



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

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Statement in Explanation of Vote

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King
Permanent Representative**

**Security Council Resolution (S/RES/2532) submitted under the agenda item
“Maintenance of International Peace and Security.”**

United Nations Security Council

1 July 2020

New York

Please check against delivery

Dear Colleagues,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the adoption, by unanimous consent, of this resolution which acknowledges that the unprecedented extent of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. COVID-19 necessitates a firm recommitment to the values of multilateralism in order to address the interlocking health, socioeconomic, political, and security challenges dimensions of the crisis, and to stimulate a sustainable and inclusive recovery that serves the interests of all nations and peoples. To this end, our delegation considers it an obligation to support this resolution, which lays the foundation for an immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on the Security Council's agenda, allowing conflict-affected countries the time and space to repair their societal fractures and build back better in response to COVID-19.

Given the disproportionate implications of this pandemic on the developing world produce by lockdown measures, supply chain disruptions, a sharp decline in remittances, and a general decrease of travel, trade and other economic activities, we must cast our collective gaze towards building capacities, reducing inequalities, and promoting social and economic justice for all in accordance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The alternative to this necessary action is a further escalation of social tensions in many conflict-affected societies. At the same time, we must address the urgent humanitarian needs exacerbated by the pandemic. As such, we welcome the calls for a durable humanitarian pause for at least 90 consecutive days, in order to enable the safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with the principles of international law. We also emphasize the appeal for peacekeeping operations to provide critical support, within their mandates and capacities, to host country authorities; and we further call for an immediate end to all unilateral coercive economic measures that impede national efforts to respond to the pandemic and undermine multilateral cooperation at a time when it is most crucial.

Excellencies,

As the current pandemic, the likes of which we haven't experienced in over a century, continues to wreak havoc on our societies and our economies, we must renew our collective commitment to global health cooperation by crafting effective networks that facilitate rapid early detection, prevention, treatment, and response. We must also recommit ourselves towards providing social protections for the most vulnerable.

I thank you.