

Distinguished Co-Presidents
Heads of State and Government
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, let me express on behalf of my Government and people, profound sympathy to the people of the United States of America over the massive destruction and loss of life caused by Hurricane Katrina, particularly in the States of Louisiana and

We find it difficult however, to understand the decisions taken by the European Union concerning the reform of the sugar and banana markets, which will virtually destroy the Caribbean Banana and Sugar Industries and wreak havoc on the vulnerable farming communities and their dependents. These policies run counter to the attainment of the MDG's for the small economies of the Caribbean.

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Despite being faced with the major task of rebuilding our country and its economy, Grenada continues to remain committed and dedicated to its obligations in support of the work of this organization.

On Tuesday, September 7th 2004, the Caribbean Island of Grenada was devastated by Hurricane Ivan. Sustained wind speeds at 150 miles per hour, laid waste the country's social and economic infrastructure, and left the population severely displaced, homeless and in a ravaged state of psychological trauma.

With the assistance of many friendly countries and multi national agencies, we have been able to commence the recovery. But ten months later, on July 14th 2005, another Hurricane, Emily, hit Grenada. Although, less severe, Hurricane Emily wiped out the post-Ivan gains which were made in Agriculture and food production, and further severely undermined the agricultural and housing infrastructure.

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Prior to September 7th 2004, the economy had been on a path of positive economic growth driven by advancement in the tourism, agricultural, transportation and communications sectors.

The set back in economic and social progress points to the vulnerability of small states to natural disasters, and the way in which several decades of progress can be wiped out in a matter of hours.

We applaud the efforts to improve the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian responses, as well as the mechanisms for the use of emergency stand-by capacity, for a timely response to humanitarian emergencies. We expect that this support to small island developing states will strengthen their ability to respond more efficiently and effectively to natural disasters and mitigate their impacts.

The passage of these two hurricanes has reversed all the gains we have made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In fact it is now 'unlikely' that Grenada will achieve the eight goals by the year 2015.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Grenada to thank all members of this body for the kind and generous assistance granted to Grenada n behalddsgeneroueve ha.dk

The economic and fiscal situation remains a major challenge and we applaud the efforts of the International Monetary Fund in calling on the international community and donor agencies to provide more grant financing and technical assistance to support the country's reconstruction and rebuilding efforts.

Co-Presidents

As we embark on a new era in the history of the United Nations, let us, as leaders, challenge ourselves, whatever our national capacity, to work assiduously towards the elimination of poverty, hunger, discrimination, war and other ills, and to make this organisation function efficiently to meet the objectives of universal peace and progress.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our call for further assistance from the International Community, in support of Grenada's continued reconstruction efforts.

I thank you.