New UNDP Programme to strengthen Suriname’s National Assembly

On the 16 of August, the Parliament of Suriname, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP signed a multiyear programme that will seek to strengthen the National Assembly in carrying out its core functions and responsibilities, based upon a comprehensive approach to parliamentary development.

Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, Speaker of the Parliament, Winston Lackin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Thomas Gittens, UNDP Country Director signed the new agreement which deepens the cooperation between these two institutions for the next four years.

The project will focus on eight areas: legislative function, oversight function, representative function of Parliament, Secretariat and staff services, parliamentary strengthening instruments, international relations, gender equality and ICT strengthening.

The project will provide policy guidance, initiate capacity building initiatives and facilitate best practices in parliamentary development and good governance. The budget attached to this project amounts to a total of USD 2,357,515.50. UNDP has committed to USD 200,000 over a period of four years. Discussions are ongoing with other development partners in the country for co-financing the programme.

In 2010 the Parliament and UNDP jointly implemented a number of activities aimed at institutional development of the National Assembly. Activities implemented included technical briefing sessions for the MPs regarding Climate Change, Housing and Doing Business in Suriname.