

Hello everyone, I am Renatta Fielden of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network in Grenada. Over the last couple of weeks, I have become acquainted with the VNR reports for Grenada and firstly I would like to commend the efforts that Grenada has made to engage the stakeholders in the preparation of the VNR and I look forward to the government improving such modalities in the future towards a whole-of-society engagement.

In Grenada, we have made significant efforts toward achieving our SDGs. However, we have not been able to properly assess many SDGs because we are not recording or reporting many of the Core CARICOM SDG indicators by which we have decided to measure our progress. Because of this, I do not believe we have a clear indication of our downfalls on the SDGs and so I encourage the government to prioritize quality data that is disaggregated so that the country can better track progress and identify areas that can be improved.

For small countries, it is very difficult for to carry out these assessments independently and thus we need more resources to be made available to combat key challenges. These include capacity strengthening, especially with the Central Statistical Office where new data sets are required, and the lack of financial resources to implement projects that will enhance progress with meeting SDGs. These challenges were further strained by COVID-19 when personnel and finances were all being redirected. However, as the Chinese proverb says “a Crisis is an opportunity riding a dangerous wind” so I encourage the government to align COVID-19 recovery efforts with broader development when aiming to achieve the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework.

Again, I would like to thank the Government of Grenada for their efforts to include stakeholders but encourage them to do more to ensure that all our citizens understand that each and every one of us is a part of sustainable development and we cannot achieve the SDGs without all hands on deck.