



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

685 3rd Ave., Ste. 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 • www.svg-un.org

Statement

By

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

**Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the
United Nations**

at the

**Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Security
Briefing on Colombia**

January 13th, 2020
New York

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Before I begin, I would also like to express our solidarity with the government and people of Haiti, 10 years after the devastating earthquake and express our condolences to the government and people of Niger. We thank you Mr President for acknowledging these events with moments of silence earlier.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends warm greetings to Her Excellency Claudia Blum, Foreign Minister of Colombia, and Mr Emilio Archila, Presidential Counsellor of Colombia, and welcomes their participation in today's meeting.

We also thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Special Representative of the Secretary General and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, for his presentation and his important work.

Mr. President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the progress highlighted in the Secretary General's report (S/2019/988).

We acknowledge advances made during the reporting period such as: progress in the "*Peace with legality Strategy*"; the convocation of the first local and department elections since the Final Agreement, particularly the participation of former Farc combatants and the active participation of women in the political process; the development of programs with territorial focus (PDETS) for conflict-affected municipalities; valuable contributions of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP); the twelve (12) new collective productive projects approved by the National Reintegration Council (NRC); and the increase in the number of former combatants pursuing academic studies.

We also wish to highlight the reported progress in discussing the bill to extend the Law for Victims and Land Restitution. Indeed, reparations is an important component of restitution and reconciliation.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, my delegation notes significant encumbrances towards the comprehensive implementation of the Final Agreement. We are concerned about the progress in the process of accreditation of former combatants, as well as the difficulties in ensuring the security guarantees for some communities. These legal and security guarantees are paramount for the holistic reintegration of former Farc combatants.

Similarly, permanent solutions for the seventy percent of (70%) former Farc combatants residing outside former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration (TATR) are key for the full implementation of the Final Agreement.

Equally crucial is the need for agricultural reforms and the full implementation of the Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS), which shall serve to discourage participants from entering the illegitimate economy. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is concerned about the reported threats to participants involved in this programme (PNIS).

Fundamentally, my delegation is disturbed by the continuing acts of violence, especially against women and children, the attacks against communities, and the killing of indigenous people and Afro-Colombians. We condemn these acts of violence and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Mr. President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines agrees with the Secretary General's call for the parties to the Agreement to overcome their differences regarding its implementation through sustained dialogue, as well as his recommendation to fully capitalize on the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement (CSIVI) to resolve their disputes.

It is worthy to underscore that the process of consolidating lasting peace in Colombia is at a very important stage. There is no space for complacency nor selective implementation of this Agreement. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines calls on all parties to honour their obligations and comply with the comprehensive implementation of the Final Agreement.

Mr President, the Colombian peace process remains an exemplar in our multilateral system, underscoring that one must never foreclose on dialogue in seeking to resolve conflict, no matter how difficult and entrenched a conflict may be.

In closing, we reiterate our support to the government and people of Colombia in their pursuit of lasting peace, as well as the UN Verification Mission and country team to assist with the comprehensive implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. I thank you.