



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

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong**

Deputy Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

**Open VTC Meeting on the Thirty-First Report of the Prosecutor of the  
International Criminal Court (Sudan)**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

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Thank you, Madame President,

I join Council members in thanking Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her presentation on the Thirty-first Report to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to **resolution 1593**.

Efforts by the government of Sudan to bring justice to the victims of the conflict in Darfur, as outlined in the Prosecutor's report, are laudable. This, together with the ongoing negotiations in Juba, are pivotal to restoring peace and stability in Darfur and reconciliation throughout the entire country.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes these positive developments. However, we remain concerned about the protracted security and humanitarian challenges in Darfur, including threats against Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's); grave violations against children, persons with disabilities, women and youth made most vulnerable; and sporadic intercommunal conflicts. We therefore renew our call for strengthening institutions and building capacities to protect the most dispossessed groups, and for the prosecution of perpetrators of atrocity crimes. We also look forward to the implementation of **resolutions 2525** and **2524** to assist in this regard.

My delegation is mindful that Sudan is not party to the Rome Statute and its national judiciary is primarily responsible for prosecuting atrocity crimes. Equally, we are cognizant that all States are required to fulfill their international obligations, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. With the adoption of **resolution 1593**, both Sudan and the ICC are encouraged to cooperate and engage constructively to tackle impunity and bring justice to the victims of atrocity crimes. In this context, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stresses the importance of cooperation and reiterates the principle of complementarity in the application of international criminal law. We applaud the efforts of countries which have led to the surrender of Mr. Ali Kushayb. We also emphasise that the jurisdiction of the ICC is only invoked when States are unable or unwilling to prosecute alleged perpetrators.

Finally, my delegation remains confident in the ICC's fundamental role of providing justice for the victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as ending impunity for

perpetrators of these atrocities. We stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan and reiterate our commitment to the ICC. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines looks forward to the day when all member States of the United Nations can ratify the Rome Statute.

Thank you, Madame President.