



**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 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

to the United Nations

**Open VTC Meeting on the Report of the Secretary General on the situation in  
South Sudan (S/2020/536)**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr President,

We also thank SRSB Shearer and Mr. Edmund Yakani for their presentations.

We begin by reiterating the support of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for UNMISS and its ongoing efforts to support the peace process.

Yesterday marked exactly five months since South Sudan leaders committed to form the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU). That laudable decision remains essential for the restoration of peace, stability and the sustainable development of South Sudan. My delegation reaffirms its solidarity with South Sudan and urges all parties to comprehensively implement the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

We note measured advances in the Secretary General's recent report. Significant residual challenges, however, need to be addressed, particularly the transitional security arrangements, the resolution of gubernatorial positions, as well as the establishment of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and a permanent constitution. My delegation is encouraged by reports that the parties have agreed to nominate regional governors and we stress the importance of fulfilling the 35% quota for women in government, as anticipated in the Revitalized Agreement.

The maintenance of the ceasefire is positive and remains critical in creating a climate of security. However, the reported uptick in inter-communal conflict, as well as violations against vulnerable groups, including forced recruitment of children for armed conflict, conflict-

related sexual violence (CRSV), and threats posed to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are disconcerting. My delegation is firm in its conviction that intercommunal conflicts will not be resolved unless their root causes are fundamentally addressed.

We also reiterate the importance of establishing strong and enduring institutions that would guarantee the safety of civilians and ensure good governance. In this context, we align with the African Union Peace and Security Council's call for the finalization of all necessary instruments to operationalize the Hybrid Court of South Sudan.

In addition, we are worried about the humanitarian situation, which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its concomitant socio-economic challenges. We reiterate our call for the lifting or easing of unilateral coercive measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those imposed on South Sudan. Let us do all we can to propel South Sudan towards sustainable peace and development. Unilateral sanctions should be lifted in order for the government to meet the people's needs.

Similarly, we look forward to the review of UN Security Council sanctions measures in keeping with resolution 2521 towards the end of this year. We hope that progress on key benchmarks will facilitate a progressive easing of these sanctions.

As countries across the globe consolidate efforts to combat the pandemic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines calls on the international community to

continue supporting South Sudan. We welcome the financial support to the 2020 humanitarian response plan thus far, but note it is only 30% funded. Greater technical and financial resources to regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the African Union and IGAD that are instrumental in the peace process in South Sudan, are necessary. We also urge greater financial support to South Sudan's National Development Strategy (2018-2021) in accordance with the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and South Sudan Vision 2040.

We welcome the formation of the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) to respond to the pandemic and encourage enhanced collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), WHO and UNMISS. We further underscore the importance of facilitating humanitarian access to assist in alleviating the impact of the pandemic.

In conclusion, my delegation remains ready to work with the international community and South Sudan to ensure peace and stability prevails.

I thank you.