



PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
My delegation joins in the many laudatory and congratulatory expressions addressed to Dr. Jean Ping as he assumes the presidency of the 59th Session of the UNGA.

Additionally, we pay tribute to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Julian Hunte, whose presidency of the 58th Session was virile, dynamic and constructive, imbued, as he was, with the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job and the vision of Daniel.

Mr. President,
Grenada's statement is made from the profound depths of the human heart. The Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Hon. Elvin Nimrod, whose unavoidable absence can be understood, have asked me to speak on their behalf.

Mr. President, Ladies, Gentlemen,
You will, I hope, understand why Grenada's statement in this general debate will focus in large measure on the natural disaster that has befallen the State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

First, Grenada expresses grateful appreciation for the outpouring of sympathy and assistance from the many countries that have already taken the rostrum, especially the Caribbean leaders who have seen and described to you, in chilling and heart-rending detail, the devastation of the tri-island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, caused by hurricane Ivan "the Terrible."

Therefore, Mr. President, there is no need for me to multiply words, except to say that the fickle finger of fate seemed to have conspired with Nature, exceedingly benevolent but sometimes equally destructive. This time it has released its full fury on a vulnerable Small Island Developing State reducing it to rubble. After hurricane Ivan's rage had subsided, there was complete destruction of the infrastructure. It seemed as if a Stygian darkness had descended on the land.

However, the resilience of our people and the emerging solidarity give hope that with the assistance of the international community, Grenada, like the mythological phoenix, will rise from the ashes brought about by the hurricane.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Who can help us pick up the pieces of a shattered country with a dislocated economy, the precipitous decline of which has reached rock bottom? An assessment of the destruction reveals that it would take \$2 billion to rebuild the State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. This is an Herculean task, several times beyond our means. The call, therefore, made to the international country, is "Come down to Macedonia and help us." We plead with

