

STATEMENT

by

His Excellency David Abiamoyo

Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Suriname

on the occasion of the UN High Level Energy Dialogue

76th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

New York
24 September 2021

Please check against delivery

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is an honor to address the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 as part of the 76th UN General Assembly. Suriname welcomes this important initiative as energy is a key factor for sustainable development.

Sustainability in the energy sector is of great importance for the socio-economic development of Suriname. The government's policy is to secure access to energy for all by 2025. Energy should be accessible and affordable to all.

The mission of the Government of Suriname for the energy sector is: "Ensuring continuous availability of affordable reliable energy for the total population of Suriname and for the country's projected economic growth."

The energy policy for Suriname as such will focus on:

1. 24/7 access to energy for everyone living in the Republic of Suriname;
2. Increased efforts to promote energy efficiency;
3. Promotion of the use of renewable energy as part of an optimal energy mix.

These three priorities are fully in line with goal number 7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government of Suriname currently prioritized and intensified its efforts of providing basic energy services to the country's off-grid rural remote communities, increasing the access to sustainable energy in all rural areas.

These rural areas mainly consist of Maroon and Indigenous communities which have limited access during the day to energy. Twenty-four (24) hours access to energy will not only abide to the SDG 7 on energy for all, but also allows for improvement of the living conditions and equal chances to development of social- and human capital of these disadvantaged areas.

The impact of access to affordable and reliable energy is inextricable to climate change and other SDGs, including poverty eradication, food security, health, education, prosperity, gender equality, jobs, transport, water and sanitation, and the empowerment of women and youth.

Suriname's overall government energy policy is being developed in such a way that throughout the different segments of the energy sector, greenhouse gas emissions can be managed and monitored by creating a balanced energy mix and as such adhere to Suriname's commitment towards global initiatives concerning mitigation of climate change.

The Government of Suriname pleads for improved international partnerships and finance for access to energy in order to give member states fair and equal chances to meet the 2030 goal of access to energy for all.