

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS,
HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES C. DROUSHIOTIS,
4 SEPTEMBER 2008**

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I BID YOU THE WARM WELCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME AND THANK YOU FOR THE BEST WISHES YOU HAVE CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CHRISTOFIAS AND YOURSELF.

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ACCEPT YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON THE 25TH OF JULY 1980 OUR COUNTRIES HAVE GRADUALLY INTENSIFIED THE LEVEL OF BILATERAL COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR IN THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL AS THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE CARICOM AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COTONOU AGREEMENT.

AS YOU SO RIGHTLY POINTED OUT, SURINAME AND CYPRUS ARE SEPARATED BY GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE, BUT WE ARE JOINED TOGETHER BY A COMMON WISH FOR PEACE, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

WE MAY THEREFORE SPEAK AS ONE WHEN IT COMES TO PURSUING THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION, DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE INFORMATION REGARDING THE EFFORTS TO FIND A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

MY GOVERNMENT THEREFORE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT CHRISTOFIAS' INITIATIVE TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO SECURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED THE DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CYPRUS AND SURINAME AND YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULFILLING OF THIS TASK. I AM CONVINCED THAT WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO. YOU MAY REST ASSURED OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE YOUR TENURE A SUCCESS.

IN CONCLUSION, PLEASE CONVEY MY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT DIMITRIS CHRISTOFIAS, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.