



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

28th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

64th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C., USA, 17-21 September 2012

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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR THE HONOURABLE ANN PETERS, MINISTER OF HEALTH
OF GRENADA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE
28th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE, 64th SESSION OF
THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS**

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**17 September 2012
PAHO Headquarters, Washington, D.C.**

Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States
Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization
Dr. Luis Castillo, Undersecretary of Assistance Networks, Ministry of Health of Chile,
Outgoing President of the Pan American Sanitary Conference
Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
of the United States of America
Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Allow me to begin by congratulating the authorities of this Organization for the excellent preparations for the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference, 64th Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas that we have inaugurated today.

Dr. Castillo, permit me to express the appreciation of this plenary for your sterling leadership during Chile's presidency of the Pan American Sanitary Conference.

It is certainly a distinct honor for Grenada to serve as Chair of this Session as we meet to review and reaffirm our shared commitment to cooperation in advancing the Health Agenda of our citizenry as we celebrate 110 years as the longest functioning international health agency in the world.

Indeed, we meet at a time when the continued fallout of the global financial crisis exacerbates the ongoing challenges that we all face in addressing the diverse health care needs of our countries, and ensuring the implementation of public policies needed to reach all segments of the population. In this regard, the Organization's work is a vital lynchpin in facilitating innovative and complementary public policy approaches and developing practical solutions to address these issues of shared concern and interest.

I look forward to partnering with you all as we commence our dialogue on these issues and mandates that are so fundamental to the development of our nations and health and well-being of our peoples.

I thank you for the confidence you have placed in Grenada's leadership of this Conference and wish to assure you of my commitment to guide us in successfully achieving our agenda objectives.

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