

PRESS STATEMENT

GREEN STATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK

18 October 2018, Georgetown - Government of Guyana has received the first draft of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. The Department of Environment, together with UN Environment, presented the strategy areas of the strategy at the International Small Business Summit, on the 18-19 October, in Georgetown, Guyana.

The Regional Director of the UN Environment Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Leo Heileman, participated at the opening of the inaugural Green Guyana International Small Business Expo and Summit.

Mr. Heileman said The Government of Guyana is highly committed to Green Economy, and has become member of our Global Partnership for action on Green Economy (PAGE), a joint initiative of five UN Agencies: UN Environment, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR and UNDP. We are working closely with the government and multiple stakeholders, supporting the transition towards a Green Economy. So far in 2018, PAGE has started the work on economic modelling, a green jobs assessment and a green industry assessment, and the alignment of the Green State Strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals. You will hear more about this work in the next panel and tomorrow's panel on Green Manufacturing.

Throughout the summit and expo you will see evidence of how small business are innovating in Guyana today, and the success of Government efforts to support them. Public initiatives like the small business procurement programme, the assistance offered by the Small Business Bureau, and the small business tax procedures, all strengthen the enabling environment and help small businesses thrive."

The executive summary was developed from a multi-layered, nationwide, stakeholder consultation process conducted throughout the year in keeping with the vision of H.E. President Granger who explains Guyana's determination to become a 'green state.'

The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 is Guyana's 20-year, national development policy that reflects the guiding vision and principles of the 'green state':

The emphasis of the strategy is on creating "an inclusive and prosperous Guyana that provides a good quality of life for all its citizens based on sound education and social protection, low-carbon and resilient development, providing new economic opportunities, justice and political empowerment."

It presents priorities for Guyana within three core areas: managing natural resource wealth; supporting economic resilience; and building human capital.

To that end the *Green State Development Strategy* sets out multiple strategic actions to strengthen fiscal and monetary policy; sustainably manage land resources; increase economic competitiveness and resilience; build resilient infrastructure; transition to renewable energy; improve trade, investment and international cooperation; and foster a healthy, educated and socially cohesive population among other things.

The first draft report is expected to be presented to the Cabinet next week as the work continues on further developing the policy.

UN Environment and PAGE are part of the sponsors of the Green Guyana International Small Business Expo and Summit, which is an outreach platform for the *Green State Development Strategy*.

The summit opened on October 18 and will continue until October 20 at the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel and Providence Stadium.

More information:

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About PAGE:

Since 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into an increasingly prominent alliance of UN Agencies, international partner organizations and governments. The partnership is recognized as an innovative and efficient model of excellence for delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Drawing on the expertise of five UN Agencies – UN Environment, the International Labour Organization, the UN Development Programme, the UN Industrial Development Organization, and the UN Institute for Training and Research – PAGE challenges business-as-usual growth and business models, and places sustainability at the heart of economic systems. At the global level, PAGE partners with the donor community, the wider UN system, governments, civil society and the private sector to amplify and accelerate transitions to greener, more inclusive development, and to support future generations and sustainable development pathways.

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