



GRENADA

STATEMENT BY

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

**GENERAL DEBATE
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

26th SEPTEMBER 2006, NEW YORK

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
800 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 400-K
NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 599-0301; FAX: (212) 599-1540
e-mail: grenada@un.int

Madam President
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam President, I am honoured to join previous delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of the Sixty-first Session of this Assembly. Let me assure you of Grenada's support as you guide these important deliberations towards the implementation of a Global Partnership for Development.

My delegation would also like to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, Foreign Minister of Sweden, who laboured tirelessly during his Presidency of the 60th Session, and for his efforts in guiding the follow-up process to the Summit Outcome.

My delegation welcomes the Secretary General's tenth and final report, which gives a comprehensive review of the organization's achievements, challenges and preparation for the future. It is fitting at this juncture to convey, to the Secretary-General, the appreciation of the Government and people of Grenada for his sterling contribution to world peace and security during his tenure at the helm of this organization. The road was not always smooth, but with his calm disposition, unmistakable eloquence, and moreover his astute and dedicated leadership, the organization was able to overcome the rough patches. We heartily commend his efforts to strengthen the United Nations through the reform process, and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Madam President,

We meet in very difficult times. The effects of rapid technological changes, of new geopolitical and economic alliances, of evolving rules in international trade, and particularly security concerns, continue to grip ordinary citizens in our small countries and regions worsening the notion of an uncertain future.

My delegation believes that this year's theme – *“Implementing a Global Partnership for Development”*, is timely and one which, if we work together, will enhance our economies in all of its aspects.

It is for this reason that within our region, we have taken the necessary steps in response to the challenges we face, by deepening our integration arrangements with the creation of the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Recognizing the changing trends with movement of skills, Grenada has placed great emphasis on the economic empowerment of its young people, as well as the creation of a more diverse and non-traditional job sector. Having lost much of our traditional agriculture through natural disasters and the changing global environment, we have been forced to create alternatives through global partnerships.

Madam President,

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, we have encountered untold challenges in attempting to achieve the prescribed goals. As this august body is well aware, Grenada, as one of the small states which hold membership in this organization, has, on many occasions, relied, not only on our immediate regional partners, but on the wider membership and respective United Nations agencies during some very difficult and trying times. Our most recent past is not yet overcome since we

are still rebuilding our shattered economy following the devastation of hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. However, despite these challenges, we pledge to continue to work towards the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals.

We have made significant strides in efforts to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases along with improvements in the education sector, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

Grenada has, over the years, worked closely and successfully with the United Nations agencies in our region. Therefore, we are hopeful that during this session, no effort will be spared to ensure the sustainability of these agencies.

Madam President,

My delegation has, on numerous occasions, made reference to the unfortunate reality that special and differential treatment for small and vulnerable economies, is fast becoming a thing of the past. We have seen decreases in financial and technical support from traditional partners, and reduction in the market for trade in goods and services.

In this vein, Madam President, the suspension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in July 2006, is a major setback to my country. International trade and reduction in poverty are inextricably linked to development. Greater market access for products from developing countries can lead to economic growth and higher standards of living. Grenada, therefore, looks forward to the resumption of these negotiations.

In the past few months the United Nations has been encumbered with the task of keeping peace and security in many parts of the world. My delegation commends the efforts made in this respect and welcomes the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission, which will assist states in the post-conflict era. We extend condolences to the families of those brave men and women who lost their lives in the service of the organization. Grenada is proud to be a police-contributing country with the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and looks forward to continuing its involvement in this area.

My delegation is well aware that this organization will have to increase its efforts in combating terrorism, and welcomes the recently agreed upon counter-terrorism strategy as a positive step in this regard.

Grenada makes it clear that it uncompromisingly condemns terrorism and all acts of illegal violence, and pledges its full cooperation in combating this phenomenon.

Though my delegation is supportive of these measures, as a small island developing state, we are faced with serious financial and technical constraints in order to maintain continued peace and security within our region. The measures we have implemented in this respect will be tested, as we host the 2007 Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean.

Madam President,

My delegation, in applauding the creation of the Human Rights Council, is hopeful that the new body would be able, through its work, to ensure that democracy and good governance is observed in all its aspects. We fully support the Secretary-

General's sentiments that mainstreaming all human rights, including the right to development, is necessary, and support to member states in their efforts to build stronger national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights is of extreme importance.

Grenada was indeed honoured to participate at the highest level in the launch of the new Central Emergency Response Fund earlier this year, and to lend its support to the growth of the fund. We commend the work of the organization in this regard and are well aware of the importance of maintaining and supporting this fund, especially since globally, there has been an increase in natural and humanitarian disasters. We are pleased with the decision to expand the relationship outside of the membership to include private, individual and non-governmental sectors.

We call on the international community to honour its responsibility and commitment to the full implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and to support programmes in our region related to early warning systems, the Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility, and vulnerability reduction, while at the same time building resilience.

My delegation has taken note of the resolution on development. However, we are disappointed that this aspect of the summit outcome has not progressed with the kind of vigour we would have welcomed. This is of special importance to countries like my own, since support for development objectives is paramount to our economic sustainability. We cannot fail to reiterate our vulnerability and call for swift action during this session, in order to ensure the stability of our small societies.

Madam President,

My delegation salutes the Secretary-General's efforts in strengthening the organization through its engagement with civil society and other non-state actors, and agrees that it is important in the legitimacy of democratic ideals.

Grenada has increased its efforts to strengthen the relationship between Government and the private sector through partnerships in trade, education, health, tourism and investment activities and has already seen positive results from this type of engagement, especially in the aftermath of the recent hurricanes.

Madam President,

2007 will mark the Bi-centenary of the passage of the Act abolishing the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in the British Empire, and it is anticipated that the General Assembly will hold a commemorative event to mark this historic occasion. The CARICOM Group of countries will table a resolution in the General Assembly and we expect the full support of all member states in this regard.

We, along with other members of the Caribbean Community, feel compelled on a regular basis to make the plea for special attention to be paid to the threat facing the Caribbean Sea.

Grenada, therefore, takes this opportunity to reiterate its concerns over the transshipment of nuclear waste and other hazardous material through the marine environment of the Caribbean. The Caribbean Sea provides for us a lifeline, the potential loss of which could be enormous to our people's livelihood. As we are well

aware, loss of economic opportunities brings with it poverty and social unrest and ultimately threatens democracy - a solid tradition, on which the Caribbean Community continues to pride itself, we therefore urge understanding and solidarity with our cause.

Madam President,

My delegation applauds the organization for its work in the areas of reform and looks forward to the continuation of this process especially in the areas of Development, ECOSOC Reform, Secretariat and Management Reform, Security Council Reform, System-wide Coherence, Disarmament and Non-proliferation, and other areas, which have only received partial attention. Let us proceed with vigour our work in ensuring that this august body find ways, not only to sustain, but to continue to build on the successes of its past achievements.

The many challenges that we all now face make it necessary that we work together to make the planet a better place for future generations.

Let us then commit ourselves to cooperating with, and supporting each other, in the journey towards genuine development.

Finally, Madam President, my delegation, having listened to the debate over the last few days, is heartened by the pledges of support and is convinced that together we can make it work to our collective benefit.

Grenada is pleased to join in this pledge and looks forward to working with the organization and its partners in attaining this goal.

I thank you.