



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

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Statement

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King
Permanent Representative**

The Situation in the Middle East (Syria – Political)

United Nations Security Council

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New York

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Thank you, Madam President, and thank you Geir for your briefing.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines echoes the appeal for a complete, immediate nationwide ceasefire throughout Syria. The 5th March agreement to address hostilities in the northwest was a welcomed development and we are pleased that it broadly continues to hold. However, we recognize that it is fragile, and a nationwide ceasefire is critical now more than ever. Indeed, a total cessation of hostilities is vital for the creation a safe and stable environment, which will help to further the political process. This is also the only way to truly enable Syria to effectively fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to hear that, thus far, the numbers of the COVID-19 affected persons across regions are low.

The political process is a complex one that requires dedication, mutual respect, and compromise by all parties. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates its support for the tireless efforts of the Special Envoy in the wider political process. The continued engagement with the parties will only serve to advance this process. We particularly appreciate the steps taken to consult with women's civil society organizations to ensure their meaningful participation. It is well known that women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution can improve outcomes before, during, and after conflict. The inclusion of women will undoubtedly lead to more constructive and equitable outcomes for all.

We look forward to the convening of the third round of talks of the Constitutional Committee. It is commendable that the parties have reached an agreement on the agenda and we urge all to continue to cooperate for the benefit of the Syrian people.

Madam President,

Confidence building measures are necessary to restore trust, promote active participation and contribute to the viability of the wider political process, as emphasized in Security Council Resolution 2254. In this vein, we reiterate that the question of arbitrarily detained and missing persons ought to be addressed.

It is essential, Madam President, that this Council support efforts aimed at realizing the goals of Resolution 2254. We must also remain mindful that our actions must respect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Syria will not know peace through military action. Only through a credible, balanced, and inclusive political process, that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, can lasting peace and stability be achieved.

I thank you.