



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

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you Excellency,

Foreign Minister Maas, we welcome your participation, as well as that of all distinguished Foreign Ministers, and representatives of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya (IFCL) and neighbouring countries in today's meeting. My delegation also thanks Secretary General Guterres, for his insightful briefing.

It is heart-wrenching that since 2011, Libya continues to be plagued by instability and insecurity. The protracted crisis has spiraled out of control, as is evident with the recent escalation in violence. Coupled with the dismal humanitarian situation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; Libya is clearly on a precipice.

Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly urges the warring parties to commit to a permanent ceasefire. We call on the international community to redouble its efforts to assist in resolving the crisis. If not, Libya may soon fall into an abyss of desolation, and the repercussions will be detrimental to all Libyans, including future generations, neighbouring countries, the wider African continent and Europe.

Indeed, national reconciliation is possible within the framework of a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, under the auspices of the United Nations. We reaffirm our support for UNSMIL and renew our call for the appointment of a new SRSG. We further commend the complementary efforts of the African Union, the Arab League and all other actors; and reiterate our support for the convening of the African Union-led, inter-Libyan reconciliation conference.

In order for the United Nations' approach to yield positive results, we must deepen our resolve and respond to Libya's complex challenges in a concerted manner. To this end, parties must comply with their international obligations, commencing with respecting the arms embargo and all relevant resolutions on Libya, as well as international humanitarian law.

Additionally, interference by external actors to advance narrow interests, undermine constructive efforts and initiatives. We urge external actors to refrain from taking actions that compromise ongoing negotiations. We also emphasize the need to respect Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the midst of existing challenges, the Libyan people, especially groups made most vulnerable, continue to be adversely affected. The incessant violence, countless deaths and the challenges facing migrants and refugees, including torture, sexual violence, forced disappearances, trafficking and sale of migrants, are appalling. We therefore welcome the creation of the international Fact-Finding Mission to Libya (FFML) of the Human Rights Council, to investigate atrocity crimes and ensure accountability. We also appeal to the Libyan authorities to facilitate safe humanitarian access.

Excellencies,

The exigencies of our time require us to do more for the Libyan people. We must be vigilant and consistent in addressing the current challenges, no matter their complexities, and put our efforts towards a pacific settlement to Libya's ongoing crisis. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to work with the international community in finding a political solution to the crisis. We remain in solidarity with our Libyan brothers and sisters.

I thank you!