

**MESSAGE FROM DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES
PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

In joyous solidarity I greet you, the members of the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Union (CCCU), at your 51st Annual International Convention and 37th Annual General Meeting in magnificent Jamaica, a bulwark of our Caribbean civilisation.

The Credit Union Movement in the Caribbean originated as a home-grown response to the limitations of the financial institutions of the colonial economy to address the special needs and circumstances of the poor and the working people. Against awesome odds the Caribbean Credit Union Movement has developed mightily into a major plank in the financial infrastructure of the post-colonial economy to serve the people of our region. Amidst the immense challenges of modern financial globalisation, the Credit Union Movement in the Caribbean continues to enhance its possibilities and consolidate its strengths. Remarkably, it has fashioned a “modus operandi” to turn setbacks into advances much to the consternation of its detractors. Still, as always, there is much more to be done.

Accordingly, the theme for your deliberations this year is most apt: “One Unified Cooperative Sector for Competitive Advantage”. I have absolutely no doubt that your Confederation will emerge stronger, mightier than ever. In your efforts, you are entitled to rely with confidence on the fullest support of the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Yours is a great cause; and great causes have never been won by doubtful men and women. I know that you will never forget your historic legacy and your splendid destiny. I am with you, always.

Dated the 10th day of June, 2008.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister