



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

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Statement

By

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At the

**United Nations Security Council Monthly Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank You Mr. President, and good morning to all.

I begin by expressing my gratitude to Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and the Director of Coordination at OCHA, Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, for their timely and insightful briefings.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is delighted that, since assuming the Chairmanship of the 2140 Sanctions Committee, UNMHA's mandate has been renewed, and overall de-escalation has continued on the ground. We wish to reaffirm its commitment to the peace process and agrees with fellow Council members that the only solution is a political one, inclusive of all Yemenis. In this regard, we wish to stress the need for women to be included in this political process, and for this process to reflect the aspirations of youth – this is the only way for us to achieve a durable solution. We must also emphasize the need for the Stockholm, the Hodeidah and the Riyadh Agreements to be fully implemented. In this vein, we commend the efforts of the Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council towards implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, noting the deal reached by both parties, which provides for the withdrawal of forces from Aden within three weeks. We encourage further steps towards full implementation.

Mr. President,

Five years later, Yemen is still regarded the world's worst humanitarian crisis. It is not our intention to be grim nor do we wish to take anything away from the progress that has been made on the humanitarian front; however, more must be done and more must be done as a matter of urgency. The Global Humanitarian Overview 2020 emphasized that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance will remain close to 2019 levels of 24 million, the influx of the migrant population has further compounded the situation.

It is imperative that parties do not actively obstruct the work of humanitarian personnel. There is an urgent and critical need for unimpeded humanitarian access—for many people, this is literally the difference between life and death. May we also underscore that the facilitation of unimpeded humanitarian relief is enshrined within international humanitarian law, and to deliberately obstruct this is an infraction of a well-established law within our rules-based system. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly condemns any action that breaches international law, and further condemns the act of obstructing humanitarian access. We call upon all parties to allow and facilitate full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need.

Mr. President,

To conclude, we wish to recall the recent Open Debate during which we reaffirmed our commitment to upholding the UN Charter — the situation in Yemen does not exemplify such aims. If we sit by and allow large-scale suffering in Yemen to continue, the immutable principles of the UN Charter will become nothing more than hollow talking points ventilated in patent isolation and disconnected from a reality of ongoing struggle and hardship felt by too many. To this end, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates its commitment to the principles of international law and stresses that they must be vigorously upheld; our adherence must remain steadfast, as we endeavor to address global problems through collective collaboration.

Thank you.