

Statement of Head of the Grenada Delegation
Hon. Simon Stiell: Minister for Climate Resilience, the
Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and
Information

I am honoured to present this Statement as the Head of the Grenada Delegation to the Sixth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility.

On behalf of the Government and people of Grenada, I take this opportunity to convey highest appreciation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the GEF Secretariat for organizing and hosting of the Sixth Assembly of the Global Environment Fund and the 54th Meeting of the Council.

Grenada officially submitted its Notification of Participation in the GEF on April 20, 1994, almost 25 years ago, and has been an active member and beneficiary of the GEF since. Grenada is also a Party to the major multilateral environmental agreements for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism.

As a recipient country, Grenada has benefited significantly from the resources of the GEF to undertake actions at the national level to protect and safeguard the environment, particularly in the areas of biodiversity, marine & terrestrial ecosystem, and land degradation; and to build national capacity as well as support to meet our commitments under the various multilateral agreements.

To date we have benefited directly from more than US\$8 million in grants for 8 national projects and from grant resources of over \$233 million provided for 29 global/regional projects.

These resources have been applied towards undertaking national capacity needs assessments, building national capacity for environmental management, undertaking climate change enabling activities, identifying and establishing country specific priorities, capacity building for its reporting requirements under the UNFCCC; development of a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and Action Plan; and preparation of our Country Report to the CBD.

Grenada has also benefited from two full size projects (the 'Ridge to Reef Project' under GEF 5 and the 'Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management' under GEF 6). Very important to us also are the resources provided through the Small Grants Program (SGP) which is a driver for transformational change within our small communities, especially the most vulnerable often rural, and building the capacity of our civil society organizations for community empowerment, innovation, learning, and knowledge management.

We thank the 39 developed and developing donor countries for their continued support and commitment to providing resources for the GEF replenishments to support the solving of major global, regional and national environmental issues.

In this regard we commit and call on other recipient countries to ensure that these resources are used in a manner that will optimize achievement of global and national environmental outcomes, sustainability at the national level, and at the same time optimize social and economic co benefits.

GEF 7 Replenishment: Grenada welcomes the successful conclusion of *Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund* and endorses the programming directions including the allocations of resources, policy recommendations, and modalities.

We note that the financing framework for the GEF-7 which was agreed during the course of the replenishment meetings, resulted in a replenishment level for programming in the amount of SDR 2,855.3 million (USD eq. 4,065 million).

In these challenging economic times, this is no doubt a clear indication of the highest level of commitment by contributing countries to taking action to address the global environmental degradation issues while they face national development challenges of their own.

I congratulate the members of the negotiation team for their effort and the final outcomes achieved.

Grenada supports the integrated programming strategy across the key focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals and

waste, and international waters proposed under GEF 7. This approach will no doubt contribute to improved project impact and achievement of outcomes and co-benefits in a more holistic manner.

Additionally, the 'Impact Programs' focusing: Food systems, Land Use and Restoration; Sustainable Cities; and Sustainable Forest Management provides the framework for transformational change, multi stakeholder and other development partner engagement, and mobilization of additional resources to address national development priorities.

We urge our development partners and implementing agencies to embrace these new modalities and to show greater flexibility in their processes and procedures to facilitate this new approach with a focus on strengthening country ownership and capacity development to ensure the sustainability of these projects and programs.

Grenada take special note and would also like to complement the GEF on the inclusion of 'Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities' under the International Waters focal area. Grenada has been a global champion for increased focus on enhancing the opportunities presented in the blue economy and at the same time ensuring improved governance of this resource in support of more sustainable development for small island states in particular.

Finally, I will also like to place on record our support for the revised financing structure for the Small Grants Program which makes provision for the use of a portion of Country's STAR allocation to fund the SGP and flexibility for the allocation of resources among the GEF Focal areas.

Additionally, we welcome the allocation of US\$21 million towards the Country support programme arrangements for GEF 7.

In the Spirit of Global Partnership.

Congratulations on a successful GEF 6 Assembly

Hon. Simon Stiell