Suriname will be one of the 16 countries that will have their human rights records examined this week during the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review being held in Geneva, Switzerland.

This will be Suriname's first ever Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the State will have to declare on the actions that it has taken to improve the human rights situation in the country to fulfill its human rights obligations. The review is on the 6 May, at 9.30 am (SUR Time), and Suriname is scheduled to be examined by Mauritania, Qatar and Ecuador.

The review will draw information from three separate documents: a report prepared by the Government of Suriname; contributions from the United Nations; and from other stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, human rights defenders, academic institutions and research institutes, civil society representatives, etc.).

Besides Suriname, 15 States will have their human rights records examined during the eleventh session of the Council. These countries are Belgium, Denmark, Palau, Somalia, the Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, Latvia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Greece, Samoa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Hungary and Papua New Guinea.

Representatives of the 16 countries under review are expected to come before the Council's Working Group, which comprises the entire membership of the 47-member Human Rights Council and Observer States, to present measures they have taken and efforts they have made to fulfill their human rights obligations and commitments, assessing both positive developments and identified challenges.

The final outcome document includes recommendations made by Member States of the Council and the government's response.

**More about the Universal Periodic Review**

Under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) the human rights situation of all the countries within the United Nations are reviewed. This is a new human rights monitoring system of the UN Human Rights Council. It aims at improving the human rights situation on the ground in each of the 192 countries within the UN.
The UPR was created through the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251 which established the Human Rights Council itself. It is a cooperative process which, by 2011, will have reviewed the human rights records of every country. Currently, no other universal mechanism of this kind exists. The UPR is one of the key elements of the new Council which reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ultimate aim of this new mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.