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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SURINAME,
HER EXCELLENCY YLDIZ POLLACK -BEIGHLE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

April 14, 2018, Lima, Peru

Your Excellency Martin Vizcarra, President of the Republic of Peru
Your Excellency Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS
Excellencies Heads of State and Government
Colleagues, Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Suriname, His Excellency Desiré Delano Bouterse, I am taking this opportunity to extend to the Heads of State and Government, and all participating in this important gathering, the most cordial greetings and best wishes for a successful outcome of the Eight Summit of the Americas.

I also wish to use this opportunity to express our **appreciation** to the **Government and People of Peru** for their willingness to host this Summit as well as to the **Summit Secretariat** for the preparatory work that has been undertaken.

Mr. President,

Introduction

At the outset, it is important to recognize the exemplary contribution that the Summit of the Americas process fulfilled in dealing with the global and hemispheric realities and resulting challenges in order to ensure **democracy, good governance, peace, stability and sustainable development**. Ultimately, this should be to the benefit of all our countries and citizens of this hemisphere.

Strengthening democratic governance and combatting corruption require concerted efforts at all levels – national, regional and international. It is, therefore crucial, for **all countries** to participate in hemispheric discussions on **all issues**, including when we consider democratic governance and the fight against combating corruption. Besides the involvement of all countries, it is of importance to have all relevant actors, including **youth and the private sector**, engaged in tackling this scourge. It is, therefore, crucial to exert all efforts to collaboratively work towards addressing all issues affecting our hemisphere.

We lament that this collaborative approach was not adhered to for this important gathering by excluding a member state of the Western Hemisphere.

The consequence thereof is that some countries of the Western Hemisphere are being **disenfranchised** of the process, which in turn does not lead to an all-inclusive outcome, peace, stability and strong democratic institutions. This reality sets an undesirable precedent that would lead us to regulate the processes of integration under **arbitrary and unilateral positions**.

Mindful of our pledge to Inter-American solidarity, Mr. President Suriname believes that we should remain committed to **continued dialogue**, for this is a process, which often requires **time, trust and confidence building**. We can all agree that this ultimately serves the purpose of maintaining the Region as a Zone of Peace, thereby creating political stability leading to **democratic governance, rule of law and strong**

Mr. President,

Against the backdrop of the developments in our Region, my Government appreciates the theme for this Summit, namely *Democratic Governance Against Corruption*. It is evident that **corruption is transnational** and a **worldwide manifestation**, which has the potential of **polarizing societies**. It impedes the social, economic, cultural and political development, in particular the most marginalized groups in societies. **At the same time** poses a serious **threat to the sustainable development** of countries.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offered us an opportunity to commit to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. A multifaceted approach for anti-corruption strategies and actions should thus be considered, in order to ensure people-centered democratic governance as well as the fulfillment of our commitments in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Suriname's efforts

Hence, combatting corruption, establishing higher standards of transparency and accountability in both the public and private sector in Suriname, have been high on the political and developmental agenda of my Government.

Suriname's commitment to promoting, facilitating, and strengthening cooperation with all relevant actors in the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption is demonstrated inter alia, through the ratification of the *Inter-American Convention against Corruption* and the signing of the *Declaration on the Mechanism for the Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption*.

Suriname has been participating within the context of MESICIC¹; in this context, we have concluded the *Fifth Round of Review* this week. Within our Sub-Region, the Government has developed a productive collaboration with among others, CARICOM

¹ Mechanism for follow-up on the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption

Mr. President, since 2010, we have made remarkable strides to address the scourge of corruption. The **legislative framework has been strengthened**, in addition to other institutional measures to further improve the standards of transparency and accountability in both the public and private sector. Specific reference can be made to legislation pertaining to: reporting unusual transactions, identification of service providers, financial reporting and management of companies as well as the Amendment of the Existing Procurement Law.

Furthermore, another milestone in our fight against corruption was the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Law by the National Assembly.

Mr. President,

Legislative measures and instruments, financial and technical resources, institutional strengthening, and new, innovative technologies, will certainly be the prerequisites for ensuring durable success of our endeavors! Subsequently, the Government of Suriname is of the opinion that **establishing strategic partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners** at the **sub-regional, regional and international levels**, will be a *condition sine qua non* for ensuring success.

Mr. President,

The Government of Suriname is of the firm belief that it is only through the **involvement of all segments** of our societies in our countries, we will be able to ensure long-term development for present and future generations.

Undoubtedly, **capacity building** and the sharing of best practices; **institutional strengthening** and the legislative measures; **cooperation** between **different regions**, as well as **education in democratic and civic values** especially from early childhood, will positively influence a **culture of transparency** and holding accountable those who put our development efforts in jeopardy.

It is up to us to **create consciousness** regarding the importance of living in a society free of corruption and strong democratic institutions.

We owe it to future generations to lay the basis for this today!

I thank you.