

**ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
BY THE AMBASSADOR OF CHILE,
HIS EXCELLENCY PATRICIO ALBERTO PRADEL ELGUETA,
ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Mr. Ambassador,

I am very pleased to accept your credentials as the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chile to the Republic of Suriname. On behalf of the Government and People of Suriname, I bid you a warm welcome.

Mr. Ambassador,

Suriname and Chile are South American countries separated by a vast Amazon jungle and the mighty Andean mountain range. However, these geographic obstacles have not prevented us from coming together.

Our countries have many commonalities, such as strivings to achieve equitable economic growth in order to overcome extreme poverty, elimination of discrimination, retention of democratic values, the unwavering and effective exercise of the rule of international law and its principles and ensuring peace and harmonious relations in the region and beyond.

We share the view that through regional integration and international cooperation small and vulnerable countries may achieve the abovementioned goals.

The fact that Suriname and Chile share common objectives in order to intensify regional integration of South America through the framework of the Union of South American Countries (UNASUR), may prove to be a powerful mechanism to strengthen mutual cooperation and to provide us with ways to achieve sustainable economic development.

Furthermore, Suriname welcomes the establishment of a Standing Joint Commission on Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination between Chile and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). This Joint Commission undoubtedly offers opportunities for both countries to further pursue cooperation in the areas of economy, science, technology and culture.

A fortunate coincidence, Mr. Ambassador, is that Chile and Suriname have been in a position to provide the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General for the Organization of the American States. This experience may prove to be very useful to the expansion of the scope of bilateral relations.

Mr. Ambassador,

You have been assigned by your Government to foster relations with Suriname. You may rest assured of the support of the Government of Suriname to make your tenure a successful one.

Please, convey my best wishes to Her Excellency President Michelle Bachelet, the Government and Chilean People.