



4th DRAFT

National Statement United Nations Environment Assembly 2024

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The Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy

23rd February 2024

Salutations,

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction/Problem Definition:

The theme of this meeting, "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution," holds significant relevance for Grenada. The current environmental challenges, especially for Small Island Developing States like ours, require urgent and coordinated action. We are witnessing alarming shifts in rainfall patterns, intense hurricane seasons, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, plastic pollution, and other forms of pollution. Grenada has taken proactive steps to address these challenges, including the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy, implementing regulations on single-use plastics, and advancing eco-friendly initiatives.

Plastics Solutions and Multilateral Actions:

We acknowledge the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on our environment and livelihoods. Grenada fully supports efforts towards a global treaty to end plastic pollution, emphasizing the importance of multilateral collaboration. As a nation heavily reliant on our oceans, we urge all stakeholders to prioritize this issue and uphold our commitments made at UNEA.

The solution to ending plastic pollution demands that we adhere to the strength of an effective multilateral process and that we do not ignore the voices of those vulnerable nations, like Grenada, that continuously remind the world that enough is enough. UNEA resolution 5/14 adopted here within this assembly of nations made our intention to end global plastic pollution very clear. I urge you to remember the important work we're already started at UNEA and adhere to our joint global commitment to build consensus toward delivering a historic and significant Plastics Treaty that solves the problem. This Treaty must account for the special circumstances of the world's small island developing states and further deliver adequate means of implementation that considers the responsibility of both the public and private sector to addressing this very serious environment problem at a global scale. It must recognize that a full life cycle approach is needed, and implementation targets must be practical and impactful. We must not let our individual needs outweigh our commitment to multilateralism and critical problem solving. Without a Treaty that considers the needs of SIDS, the globe will bear responsibility for polluting our land, our seas and our rivers; depleting our precious resources; and up weakening our resilience and our ability as global small islands to respond to threats to our environment by this global plastics epidemic, which, much like the COVID-19 pandemic, does not discriminate based on national boundary lines.

The Treaty must consider the unique circumstances of Small Island Developing States and ensure practical implementation targets.

Possible Solutions:

Chair, distinguished colleagues, we need innovative solutions, tailored to each national context. Solutions that do not just address symptoms but target the underlying drivers of these crises.

We need to ensure “no one is left behind” including our youth, our women, our elderly, and those with special needs. To have a sustainable solution, we need inclusivity. We must also share the best practices between the multilateral environment agreements, so we don’t make the same mistakes! The solutions and processes we have captured within our global conventions must work together. Climate convention must work together also with Montreal Protocol and the Chemical Cluster of conventions must work hand in hand with marine pollution conventions and biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. We must be effective – and the complexity of the issues demands a multilateral approach and sustainability demands we be inclusive in all our actions.

Therefore, as we reflect on our theme – “effective, inclusive, multilateral action is critical part of the sustainable solutions – whether it is by strengthening our ability to respond to the impacts of climate change and striving to do our part in limiting global warming to below 1.5C in line with IPCC Assessment Reports and Special Reports, or restoring our “ridge to reef” interconnected ecosystems, or introducing sustainability into our production and consumption systems, these solutions must be inclusive, sustainable and necessitate a multilateral approach.

On Financing:

Access to appropriate financing mechanisms is crucial for vulnerable nations like Grenada to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. We commend the replenishment of the GEF and stress the importance of global resource mobilization. We call for support in building national capacities, for greater access to grant financing and implementing key environmental agreements. We have fought to remind everyone that for our nations, having the right access to resources is significantly critical to tackle the burgeoning

impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. For SIDS who have been long recognised as the most vulnerable, Access to new and additional financing, using easily accessible financing mechanisms that are sensitive to our needs and capacities as Small Island Developing States is the most important ingredient.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Grenada is committed to contributing to the positive outcomes of this meeting. Let us harness the power of multilateralism and the Nairobi spirit to address environmental challenges collectively. Together, we can make a difference.

Final Take-Home Message:

As we convene at UNEA6, let us remain focused and united in our efforts. Together, we can script a new chapter in history—one of effective environmental action and positive change. Thank you.