

Submission by the Republic of Suriname
In response to the invitation by the COP30 Presidency
on the Roadmaps for (i) Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels and (ii) Halting and
Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Your Excellency,

The Republic of Suriname expresses its appreciation to the Presidency of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties for the invitation to contribute to the development of the roadmaps on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

Suriname welcomes this inclusive and forward-looking initiative and views these roadmaps as an important opportunity to translate the outcomes of the Global Stock Take (GST) into practical and actionable pathways, taking into account national circumstances and development priorities.

As a High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, with more than 90 per cent forest cover and a long-standing status as a net carbon sink, Suriname underscores the importance of ensuring that global climate action reflects equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), considering different national circumstances.

Suriname considers the themes of energy transition and forest conservation as closely interconnected. Both represent essential pillars of a sustainable development pathway and are currently being explored as avenues to mobilize finance in support of economic growth, social development, and climate resilience.

With regard to the transition away from fossil fuels, Suriname recognizes the global call to transform energy systems in line with the outcomes of the GST. At the same time, pathways towards achieving this objective must remain nationally determined and responsive to specific development contexts.

In this regard, Suriname wishes to underscore that countries with low historical emissions, significant carbon sinks, and emerging development trajectories should not be disproportionately constrained in pursuing their sustainable development objectives. For

Suriname, which remains carbon negative, emerging oil and gas resources are expected to contribute to national development priorities, including poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and economic resilience. This underscores the importance of ensuring that global transition efforts are implemented in a manner that is fair, differentiated, and supportive of sustainable development.

Key barriers to this transition include limited access to adequate, predictable and affordable climate finance, as well as capacity and technological constraints. Structural characteristics, such as small market size and infrastructure limitations, further affect the pace at which alternative energy systems can be deployed. Considerations of energy security and affordability, particularly for remote and hinterland communities, also remain central.

In addition, recent developments have underscored the continued vulnerability of global energy systems, including disruptions to supply chains and increased volatility in energy markets. These dynamics have contributed to increased energy demand and highlight the importance of balancing energy supply and demand in a period of transition. In this context, the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, remains a critical priority. For countries such as Suriname, this reinforces the need to ensure that efforts to transition energy systems do not jeopardize energy security and affordability, while gradually expanding renewable energy solutions in line with national circumstances.

In addressing these challenges, Suriname emphasizes the importance of enabling conditions that support a gradual and sustainable transition. These include scaled-up provision of climate finance, including grants and concessional financing, enhanced access to technology transfer, and strengthened capacity-building efforts. Market-based approaches, including cooperative mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, may also provide opportunities to mobilize investment, provided that environmental integrity and equitable benefit-sharing are ensured.

Suriname emphasized that a just, orderly and equitable transition must fully reflect the diversity of national circumstances. Such a transition should be implemented in a manner that prioritizes those with the highest emissions and greatest historical responsibility, while enabling countries with low emissions and high mitigation value, including HFLD countries, to pursue sustainable economic growth and diversification over time.

With respect to forests, Suriname reiterates its strong commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of its forest resources. The country has consistently maintained one of the lowest deforestation rates globally, demonstrating that long-term forest stewardship is achievable when supported by appropriate policies and the active participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Suriname recognizes the importance of strengthened regional cooperation within the Amazon basin, including through existing mechanisms of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). In this regard, enhanced coordination across sector, such as forest governance, land-use planning, integrated fire management, and the addressing of transboundary and illicit activities, will be essential to effectively tackle the underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Strengthening regional information systems, early warning capacities, and institutional cooperation can further support timely and coordinated responses, while contributing to long-term forest conservation outcomes. In this context, Suriname also highlights the role of carbon negative countries and initiatives such as the G-Zero platform that was launched during COP29 in Baku, in advancing recognition and support for countries that provide global climate benefits through maintaining net carbon sinks.

However, maintaining this status entails significant challenges and opportunity costs. Economic pressures, including extractive activities and infrastructure development, combined with limited financial incentives for conservation, remain persistent. In addition to that, institutional and technical capacity constraints may also affect monitoring, enforcement, and sustainable land-use planning.

In this context, Suriname highlights the importance of enhanced international support for forest conservation, including through results-based finance, such as REDD+ mechanisms, and improved access to carbon markets that adequately recognize the value of standing forests, particularly in HFLD countries. It is essential that global frameworks provide positive incentives not only for reducing deforestation, but also for maintaining low deforestation rates over time.

Suriname also emphasizes the central role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in forest governance. Their knowledge systems and stewardship are fundamental to achieving sustainable and long-term conservation outcomes. Policies and measures should therefore respect their rights, support their livelihoods, and ensure their meaningful participation.

More broadly, efforts to halt and reverse deforestation must reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development, including variations in forest cover, institutional capacity, and economic structure. Strengthened international cooperation and capacity-building will be essential to address shared and transboundary challenges.

In conclusion, Suriname reiterates that the successful implementation of the GST outcomes requires a balanced and inclusive approach that integrates mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development. As a HFLD country with unique national circumstances, Suriname remains committed to contributing constructively to these efforts.

The achievement of these ambitions will depend on the provision of adequate, predictable and accessible means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer, and capacity building, in line with the principles and provisions of the Paris Agreement.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.