

Statement by the Hon. Dickon Mitchell

Prime Minister of Grenada

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On the behalf of the Government of Grenada, it is an honour to address our esteemed participants, and I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the State of Qatar for its warm and unmatched hospitality and the arrangements made for hosting Grenada's delegation. I also extend sincere appreciation to both the State of Qatar and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for hosting this important event.

This conference provides a milestone opportunity for ICAO Member States to ideate innovative solutions to longstanding challenges in areas such as cross-border security, human trafficking, public health emergencies and the handling of inadmissible persons and deportees in the air transport sector.

Our experience as a Caribbean destination has also highlighted the importance of offering a positive and seamless experience to passengers as they traverse our airport facilities. It is for this reason that we have sought to innovate our Border Management Systems, by leveraging the use of various technologies such as Kiosk machines for the benefit of our passengers, transitioning to a paperless process for our Customs formalities, and by pursuing infrastructural solutions to efficiently manage the flow of passengers. Collectively however, as we look to the future, we must also recognize and support the ethical use of Biometrics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a means of reshaping the future of air transport. By utilizing modern tools such as AI to support the human decision-making process, the likely

result will be an air transport sector that is seamless, secure and more pleasant for its users.

However, to achieve the noble aspiration of seamless connectivity among our global travelling communities, it is essential that we seize the opportunity presented at this forum, to foster a collaborative and inclusive approach to capacity building and implementation support, thus ensuring the likelihood of our collective success.

In conclusion, please be assured that Grenada stands ready to collaborate with ICAO, and with other international partners to discuss initiatives aimed at promoting safe, seamless and pleasant international mobility.

Thank you and I wish us all success, as we strive to reshape the future of air transport facilitation.