



**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>

Explanation of Vote

by

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

Permanent Representative

**Resolution on the Safety and Security of Peacekeepers
(S/RES/2518)**

Security Council

March 30th, 2020

New York

Check against delivery

Excellencies,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines **voted in favour** of S/RES/2518 on the safety and security of peacekeepers. Admittedly, we are not a troop- nor a police-contributing country (T/PCC), however we do acknowledge that peacekeeping remains a central instrument in our collective struggle against the scourge of war. We wish to reiterate that while peacekeeping operations may facilitate a cessation of hostilities in the short or medium-term; moving from a ceasefire towards a lasting and sustainable peace requires a multidimensional approach that addresses the root causes of conflict. To this end, peacekeeping operations must always form part of a broader, nationally-led, and inclusive political process in order to achieve these desired outcomes. Uniformed and civilian personnel in the employ of these stabilization missions must always be provided with adequate training to allow them to carry out their mandates in accordance with these broader political objectives.

Peacekeeping engagements have become increasingly complicated as modern globalization has produced an uncertain security landscape that continues to evolve. The rise of non-traditional threats including, but not limited to, cross-border terrorism, mass displacement of persons, epidemics, climate change, and other forms of human insecurity add to this complex security landscape, while escalating tensions and serving as key triggers for conflict. Meanwhile, peacekeepers are tasked with carrying out their mandates in these increasingly harsh political, security and environmental contexts. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends its gratitude to all T/PCCs and their uniformed personnel for their ongoing commitments and sacrifices. We welcome any initiative designed to improve the safety and security of the peacekeepers by ensuring they have access to the necessary operational, logistical, medical, financial, and personal support.

A central aspect of promoting the safety and security of peacekeepers is ensuring that they have the right mindset to carry out complex tasks under difficult conditions. To this end, we welcome the ongoing thrust to improve performance and accountability under the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. We further welcome the range of tools and instruments that are being progressively rolled out under this initiative, such as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS), and the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). Our delegation emphasizes, however, that peacekeepers themselves must be provided with the requisite guarantees that they will be rewarded for their hard work and commitments. This

means that all member states must make good on their obligations to provide necessary funding to the UN system through their assessed contributions. Without these contributions, shortfalls emerge in the peacekeeping budget which may hinder the delivery of mandates by creating delays in reimbursing T/PCCs, generating a lack of necessary equipment, and producing low morale amongst uniformed personnel.

The environmental conditions under which peacekeepers are asked to carry out their mandated tasks are increasingly impacted by Climate Change phenomena. Unpredictable weather patterns, such as erratic precipitation and flooding, serve to add further complexity to the navigational and logistical challenges facing peacekeeping missions and their personnel. These factors also exacerbate the political and security landscapes in many host-states, putting further strain on peacekeeping operations, while creating personal risks for peacekeepers themselves. We therefore consider it absolutely necessary for the international community to mobilize sufficient financial support to assist countries that are affected by Climate Change. From the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, strategies to build resilience and mitigate against the hazards of Climate Change must be developed and implemented in order to strengthen our efforts to achieve lasting peace and security.

I thank you.