



STATEMENT

BY

DR. THE RIGHT HONOURABLE KEITH MITCHELL

PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA

AT

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL

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Mr. Secretary General
Presidents and Prime Ministers
Honourable Ministers
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.
Friends.

There is an old African proverb that says: **"If you want to travel fast, go alone, but if you want to travel far, go together."** In many ways, our path as a global civilization since the industrial revolution has been a path for speed and individualism....This has been well documented in the Award Winning Economic Treatise entitled: **CAPITAL IN THE 21st CENTURY**, by Thomas Picketty.

The road straight ahead does not go very far. It commits all of humanity and the unborn generations to an inhospitable world of 4 degrees above pre-industrial levels, according to a World Bank report. It is a world of floods, droughts and famines ... a world of MASS MIGRATIONS where surely, communities will rise up against communities, and nations against nations. In the words of **His Holiness Pope Francis** in these very halls, **"Any harm done to the environment, is harm done to humanity."** The world of floods, drought and famine, and mass migrations **is not down the road.....It's happening now.** 2015 is set to be the warmest year on record since records began in 1880.

Mr. Secretary General, Friends: We built **this United Nations** for the express purpose of avoiding these great calamities. We built this United Nations so that we may go together and so that we may go far. At this very moment in history, the entire future of the planet and human civilization has come to a **Fork in the Road.** It offers a new pathway. A broader pathway for the many ... not just the few. It is a

pathway towards a greener and cleaner world, a more just world. A world where we can travel together and go far together.

As late Yogi Berra once said: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it”.

In my tri-island nation of **Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique**, more and more, ordinary Grenadians are seeing themselves as shepherds of the Environment. Once considered to be below the Hurricane Belt, Grenada had two successive hurricanes in recent memory which devastated our people and caused damages worth 200% of GDP.

On Greening our economy, we have worked to create a new **Electricity Supply Act** with a view to going 100% renewables. This is in line with SDG #7 on Energy and SDG #13 on Climate. The United States selected Grenada as the pilot country for the transformation of the power sector in the Caribbean and we are grateful for their help. We also appreciate the support of China, Venezuela, Germany, New Zealand and others as we seek to manage our energy challenges and transform this sector. SDG # 17 on Partnerships, is therefore deeply ingrained in our approach and we also wish to commend SIDS DOCK which is an international partnership for Renewable Energy in Small Island Developing States. As part of our Green Economy we have also introduced a PRICE ON CARBON through a fuel levy which is helping to improve our fiscal space. We are also introducing **Climate Smart Agriculture** in line with SDGs # 13 and #15.

Collectively, Grenada and its islands have **348 square kilometers of green** territorial land. But, beyond this, we have **26,000 square kilometers of blue ocean** space. Grenada’s Blue Economy is therefore vital and is exemplified by our coastal tourism that is the main driver of our economy. This is why we have committed to conserve 20% or more of our nearshore marine resources. And in line with **SDG#14 on**

Oceans, we are pleased to be working with the Government of the Netherlands, the World Bank and others on the Global Action Network for Blue Growth and Food Security and also a Blue Grenada investment strategy. Moreover, in April of 2016, working with our partners Grenada will host a **Global Blue Growth Investment Conference** designed to move the needle on ocean health and wealth. This conference will place “Ocean States” in a better position to report positive results when we meet in Fiji in 2017 to review progress of SDG #14. Grenada also joins with Dominica and the Marshall Islands to promote a new initiative called, **WE ARE THE OCEANS** which will begin by educating our youth.

Mr. Secretary General, this brings me to my final point. **SDG # 4 on Education** is a critical one for the future of our children and the future of the planet. I stand before you today, because I was among the fortunate to be afforded an education. But not enough of our youth at home and around the world are getting access to a quality education. And this is why my government has set aside the **largest portion of our operating fiscal budget for Education**. Already, Education represents 20% of Grenada’s GDP and **St. George’s University** in Grenada which is training more and more Grenadians, also produces one-in-every-one-hundred doctors practicing in the United States. Finally, as part of my duty as the lead on Science and Technology for the Caribbean Heads of State, I want to **welcome President Obama’s invitation for us** in the Caribbean to meet with the US Government and the US ICT industry in **Silicon Valley**. Efforts such as these not only underscore the spirit of partnership, but also point the way forward to **better education, more innovation and more jobs as we seek to reduce poverty and inequality in this world** in line with SDG’s # 1 on Poverty, #5 on Gender, #8 on Employment and # 9 on Industry and Innovation.

In closing, Mr. Secretary General, I wish to applaud your efforts in presiding over the United Nations at a time when we have chosen a

new path for a more sustainable world. With your continued leadership as we head towards COP-21 in Paris and beyond, we feel confident that we, as a global community, are taking **the right fork** in the road. You can be assured of Grenada's full support, as we take this **new pathway** for our people, for planet, for peace and for prosperity.**One where, we will go togetherand we will go far.**

I thank you.