

PRESS RELEASE

LONDON, United Kingdom, March 21, 2012 – Grenada’s Foreign Minister, Hon I J Karl Hood, arrived in London on Wednesday as an invited speaker to a Conference entitled **“A Climate and Resource Security Dialogue for the 21st Century”**, hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in partnership with Wilton Park.

The Conference will focus on the emerging threat climate change poses to global security and prosperity, along with the national and international policies needed to address this challenge.

The Conference Programme explains that the security implications of climate change are significant and interconnected. As a “threat multiplier” climate change is a non-traditional security challenge that needs a strategic approach beyond the normal sphere of politics, to include all of government together with public/private enterprises at the national and international level, to form a truly global framework for action.

It is expected that the conclusions of the discussions will identify possible national, regional and international policy frameworks and practical recommendations for addressing this 21st century challenge.



(l to r) Mr. Leon Charles, Chief Climate Change Negotiator;
High Commissioner Ruth E Rouse;
John Ashton, UK Special Representative for Climate Change;
the Honourable I. J. Karl Hood, Foreign Minister of Grenada

Prior to the start of the Conference Foreign Minister Hood met with John Ashton, the UK's Special Representative for Climate Change, Officials of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and will on Thursday March 22, meet with Edward Davey, UK

Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, as well as Alan Duncan, UK Minister of State for International Development.

The Foreign Minister's visit to the UK is a follow-up to the Action Plan adopted at the 7th UK Caribbean Ministerial Forum held in Grenada on January 20-22, 2012, attended by the UK's Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon William Hague and several UK Ministers and Heads of Departments dealing with Security, International Development, Environment, Trade and Investment, among others.

Grenada has been highly praised and commended by the United Kingdom for its excellent leadership during its period of chairmanship of the Alliance of Small States (AOSIS), which ended at the Durban Conference last December 2011.

In a Press Interview with Caribbean Journal following Durban, John Ashton made reference to the intervention made by Foreign Minister Hood during a difficult period in the negotiations:

"The voice of the Caribbean, and the voice of Grenada, and the voice of Minister Hood in particular were decisive at Durban. And it was what Karl Hood said at the critical moments, as we were approaching the climax in Durban, in those tense hours before dawn in the final sessions, that triggered a wave of similar interventions from others who, like Grenada and the Caribbean islands, felt themselves to be on the front line of the stress of climate change, pressing for a high-ambition outcome. In the end, that wave became irresistible – but it might well not have happened had it not been for Grenada's initiating it. It was the voice of the Caribbean that changed the world in Durban. And that's something that is worth reflecting on, because it shows that the smallest of nations can have the biggest of impacts".

Foreign Minister Hood is accompanied by Mr Leon Charles, Chief Climate Change Negotiator.