



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Hon. Sir Louis Straker

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Statement for Alliance for Multilateralism: Our Commitment and
Contribution to Building Back Better**

September 25th, 2020

Distinguished Excellencies, and Friends,

I commend our German and French colleagues for this timely initiative. The intersecting and overlapping challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic have produced a tempest of instability in all corners of the world. For small island developing states such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, these risks have brought closer into focus the need for a renewed and effective multilateralism.

Multilateralism is bound to the principle of inclusivity and should work for all states regardless of size and vulnerability. The preservation of international law and norms are essential for a rules-based international system which pays dividends in peace, security, prosperity and sustainable development for all of humanity. Multilateralism cannot be relegated to a mechanism for the consolidation of hegemonic power. Our multilateral system, at its core, must instead aim to solve problems to benefit the international space, holistically. Our institutions must therefore be brought up to the mark for the urgent actions that are needed to solve issues such as climate change, unsuitable financial

policies, reparations, the achievement of the SDGs, and to foster sustainable peace and security. As the smallest country ever to be elected to the United Nations Security Council, we continue to lend our voices to the most pressing issues of international concern and to share our nuanced perspectives as an exemplar of small island capability. While serving on the Council we also continue to advocate for the urgent reform of the Security Council in order to improve the representativeness and accountability of that important body. Like many other SIDS, we contribute to and rely on the international system, and so we reiterate that all multilateral systems must be inclusive of and effective for the states they encompass.

Excellencies, as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines endorses the Declaration of Principles for this Alliance let us be reminded that only through multilateral action can we find solutions to the world's most pressing issues in the interest of all of humanity. We envisage multilateralism to be grounded on a rule-based system, strongly incorporating the principles of public well-being, inclusivity, equity and

accountability, and where actions take into consideration the vulnerabilities of states. It is vital that the architecture of multilateralism acknowledge and elaborate practically, for implementation, a Small Island State Exceptionalism. May this rising tide of opportunity lift us all up as we endeavour to build back better. A bright future for multilateralism is possible. Let us embrace it.

I thank you.