



**Permanent Mission of Saint 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 (UNAMI)

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Thank you, Mr President,

We also thank Special Representative Hennis-Plasschaert for her informative briefing and her leadership during these extraordinarily difficult circumstances. I wish to recognise the my friend and colleague Ambassador Mohammend Bahr al-ulum, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Iraq.

Mr President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the political progress made in Iraq, including progress towards the formation of the new government.

Iraq is now grappling with the coronavirus pandemic and we recognize and commend the government's early engagement to contain its spread. We also acknowledge the coordination between UNAMI and the WHO to support the government's measures in this regard. We reiterate that the fight against COVID is a shared one requiring close cooperation.

We encourage the government to keep human dignity at the centre of their efforts to combat COVID-19, as they protect the most vulnerable people, including displaced persons, and to ensure that appropriate mechanisms and laws are in place for the protection of victims of domestic violence. We also emphasize the need for the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons in need. Most persons targeted for humanitarian assistance under the Humanitarian Response Plan are displaced persons, and we take this opportunity to underscore the need for relevant authorities to facilitate the voluntary, safe, and dignified return and reintegration of displaced persons in accordance with international law.

Amidst the fight against the pandemic, Iraq is still recovering from the war on terror, and we remain concerned that remnants of ISIL continue to launch frequent attacks against Iraqi people.

We commend UNAMI for its constructive engagement in Iraq, including its commitment to resolve the issue of missing Kuwaiti persons and property, and recognise the commitment of Iraq's Ministry of Defence and the ICRC's support in this regard.

Mr President,

Regarding Iraq's path to reconciliation and reconstruction, we stress that the exclusion of any group within society can have a crippling effect. Likewise, impunity can adversely impact the reconciliation process. To that end, we encourage the government to pursue accountability for violations of international law and encourage UNAMI to support the government in this process in accordance with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In closing, we reiterate our support to UNAMI and encourage assistance from the regional and international communities to strengthen Iraq's domestic capacities, thereby buttressing its path to reconstruction.

And last but by no means least, I wish to extend our condolences to the families of the Blue Helmets recently killed in Mali. May they Rest in Peace and may their good work always be remembered.

Thank you.