

Report Workshop

United Nations Suriname Sustainable Development Goals

20 August 2015 - 't Vat - Paramaribo

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Introduction

This is the report of the Workshop United Nations Suriname Sustainable Development Goals, organized in 't Vat on 20 August 2015.

Welcome MC

The facilitator of the workshop welcomes the participants. Subsequently they are invited to sing the national anthem, after which Mrs. Prya Sital is given the floor.

Speech President National Youth Parliament - Mrs. Prya Sital

Mrs. Prya Sital welcomes the participants.

She states that the SDGs are an initiative undertaken with the objective to change the world. The SDGs aim to create a better world. It is now the task of the current generation to protect the world. The SDGs give the world the opportunity to come together and design a future. When doing so, not only the social issues need to be considered, but the economic and environmental issues will need to be taken into account as well.

Some facts in this context to think about are the following:

- 1 in 7 people in the world suffers from extreme poverty
- 1 in 9 people in the world is severely malnourished
- 42M people worldwide are unable to find employment
- The planet keeps getting warmer

It is clear that something needs to be done. There is a need for a change and this requires a shared vision and a framework for action with clearly defined objectives and targets. A number of 8 Millennium Goals were set in the year 2000, with the main focus on social issues. The SDGs however, also take economic and environmental issues into consideration.

August 8 was International Youth Day. A day like this is perfect to ask attention for the involvement and participation of youth and this is necessary for the realization of sustainable development. The youth needs to be closely involved with striving to achieve the goals and ensure a safer, greener and more balanced world.

Development is only sustainable when all future generations are able to enjoy this development.

Mrs. Sital wishes the participants a successful workshop.

Speech on behalf of the UN Office in Suriname - Mrs. Min Yuan

Mrs. Min Yuan, UNICEF Program Manager, welcomes all participants.

She states that it is an honour to be present at this workshop on behalf of the UN organizations in Suriname to promote the Post 2015 Agenda with regard to the SDGs. This is the third activity that has been organized in Suriname with the intention of conveying information with regard to the SDGs. The SDGs have been set for the next 15 years and that is why the focus is now on the youth.

Most people are familiar with the agenda of the year 2000, which was set for sustainable development. The MDGs made a significant contribution to development in the past 15 years. As a result, significant progress has been made in the area of poverty reduction, reduction of the mortality rate, improvement of access to education for children, improvement of circumstances with regard to access to clean drinking water and sanitation and improvement of gender equality.

The new agenda is a continuation of the goals achieved so far and in addition, it focuses on that part of the previous agenda that has not yet been finalized. A number of gaps were ascertained. For example, Suriname made progress in the area of access to education, but the quality and completion of schooling don't show the same progress. Also, there are many areas in the interior where the sanitation facilities are not arranged properly.

Mrs. Yuan is pleased that the National Youth Parliament is involved. This is an excellent starting point to collaborate for this generation and the future leaders among the youth for the next 15 years and focus on development. The positive side of the new agenda is that more efforts are made to create an enabling environment for development. The next development goals will therefore also take new challenges into consideration such as climate change and economic development. There are many issues on the agenda that are new and due to new technologies, one might perceive the world as becoming smaller on one hand, but on the other hand one might also perceive the world as becoming bigger. A workshop such as this is a great opportunity for young people to use the chance offered to make a contribution to the new sustainable development goals.

Finally, Mrs. Yuan wishes the participants a successful workshop.

Opening Speech Permanent Secretary Youth Affairs- Mrs. Rachel Koningsbloem - Pinas

Mrs. Koningsbloem welcomes all participants.

The concept of this workshop is the Post 2015 Agenda. The objective is to share information about the World Development Agenda. It is clear that there is a transition from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals. Today's workshop intends, among other things, to ascertain in what areas the Development Goals were not achieved and come to agreements about issues that need to be worked on, so Suriname can achieve its goals on different levels.

It is important to approach issues in a way that is sustainable and young people should clearly define where they want to go and in this context also take responsibility. From the point of view of the Directorate Youth Affairs, true, meaningful participation of young people, in governance and policy processes, especially those concerning them, is the most important target point. Through non-formal education, such as useful leisure activities, development of individuals and neighbourhoods, the Directorate makes a clear link between youth participation and active citizenship.

It is evident that with every day that passes, young people come more and more in the position to take the lead. The role of adults is to properly guide and facilitate this process. Chances and opportunities for young people in the areas of, among others, talent development, employment and entrepreneurship should at all times be guaranteed. And it should be guaranteed in a way that is sustainable, where evidence based policy making, with the inclusion of young people, is the way in which actions are undertaken and basic life skills, health, peace, good governance, care for the environment and non-discrimination are ensured.

Youth policy is complex. Youth development is even more complex. This is due to the fact that these topics cover different areas in which other ministries also play a significant part. It is important therefore to work in a way that is both coordinated and integrated with sufficient engagement of youth.

The Directorate Youth Affairs is a directorate for all youngsters in Suriname. That is a role the Directorate can't fulfil all by itself. If people believe in the saying: "What's learned in the cradle, lasts till the tomb", people should also realize that adults give the example. The Directorate Youth Affairs wishes and expects meaningful and active engagement from youngsters.

Subsequently, Mrs. Koningsbloem wishes the participants a productive day and opens the workshop.

Presentation Sustainable Development Goals by UN Suriname, Mrs. Judith Brielle and Mrs. Faranaaz Pahalwankahn

Mrs. Judith Brielle welcomes all participants. *Mrs. Faranaaz Pahalwankahn* states that today's workshop will be about the 17 development goals and its contents.

Results Rio+ 20

An evaluation meeting with regard to the MDGs was held in June 2012, assessing the situation as is, to determine how to move forward. It was concluded that it would be opportune to move from the initial 8 MDGs that were independent from each other, to the integration of different sectors that were targets of these goals. It was therefore proposed to consider a more integrated approach.

Participative approach

Due to the discussion with regard to the experience of the implementation of the MDGs, new goals were formulated. The process to come to a development agenda for the period after 2015 was guided by the member states, with the UN facilitating the process. These discussions were not only held between different governments, but also involved various groups from societies. Based on the results of this consultation a new set of 17 goals has been developed, with a multi-sectoral approach.

The most important slogan for the new goals is: *"Leave No One Behind"*. The reason this approach has been chosen is that when a development process is implemented, there are different parts in society that need to be taken into consideration. In case of interventions, it is important to look at the consequences for the different people in society, and take equality and resilience of people into account.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

The Post 2015 Development Agenda places a number of starting points within a certain framework. When setting and pursuing the MDGs, it was primarily the developed countries that were taken into consideration. There is a need for an open discussion, where the 17 goals should be valid for everybody. Every country and every community will have its own priorities.

Once civil society, the government, the university etc. are engaged in the discussion, there are different insights. In order to come to sustainable development, people must move out of their comfort zone and engage in new relations to take their input into account as well. It is always good to sign global agreements, but it is also important to look at how this can be translated at national level.

An example is that young people need to use their right to participate. There are also a number of legal issues for young people at different levels. There is for instance a gap between the moment someone is allowed to marry and the moment that someone is considered an adult according to the law. Young people are entitled to education, but also to a good quality of this education. Who will ensure they will actually get this? There is a need for active and honest leaders in churches, sports clubs, youth associations etc. to create a healthy and just world.

Importance of the year 2015

In August, the document was accepted by all participating countries. It was difficult to come to a final document, because the input of 196 countries needed to be taken into consideration. However, the objective was not to draft an agenda with targets that were set low just to keep everyone happy. The goals that have been set now, are the result of the input of 196 countries. The task of the UN is to facilitate the process and to ensure the global agreements that have already been signed are complied with.

In September the document will be signed. The outputs and indicators will not yet be known at that time. It will be a forward looking agenda, an agenda building on what is known so far, what works and lessons learned. It is a legally binding document. Once the countries have signed, these countries will need to regularly submit reports concerning the progress made. The end date of this agenda is 2030.

Once the goals had been set, the Secretary General of the UN tried to help the governments by placing the goals in a context, clustering the goals in six essential elements: dignity, prosperity, justice, collaboration, planet and people. Subsequently, the goals were placed under these six elements. For example, when you look at the element dignity and assume that everyone is entitled to education, the census data in Suriname shows that many children in Suriname indeed go to school. However, there is a difference in quality depending on whether you go are born in Paramaribo or in the interior.

Sustainable Development Goals

1. Dignity

The strong integration of the set goals, requires a different way of measuring. When you assess issues such as poverty, gender equality and empowerment, it is not only important to know the average income of people, but also which people have what income. It is also important to look at which children don't complete their schooling within six years and the reason for not completing it. The census can be a good instrument to measure things like this, because it assesses issues on a national level. However, not only the hard data needs to be taken into consideration, the qualitative data needs to be taken into account as well.

2. People

This regards health care and education, with attention for new issues such as obesity and diabetes. Education now focuses on lifelong planning and not only on primary education. In addition, people should be able to get employment based on their education.

3. Planet

In the previous agenda, only 1 MDG was linked to this topic. However, in the new Sustainable Development Goals there are 5 goals linked to this topic. This shows the change in the world. This element regards access to water sources, sustainable consumption, oceans, biodiversity and ecosystems. Important is that whatever actions can be taken to stop the deterioration, should indeed be taken. In addition, innovation is important as well as the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

4. Collaboration

This element regards the expansion of partnerships. Previously, when Suriname had to deal with an issue, the situation in the Netherlands was looked at to see how they dealt with it. Today, the South-South approach is used more often. Suriname will look to see how countries such as South Africa or Brazil dealt with a similar situation. The reason is that these countries have a similar team, which makes it easier to learn from each other and share knowledge. Making expertise available is more important than funds

5. Justice

Under the MDGs, justice was not a goal. This mainly has to do with the fact that it is not only about having certain things in place, but also the feeling that goes with that and access to those things. There can be plenty of legislation, without access to that legislation. Also, the feeling of justice is important. Studies have shown for example that people living in Suriname more often experience not feeling safe, than people living in Jamaica and Trinidad. However, available data also shows that Suriname is a much safer country to live in. When you are used to the fact that if you go to an institute and it seems that you should be grateful for a certain service, or in some cases even pay for that service, you will not complain. Another example is gender-based violence. Not too long ago the newspaper stated that not many people in Suriname are informed about legislation in this area, while Suriname has one of the most beautiful laws in the area of gender-based violence.

6. Prosperity

In the previous agenda, no development goals were linked to this element, but in the Sustainable Development Goals there are five goals linked to this element. Among other things, good infrastructure is important in this context. This also became clear in Suriname. Before the bridge to Commewijne was built, people mainly depended on the ferry. Due to the change in infrastructure, people get the opportunity to use their entrepreneurship to ensure their prosperity. In addition, in this context the reduction of inequalities within and between countries and focusing on ensuring a safe, resilient and sustainable living environment is taken into consideration as well. In Suriname this was also a relevant issue, when the

gusts caused so much damage. There is a need to assess whether or not proper structures are in place to overcome this kind of damage.

The SDGs in Suriname

Suriname made significant progress in aiming to achieve the MDGs. Now there is a need to focus on the unfinished agenda of the MDGs. That is why the new SDGs will have to be integrated in the new Development Plan 2015-2020. Suriname also needs to determine in which areas it would like to set its priorities. When the focus will be placed on for example education, it is not only important that children receive education. It is also important that they go through primary school within six years and move on to secondary education that will allow them to find employment through which they are able to support themselves and their family.

Suriname has good opportunities in this area, because the elections were recently held. The goals are already set. Now they just need to be interpreted nationally in a way that society can profit from these, 'leaving no one behind'.

Young people and SDGs

SDGs are aimed at ensuring a better world for young people. Awareness will lead to action and that is why it is important to improve the participation of young people in the implementation of the SDGs. In this context, young people need to be well informed and taught skills so they can be more vocal. The information needs to be made available in different languages and well accessible. Finally, it is important to properly monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

Questions and Answers

Question - Asmara Pique: *How can you ensure a good collaboration with and feedback to the MDG Ambassadors to support them in realizing the goals? Often you are informed after the fact that a report has been issued about a certain issue.*

Answer - Ruben Martoredjo: *In this context monitoring is especially important. Mrs. Brielle already indicated in her presentation that the engagement of young people is important. One of the tasks of the youth is to monitor and ensure that the goals are actually achieved. There are 17 goals, but approximately 100 indicators. This means there is a need for a good system to monitor whether the goals are achieved, not only on national level, but also on community level.*

Question: *Is it the intention for us to report as individuals?*

Answer - Ruben Martoredjo: *You can say that each individual has a responsibility. And involvement in drafting the report is part of that.*

***Comment - Unknown:** When the MDGs were implemented, we were only informed of the MDGs at a congress or workshop. Now that youth is represented here, the intention is for us to inform our peers. One of the most important things will be conveying information. Because once I know what the goals are, I know what things I need to pay attention to. That is why I would like to know whether a process has been developed to inform 'regular people' about the SDGs and make them familiar with these goals.*

***Answer - Ruben Martoredjo:** This is the first session that we have organized to ensure that the youth is informed about the SDGs and to train the people who show an interest. A similar session was held at the University. And this is how we will continue to work in different sectors in the community to inform people.*

***Comment - Judith Brielle:** It is important that you indicate in the sessions you feel that the community can be informed. How do you think you can support Youth Ambassadors etc. in a way that the youth in the country and everywhere in the world will receive the information? It is important that people are made aware of their rights, so they can support in monitoring activities.*

***Comment - Ruben Martoredjo:** Referring to the question with regard to information, Mahogany from UNICEF is here today, with a child friendly book titled: "The World We Want". The intention is to adapt this book to the context of Suriname.*

Group assignment

The participants are requested to do the following:

1. List a top 3-5 from the SDGs and indicate why these development goals are the most important ones and what the conditions are that will be need to be taken into account in order to reach those goals.
2. Develop a strategy aimed at informing and engaging the youth in achieving the SDGs.
3. A book has been published in draft concerning the SDGs. In this book a number of stories are included about different SDGs. The participants are requested to pick one of the goals and represent that goal through a sketch, taking the Surinamese context into account.

The presentations of the group assignments are included in Annex II.

Future vision MDG Youth Ambassador - Mrs. Beryll Manhoef

***Mrs. Beryll Manhoef** states that active citizenship was the theme for this workshop, because this is important for a developed society. This was reflected well in this workshop where everyone made a contribution. More*

activities will be organized with regard to the SDGs. Suriname is one of the few countries that has a youth program for the SDGs.

There has not yet been a documentation of a vision on the SDGs and this is the first step towards creating a vision. This will require meaningful participation from the youth, awareness from those involved, effective projects and development opportunities to help realize the goals. This will enable Suriname to move towards a change in thinking, to the benefit of the prosperity and wellbeing of Suriname.

Closing

Mrs. Faranaaz Pahalwankhan thanks the participants for their contribution and closes the workshop.

Annex I

Agenda

9.30u	Arrival participants
10.00u:	Welcome MC
10.05u:	Speech President National Youth Parliament
10.10u:	Speech MDG Youth Ambassador
10.15u:	Speech Permanent Secretary Youth Affairs
10.20u:	Presentation UN Suriname
11.05u:	Break
11.25u:	Plenary discussions
12.25u:	Working group presentations
13.25u:	Future Vision MDG Youth Ambassador
13.35u:	Closing

ANNEX II

PRESENTATION GROUP 1

Assignment (1) and (2)

NR.	SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
1.	Good education (SDG 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Good collaboration between the ministry of OWC and other institutes such as ADEK, religious educational institutions, higher educational institutions etc.▪ Proper legislation▪ Enforcement of legislation▪ Accreditation▪ Being innovative▪ Improvement of ICT▪ Alignment with the labour market	Campaigns to stimulate awareness through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Advertising➤ Curriculum➤ Social Media
2.	Gender equality (SDG 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equal opportunities and equal rights▪ Legislation and enforcement▪ Awareness with regard to the pros and cons of gender equality	
3.	Take care of the planet (SDG 13, 14 en 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Legislation▪ Knowledge	Teach the right attitude from a young age and give information about why a good environment and healthy life style are important.

NR.	SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration between the relevant ministries and environmental organizations (international, national and NGOs) 	
4.	Decent work for all (SDG 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote entrepreneurship to increase job opportunities. ▪ Make funds available for establishing companies, through the government or development banks ▪ Improved collaboration between the private sector and the government. 	Decreased interest
5.	Technology that will allow everyone to profit (SDG 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening up the technological market in Suriname ▪ If everyone has access to the Internet, then everyone will have access to information. That is why it is important to offer access to WiFi. ▪ Legislation and enforcement of legislation. 	Don't allow a monopoly.

Assignment 3:

Sketch - SDG 4: Proper education for everyone

Overcrowded classrooms

The group conducts a role play about good education for everyone, with the focus on overcrowded class rooms. In the sketch there is a conversation between two students: Prya and Anantha. Prior to the school break they were in fourth grade and after the break they will go to the fifth grade. They are this discussing the fact that there are 40 students in a classroom, but this doesn't allow everyone to get the attention they need. As a result, one of their friends is not going to the fifth grade.

Then Prya states that the new minister of Education has indicated that legislation will be introduced that will only allow a certain number of students in a classroom.

PRESENTATION GROUP 2:

Assignment (1) and (2)

NR.	SDG	REASON FOR CHOSING THE SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
1.	Healthy life for everyone (SDG 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy people and wellbeing of people is necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better quality of facilities ▪ Optimal check-ups at the doctor ▪ Training ▪ Affordable medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz ▪ Media ▪ Social media (apps) ▪ Q&A Programme ▪ Information sessions (outreach) ▪ Collaboration with youth organizations, NGOs, institutions and ministries with youth policy ▪ Make information available in different languages ▪ Quests ▪ Workshops ▪ Youth information fairs ▪ SDG stickers on cars
2.	Good education (SDG 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good education offers the chance for development. ▪ Good education will enable the prevention of dropouts and fighting crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better learning material ▪ More schools ▪ Goal and job oriented studies ▪ Qualified teachers ▪ Accreditation of the University of Suriname 	
3.	Water and sanitation facilities for everyone (SDG 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When you have a society that is ill, you can't make any progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean drinking water ▪ Better sanitation facilities ▪ Cleaner and more accessible public toilets 	
4.	Safe cities and villages (SDG 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People need to feel safe in the country. ▪ It is also important to have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good infrastructure ▪ Decentralization of government 	

		constant development in the area of infrastructure	services and authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better waste disposal ▪ Information of communities 	
5.	Living in peace (SDG 16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living in peace is necessary to avoid wars. When people live in peace it will help Suriname 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tolerance ▪ More love ▪ Fight corruption and crime ▪ Provide information 	

Assignment 3

Sketch - SDG 5: Gender equality

Hire only men for certain jobs

The group does a role play about two neighbours, a man and a woman. The woman doesn't have any water and that is why she turns to her neighbour who does have access to water because she has to go to a job interview at the waste disposal service. The neighbour states that she can fill her buckets using the tap outside of his house, but doesn't offer to help her carry the buckets to her house.

When the woman goes to the job interview, she is told that it involves work that is physically heavy and that is why only men will be hired for the job.

The group ends with the slogan: "We support each other and work for each other!"

PRESENTATION GROUP 3:

Assignment (1) and (2)

NR.	SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
1.	Poverty (SDG 1)	<p>The basic means should be present, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food ▪ Funds ▪ Accommodation ▪ Health 	<p>When this is communicated to the youth, this must be done in a language that they speak.</p>
2.	Healthy living (SDG 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make the most of the situation under the given circumstances ▪ No mental or physical handicaps ▪ Access to health care 	
3.	Education (SDG 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to education ▪ Qualification (primary, secondary, higher vocational education) ▪ Higher educated human resources ▪ Teachers, students 	
4.	Inequality (SDG 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decentralization ▪ Offices (everywhere) city and district ▪ ICT 	

NR.	SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
5.	Care for the planet (SDG 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without the planet there can be no development ▪ Conservation of the forests ▪ Clean environment ▪ Conservation territorial waters ▪ Infrastructure ▪ Atmosphere 	

Assignment 3

Sketch - SDG 9: Technology

Investors willing to invest in the Internet in the interior.

Sketch

The group conducts a role play that shows investors going to a village. They want to organize a contest in different villages. In the village where the winner of the contest lives, the mast will be set up giving this village the best Internet connection. However, the surrounding villages will also benefit from the Internet connection.

PRESENTATION GROUP 4

Assignment (1) and (2)

NR.	SDG	Reason for SDG	CONDITIONS	STRATEGY
1.	End poverty (SDG 4)	Fighting poverty will offer people the opportunity to improve their lives and support themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good social and economic investments. There is a need for investments in the economy, so there is room for investments in people's wellbeing. Overview of issues. Every body should have people who supervise the proper implementation of activities. Good leadership. There is need for people who can lead workers. A good leader usually is someone who also works and not someone who just gives orders. Have 'the right man in the right place', not only when it concerns men, but also women because gender equality is also important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information through social media. Educational activities (sports and games) Include the information in learning materials at schools.
2.	Healthy living for everybody (SDG)	Healthy people are able to do more work. Also, less time is lost and the increased productivity will make a positive contribution to the country's development.		
3.	Good education (SDG)			
4.	Decent work for everyone (SDG 8)	The work should offer sufficient means to people to support themselves. When parents have a number of jobs, because having just one job doesn't earn them enough money, is the reason that children are often at home without parents. This will result in them taking the wrong path in life.		
5.	Reaching the new goals	It is important to not miss goals. Because once the focus is on achieving one of the goals, other goals can be missed.		

Assignment 3:

The group does a short role play about the importance of taking care of the planet.

