



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

to the United Nations

**Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya - Nineteenth Report of the
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

United Nations Security Council

05/05/2020

New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her presentation on the Nineteenth Report to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), as well as the work of her Office vis-à-vis the situation in Libya.

In 2002, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the Rome Statute of the ICC. Our position, then, as it is now, was premised on the conviction that the ICC has a fundamental role to play in our collective quest for peace and justice. As we uphold the integrity of the ICC and the principles of international law, we stress the importance of investigating genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, ending impunity for perpetrators of these atrocities and bringing justice to the victims.

In Libya, the situation remains extremely worrisome and risks being further exacerbated by recent developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines renews its call for all warring parties to commit to a ceasefire and engage in an inter-Libyan dialogue to resolve the conflict peacefully. The escalation of violence, particularly, the indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure only aggravate the suffering of the Libyan people, especially the most vulnerable groups. We categorically condemn these acts of violence and demand the safety and protection of civilian population in Libya.

We also reiterate the importance of consolidating the United Nation's three-point plan and the work of UNSMIL and encourage all external influential actors to assist in this regard.

Mr. President, the difficulties faced in Libya today, as underscored in the ICC's report, are made evident by the challenges encountered by the Office of the Prosecutor in effectively executing its mandate. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines emphasizes the importance of cooperation and the principle of complementarity of the Rome Statute, which are essential for the Court to assume its functions. Accordingly, we call on all States to respect their treaty obligations, cooperate with the ICC and adhere to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. We also respectfully

encourage States which have not yet done so, to ratify the Rome Statute. The ICC remains at the centre of our international criminal justice system and is a primary mechanism to provide restitution to the victims and families of mass atrocity crimes.

In closing, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands in solidarity with the people of Libya and reiterates its commitment and support to the ICC, which remains a bastion of hope and justice that is critical for building and sustaining peace.

I thank you.