



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

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### *Grenada's Prime Minister Receives Excellency In Leadership Award*

**1st October 2021** – Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell is the 2020-2021 recipient of the Excellency in Leadership Award, presented by the SIDS Dock Island Women Open Network (IWON), for his outstanding leadership of SIDS DOCK. The award was presented on behalf of SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network, by Josette Parris, a Form-3 student, at the St. George's Institute, in 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.

As he handed over the reins of leadership at the sixth session of the Assembly of SIDS DOCK, on Tuesday, 28th September 2021, the Grenadian leader was revealed as the latest awardee, in recognition of his "exemplary leadership, faithfulness, commitment and dedication in furthering the SIDS DOCK mission". His ability to maintain solidarity and keep the fledgling organisation afloat during the challenging times created by the COVID-19 pandemic, was also recognised.

The citation on the award commended the Prime Minister for prioritising the interests of SIDS DOCK member states, for being an advocate for ocean energy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and for promoting the building of resilience to the impact of climate change.

Under Dr. Mitchell's leadership of SIDS DOCK, the organisation kick-started the implementation of its largest programme, the SIDS Blue Guardians, a US \$40 million initiative which focuses on "improving the management of SIDS ocean resources and developing ocean energy to be SIDS primary energy source in the future to drive SIDS carbon neutral economic development, as well as building resilience to the impacts of a changing climate." achievements that are of great benefit to Grenada, CARICOM, Small Island Developing States and the world.

(MORE)

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The Prime Minister was also credited with having the moral courage, vision, ability to make tough choices, and willingness to engage in hard work in championing ocean energy, an ignored and critical resource for SIDS. His advocacy is said to have produced sustained attention for SIDS. The citation also referenced Dr. Mitchell's exceptional.

**###END###**

*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.*

*The SIDS DOCK Island Women Open Network (IWON), is a sustainable energy and climate resilience network, established to help build the capacity of women at the community and grassroots levels in small islands and low-lying developing states to participate in the transformation of the SIDS energy sector. Its objective is to ensure that gender equality issues are integrated in the concept, design, implementation and evaluation of sustainable energy and climate change-related projects in the SIDS DOCK work programme.*

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