**With reference to the questionnaire in relation to General Assembly resolution 68/268 on “strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”, adopted on 9 April 2014, the following response is provided by the Republic of Suriname.**

**Commitments and acknowledgements**

* The Government of the Republic of Suriname is committed to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in Suriname.
* Suriname recognizes the valuable contribution of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights system, including the treaty body system in the observance and the protection of human rights.
* In this context the reporting obligations originating in the various human rights instruments are considered an opportunity to assess national achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to address remaining challenges.
* Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/268 Suriname continued its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations through several capacity building activities, aiming at improved implementation and reporting under several Conventions, amongst others covering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.
* Suriname also acknowledges the important role of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in promoting and protecting human rights for all, including through assistance provided to governments to fulfill their human rights obligations.
* In this context there has been close cooperation with UN agencies and the OHCHR in preparation of interactive dialogues with UN human rights mechanisms.
* In addition, delegates of Suriname have respectively participated in the 27th, 32nd, 42nd and 48th regular sessions of the Human Rights Council through the “Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States in the work of the Council”.
* Suriname looks forward to the continued and increased cooperation with the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, the UPR mechanism and other international and regional bodies in its endeavors to ensure that the rights and freedoms of all that are present within the territory of Suriname are observed.
* **Simplified reporting procedure** (Operational paragraph (OP)1-2 resolution 68/268).

Suriname acknowledges that over the years there have been considerable efforts to simplify treaty body reporting. In this regard particular reference is made to the adoption of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPRs) as part of the new simplified reporting procedure.

This procedure can contribute to alleviating some of the particular reporting challenges Small States encounter as a result of ‘Small-State specific’ constraints.

Against this backdrop Suriname requests the consideration of offering/providing the simplified reporting procedure under all the treaty bodies.

* **Common Core Document** (OP3 resolution 68/268)

Suriname has submitted its latest Common Core Document in January 2022

* **Capacity building and technical assistance**

Suriname underscores the relevance and importance of OPs 17-20 of resolution 8/268, as technical cooperation remains important to step up efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially amidst the challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this context Suriname emphasizes the importance of involving the train the trainer’s aspect in all capacity building initiatives, for both governmental and non-governmental organizations and to engage with relevant local experts in this regard.

During its 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR), held in November 2021, Suriname has supported the UPR recommendation “to constructively work with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to Suriname is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the incorporation into its national legal system of the obligations deriving from ratified human rights treaties”.

* In relation to OP 19, Suriname proposes the following:

*"To encourage the human rights treaty bodies to appoint, at the request of state parties, an expert for the follow up to the concluding observations including the recommendations. The expert will, amongst others, provide through a consultation process, guidance and clarification on the wording of specific recommendations as identified by the respective state party".*

The Republic of Suriname pledges its full commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Suriname and the promotion of democracy, good governance and strengthening of the rule of law, as a fundamental framework for economic prosperity, sustained peace and international cooperation.