



# **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

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

685 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Ste. 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 • [www.svg-un.org](http://www.svg-un.org)

## **Statement**

By

**Isis Gonsalves**

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

At the

**United Nations Security Council Monthly Briefing (UNAMI)**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

New York

United Nations Security Council

Thank You, Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines congratulates you on assuming the presidency for the month of March. We also recognize the presence of the distinguished representative of Iraq in the chamber.

We thank Ms. Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert for her insightful briefing. Since taking up our seat on the Council, this is the first time that we can officially extend our gratitude to UNAMI for its indispensable work; as such, we welcome this opportunity. We affirm our support to you and your team.

UNAMI's mandate provides a platform to support the Government of Iraq in tremendous ways, including in the advancement of political dialogue. We welcome UNAMI's engagement with the Women Advisory Group to solicit input on the government's ongoing constitutional review. Meaningful participation of women in political processes, and economic and social planning is essential for achieving peace that extends beyond silencing the guns. On this note, it would be remiss of me not to mention the appointment of a woman as CEO of the Independent High Electoral Commission as indicative of the kind of transformation required to secure a more just organization of Iraqi society and polity. Similarly, we recognize as progressive, UNAMI's engagement with young civil activists. We appreciate that UNAMI has created a platform for dialogue between local youth representatives and senior local political figures.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends the constructive cooperation between UNAMI and the government of Iraq regarding missing Kuwaiti persons and third country nationals. We note the success of these efforts as catalogued in the most recent report. We encourage the government to continue building upon the progress made with regards to the return of missing Kuwaiti property, including the search for Kuwaiti books and national archives.

Mr. President,

We remain concerned about the ongoing protests and are concerned by allegations of abuses. While the establishment of a Committee to investigate reprisals against protestors is a positive move, we urge greater progress in holding individuals and groups accountable. Additionally, we encourage steps towards the formation of a government.

In our efforts to assist the Government of Iraq, we recall relevant international principles, namely those of sovereignty, non-intervention and non-interference - these are the pillars upon which we can peacefully co-exist. Iraq, as a sovereign state, has full authority to oversee its domestic affairs in accordance with international law, free from any external interference. This right, deeply embedded in our rules-based system, must not, in practice, be abrogated – it must be respected by all states, including those that operate within Iraq, and therefore, within the parameters set out by the government. In this regard, the government of Iraq's commitment and efforts to work constructively with UNAMI is commendable. This is a mutually reinforcing and beneficial relationship that should be encouraged.

Mr. President,

Too many Iraqis have suffered at the hands of the Islamic State. We remain deeply concerned that ISIL's remaining elements continue to carry out attacks. Complete eradication of these spoilers is critical in safeguarding reconciliation and redevelopment in Iraq. We wish to reiterate that issues related to conflict, and development must be addressed concurrently. There is a need to combat poverty, unemployment and inequality and for urgent economic and social reconstruction of Iraq. Sustainable reconciliation and reconstruction are only achievable when they are accompanied by efforts to safeguard human security. Our international community remains duty-bound to provide

the Republic of Iraq with all of the support necessary to materialize their future possibilities across the peace, security and development nexus.

We end by reaffirming our support to UNAMI and the government of Iraq, as they work towards achieving a lasting and positive peace.

Thank you.