



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

At the

**United Nations Security Council Open VTC on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr President,

And we thank Martin and Mark for their invaluable updates on the situation in Yemen.

Mr President,

It remains critical, particularly at this moment, that we continue to remain fully aware of all developments amidst the ongoing pandemic. We have seen, too, the devastating flash floods in Sana'a where the people are in urgent need of assistance and express our solidarity with those who are suffering. We must do all we can to assist in efforts to help overcome the damage caused by the flash floods and to mitigate the chances of increasingly severe weather patterns.

COVID-19, and its far-reaching consequences, adds another layer of complexity to the conflict and dire humanitarian situation in Yemen. It threatens to further deteriorate the living conditions of the Yemeni people and undermine the humanitarian response. Yemen's infrastructure has been devastated during the years of conflict, making it extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of this pandemic; in this regard, we encourage cooperation between all relevant national agencies and the WHO to contain the spread and stress the need for regional and international collaboration in this shared fight. We take this opportunity to welcome the cooperation between the UN, the WHO

and the Yemen authorities in managing preparedness for the coronavirus, including through the provision of thousands of tests to all the governorates of Yemen and the establishment of a quarantine facility in Aden. We also welcome the WHO's efforts to build the capacity of the intensive care units in hospitals, as well as the training of healthcare workers.

Furthermore, we welcome the announced ceasefires by the Coalition and subsequent commitments from the Government of Yemen to the ceasefire. We encourage all parties to engage and implement a permanent cessation of hostilities, in good faith, amidst the efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. We also encourage safe and unhindered access to healthcare workers and humanitarian personnel operating to slow the rate of infection and provide life-saving assistance. In this vein, we emphasize the important role of donors, who secure and sustain this critical aid. While the people of Yemen are threatened with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are also suffering from the consequences of a 5-year conflict. Sustaining humanitarian aid at this juncture is critically important.

Before concluding, Mr. President, we express our continued concern over the inaccessibility of the SAFER oil tanker, which represents a looming marine environmental disaster. This remains an issue that must be urgently addressed for Yemen, the region, and for the protection of our global commons.

We close by underscoring Martin's assessment that "an opportunity has emerged to bring peace to Yemen". Let us seize it! We reiterate our support for the work of the Special Envoy and encourage all parties to the conflict to resume negotiations towards a sustainable and inclusive peace. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its support for this peace process and stands in solidarity with the people of Yemen.

Thank you.