

**Statement by H.E. Denis Antoine,  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations  
to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on  
Housing and Sustainable urban development (Habitat III)  
United Nations, New York, September 17, 2014**

Salutations

**Habitat III**, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development planned to take place in 2016 will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda is set. Grenada welcomes the opportunity to emphasize that housing and sustainable urban development is among its highest national priorities.

One un-deniable reality of Small Island Developing States, like Grenada is destruction brought about by the negative impacts climate change. Our urban centers which form part of our colonial heritage, now an important part of our tourism attractions and a key component of our national history; However, many of the physical structures that we inherited in our urban centers, present serious constraints to sustainable city planning.

In recent times, the Government of Grenada has developed sustainable heritage management and preservation program. Today we are reaching out to friendly governments including our colonial relatives, and organizations for assistance. We look forward to the continued and heightened support in vital areas to our overall urban development plan. Our challenges are shared by many other Small Island Developing States, most of which are former colonies. The

Government of Grenada therefore welcomes the creation of "a new urban agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and encourages SIDS to be actively involved to ensure that our own unique urban development and housing challenges are fashioned into model resilient cities. The need for potable water remains an issue for many developing states, compounding the challenges in our urban centers and in rural communities. The state of Grenada a tri state - Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the latter two have historically suffered periods of drought. This issue is currently being addressed through the construction of two desalination plants on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. These plants will be powered by solar energy generated by two separate solar fields constructed specifically for that purpose.

The Government of Grenada also recognizes the importance of proper sanitation to human development and commends the efforts made by the international community to raise awareness through initiatives like the "World Toilet Day" observed by the UN November 19 each year. As we move towards a comprehensive Sustainable Development Agenda, our societies are plagued by communicable and non-communicable diseases. We simply cannot accept that 2.5 billion people do not have access to clean and safe toilets; Grenada calls for sanitation to be made a global development priority.

Thank you!