



**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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

to the United Nations

Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

I thank Ms. Stephanie Williams, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General in Libya, and Ambassador **Jürgen Schulz**, Chair of the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee, **for their briefings.**

Let me begin by extending my Government's sincerest condolences to the families of the victims who have lost their lives as a result of the escalating violence in Libya. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly condemns the incessant attacks against the civilian population and infrastructure, which only aggravate the suffering of the Libyan people. *We are dismayed, all the more, to hear the terrifying and unbearable conditions underscored in Ms Williams briefing this morning.*

Mr. President, it is extremely disturbing that approximately three months after the adoption of **S/Res/2510**, the status quo in Libya remains - the security situation is extremely volatile, the humanitarian situation deteriorates, the economy weakens, and the political impasse lingers. For the development aspirations of the Libyan people, the international community and all Libyan stakeholders can ill-afford a continuation of this status quo. Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines calls on all warring parties to de-escalate tension, commit to a ceasefire and engage in an inter-Libyan dialogue to resolve the conflict peacefully.

The ceasefire is pivotal to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to restore stability by providing the space for dialogue and negotiation, including advancing the United Nation's three-point initiative and the work of UNSMIL. We take solace in knowing that the Libyans support this initiative and strongly urge the warring parties to refrain from actions that may jeopardize these efforts. We also look forward to the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General in Libya.

My delegation reiterates its support for the Berlin Conclusion and welcomes the progress by the International Follow-up Committee. We call for strict adherence to international law, particularly respect for the arms embargo, and urge all external actors to assist in this regard.

We deplore the violence against groups in vulnerable situations, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and women and girls. We call on the authorities to ensure their protection and safety, carry out the necessary investigations and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Finally, we stand in solidarity with the people of Libya and reaffirm our support to UNSMIL and the efforts being undertaken by the African Union, the Arab League and all other actors that seeks to bring a peaceful political solution to the conflict. To this end, we look forward to the convening of the African Union-led inter-Libyan reconciliation conference. In closing, Mr President, I echo the acting SRSG's plea – We must not let Libya slip away.

I thank you!