



**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**

**Intervention by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under “Any Other Business”  
(Venezuela)**

United Nations Security Council

22 April 2020

New York

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Mr. President,

In 2014, thirty-three countries of Latin America and the Caribbean proclaimed the region to be a “Zone of Peace”. The declaration, which was very apt and highly relevant six years ago, remains relevant and indispensable today. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to this declaration and to the adherence of international law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the principle of equal sovereignty of States.

During this daunting time of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, my delegation is very concerned by the irresponsible declarations and intemperate actions against democratic countries in the western hemisphere. With respect to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to closely monitor the aggressive policies against our sister Caribbean nation.

We categorically condemn the unilateral blockade against Venezuela and reiterate our support to the calls of Secretary General Guterres and High Commissioner Bachelet, for the lifting of sanctions imposed by various countries, and the cessation of hostilities, in order to facilitate attention to the COVID-19 pandemic. The unilateral imposed blockade presents undue hardships, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, has extraterritorial implications and prevents the procurement of necessary equipment and tools to allow the government to adequately respond to the pandemic.

We urge countries to desist in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States. Additionally, we reaffirm the principles of non-intervention and non-interference, acknowledging that it is the inalienable right of peoples to determine their own socio-economic and political, system, without threat and aggression, in safeguarding their peaceful co-existence. Now is the time for unity, not division, in combatting the COVID-19.

I thank you.