



EMBASSY OF GRENADA

MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION – THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY AND TO THE UNITED NATION ORGANISATIONS

**HIS EXCELLENCY STEPHEN FLETCHER
SPEECH
DELIVERED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
ON 23RD AUGUST 2011
FOR THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR
GRENADA'S ACCESSION TO THE ROME STATUS OF THE ICC**

Good Afternoon

Mr. President of the International Criminal Court

Other Judges

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentleman

Let me begin by expressing warm Caribbean and indeed Grenadian greetings on behalf of the Government and Peoples of Grenada, and specifically on behalf of the Prime Minister, His Excellency Tillman Thomas, who is also Minister for Legal Affairs.

At the outset I will also like to place on record my personal appreciation, to be given this most important opportunity to address you at this important occasion marking my country's accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

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I am also proud to be delivering this message today in an institution which was founded on the dreams of a Leading Caribbean Politician and Jurist- former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago A.N.R. Robinson who approximately 23rd years ago called for the establishment of this court.

Mr. President, Judges, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Today more than two-thirds of the world's Nation States have ratified the Rome Statute.

Grenada is pleased to be part of this growing number of states

By so doing, Grenada is helping to add weight to this court and consolidate its' in the international Criminal justice system.

Grenada is pleased to be associated with the International Criminal Court since we believe that the International Criminal Court represents a source of global transparency and global accountability within the Global Legal and Human Rights Framework.

Today, Grenada is breaking with the adage which says, "it is only necessary for good men to do nothing for evil to triumph"; today Grenada is acting to prevent the triumph of evil.

Today Grenada's action is sending a clear statement to the world, that it does not intend to allow crimes against humanity to escape the global justice system.

Mr. President, Judges, excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Grenada's commitment to the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court is a clear and unequivocal indication of our confidence in our own domestic legal system.

Grenada, despite our size, wishes to be at the table where we can help shape the Global Legal System. Grenada seeks to prevent International Crimes and help secure a peaceful, stable and secure world.

Moreover, this ceremony today, highlights my country's commitment to the respect for Rule of Law and Human Rights. While courts are generally set up to act after a deviation from the law has occurred, we hope that the Legal Infrastructure could also be proactive, developmental and act in ways that would remove the basis on which such deviations occur.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

It is within this context we need to act collectively, to promote an appropriate development Agenda which seeks to inter alia, among other things to:

- ✓ Improve Legal and Social Conditions of State parties
- ✓ Enhance and help countries improve their legal infrastructure
- ✓ Assist countries, especially post conflicts countries to enshrine and exercise respect for fundamental principles of Human Rights and Human Dignity with in their constitution and legal system.

Mr. President, Judges, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Let me end by reiterating my country's commitment to the International Criminal Court and to the Rome Statute, despite the real resource constraints facing my country. It is a difficult choice but one which we cannot ignore.

As a small developing country, we truly believe in peace through stability.

In this context it is important that we became part of this most august body, we recognize that the court by itself cannot put an end to impunity. It requires the unwavering support of State parties, international organisation, Non-Governmental organisations and individuals who share our common purpose.

Mr. President, Judges, Excellences, ladies and Gentlemen

Today's ceremony confirms and clearly demonstrates Grenada's commitment to the rule of law and good governance, and moreover, our willingness to do whatever we can to help promote peace among men.

I thank you for your attention.



Stephen FLETCHER

AMBASSADOR