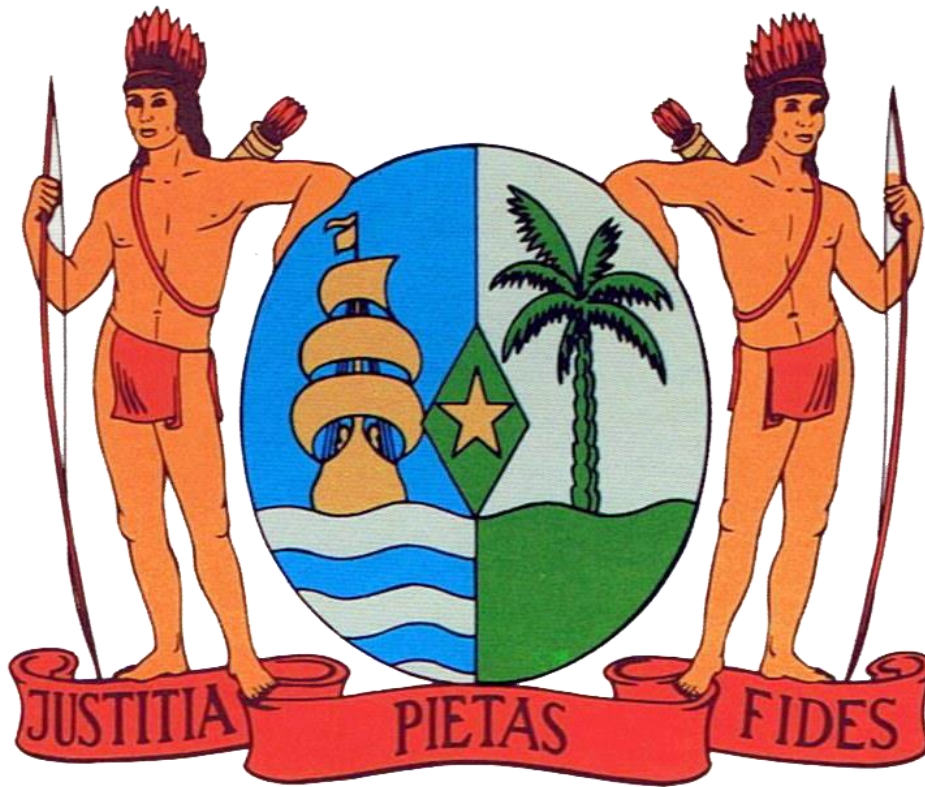


REPUBLIC OF SURINAME



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 48 HOURS
CONSIDERATION OF THE SURINAME COMBINED FOURTH, FIFTH
AND SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT AT THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN**

MARCH 2, 2018

Article 11

1. The ILO conventions 100 and 111 have already been ratified by the State, but are not yet published. Why was there a delay? Why are these conventions not yet implemented?

The ILO Conventions 100 and 111 are in the process of publication. These conventions are being implemented. Several actions in this regard have been taken such as the installation of an ad hoc committee to prepare the Equality of Treatment Act. Currently hearings with stakeholders on the content of this act are being held.

Article 13

1. With regard to the social programs mentioned in the combined 4th to 6th CEDAW country report, what are the results and the level of investment? To clarify, how much has been budgeted for realizing the social programs mentioned in the report.

The ministry of Social Affairs and Housing has several social transfers that benefit women, but are not solely implemented for this target group. For the different social programs a total amount of SRD642.322.000,- was invested.

The programs entail:

Child protection mechanism, Subsidies to residential institutions of the government as well as the private sector, Old Age allowance, General Child Benefit, Subsidized Food Parcels for Poor households, implementation of the Debit card system for the financial aid for persons with disabilities, financial aid for vulnerable households, financial aid for persons with a disability, subsidized medical insurance, contribution to medical costs of poor and vulnerable citizens.

2. Micro-credit funds from 2010 is mentioned in the combined 4th to 6th CEDAW country report. Do women have access to credit? Has there been an evaluation?

Both men and women have access to credit, as long as they comply with the conditions.

To qualify for a loan from the SME fund, the following conditions apply:

- In possession of Surinamese nationality or residency
- Age between 21 and 60 years
- Personal contribution: at least 15% of the investment requirement
- Compulsory coaching

Mandatory documents:

- Business plan in duplicate
- Bank statements with salary or other fixed source of income for the last 3 months
- Income and expenditure statement of the last 6 months (private)
- Nationality declaration of the civil registry

The Small Medium Enterprise fund (SME) is intended for companies from the following sectors: Processing of agricultural products (horticulture, livestock farming and fishing); Wood processing; Creative sector; ICT; Automating business processes; Tourism, and Poultry.

3. Do the tax collection authorities take into account the conditions faced by female headed households with reduced incomes, (the conditions under which these women live)? Does the tax system differ when it comes to single women with children?

The tax system is equally applicable for every citizen. There are no special measures for single women with children.

4. Can married women open a bank account without the consent of their spouse?

Married women may, without the consent of their spouse, open their own bank account and even take a personal loan. By the entry into force of the Decree C-11 in 1981, the abolition of the legal incapacity of women is largely removed.

5. Can the mother request financial assistance for her children without the father's consent?

There is no special obligation. Women as heads of households may apply for social services / financial assistance without the consent of the father of the children.

6. For women between 18 and 59 year, do they have right of basic medical insurance?

The government provides women in the age group 17- 59 years who cannot afford to pay for medical insurance, the opportunity to apply for the basic medical insurance. Children from 0 -16 years and elderly from 60 years onwards are provided with the medical health insurance by the government.

7. Do persons with disabilities receive financial aid? Do their family? Is there support for those who are taking care of the persons with disabilities?

Regarding the support to the families of persons with disabilities, the ministry of Social Affairs and Housing provides social care and guidance to families including the families of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, individuals in need of specialized home care may apply for this within the ministry. The ministry provides this care through the services of a company. This is a great support to the families of the persons with disabilities.

8. Can women heads of households without the consent of the fathers of the children apply for social services?

Women as head of households may apply for the services of the ministry of Social Affairs and Housing without consent of the father of the children. They only have to prove that the children are living with them or are under their care.

Article 14

1. What are the priorities of the government in its agricultural and mining policy with regard to women?

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Agricultural policy as included in the Development Plan 2017-2021 of the Surinamese Government. In the Agriculture chapter some issues related to women are included.

The agriculture policy will focus on delegating the responsibility of the different parts of the production cycle to stakeholders as much as possible. In practice, this means that individual family businesses, independent workers, cooperating groups or co-operations, women's organizations and organized young people will independently control the various services. This concerns facilities for production, small machines and tools, seed supply, inputs, supply of part-time work in peak periods such as sowing, planting and harvesting, information, transport, purchase, storage and processing. Within the agriculture sector, women are more represented in the horticulture sector. The vegetables subsector offers good prospects and is also particularly useful because of:

- Employment and income opportunities for women (including greenhouse cultivation).
- Low investment per job.
- Favorable national income per investment unit.

Provision of small credits in cooperation with packaging companies and control of pesticides will be stimulated during this plan period. For further diversification of the vegetables subsector, also in the light of realistic import replacement and export promotion, the development of professionally established production systems and / or companies for the production of tuber and root crops will be stimulated.

Special attention will be paid to the provision of agricultural scholarships in the aforementioned horticulture sector and to the creation of jobs for young people and women.

Ministry of Regional Development

Within the ministry of Regional Development there is a *Directorate for Development of Agriculture in the Interior*. The aim is to stimulate agriculture in the interior, where mostly women are involved, because largely men have jobs at companies, where they have to leave their homes/villages for a certain period. Finding outlet markets for the crops that they want to grow is one specific activity that the ministry is stressing. The directorate of Development for Agriculture in the interior has also as policy to empower women in the interior. Most of the people living in the villages are women, children and the elderly. These women are always part of the engagement planning of agriculture activities in the interior.

2. The Ministry of Regional Development has two directorates, namely a Directorate for Sustainable Development Afro-Surinamese inland and Directorate for Sustainable Development Indigenous people. How effective do these directorates play in providing protection and providing assistance and guidance to indigenous and Afro Surinamese inland?

These directorates are relatively new, they were established late 2016. In the second half of 2017 the consultation started with the villages. To gather specific data in the villages/communities a baseline study was prepared in 2017 and will be implemented in 2018. The proposal was already approved by the Council of Ministers in 2017. Both directorates have their own budget to work with and in the communities. They work in close cooperation with the village leaders and assist community members who need help in different areas e.g. helping them with transportation to their villages or intermediary with personal and other problems. Both directorates are providing the indigenous & Maroon groups of information and also advise, assist & monitor them in community forest, entrepreneurship, land rights & the traditional authorities.

3. Has the State taken temporary measures to protect afro-descendants, indigenous and maroon women in vulnerable positions from gender discrimination?

No temporary measures are taken in this regard.

4. Complex migration influx from several Caribbean countries (such as Haiti and Cuba). We like to know if the state has infrastructure to accommodate people coming to the country asking for asylum or seeking for refugee status. Do you have standards in this respect?

Do you plan to adopt specific legislation accordance with the international obligations derived from the status of the state party concerning the CEDAW and the 1951 Geneva Convention and its protocol of 1997 and could you also perhaps tell us what treatment is afforded to people above all women who are applying for asylum in Suriname? Could you also give data on the origin and the background of these people and are there people among these groups who need international protection?

There are no standards yet, but there are plans to regulate this issue. A ministerial decision has to be made. The concept decision includes the conditions under which the applications will be taken in cooperation with the Red Cross. The intention is that the Red Cross will do the intake for the Ministry of Justice and Police and after assessment by the Ministry of Justice and Police a residence status of 2 years will be granted with the prohibition that these foreign nationals will not be expelled. Approximately 45 refugees and asylum seekers have now been registered for Suriname with a certificate from the UNHCR. Most have the nationality of, among others, Cuba, Jamaica, Venezuela, Liberia, Nigeria and other African countries. The possibility of granting a residence status to this group is now being considered.

5. Regarding women in detention we like to know how many girls and women are in detention? How many are serving pre-trial prison sentences and if they have the Bangkok rules applied to them so that they have access to benefits above alternative measures to imprisonment?

One girl and twelve women are in detention, while in the juvenile pre-sentence detention facility for boys and girls aged 10–18 years, who are awaiting trial (Doorgangscentrum Opa Doeli) there are two girls in pre-trial. Alternative sanctions are included in the Revision of the Penal Code in 2015 (SB 2015 No. 44). The Ministry is now working on the preconditions for implementing alternative sanctions.

6. What is being done with regard to the protection of residential and living areas of indigenous and tribal peoples? Do we have the necessary Infrastructure to adopt laws to protect these target groups?

In December 2017, a law for protection of the residential and living areas of the Indigenous and other Tribal People (Wet Bescherming Woon- en Leefgebieden) has been approved by the National Parliament, and will be published in due course. It means that around the residential and living areas of an indicated demarcation with a diameter of about 10 km, the State should not issue concessions.

7. Are indigenous and tribal peoples represented in the land rights office?

The land rights office does not exist anymore as currently both directorates of the Ministry of Regional Development are responsible for the land rights of the Indigenous and Tribal people. With regards to the representation of both groups it can be stated that most of the civil servants at both directorate/ land rights department are from indigenous & tribal origin.

Article 15

1. With regard to the dead letter in the Personnel Act, whereby women are forbidden to enter into contracts with the government. Why have the discriminatory revisions not yet been implemented in the Personnel Act? It does not cost anything.

A working group was set up to review the Government Personnel Act revision, but technical defects still had to be worked out, as a result of which the working group was put on hold, with the intention of re-establishing the working group in 2018.

2. Are there agencies taking care of the consequences of mining and the pollution caused by mercury? What is being done with regard to mercury in the interior as a result of mining activities and waste water?

There are three (3) agencies that take care of the consequences of mining and the pollution caused by mercury. With regard to mercury in the interior as a result of mining activities the following can be mentioned.

Currently the Bill for the Accession of Suriname to the Minamata Convention is at the National Parliament for approval. It is envisioned that the approval will be given in March of this year.

In 2013, NIMOS started a process to advise the government with regards to signature and ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This process included stakeholder consultations and resulted in an advisory document and a roadmap with activities for the gradual elimination of mercury from Suriname. Proposed activities include registration and legalization of ASGM activities in Suriname. This Advisory Document and Roadmap have guided the government of Suriname in taking a multitier approach to issues related to mercury pollution. A few of the activities named in the Roadmap are currently being implemented through two projects (enabling activities) funded by the Minamata Secretariat. The Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) and the National Action Plan for ASGM in Suriname (NAP) projects. Within both projects gender is also being mainstreamed.

Further a project is in its final stages for preparation of implementation and is envisioned to start mid 2018 for the duration of seven (7) years. This project seeks to improve the environmental management of mining in Suriname, particularly small-scale gold mining, which is the largest driver of deforestation in the country and contributes to biodiversity loss (through habitat degradation and pollution), climate change (through deforestation) and unsustainable land, water and forest management. A gender action plan was designed whereas gender disaggregated indicators and targets have been formulated in order to consider gender issues throughout the implementation and to monitor the impact of activities on women. The gender related measures that will be implemented are e.g. support participation of women in all trainings and demonstrations, and promote women's participation in mining groups that will be consolidated/established with project support; support women's participation in alternative income generation activities, particularly related to sustainable agriculture in at least two communities and undertake active consultation with women and women's groups.

Another policy initiative of the Ministry of Natural Resources in support of the reduction and elimination of mercury is revision of the Suriname Mining Act containing the use of mercury-free mining so it will minimize the negative effects on the people living in the area. Currently, there are no mandatory environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) for mines - only voluntary general guidelines for ESIAs and guidelines for the mining sector. To date only large scale gold mining companies have conducted ESIAs voluntarily, but these companies are mining without the use of mercury, however, mercury can still be released in the production process. No legislation/regulation exists in relation to emission standards in the mining industry either. It is therefore acknowledge that the existing Mining Act needs to be updated as it dates back to the Mining Decree E-58 of 1986.

The project "Mainstreaming global environment commitments for effective national environmental management" (CCCD), is also being implemented by NIMOS.

This project is targeted towards addressing cross-cutting capacity gaps and needs, by supporting interventions that will strengthen key government structures, as well as mechanisms for the civil society sector, to improve the institutional framework set up to implement the Rio Conventions and to deliver global environmental benefits. This project will also result in the collection of gender-disaggregated environmental data. This project will target the inclusion and participation of women in different ways. This project has assisted the Suriname REDD+ programme to produce reliable data on the status of Land use in Suriname. This also includes gold mining activities. Recently, NIMOS and SBB (Foundation for Forestry Management and Production Control) have produced accurate data and maps of location of ASGM mining areas through the use of GIS data and satellite imaging. This data will be used specifically in the formulation of the National Action Plan for Suriname and will enable the government to take specific measures with relation to gender issues in the ASGM sector.

With regard to waste water it can be mentioned that there are no national rules and regulations in place yet. When giving advice NIMOS advises that the wastewater should meet the norms and guidelines of the International Finance Corporation (IFC). These international norms and guidelines should be taken into consideration.

The Local governments (District Commissioners' Offices) also report issues of mining activities and waste water to the minister of Regional Development who shares this information with his colleagues of the ministries of Natural Resources, and Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management.

3. Does Suriname have measures regarding resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security. This regards a binding Security Council resolution. Is the information about this resolution distributed among the stakeholders, the border guards, all military units? Are female aid workers trained under this resolution? Is there relief for female asylum seekers based on this resolution?

The Republic of Suriname (RoS) recognizes the disproportionate impact conflict and post-conflict situations have on women and girls. It also acknowledges the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of a gender perspective in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts and maintaining international peace and security.

The RoS, despite its relative small size and scale of its armed forces underscores furthermore the importance of this resolution as well as the fact that this resolution provides an important means or instrument for national institutions, agencies and actors alike to assess the domestic implementation of this resolution and its impact. Unfortunately, the RoS has not yet submitted its mandatory annual national reports.

The Ministry of Defense of the RoS, more specifically the Sub Directorate for Personnel Affairs embarked on a program aimed at assessing among others gender perspective in the areas of Gender integration in the Armed Forces and Women in the Armed Forces. Part of that program had to do with national legislation and policies, Human Resources, Women in operations, Prevention of sexual harassment and assault and Women and military ranks. This program was regrettably not finalized, but the key findings and results can serve as important inputs for our national reporting.

4. Climate change: There are two national communications on climate change: one is of 2005 and the one pending. Can you tell us if the state party is intending to remedy the omission of the gender perspective that was missing in the first national communication on climate change? And the second national communication on climate change which is pending and in draft. This particular remedy of the omission on the gender perspective of climate change has an effect on rural women. How do we intend to address the challenges of climate change? Are these plans building on international frameworks in order to recruit women in this prevention that they are changing in disaster reduction of climate change?

Contrary to what was mentioned by the distinguished Member of the Committee, the State Party wishes to inform that its second national communication on climate change has been submitted to the UNFCCC on March 15, 2016 and is available on the website.

Furthermore the State Party wishes to inform that the process for the preparation of the third national communication will commence shortly and in this regard the State Party will give due consideration to a gender perspective, in particular the effect on rural women.

Article 15/16

(Article 35 of the constitution of Suriname recognizes and protect the family- provide that the parents) However, women do not seem to have the equal rights within the marriage. Articleof the civil code provides that the father is the only parent that has the guardianship over the children during the marriage. Further article 56 A (?) of the Civil Code provides that the children have to take the name of the father. The minimum age for marriage is still 15 years for girls and 17 years for boys. A survey conducted in 2010 found that nationwide approximately 11% of women age 15 – 20 years are married or in union who have husbands 10 years older or more. It was also reported that women who married at younger ages are more likely to believe that it is acceptable that the husbands beat their wives and more likely to experience the same fate.

1. Are tribal marriages still not provided by the law?

Tribal marriages are not provided by law.

2. Are same sex marriages regulated by the law?

Same sex marriages are not regulated by the law.

3. Can LGBTI women inherit property from the deceased partner?

An option for inheriting property of the deceased partner by LBGT woman is to make a will, since same sex marriages are not regulated by law in Suriname.

4. What measures are being taken to prevent child marriages?

Regarding child marriages the Republic of Suriname wishes to note that consultations between government and non-government organizations, led to the amendment of the law on child marriage in the revision of the Civil Code. The minimum age to enter into marriage for both boys and girls has been raised to 18 years in the draft revised Civil Code, which will be presented in the second quarter of 2018 by the Minister of Justice and Police to the national parliament for approval.

5. We understand from the reply to the list of issues that there is no national strategy to prevent and eliminate child marriage – union. Are there any measures taken for sensitization of girls as well as parents in that regard?

No measures are taken for the sensitization of girls as well as parents.

6. Are there data of victims of early child marriage, especially forced marriages? And will consideration be given to establish a complaint mechanism with the possibility of support for victims of early or forced marriages?

There are no cases of forced marriage registered at the official authorities such as the Public Prosecutors Office or at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing.

Below data is presented on the number of registered marriages in the age group 15-19 years at Civil Registry Office.

Marriages age group 15-19 years, period 2014-2017

Year	Male	Female	Total
2014	15	163	178
2015	24	160	184
2016	14	148	162
2017 (Jan-mid Nov)	18	110	128

7. What measures are being taken to bring tribal marriages within the legal framework?

No measures have been taken to bring tribal marriages within the legal framework.

8. Introduction of the civil code revision in parliament later this year. I would like to know whether civil society as well as the women and children's organizations has been consulted in the finalization process.

For the review of the Civil Code the Committee held hearings with the Bar of Lawyers, notaries, the University of Suriname, and the Court of Justice. At the same time the draft revision was posted on the website so that society including women's organizations and non-government organizations could respond. There were hardly comments.

9. Is corporal punishment considered as a criminal offense? And how many prosecutions have there been in recent years?

Corporal punishment is considered a criminal offense. In very serious cases, for example when serious physical injuries are involved, the suspects are taken into custody, prosecuted and tried. Due to the limited time, the figures on this could not be made available.