



YOUTH OFFICER TO REPRESENT GRENADA IN PARIS, FRANCE

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, Monday, October 28, 2013 – GIS: Nickson Barry, Youth Officer in the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Ecclesiastic Affairs, left the State Yesterday, for Paris, to attend the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum taking place at UNESCO's Headquarters from 29th to 31st October, under the theme, **"Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development."**

This theme was chosen on the basis of a youth online consultation, and will be articulated around the three main objectives of UNESCO's **Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021**, which outlines the Organization's focus and vision in its work on youth, namely:

- Policy formulation and review with youth participation;
- Capacity development for transition to adulthood;
- Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation.

Mr. Barry will join around 500 young participants from all over the world that will have the opportunity to exchange views, share experiences reflect together and identify common preoccupations and problems. They will also debate on the main objectives of UNESCO's Youth Programme, with a view to formulate strategic recommendations which will be submitted to the Organization's Member States during the 37th session of the General Conference that will take place almost immediately after the Forum.

The over-riding objective of the Forum is to reinforce the competencies of young people, as key actors, driving change in their communities and as active partners in peace building, and the promotion of sustainable development.

In its effort to engage the participants as true actors and partners, the Forum will identify a series of action projects to be implemented by and for young people. The delegates will also be provided with multiple tools to reinforce their capacities so as to enable them to become more operational on return to their respective countries. To this end, during the Forum, coaching and mentoring sessions will be organized and will involve face to face exchanges and consultations with UNESCO's staff, Private Sector partners and Civil Society actors as well as UN agencies.

Overall the Forum will create opportunities to network, to build synergies between youth and institutional partners and to allow the exchange of practices, the showcasing of actions that benefit young people, the strengthening of the participants' capacities and the development of their creative abilities.

The Forum is an important process in linking UNESCO's work on youth, youth organizations and public institutions working on youth, with the aim of creating interaction between young women and men across the world, policy makers, civil society, the private sector and the international community.

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