Address
by the
President of the Republic of Suriname H.E. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan at the

High Level Plenary Meeting
of the
United Nations General Assembly

New York
16 September 2005
Check against delivery
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Thank you Mr. President!

Co-Presidents,
My delegation is pleased to see you both preside over this very important meeting.

Suriname joins the rest of the international community in expressing its profound sorrow at the tremendous loss of life and property in the Gulf coast of the United States of America, wrought upon by hurricane Katrina.

This significant gathering should be a testimony of the resolve of the international community to collectively arrive at adequate responses to the many challenges it has to face. It should also represent the genuine beginning of an era of concerted actions towards implementing commitments made at major UN conferences. This requires a reformed UN that can effectively deal with these challenges.

The outcome document we are about to adopt outlines concrete measures to ensure the effective follow-up to a number of commitments we solemnly made over the past 60 years. For some of the major issues we still need to adopt measures in order to reach the lofty goals we have set ourselves.

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Mr. President,
Suriname agrees that there can be no development without security, and no security without development. Neither can there be sustainable development if human rights are not respected.

Reform of the Human Rights machinery, as is the case for many reforms in the United Nations is now long overdue. The Government of Suriname can generally accept the creation of a Human Rights Council. We support the view that the open-ended working