



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

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative

Closed VTC - The Situation in Burundi

Security Council

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Thank you Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking Assistant Secretary-General, Bintou Keita, for your briefing on the situation in Burundi. We also join others in officially extending our condolences to the Government and people of Burundi on the passing of President Nkurunziza.

Excellencies,

The timing of today's meeting is opportune, given that the peaceful organization, free and fair conduct, and credible outcomes of the recent presidential and legislative elections signals a historic moment for the people and government of Burundi. We extend our warmest congratulations to the newly sworn-in President Evariste Ndayishimiye for his electoral victory and inauguration. We hope that his tenure is a successful one.

As the first election to be entirely financed from internal resources, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers this to be an important turning point in Burundi's development. We join others, including the African Union (AU) and East African Community (EAC), in congratulating all political actors for the calm and peaceful atmosphere during the elections. We also encourage stakeholders to maintain this resolve and to settle disagreements through peaceful means. As we look forward to the senate and local elections, scheduled for July 20th and August 24th respectively, we hope that this tranquil climate will be preserved.

At this important crossroad, the country needs to be united as it pursues an inclusive national political dialogue, and in this regard, we encourage a resumption of the EAC-led inter-Burundian dialogue. We also appeal to the national authorities to maintain transparency and credibility in order to consolidate public trust and safeguard the integrity of national institutions.

Burundi has made significant progress in recent years on a number of fronts. The overall improvement of the security situation has created a fertile environment for lasting peace and security in the country as well as the wider region. The large voter turnout in the recent elections is testament to the people's confidence and readiness for a peaceful and prosperous future, and in this moment the international community should accompany the people of Burundi on this journey. In light of the health, socioeconomic and security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the people of Burundi will require the full support of the international community to

address the root causes of insecurity, and to ensure that a lasting peace remains within grasp. We therefore call on members of the international community to provide much-needed development assistance in accordance with national plans and priorities.

Excellencies,

In recognition of the positive changes in the country, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers this to be a ripe moment for the United Nations to reassess its engagement with Burundi. To be clear, the situation does not currently constitute a threat to international peace and security and it is time that we seriously consider removing Burundi from the Security Council's agenda. While we encourage the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission's Burundi configuration to support national development, there is no need for a dual track approach with parallel engagement of both the PBC and the Security Council. It is important to give the peacebuilding processes time and space to achieve lasting results in Burundi.

Thank you.