

**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 GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S  
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA,  
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. ALI MUNTASSER K. FARFER,  
19 FEBRUARY 2009**

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MR. AMBASSADOR

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU AND TO RECEIVE THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY WHICH HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL MUAMMAR AL GADHAFI ACCREDITS YOU AS THE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

I THANK YOU FOR THE PERSONAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO ME ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL MUAMMAR AL GADHAFI.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY EXPRESSES YOUR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAME AND LIBYA ON 17 MAY 1976, COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS TAKEN PLACE IN A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT. WE VALUE THIS KIND OF COOPERATION, AS WE ARE AWARE OF THE GLOBAL THREATS AND CHALLENGES WHICH MAY AFFECT NATIONAL ECONOMIES AND OUR DEVELOPMENT.

WE NOW, MORE THAN EVER NEED, TO ENHANCE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE SYSTEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) AND THE COOPERATION PROCESSES BETWEEN AFRICAN AND/OR ARABIC COUNTRIES AND THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA, IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CRISES THE WORLD IS FACING TODAY, SUCH AS THE FOOD, THE ENERGY, THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FINANCIAL CRISES. WE ALSO NEED TO DO OUR UTMOST TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT WELFARE FOR OUR PEOPLES.

AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL, THERE ARE STILL MANY UNTAPPED OPPORTUNITIES. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MANY MORE AREAS OF COOPERATION WHICH MAY BE EXPLORED TO FURTHER IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR ACCREDITATION WILL PROVE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP TO THAT END.

I WISH YOU SUCCESS DURING YOUR TENURE AS AMBASSADOR. YOU MAY REST ASSURED OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME IN THE FULFILMENT OF YOUR DUTIES TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES.

PLEASE CONVEY MY BEST REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL MUAMMAR AL GADHAFI AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LIBYA.