

Women Empowerment: Surinam, Iceland Join Forces Promoting Beijing Declaration



United Nations, July 4 (Caribbeannews-RHC) -- After two years of preparation, Suriname and Iceland finally launched the United Nations Friends Group to promote the implementation of the Beijing Declaration globally.

The ceremony and working lunch meeting was attended by the ambassadors of China, Argentina, Liberia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Grenada, Timor-Leste and various deputy chiefs of mission who also spoke at the event.

The representative of UN Women at the launching event presented a broad overview of the scheduled activities so far to be implemented during the year-long campaign.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, approved unanimously in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, is a global commitment to achieving equality, development and peace for women worldwide.

The ceremony was opened by the permanent representative of Iceland to the United Nations,

Ambassador Greta Gunnarsdottir. Suriname's Ambassador to the UN, Henry MacDonald, introduced his idea of having a "Barbershop Conference" on violence against women later this year at the UN.

"This all male conference will be in line with a similar initiative that will be organized in India in the month of November 2014, with the aim of sensitizing males in joining the struggle to halt violence against women and girls once and for all," said the Surinamese ambassador.

According to the two architects of the Friends Group, the UN campaign with the slogan: "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it," which was launched in the Apollo Theater just five days ago, has now officially started and it will be up to the group to provide UN Women with the necessary impetus and support to reach the targets set for the coming year.

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