



*United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (2014-2024)*

## PHOTO RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### *Grenada's Prime Minister Hands Over Presidency Of SIDS DOCK, Promising Continuity In The Push For Greater Focus On Ocean Energy*

**1st October 2021** – Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell is confident that despite the major disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of SIDS DOCK remains critical to the future of small island developing states like Grenada. Dr. Mitchell has just completed an unprecedented second term as President of the fifth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly, after being asked to extend his presidency due to the death of the President-designate in 2019, and the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. Dr. Mitchell handed over to his colleague, the Honourable Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister from the Kingdom of Tonga, who was elected as the President of the sixth session of the SIDS DOCK Assembly. He said, "Ocean energy development is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It is the foundation for the blue economy that will help make us more resilient, and increase our ability to build back better, but we need assistance from our development partners." Updating colleague Heads of State and Government and other assembly attendees on the work of SIDS DOCK, Dr. Mitchell spoke of the imminent launch of a Global Ocean Energy Alliance, a concept derived from discussions at the Vienna Energy Forum in 2018, in Austria, in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). It is anticipated that the alliance will be launched at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK) in November 2021.

(MORE)

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*Photo Caption: Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, knocks the gavel as he prepared to handover the Presidency of SIDS DOCK to his colleague, the Honourable Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, Prime Minister from the Kingdom of Tonga.*

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*SIDS DOCK is a United Nations (UN)-recognised international organisation established in 2015, with all the rights and privileges for addressing climate change, resilience, and energy security in small islands. SIDS DOCK represents 32 small islands and low-lying developing states across the globe, and is so named because it is designed as a “DOCKing station,” to connect the energy sector in SIDS with the global markets for finance and sustainable energy technologies. The organisation’s work is coordinated by the Secretariat, in Belmopan, Belize.*

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