



---

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE HONOURABLE ELVIN NIMROD  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GRENADA**

**AT THE  
GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE  
SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

\*\*\*

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007**

**Please Check Against Delivery**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to join previous delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of the Sixty-second Session of this Assembly. Let me assure you of Grenada's unconditional support as you guide these important and crucial deliberations towards a fruitful and tangible conclusion.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Her Excellency Ms. Sheika Haya Rashad Al-Khalifa who laboured tirelessly during her Presidency of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session, and for her timely and productive initiatives. In addition, my delegation would also like to renew its support to the Secretary General in his endeavour to advance the agenda of the United Nations and to make it more effective.

**Mr. President**

In your opening remarks to this General Assembly, you have identified five areas as your priority: Climate Change, Economic Development, the Millennium Development Goals, Terrorism, and UN Reform. Grenada salutes your vision and perceptiveness in recognizing the critical issues facing our world today, and it is through this lens that I'd like to project the views of my country.

On the question of Climate Change, we applaud the Secretary-General for convening the recently concluded High Level Event on climate change, and we are satisfied that this will provide the stimulus and momentum required for the forthcoming negotiations in Bali.

Indeed, for this sixty-second session, my delegation welcomes the tremendous emphasis being placed on climate change and, *based on the statements made thus far*, we are heartened to note the overwhelming commitment to preparing a better world for our future generations.

This recently concluded event was not our first attempt. Climate Change was addressed in Rio, Barbados and Mauritius. We are blessed with a penchant for songs of praise in this multilateral temple of commitment and sacrifice. The chorus of our voices reverberates loudly in these halls of wisdom only to sound a hollow note as we exit the archways of these chambers and backslide into reality.

As in all of these conferences, the real challenge that we face is to convert, what seems like a religious fervor, into good deeds in the neighborhood of our global village. As we preach, so too must we become converts. Let us move from resolutions to results.

As we head towards Bali, we must craft a negotiating table that extends well beyond the dimensions of the intergovernmental process. This table must have seats for the unborn generations, as well as seats for this generation wishing to taste the social and economic prosperity of a new world order.

**Mr. President,**

Because of sea level rise, we in the small island states face the spectre of environmental refugees and our people are already being displaced. For example, in the **Maldives** with its nineteen hundred (1900) islands, this country has undertaken significant expenditure in building sea defenses and in creating safe-zone re-settlements for its people.

The low lying islands and countries of this world deserve a far more robust and accountable response from the international community. In this regard, we welcome the investigation of the Maldives into the human dimensions of climate change.

Mr. President, as Grenada knows so very well, the effect of Climate Change is the most dangerous threat to the economic development, peace-and-security and territorial-existence of Small Island States. We therefore welcome the efforts of the British Mission here in New York, which has worked ceaselessly to raise awareness and understanding of the threat of Climate Change, echoing the very concerns that many small island states, and low-lying coastal nations have raised over the last fifteen years.

In fact, one thing that has become painfully clear to Grenada is how easily, in the blink of an eye an entire country can be flattened. In our case, it was the eye of Hurricane Ivan. Hurricanes and cyclones are appearing in unusual latitudes and with greater ferocity. They are appearing further south in the Atlantic affecting islands like Grenada and they are appearing further north in the Indian Ocean hitting the Seychelles for the first time in 50 years. And just this summer we have seen two category five hurricanes, Dean and Felix, make landfall in the Caribbean within two weeks of each other causing loss of lives and hundreds of millions in damages.

In Grenada's case the destruction was twice times GDP. However, with the grace of God, the resilience of the Grenadian people, the help from our Caribbean and international friends and with the leadership of my Prime Minister, we continue our aspirations to **Build Back Better**. In this regard, I would like to pay special tribute to the People's Republic of China whose generous assistance and commitment to our development have been greatly appreciated by the government and the people of Grenada. Because of their help, Grenada was able to host Cricket World Cup 2007 at our new stadium which was financed and constructed by the Peoples Republic of China.

None-the-less, despite all concerted efforts, Climate Change has led to a downward assessment of our sovereign credit rating and Grenada is now under the guidance of the IMF. Grenada cannot borrow money on the international markets to replant its nutmeg, to mend its coastal infrastructure, or to upgrade its tourism industry. As a result, we have imposed a reconstruction levy on our people, at a time when global energy and food prices are increasing. The economic burden of global warming, Mr. President, is hitting the pockets of ordinary women and men in the streets of Grenada. The poor farmer, the hardworking teacher, and the waiters and waitresses in our hotels; these ordinary island citizens are paying the price for the lifestyles of the major emitters.

A new paradigm is needed within the UN System and the Bretton Woods Institutions. Within this paradigm must lie an understanding that Small Island Developing States have an

*environmental* and *economic* vulnerability that warrants a new set of metrics, a new set of rules and a new level of support.

**Mr. President,**

As we head towards a post-2012 agreement, we need aggressive mitigation targets. These targets are critical for us, because, sea-temperature-rise is already causing bleaching of coral reefs. Loss of these eco-systems has a harmful impact on fish stocks, one of our main sources of protein and foreign exchange.

The Caribbean Climate Change Centre indicates that a further one degree temperature rise will lead to significant loss of tuna and dolphin stocks. And, to compound the matter, in **Mauritius** and the **Seychelles**, Tuna stocks are diving deeper seeking cooler waters. In recent years, the fish catch has dwindled and revenues have diminished. To alleviate these problems, more investment is now needed in new studies, as well as, in fishing technologies, equipment and practices.

**Mr. President,**

As we approach the Bali Meeting, Grenada re-iterates the position articulated by the Alliance of Small Island States, that the **viability** and the **adaptability** of the most vulnerable, such as the SIDS, must be the **fundamental benchmark** against which all negotiations are framed. In the efforts to mitigate climate change, no nation must be left behind. Let that be our guiding principle if we are to make meaningful progress in Bali.

While these negotiations are on-going, my country and many other island states and low lying countries, are taking all necessary steps to cushion the fallouts and dislocations. Adaptation funding, and funding for economic development, are almost indivisible.

Grenada calls for the urgent completion of the institutional arrangements for the **Adaptation Fund** by COP 13, in a manner that guarantees that priority be given to the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

On the question of the **Global Environmental Facility** (GEF), we welcome the energy, enthusiasm and flexibility of its new Chief Executive Officer. We are, however, disappointed with the implications of the Resource Allocation Framework. Never-the-less, we look forward to strengthening the working relationship with the GEF following reforms that make it more responsive to the needs of small island states.

Climate Change, Energy, Economic Development and the Millennium Development Goals are so tightly interwoven that over the long term, we cannot tease out any one thread without weakening the fabric of our common aspirations for prosperity and peace.

**Mr. President,**

It is well known that women are the most affected by poverty, and suffer the highest levels of marginalization. As the United Nations continues its look at the issue of the “*gender architecture*” and the general advancement of women, Grenada sees the empowerment of women as being critical for our development.

We therefore urge other states to contribute to the many bodies of the United Nations which promote and seek to secure avenues for women in the development process. Let us contribute to their budget and not to their demise; for even if only a few benefit, it sets the stage for others to follow. In our view, the advancement of women represents a most powerful force for social and economic progress. Investment in gender mainstreaming is an investment in social justice, economic diversity and political stability.

The UN must lead by example. Guided by the tenets of the Millennium Development Goals, Grenada is working arduously to improve the status of its women. Several years ago only a few women held high political and public offices in Grenada, but today, we are proud to report that approximately 50% of our cabinet or executive branch is made up of women, and many others hold top positions within the public service.

**Mr. President,**

In our region, trade and economic development top the agenda. We can also boast of our progress in regional integration as we confront the demands of Globalization.

Economic Development requires sustainable energy and as such we recognize the need to broaden our energy options. Certainly, the Bretton Woods Institutions could do more to bring equity financing, such as venture capital, so that new and innovative clean technologies can be developed. The quantum leap that we require in energy to power the growth of the developing world will come from the innovators; those with the least to lose and not necessarily those with legacy investments in fossil fuel infrastructure.

**Mr. President,**

The challenge facing the vulnerable states of this world can only be resolved if we ourselves transform our thinking and reform our methodologies. For this reason we support the revitalization of the General Assembly. My delegation joins the call for the expansion in the membership of the Security Council in both categories to allow for a more representative Council of the 192 States and five regions, which it represents. This way we can achieve much in assembling a stronger and more powerful Council which will be better able to fulfill its mandate in a fair, just and transparent manner.

On this theme, Mr. President, Grenada as small as it is, has the honour to highlight its humble but valuable contribution to the securing of stability in Haiti. This year Grenada has increased its police personnel to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We encourage others to give whatever support, no matter how *minute*, to the efforts of international peacekeeping initiatives. We are however hopeful that very soon this unit and others like it would no longer be needed.

**Mr. President,**

In closing, I must indicate that despite the challenges outlined relative to our economic viability and territorial integrity, we still have to pay close attention to terrorism and the threats to world peace and security. Grenada remains steadfast in its commitment to the international community to fight terrorism in all its forms and to ensure that the seeds of this poisonous weed never take root on our shores.

Grenada is convinced that a free and democratic world is our best alternative and, as such, pledges its full support towards the betterment of lives worldwide; I call on all nations, big and small, rich and poor, to contribute even more to this noble task.

**Mr. President,**

We are all obviously singing from the same song sheet. Let us harmonise the sound of our voices to amplify action for the citizens of our world. It must echo triumphantly across the generations so that when it is replayed with fidelity to our children and grand children they will listen with dignity and not with disdain.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**