

**STATEMENT OF GRENADA TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
BEYOND 2014**

**Delivered by
Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada
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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government and People of Grenada to welcome the report of the Secretary-General, A/69/62 entitled "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014" as well as the Index Report on the interactive debate of the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

We are pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 review and note that we have made considerable progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We are however aware of the challenges that still remain to improve the quality of lives of all our people, ensure equality and equity and protect the environment for succeeding generations. We therefore share the urgency of the findings of the review, which show that, despite significant gains in poverty reduction and economic growth since the International Conference on Population and Development, many have been left behind, lacking fulfilment of basic needs, meaningful work, access to social protection, or public services in health or education and that there are still significant barriers for many

people to enjoy their human rights. These issues, as well as the conclusion that the current state of income and wealth inequality is unsustainable, and threatens future economic growth, the cohesion and security of societies, and the capacity of people to adapt and innovate in response to changing environmental conditions, are relevant to the discussions that will take place during the Climate Summit tomorrow and the general debate that follows.

We note that the report addresses in a comprehensive manner ways to enhance individual capabilities and resilience and ensure sustainable development. We are pleased to see that human rights and equality define the analytical approach to the report. We share the conclusion of the report that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity — across the multiple sectors of the ICPD and throughout the life-course — is the foundation of sustainable development.

The focus on increasing wealth and income inequalities; unfulfilled gender equality and empowerment of women; the need for lifelong learning and building human capabilities especially for young people; addressing the inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health services, including through strengthening health systems both in rural and urban areas, have significant implications for development policy.

Similarly, increasingly diverse household structures and living arrangements require us to plan and build sustainable cities and strengthen urban-rural linkages. The impact of population dynamics on the micro and macro levels also requires the integration of population dynamics into development planning at the national, regional and international level.

We agree that the development challenges we face require systematic participation of all stakeholders in crafting responses to these challenges, which require partnership and global leadership through the UN.

In this regard, we are pleased to reiterate our support expressed in the context of the regional review of the implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 where we joined in the adoption of the regional plan of action for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We are fully committed to the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development taking into account the outcome of our regional review and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014 review.

We call for the inclusion of the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's report and the regional review outcomes in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

My country is proud to join the international community in reaffirming support for the historic ICPD Programme of Action as well as for the transformational vision presented in the report of the Secretary-General.

Thank you