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**OFFICIAL GAZETTE
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SURINAME**

RESOLUTION No. 4972 of 7 July 1999 regarding the establishment and terms of reference of a body charged with holding negotiations between the authorities and civil servants' organizations on basic conditions of employment and fringe benefits.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

On the recommendation of the Minister of Internal Affairs,

In view of Resolution No. 6385 of 20 June 1974 (Official Gazette No.34 of 1974);

WITH REFERENCE TO:

- a. the "Labour Act" (valid text as published in the Official Gazette No. 14 of 1985;
- b. the "Civil Servants' Salaries Decree" (Official Gazette No. 153 of 1980);

CONSIDERING:

that, in view of prevailing circumstances, it is desirable to review the terms of reference, as well as the powers and procedure, of the negotiating body established by virtue of the Resolution of 20 June 1974;

that in order to do so the relevant Resolution should accordingly be replaced by an appropriate regulation;

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

Article I

1. There shall be one governmental negotiating body, hereinafter referred to as the Negotiating Body, which on behalf of the Government shall carry on negotiations with

civil servants' organizations on basic conditions of employment and fringe benefits for government staff.

2. The Negotiating Body shall be comprised of three permanent members appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister of Internal Affairs.
3. If the negotiations of the Negotiating Body concern specific government departments, departmental experts shall take part therein as non-permanent members. They shall be appointed by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs, on the recommendation of the relevant Minister.
4. The Minister of Internal Affairs shall make the arrangements necessary for the Negotiating Body and its Office to function properly.
5. The remuneration and allowances for expenses for the chairman and the permanent and non-permanent members of the Negotiating Body shall be fixed by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Article II

1. The Negotiating Body shall take note of all matters submitted to it for consideration by and/or through the intermediary of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and shall negotiate to the best of its ability with labour organizations designated by central Government, with the aim of finding acceptable solutions to the matters submitted to it for consideration or, as the case may be, to reach agreements with the organizations concerned.
2. The Negotiating Body shall negotiate on the basis of policy guidelines and/or instructions for negotiation given to it by or on behalf of the Government.

Article III

1. During negotiations with civil servants' organizations, the Negotiating Body shall be authorized to make proposals which take into consideration the Government's policy on conditions of employment, the macroeconomic situation and budgetary constraints.
2. The Negotiating Body shall further be authorized to hear disputes over the application of existing rules and regulations or the failure to comply with agreements or arrangements reached with central government or specific departments.
3. Within the scope of the powers granted to it, the Negotiating Body shall be able to use reasonable discretion in order to arrive at acceptable settlements and/or arrangements with its negotiating partners.
4. Under its terms of reference, the Negotiating Body shall be able to call upon information from and/or expert opinions of relevant government agencies.

5. The Negotiating Body shall regularly report to the Minister of Internal Affairs and, as far as possible, shall liaise with the Minister of Internal Affairs and, if necessary with any other Minister concerned, in regard to the course of the negotiations.

Article IV

The Negotiating Body shall communicate the outcome of its negotiations, as well as any interim and final agreements reached, to the Minister of Internal Affairs in writing.

Article V

Any other matters concerning the functioning of the Negotiating Body shall be decided by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Article VI

1. The present Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Suriname.
2. The present Resolution shall enter into force on the date following the date of publication and shall be retroactive to 1 December 1997, where applicable.
3. The Resolution of 20 June 1974 shall cease to be valid upon entry into force of the present Resolution.
4. The Minister of Internal Affairs shall be in charge of carrying out the present Resolution.

Paramaribo, 7 July 1999

J. A. WIJDENBOSCH

Done at Paramaribo, on 14 July 1999
The Minister of Internal Affairs

S. W. KERTOIDJOJO