



Statement

By

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At the

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, Mr. Chairman I wish to congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to lead this very important session of the Commission, and to place on record my delegation's commitment to your work for a fruitful and successful session.

I also wish to join the previous speakers in thanking the Secretary-General for his three reports to this session of the Commission on Population and Development.

As the session devoted to the assessment of the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action, we consider the 47th session of the CPD as a critical opportunity to advance our efforts to improve the lives of our people, with equity and dignity; and ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

In this connection, we wish to thank the UN System, which under UNFPA, worked closely with Member States through the global survey design process and the regional reviews to produce the report entitled, "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014".

Grenada has embraced the drive to enhance individual capabilities and ensure sustainable development.

In our case we have established a number of programmes to do just that.

Time would not permit me to go through all of these programmes, but I wish to highlight some that are of particular significance.

In Grenada, the main achievements are wider access to universal education, streamlining of the social safety net programme, programmes to address the needs of the youth population, the protection of human rights of the vulnerable population of women, children, and the elderly, expansion of access to universal health care.

The Government of Grenada has demonstrated a high level of political will in terms of putting gender based violence as a social issue priority, consequently, policies and protocols to address issues of domestic violence were subsequently implemented. The stance of advocacy to protect women and children from gender-based violence adopted by the government is indicative of Grenada's commitment to achieving the ICPD goals.

We are also particularly pleased and excited with the investment we have made in training the youth of our nation so that they will be better able to empower themselves.

Nearly three percent of the country's entire population -- which also represents a bigger chunk of the youth population -- are involved in a youth training and an internship programme called Imani.

Thousands of youths -- who are unemployed and sometimes under skilled are engaged in the two year Imani programme of training and internship -- while at the same time being given a generous survival stipend.

Our government regards this as an important investment in the concept of empowerment and human independence.

We are determined to implement policies that will more effectively take care of the more vulnerable in our society.

Only a few weeks ago we launched a new social enhancement regime that will ensure that more people who are in danger of falling through the cracks are directly helped through a series of programmes so that they will be able to find their feet again.

Government is also pushing ahead on the issue of juvenile justice.

We are cognizant of the need to overhaul the system to ensure that the at-risk youth is properly and effectively rehabilitated.

However, while there have been significant achievements, there have also been challenges to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. Financial constraints, lack of/insufficient technical expertise, legislative institutional framework needs to be developed, consistent integration of key stakeholders into the development processes have been identified as impediments to further align Grenada to achieving the ICPD goals.

Grenada's commitment is only limited by its resources. And in that regard, the support of our international partners will be crucial for us to achieve the stated goals.

For example, we intend to complete a long delayed juvenile centre in the east of the island, and will need additional support in helping to establish the centre and then subsequently, in helping to ensure its efficient operations.

That centre is thankfully entering its final stage of completion.

We will seek to continue to engage donor agencies and other governments and bodies in this regard, to ensure a successful completion and execution.

Despite these challenges, the Government of Grenada remains committed to ensuring that the nation continues on the path of sustainable economic development. Thus, the ICPD goals continue to be a priority in Grenada.

I thank you.