



Washington, DC  
February 14, 2013

## **OAS and Grenada Sign Agreement on Terms and Conditions for Observation of February 19 Election**

The Chief of the Electoral Observation Mission from the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Joshua Sears, a citizen of The Bahamas, and the Supervisor of Elections from Grenada's Parliamentary Elections Office, Judy Benoit, signed an agreement that establishes the terms and conditions for the Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) that will observe the upcoming general elections in the country on February 19, 2013.

Between 1984 and 2013, the OAS has observed 39 elections in 13 countries in the Caribbean, including Grenada where, currently, the OAS is deploying the fourth EOM requested by the government.

The OAS/EOM, composed of 16 international observers from 11 different countries, (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Guyana, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Venezuela) arrived in Grenada on February 11 and will stay in the country until February 21. These observers will be present in the country's fifteen constituencies.

In the days following the election, the OAS/EOM will present its findings during a local press conference and will subsequently present a report to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington, DC. In order to keep the dialogue open with Grenadian authorities, the Chief of Mission will also present the final report of the findings and follow up on the recommendations produced with a view to promoting improvements to the electoral system.

Electoral Observation Missions are widely recognized as key political cooperation tools to help strengthen electoral processes in the hemisphere and promote democratic governance. Through these missions, the OAS observes the electoral cycle working with governmental authorities and citizens, in general, to ensure impartiality, transparency, and equity between the participants in the electoral process.

For more information, please visit the OAS Website at <http://www.oas.org>.