



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

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United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr President, thank you Martin and Ramesh for your updates, and for your committed work and unwavering cooperation with this Council and we reaffirm our support for you.

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen. At the same time, slow movement on the political track shows a deep divide between the current situation and a future of peace and prosperity for all Yemenis. But we must not be discouraged. This Security Council, and its members, are well-positioned to influence the course of events on the ground. It is clear that we need a Yemeni-owned dialogue, facilitated by the UN, not military adventurism. The commencement of such a dialogue should not depend on implementation of agreements, but geared towards building trust and confidence and ultimately easing the suffering of people. We acknowledge that the Stockholm Agreement was, among other things, able to avert a crisis at the arterial Hodeidah port, and that the Riyadh agreement addressed the immediate threat of fighting in the South; however, to wait on further implementation of these agreements to begin peace talks is tantamount to inaction. Without progress on the political front, the conflict will not be resolved.

In light of this urgent need to resume dialogue, we underscore the role of the international community and urge all states to encourage the parties to engage constructively. We call on parties to the conflict to work towards a nationwide

ceasefire, which would help to create an environment that can facilitate positive talks.

As we seek to promote dialogue between the parties, this Council must, at a minimum, strongly discourage any actions that would jeopardize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen.

A lasting peace can only be achieved through an inclusive process that allows for the recognition of the aspirations of all persons for whom peace is secured. In our endeavors towards durable peace, we emphasize the significance of the process being inclusive and participatory. This approach allows for the recognition of the aspirations of all persons for whom peace is secured. It strengthens the social fabric and facilitates positive socio-political transformation. The involvement of all groups is critical for supporting and bolstering sustainable peace. It cannot be overstated, the importance of inclusion in addressing and defusing underlying tensions that have ruptured the social fabric. To this end, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines encourages the unconditional creation of opportunities for meaningful involvement of all groups, particularly the marginalized.

Before concluding, I must express our concern, once again, over the inaccessibility of the SAFER oil tanker. The continuing denial of access to UN staff is worrisome. We appeal for access to be granted in order to avoid an environmental disaster in the Red Sea.

Excellencies, we close with a call for de-escalation and dialogue with an immediate emphasis on saving lives and the longer-term goals of rebuilding Yemen, addressing underdevelopment, and re-establishing the rule of law.

Before I cede the floor, Mr President, and since this will be the last time that we have the privilege of our colleague, Ambassador Dame Karen Pierce's presence in this chamber, I would also like to wish Karen all the best in her next assignment. We will surely miss you, Karen, I had so welcomed the opportunity to learn from your vast experience, knowledge and wisdom. I will, however, cherish the short time I did share with you. Continue doing *what* you are doing and *how* you are doing it. You make *all* women proud. You, Karen, are our Dame!

Godspeed, my friend, and Peace Profound, always!

Thank you.