



## SPEECH

### **Statement by Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada at COP29**

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*Your Excellency, the President of COP29, esteemed colleagues, distinguished leaders,*

I extend Grenada's appreciation to the COP Presidency for its commitment to leading us through this pivotal moment in our shared climate journey. Grenada and CARICOM stand ready to work in partnership with you toward a successful and truly impactful COP29.

Today, I stand before you on behalf of Grenada, a country that recently endured the devastation of Hurricane Beryl and only yesterday the devastation caused by flash floods. This July, Hurricane Beryl's ferocity cut deep into our communities, severely impacting our GDP and infrastructure and leaving lasting scars on our people. For the Caribbean and other Small Island Developing States, hurricanes are no longer rare occurrences; they are relentless reminders of our acute vulnerability in the face of climate change.

These experiences serve as my nation's plea for real, immediate action. For us, the 1.5°C target is not simply a goal; it is a lifeline. However, the current trajectory, aiming toward a 2.6–3.1°C rise by century's end, tells a different story—one of continued inaction and dangerous indifference.

I ask: why do we return to these forums year after year with the same appeals, only to witness promises go unfulfilled? Why are we still talking instead of acting? Our people are losing patience. We are exhausted by inaction.

COP29 must deliver more than words; it must deliver real action. We call upon the world's largest emitters to act with conviction and responsibility to meet the 1.5°C target through bold emissions reductions. This summit cannot end with pledges alone; it must catalyze tangible progress. What we require are gigawatts of renewable energy, not gigabytes of unkept promises.

For countries like Grenada and others in CARICOM, climate finance remains a critical lifeline. We urgently need scaled-up, predictable funding for resilience, adaptation, and loss and damage to secure a viable future for our people.

Climate justice demands that these funds not be seen as favors, but as rightful support for those facing the first impacts of climate change. This summit must establish a New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance—ambitious and tailored to the actual needs of developing countries. In doing so, we must ensure a dedicated floor for SIDS. This COP must also advance reforms to the international financial system, aligning with initiatives like the Bridgetown Initiative, to address the realities of climate justice.

Let us be clear: these are not just “nice-to-haves.” For SIDS, this recognition of our unique circumstances is a necessity. We cannot allow the protection of these special circumstances to be eroded in this or any other forum. Our vulnerabilities are only increasing, and the urgency to address them is unparalleled.

Finally, I urge global partnerships to join us in bridging climate action with sustainable development goals, through the Adaptation-Based Approach Strategy (ABAS). Grenada, as a committed and proactive partner, is ready to collaborate in shaping a shared and equitable future. Climate action, if done right, has the power to build a fairer, more resilient world for us all.

In closing, Grenada renews its commitment to this cause and its readiness to lead, act, and contribute to a legacy of decisive climate action. Let this COP be remembered as the summit that turned words into action and promises into progress. Together, let us make COP29 the moment when climate justice finally took center stage for SIDS like Grenada.

*Thank you.*