



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong**

Second Deputy Permanent Representative

**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Briefing**

United Nations Security Council

6 February 2020

New York

Check against delivery

Thank You Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks His Excellency, Prime Minister Edi Rama, for his briefing. We congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of this dynamic and proactive organization, and we wish you a successful tenure.

The work of the OSCE is undoubtedly commendable. As the world's largest regional security arrangement, it serves as a platform for preventive diplomacy and multilateral cooperation across the peace, security and development nexus. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes this multidimensional approach to preventing conflict and ensuring lasting peace. Indeed, existing threats to international peace and security require comprehensive political strategies that address the root causes of conflict. The OSCE's mandate exemplifies the very "nexus" approach, so crucial for mitigating existing and emerging transnational risks.

Mr. President,

As a small island developing state on the frontlines of the fight against Climate Change, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers it our solemn duty to raise the issue of climate-driven insecurity. Complex challenges, such as Climate Change, with its many attendant hazards, require multifaceted solutions. We welcome the multi-agency "ENVSEC" initiative within which the OSCE and other partners' work to promote trans-boundary cooperation for environmental management and Climate Change adaptation.

Mr. President,

Women's involvement is critical for political, peace and security processes. Their full and equal participation in all forms of political life is instrumental for well-functioning societies. In observance of the 20-year milestone since the adoption of resolution 1325, our delegation welcomes the efforts to further implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the OSCE region under Albania's stewardship.

On the crisis in the Ukraine, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates that *principles* should guide all efforts toward a lasting settlement of the dispute. We welcome the recent efforts made on confidence-building measures including prisoner exchanges and new areas of disengagement. We emphasize that only through constructive dialogue and the consistent adherence to the principles of international law can a lasting solution to this crisis be crafted and enacted. We hope that in 2020 all parties can work towards full implementation of the Minsk Agreements under the auspices of the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group.

On other border conflicts, including the situations in Nagorno-Karabakh and in Transdniestria, we reiterate that the UN Charter's guiding principles of territorial integrity and self-determination for non-implanted populations remain sacrosanct. We welcome the OSCE's mediation efforts toward comprehensive settlements of these disputes.

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a small island developing state with an open economy and no standing army to insulate us against many of today's complex security challenges. We owe our continued peaceful existence to the rules-based multilateral system where all regional and sub-regional organizations and their Member States work together to advance our common interests of peace and prosperity for all. We recognize that the OSCE, as a key partner to the United Nations, occupies an important space in our global governance architecture. We extend our fullest support to the OSCE as it continues to promote peace, security *and* development.

Thank You.