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32nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Statement by

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**PANEL ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT: 30TH ANNIVERSARY (HRC res 31/4)**

Geneva, 15 June 2016

Mr. President,

Suriname is of the view that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It is therefore indispensable that all three pillars of the United Nations be addressed in a holistic manner in order to achieve meaningful progress in all areas and in all fields.

Bearing in mind the recent global commitments to sustainable development we are more focused on the implementation of the right to development, an issue of crucial importance to our region.

While the existence of the right to development is met with skepticism by some or even rejected, we nevertheless have a solid reaffirmation of the right to development in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, and reiterated in subsequent outcome documents of major United Nations Summits and Conferences and most recently in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we undoubtedly have a strong political foundation to build on with regard to the implementation of the right to development, now that this right is an integral part of the Agenda and its delivery.

For Suriname and other developing countries it is indisputable: the right to development is a human right which is universal and indivisible.

Mr. President,

The year 2016 marks the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the right to development and coincides with the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Let us use this opportunity to move from rhetoric and demonstrate our commitment as an international community to implement the right to development.

In closing, we wish to reiterate that Suriname has a longstanding record of upholding human rights, respect for the rule of law and creating a harmonious, just and democratic society.

Mindful of our obligations under international law, we would like to reiterate our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as we embark on the implementation of the ambitious global goals to achieve sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind. A revitalized global partnership is therefore crucial to harness opportunities for delivering on the global sustainable development agenda, including by implementing the right to development.

I thank you for your attention.