

**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 ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
DR. AHMED HASSAN DARWISH,
17 FEBRUARY 2009**

MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO EXTEND, ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, A WARM WELCOME TO YOU, AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

I THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD WISHES YOU HAVE JUST CONVEYED TO ME ON BEHALF OF YOUR PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY MOHAMED HOSNI MUBARAK.

THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE IS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SURINAME AND EGYPT ENJOY LONG-STANDING RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (ASA) AND OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES (ASPA).

NEVERTHELESS, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A MORE INTENSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THESE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE YET TO BE ASSESSED IN ORDER TO KNOW HOW TO INTENSIFY OUR RELATIONS OF COOPERATION THROUGH THE MECHANISMS OF THESE MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE EVOLVED INTO TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WITH SURINAMESE EXPERTS MAKING USE OF THE TRAINING COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES IN 2005.

MY GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTRIBUTION AND EFFORTS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS CONTEXT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SAID REGION.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESSION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR DUTIES. IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATION, YOU WILL SUCCEED IN GIVING SPECIAL IMPETUS TO THE EXISTING BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAME AND EGYPT.

IN CONCLUSION, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER OUR REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY MOHAMED HOSNI MUBARAK, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

THANK YOU.