Good Day All, My name is Phillip Alexander and I bring you Spicy Greetings

from the Island of Grenada.

Grenada is a small developing country in the Caribbean; The Island relied almost solely on its agricultural products. Its main export was Nutmeg. Grenada was second, only to Indonesia in world export. That was so, until September 2004, when the Island was devastated by Hurricane Ivan.

During the passage of Hurricane Ivan,

* Several lives were lost.
* 90% of housing stock and buildings on the 133 square miles island.
* Grenada saw the destruction of most of its agricultural crops.
* Most of Grenada’s infrastructure was destroyed or compromised.

Since 2004, Grenada's recovery has been long and challenging.

As a nation, some tough and hard choices were made, some of which included:

\* An economic change, from agriculture, placing more emphasis on tourism. Because of our natural beauty and warm and friendly people, Grenada is now one of the most exciting and popular tourist destinations in the Caribbean.

\* Farmers were encouraged to plant short term crops, rather than nutmegs

 which take over 10 yrs to mature; a transition that was accomplished

 with relative ease due in part to the versatility of our people.

\* Rebuilding/restoration of homes, schools, institutions and infrastructure.

Since Ivan, Grenadians, with assistance from regional and international communities has been able to repair 80% of the buildings destroyed; a testament to the resilience of Grenadians.

However, that reconstruction effort left us with a debt per GDP of 130%

in the immediate aftermath.

Even with this remarkable recovery, Grenada and its Caribbean neighbours

Still continue to face unpredictable, devastating climatic changes.

Last year, Grenada witnessed one of its driest "Dry Season" which resulted in

droughts throughout the island.

This year, we are experiencing the "Wettest" Dry Seasons on record.

A few weeks ago, heavy overnight rain resulted in flash flooding.

Many houses, crops and fishing boats were washed away when a river overflowed its banks in one of our fishing villages. Thankfully there was no loss of lives.

Currently, Grenada is Chair of Alliance Of Small Island States (A.O.S.I.S.)

Our Prime Minister, the Honorable Tillman Thomas has been an ardent

fighter as he champions the plight of the member countries to the world.

We remain confident that along with his colleagues on this body, they will collectively continue to advocate for more emphasis to be placed on the need for reduction and stabilization of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol.

Thank You Ladies and Gentlemen.