



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

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Statement

By

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Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the
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At the

United Nations Security Council Open VTC (UNAMI)

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Thank you, Mr. President, and we thank SRSG Hennis-Plasschaert for her briefing. We wish also to recognize UNAMI's continued dedication to the people of Iraq. And we recognize the presence of our distinguished, colleague PR of Iraq.

We begin by welcoming the completion of the government-formation process, as well as Prime Minister al-Kha-dimi's announcement of his priority areas, which include holding free, fair, and credible early elections, countering terrorism and enforcing the rule of law. These activities are critical for restoring state authority and ensuring public trust, and we offer our support and encouragement in this regard.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to assail the world with its extensive consequences, and we emphasize the importance of supporting and strengthening, where possible, the Government's efforts to combat the spread of the pandemic and mitigate its impacts. It is crucial that the international community remains actively supportive of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, of which Iraq is a beneficiary. We welcome the leading role of the WHO, particularly in its acknowledgment and efforts to address the acute vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons to this virus. The most vulnerable groups must be at the centre of all measures adopted to combat the virus. To that end, we recognize the efforts undertaken

by UNAMI and the UN country team to bring awareness to the increase in domestic violence amidst covid-19-related measures.

We express concern over continued acts of violence and terror carried out by ISIL, including those which have resulted in civilian casualties. The SG's most recent report on the activities of UNAMI noted that 40 deaths and 45 injuries were attributed to ISIL between May 1st and July 9th. We condemn, to the highest degree, these acts, as well as the ongoing killing and maiming of children caused by landmines and explosive remnants. We further condemn the targeting of civil society activists and we urge the government to counter this campaign of intimidation and hostility. Equally important is accountability, which is critical to the reconstruction process. No act violating international humanitarian law or human rights law should be carried out with impunity. These are cornerstone principles to which all actors have a legal obligation, and it is imperative that they be scrupulously applied.

We conclude by reaffirming our support to UNAMI. We encourage its continued engagement with the Government of Iraq, in line with Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, which we emphasize must be respected by all actors.

Thank you.