



Statement Delivered by

Senator the Hon. George W. Prime,
Minister of the Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development

Head of Delegation of Grenada

To the High Level Segment of the
Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP18) to
the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

and the

Eight Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8)

Under the Auspices of the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
UNFCCC.

Qatar National Convention Center, Doha, Qatar,
December 5, 2012.

Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President,

I bring warmest greetings on behalf of the Government and People of Grenada to the Government and People of Qatar.

We thank you also for the excellent arrangements made to facilitate our work and for the kind hospitalities extended to me, and to my delegation since our arrival to your illustrious country.

Grenada associates itself with the statement made by Nauru on behalf of small Island Developing States and with Algeria on behalf of G-77 and China.

Mr. President,

I join the many voices before me in offering our congratulations to you on your election to the high office of President of the Conference of Parties to this Convention and extend our thanks and gratitude for your astute leadership and guidance during this meeting.

Grenada wishes you well and pledges our support and our commitment to work diligently towards a successful conclusion of this COP18 here in Doha and great achievements throughout the entire period of your presidency.

Mr. President, you can also count on us as we seek collectively to address the myriad of challenges and problems posed by the scourge of climate change.

Yes, you can count Grenada in!

Mr. President, Grenada faces the threat of a serious drought in 2013. This will be on the heels of the country's most serious drought in history which occurred in 2010 and the most severe hurricanes in history which occurred in 2004 and 2005.

To put these climate events into proper economic impact perspective, the damage caused to Grenada by only one of these two storms, Hurricane Ivan, amounted to 200 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Grenada has now experienced two, once-in-50-years storms within one year of each other, and is facing two once-in-50-years droughts within three years of each other.

These are unusual events to which recent science is pointing, and they are indicative of

the unprecedented changes the world is already experiencing and can expect to increase.

This is why, Mr. President, Grenada stands to be counted in among those who must commit to the strengthening of the multilateral, rules-based system of a legally binding nature, for the governance and management of the climate change phenomenon; one that is based on the principles of, and in line with, the objectives of the Convention.

This is why Grenada has committed to reduce its small carbon emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and that the country will be carbon neutral by 2030.

We are on course to well over 2.0 degrees Celsius and headed toward a climate cliff from which the pull back, MUST begin here in Doha.

The Doha outcome must include:

Real, robust and practical mitigation ambition and a corresponding shared vision, driven by indisputable scientific foundation, new knowledge and conclusions to the scale and the integrity that guarantees the survival and viability of all states, economies and peoples.

This begins with real and meaningful outcomes for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; Substantive progress on the international mechanism to address loss and damage; real and substantive progress on the agreed infrastructure and means of implementation under the long term cooperative action

The Doha outcome must include a shared vision and pre 2020 mitigation ambition towards a well below 1.5 degree world with a clear programme towards a ratifiable legally binding protocol by 2015.

Mr. President, we regret and are deeply saddened by the pace, and the lack of ambition that have characterized the negotiations to this point. We remind all delegates to respond to the science; to be sensitive to the plight of the most vulnerable and the imperative to act urgently, decisively and ambitiously.

Mr. President, we must leave the shores of this beautiful country with the assurance and the confidence to say that we were counted in, as we made a great step to protect life and livelihoods on this planet.

As beautiful and well-known as Doha is, we can make it even more renowned in the history books of climate change diplomacy: we can make this so, by taking climate change decisions that clearly show that we grasp the importance of the avoidance of the ecological tipping point we are facing and that we pull back in the interest of planetary survival.

I thank you, Mr. President.