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NATIONAL REPORT: GRENADA

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NATIONAL REPORT OF GRENADA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
34TH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION OF WOMEN, NOVEMBER 10-13, 2008 – CHILE

INTRODUCTION

The State of Grenada consists of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and has a land area of three hundred and forty-five Square Kilometers (345 Sq. Km.) or 133 square miles. The population was estimated at 106,604 in 2006, with 53,002 males and 53,602 females. Grenada is southernmost of the Windward Island Group situated in the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and 100 miles North of Venezuela in South America, Grenada is also a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) inter-alia. Grenada is located 12.07 degrees North and 60.40 degrees West.

LEGAL

Grenada's court system has the Magistrates Court of summary jurisdiction followed by the High Court, and OECS Court of Appeal. The Privy Council of England, referred to in the Grenada Constitution as Her Majesty in Council is the final court of Appeal. Grenada is a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in its original jurisdiction, for matters specific to disputes relating to the Treaty of Chaguaramas (CARICOM).

The High Court is the Court of Original Jurisdiction for matters in relation to the allegations of contravention of the Constitution except Section 1 which contains the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and other specified reservations.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Gross Domestic Product in constant prices (1990) grew from XCD495.08 million in 1991 to XCD800.30 million in 2007. According to the Agency for Reconstruction and Development (ARD)^{1/} Grenada has had a relatively diversified economic structure, based on the contributions of agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, construction, communications, transportation and government. Source: National Strategic Plan: Grenada. The main earners of foreign exchange are tourism, remittances from abroad, agriculture, light manufacturing and St. George's University^{2/} which account for just over ten percent. Grenada traditionally produced three main export crops: cocoa, bananas and nutmeg. The effects of the World Trade Organization, problems with quality and the cost of production have resulted in the erosion of export opportunities for bananas. The nutmeg industry has been severely destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Emily in 2005. For the Cocoa although Grenada's product is one of the best in the world, lack of incentives to farmers and the witch broom disease coupled with the absence of that sound agricultural policy allowed this crop to suffer. These aforementioned factors with a general policy shift from an agriculture based economy have hurt the

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1. Established in 2005 to assist with reconstruction after Hurricane Ivan.
 2. Offshore University from USA.

rural economy which has relied heavily on the agricultural sector for formal and informal employment, as well as local production. However with the Government's new thrust in Food Security every effort is being made to focus heavily on resuscitating the agricultural industry. The Land Utilization Survey done by the ARD shows 71% of the farmers owned less than five acres in size. 77% of the farmers had not advanced beyond primary education and that two thirds engaged in farming on a full time basis. Overall the value of agricultural products declined from XCD54,5 million in 2001 to XCD 46.3 million in 2003 with both price and quality being adversely affected from 1998 to 2005.

Government

Grenada gained Independence from Great Britain on February 7, 1974, the first country of the OECS to accomplish this. From March 13, 1979 to October 25, 1983 the island was ruled by the People's Revolutionary Government.

On October 25, 1983 the United States of America led an armed Intervention that eliminated the palace coup of the First Revolution of 1979.

Grenada has a bi-cameral Parliament reflecting the West Minister model. The Head of State of Grenada is the Queen of England, Queen Elizabeth II, who is represented on island by the Governor General. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government. Executive decisions are made by a Cabinet of Ministers.

General Elections are constitutionally due every five years. There are fifteen (15) Representatives in the Lower House or House of Representatives. The thirteen (13) members of the Upper House or Senate are appointed.

Labour Force Participation

In 1991, the overall participation rate was 52% with 67% of males participating. By 2005, the overall participation rate was 65.7% accounting for 72.5% of the males and 59.1% of them females. While participation by females grew sharply, during the entire period fewer females than males participated in the labour force.

Unemployment and Poverty

Poverty is almost evenly distributed throughout the country, but is highest in St. Patrick followed by St. Mark and St. George. The Poverty Assessment Report of 1999 indicated that 32% of the population or 28.8% of the households were living in poverty. Thirteen percent (13%) of the population were classified as indigent. Based on the Ministry of Finance 2003, Source: Grenada Poverty Eradication Strategy of the Ministry of Finance submitted to the IMF in March 2006 unemployment is highest in the rural communities, among women, young people and the poor. It stated that the unemployment and under-employment are highest among the female population and a poor household is more likely to be headed by a female. The Ministry of Finance claimed that the "poverty profile will not be significantly improved from the 1999 assessment".

For women the un-employment rate is much higher than it is for men. The Labour force Survey (1998) shows that unemployment rate was 10.5% among male and 21.2% among females.

The Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWQ) of 2005 confirms this trend, showing unemployment rates at 12.3% among males and 25.3% among females.

Public Policy on Gender Issues

The Government of Grenada recognizes that women are the backbone of the Grenadian society. They are more than half the workforce, the electorate and household heads. In Grenada more than 55% of household have female heads. Therefore not only because women form a vulnerable group of the population who must be protected and cared for but because of Grenada's obligations to international treaties such as the Belem Do Para Convention, CEDAW Convention (of the United Nations), the CARTER MAGNA of the Organization of American States inter-alia.

The Strategy of the Government of Grenada is to invest heavily in women so that the knowledge, attitude and skills they acquire can be passed on to succeeding generation of children to break the poverty cycle. The Government is also aware that women must receive training and education in order to equip them to play an even greater role in society and politics in addition to their traditional roles.

Grenada held General Elections on July 8, 2008 and a new government was sworn in on July 13th, 2008.

In the present Government the level of participation in the Upper House (Senate) is approximately 23% that is three women out of thirteen (13) Senators are Government appointed. This percentage is a regression from the previous administration which means that particularly for the losing Party – the New National Party - the Leader lacked confidence in the women who served in the Senate and did not win their seats in the last Election. Even for the Sectoral Representatives in the Upper House for example Farmers, Labour and Private sector, the three appointed Senators are all men.

In the Lower House approximately thirteen percent (13%) that is two out of fifteen representatives in the House of Representatives are women, which means that there is a decline. This time though, it is the electorate that lost confidence in our women. This indicates that women need to market themselves as Leaders to bring betterment to all. The Government recognizes that there is a need for women to become involved in decision making at the highest level and women need to support each other genuinely in order to accomplish that.

Sixty percent (60%) of school Principals and Fifty-three (53%) of those in secondary schools are women. As is the case of the Permanent Secretaries in the public service, these percentages closely reflect the ratio of women to men teachers in schools.

Gender and Violence

A major achievement of Grenada is the establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit in the Ministry of Social Development in May 2003. This Unit is operational and functions with the objectives as outlined:

- To adequately address various issues of Domestic Violence and other forms of abuse on a national level.
- To heighten public awareness of Domestic Violence.
- To Provide educational programmes nation-wide on the root causes of Domestic Violence, its effects on the individual and families with emphasis on prevention.
- To assist with enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act of 2001.
- To provide on-going counselling to Domestic Violence victims and family members.
- To collect statistical data on incidences, causes and effects of domestic violence in Grenada.
- To provide on-going support for the CEDARS Shelter for Battered Women and their children.
- To establish a crisis help-line for victims of Domestic Violence and others requiring assistance and or information.

The Domestic Violence Act (copy attached) was approved in 2001 as a result of Grenada's ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women "Convention of Belem Do Para"

In some quarters Domestic Violence is thought to be a public health issue and should be treated as such.

In order to combat the scourge of Domestic Violence it is necessary to train police officers, develop and institute a protocol for treatment of reported and suspected cases, formulate a system to document perpetrators and record and monitor cases.

It is necessary to create a Confidential Division within the Police Force with the necessary procedures and responsive support services for dealing with violence against women and girls or gender-based violence in general.

Essential Features of the Domestic Violence Protection Support System

Attachment 2

Gender and Natural Disasters

The island of Grenada was devastated by Hurricanes Ivan and Emily – 2004 and 2005 respectively. Grenadians were terribly affected by the passing of these Hurricanes and the most vulnerable groups were women and children.

A high percentage of the housing stock – approximately 90% - was damaged. Many of the homes were wooden inhabited mainly by single women and their children.

Statistics obtained by the National Emergency Response Organization (NERO) now National Agency of Disaster Management (NADMA) indicate that women comprised 75% of persons dwelling in shelters in 2004 and 2005. Women lost the majority of jobs as a result of these Hurricanes.

The jobs were:

- Small vending (particularly near schools – 90% schools were damaged and some still remain not repaired).
- Hotel employment (many closed or operated on a very small scale).
- Agricultural workers – many of them women involved in the nutmeg industry and other industries that were adversely affected.

HIV Cases by Age Group and Gender

Attachment 3

Future Plans

At the national level, the Government of Grenada aims to engage with other Ministries like Ministry of Education, Health, Culture and Foreign Affairs, inter-alia in the relentless work of awareness on the importance of women in the society, economy and political involvement.

Programmes, workshops, seminars and events will be planned and implemented to discourage, punish, and eradicate gender based violence, in all its forms. Also efforts would be made by the Government of Grenada to work along with social partners, NGOs and other Ministries of Government to eradicate poverty, encourage the participation of more women in politics and in the decision making structures as well as ensuring that there is equality with men .

The Government of Grenada is committed to:

- Updating Minimum Wage Legislation.
- Ensuring that there is equal pay for equal work.
- Strengthening the Legislation and enforcement mechanisms to combat domestic violence and sexual harassment at work (Attached is a Draft Bill “Protection against Sexual Harassment” and a Concept paper on Sexual Harassment in Grenada formulated by the Grenada National Organization of Women (GNOW) and Civil Society.
- Providing skills training tied to employment opportunities in “non-traditional areas” for women - these are better paid.

- Improving community facilities to cater to the needs of children, young people and families.
- Undertaking a public education programme to enlighten the nation particularly their male counterparts, on the role of women in development.

Grenada wishes to indicate its readiness to participate in the ongoing initiatives currently being undertaken by the CIM particularly its programmes of Technical Cooperation:

- in gender policy formulation with specific reference to the development of its national policies and programmes on women and gender; and
- in re-vitalizing the CIM Seed Fund for Multilateral projects. This fund has been a vital tool for implementing micro-projects for women with specific interest to the Caribbean and Latin America.

http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02387TI.pdf	Attachment I
http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02387TII.pdf	Attachment II
http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02387TIII.pdf	Attachment III
http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02387TIV.pdf	Attachment IV
http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CIM02387TV.pdf	Attachment V