



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

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Explanation of Vote

by

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Permanent Representative

Security Council

January 31st, 2020

New York

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Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports the adoption of this resolution. Sanctions are indeed an imperfect tool, but amongst the basket of corrective options currently available, such measures are likely to yield some intended results with minimal collateral effects. To be clear, our desire is not to punish the Central African Republic, but to support the state as it restores its own authority and fulfils its responsibility of protecting civilians. We consider this resolution to be robust enough to help combat the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, while providing some flexibility to the legitimate authorities of the country who have faced operational and logistical difficulties.

Mr. President,

Our delegation has taken note of the Central African Republic's repeated calls for a complete lifting of the arms component of the sanctions measures. While we do agree that there is some merit to this request, primarily as it relates to enabling the security forces to reclaim territory from armed groups; we do not believe that the time is ripe for a complete lifting of arms measures as there still remain some shortcomings with weapons and ammunition management in the country. To this end, we emphasize that there is a great need for capacity-building and call on **all** of our friends in the international community to provide technical and developmental assistance in that regard.

At this juncture, we wish to recognize that the government of the Central African Republic - despite its many challenges - has committed itself, and made some positive progress, towards achieving the key benchmarks that guide our sanctions review process. We also offer our highest assurances that once these efforts continue, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will advocate for

further relaxations to the arms embargo, with a view towards gradually and progressively lifting these restrictions. We therefore encourage the CAR authorities to continue reforming its security sector, and to maintain its efforts to disarm, demobilize, reintegrate, and repatriate ex-combatants. These structural reforms would help to build trust and ensure much-needed reconciliation amongst the people of the Central African Republic. After all, it is they that must lead their political process.

Excellencies,

This resolution embodies the spirit of compromise. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would like to thank the penholder, France, and **all** members of the Security Council for their constructive efforts toward achieving a working consensus. As individual Member States, we may often have divergent views, but as a Council, we must always remain objective and pragmatic. We should never allow narrow self-interests, ideological positions, or strategic agendas to overshadow the needs of the Central African people.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will always stand in solidarity with our African brothers and sisters. When Africa speaks, we will listen.

Thank You.