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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at its seventy-third session, held from 28 July to 15 August 2008, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Guyana (CERD/C/GUY/CO/14/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure.

The Committee welcomes the submission of extensive information, as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15, 16 and 19 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/GUY/CO/14) adopted by the Committee following the consideration at its sixty-eight session of the initial to fourteenth periodic reports of Guyana, submitted in one document. The Committee also notes that the Government's response addressed two additional recommendations in a detailed manner.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the State party's fifteenth and sixteenth periodic reports, to be submitted as a single comprehensive report on the implementation of the Convention, which fell due on 17 March 2008.

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- **Paragraph 15 of the concluding observations:** The Committee invites the State party to supply further information on the progress achieved with respect to the implementation of the Amerindian Act, including with regard to land entitlement, as well as on the extent and impact of the self-administration of indigenous communities at the local level (Village Councils) and national level.
- **Paragraph 16 of the concluding observations:** The Committee would like to recall that the full rights of indigenous populations over their lands include the right to the sub-soil. The State party is therefore requested to provide information on measures taken to ensure that the *informed consent* of the indigenous communities is being sought for all mining projects on indigenous lands. The State party is also requested to provide an update on mining operations currently taking place in the North Pakaraima Mountain Area. Furthermore, the State party is invited to supply examples of jurisprudence, if any, in which indigenous communities have challenged decisions on land entitlement in court, and information on the role of customary law within national jurisdiction in this regard.
- **Paragraph 19 of the concluding observations:** The Committee requests the State party to provide information on whether Mines Rangers discovering unacceptable practices may institute legal proceedings to address such practices. With respect to health care, the Committee would like to commend the State party on the improvements in this sector but also to request that it be provided with disaggregated data on the situation of indigenous communities, as well as with an update on the impact of the National Malaria Program.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination