

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN,
ON THE OCCASSION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND,
HIS EXCELLENCY KRZYSZTOF JACEK HINZ,
17 FEBRUARY 2009**

MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU AND TO ACCEPT THE LETTERS ACCREDITING YOU AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF POLAND TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE SIGNIFIES THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONS WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED ON 24 MAY 1993.

SURINAME'S FOREIGN POLICY SEEKS TO ADVANCE ITS INTERESTS AND VALUES BASED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS ON MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN NATIONS.

SURINAME HAS A LONG TRADITION OF SOCIAL HARMONY, FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND GOOD MANAGEMENT OF OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY WHICH WE HAVE LEARNED TO TREASURE AS OUR CULTURAL WEALTH.

SURINAME'S WEALTH ALSO LIES IN ITS NATURE, IN THE BOUNTY OF ITS LAND AND WATERS. FINDING A PATH TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RESOURCES IS SEEN AS VERY IMPORTANT FOR SURINAME AND FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO INCREASE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND TO COMMUNICATE AND SHARE INFORMATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

IN THIS RESPECT WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COOPERATION PROJECT IN THIS FIELD WITH THE ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSITY OF SURINAME.

THE SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ACP AND EU REGIONS HAVE HELPED TO BRING ABOUT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE CARIBBEAN. THIS RESULTED IN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND THE CONSEQUENT SIGNING OF THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARIFORUM AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. THIS AGREEMENT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE STRONG LINKS OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. IT IS OUR WISH THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAME AND POLAND BE CONTINUED, BROADENED AND DEEPENED.

THE CURRENT SITUATION CONFRONTING THE WORLD IS VERY CHALLENGING INDEED. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD TO STRUGGLE WITH ENERGY, FOOD SECURITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND TERRORIST THREATS AND NOW WE ARE FACING THE FINANCIAL WORLD CRISIS WHICH CAN HAVE A DISRUPTIVE IMPACT ON THE WORLD ECONOMY. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR COUNTRIES WORKING TOGETHER TO DEAL WITH THESE CHALLENGES.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL SUCCEED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE INTENT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO FURTHER EXPAND THE EXISTING RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME WILL GIVE YOU EVERY SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.