with satisfaction the leadership of the United Nations in this area and believe that the UN Global Compact should collaborate with the partnership for development.

The civil society should contribute actively to the partnership for development at all levels. In particular at the national level its activities should be in harmony with and complementary to national development efforts.

Madam President,

The challenges we face in the area of international peace and security are equally dire. Increased efforts of the United Nations to save humanity from the scourge of warfare are not always successful.

Too often the international community is being confronted with situations that seriously jeopardize the safety of individuals and populations.

The Government of Suriname believes that there is a need for us to realize that the United Nations is in fact still our partnership for international peace and security.

This partnership should be based on the firm determination of all states to cooperate in finding fair and lasting solutions to persistent situations that adversely affect international peace and security.

Tolerance, mutual respect and mutual interest leading to peaceful coexistence of states, good neighbourliness and unity in diversity should constitute basic principles that guide the recommendations of the partnership for international peace and security.

Recently the General Assembly adopted the United Nations global counter terrorism strategy. Certainly this is a step forward in arriving at an effective international response against terrorism, in conformity with international law, international human rights and international humanitarian law.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that this strategy includes the promotion of dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations.

Of equal importance is the recognition that capacity building in all states is a core element of the global counter terrorism effort. In this regard we anticipate that a genuine partnership be established to implement this strategy.

Illegal drugs trade and organized crime are also aspects affecting international security. Increased cooperation at all levels is needed for the international community to be able to respond adequately to these threats.

In this connection the Government of Suriname will host an Anti- Narcotics Conference in October 2006. The main purpose of this Conference is to enhance coordination and collaboration among the participating countries aimed at combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, dismantling drug related criminal organizations and combating the illicit trade in small and light weapons given the increased levels of crime it generates.

Madam President,

A restructured United Nations must assure that the organization remains the source of redress for the international community and home to international justice and equitable decision making.

Given the less than satisfactory international development and security situations, we, the member states of the United Nations, should be more than willing, to act in conformity with the United Nations Charter and to employ the international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples; to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to practice increased tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.

Madam President,

Suriname believes that this session of the General Assembly of the United Nations can contribute significantly to these endeavors.

Thank you.