



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Good afternoon.

This CVF Leaders Meeting comes at a very important moment. Suriname, for example, is one of only two carbon-negative countries, yet to this day we, like other vulnerable countries, struggle. We experience first-hand the effects of the changing climate, and what we have seen in recent decades is that it robs many developing countries of even the scarce opportunities they have for socioeconomic development and progress.

There is still no mechanism today for real assistance to these countries for the loss of economic growth after natural disasters. There is assistance for the acute phase, but no real assistance to guarantee economic recovery and regain what was lost.

Vulnerability should not determine our future. We should determine what we can build through our own efforts, together with partners who are prepared to work with us on fair terms. We know what is happening in our countries as the climate changes. What we need is cooperation, and partners who understand that our countries need, and have a right to, development, rather than being set back every so often by the changing climate, especially low-lying countries and small island nations.

Suriname supports the Forum's Declaration on Development Reset and Cooperation, and we are ready to partner with you. Thank you.

H.E. DR. JENNIFER SIMONS

President
Republic of Suriname