



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

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative

**Open VTC - Cooperation between the UN and Regional and Sub-Regional
Organizations: The Role of the International Organization of La
Francophonie**

Security Council

September 8th, 2020

New York

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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks the briefers for their remarks, and we commend Niger for convening this debate.

Regional and sub-regional organizations occupy a critical space in our multilateral system. They serve as intermediaries that link the international community to the local and contextual realities found within states, and provide their constituents with much-needed insulation against global turmoil. In the case of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), the international reach and geographically dispersed membership of this institution reinforces its strategic value to the multilateral system, which is manifested through technical cooperation, solidarity, capacity-building, and the advancement of democracy and human rights amongst its members.

At a time when the international community is faced with many threats including the interlocking health, socio-economic, political, and security challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the adverse impacts of climate change, and the heightened risks of violent conflict precipitated by divisions along ethnic, communal and political lines, the crucial role of regional and sub-regional groupings cannot be overstated. More

pressingly, given the current geopolitical tensions and fragmentation across the multilateral system, groups like La Francophonie — which places solidarity at the core of its mandate — are essential for ensuring that countries are able to confront their development challenges, and to build peaceful, prosperous and inclusive societies in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we applaud La Francophonie's efforts of advancing multilateral cooperation, promoting sustainable development, improving access to quality education, addressing climate change, strengthening the rule of law, and encouraging the active social, economic, and political participation of women, girls, and youth in Francophonie societies.

More than 50% of French-speaking persons live on the African continent. We therefore encourage the International Organization of La Francophonie to:

- Further advance its capacity-building and development assistance activities in African countries, especially those in vulnerable contexts, such as in the Sahel region.
- Strengthen the institutional relationships with regional and sub-regional organizations - such as the African Union (AU), ECOWAS, and the G5 Sahel, which are at the forefront of the international

community's efforts to promote lasting peace and security on the continent.

- And increase cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission in Francophone countries like Burundi and the Central African Republic in order to bolster the UN's sustaining peace agenda at a time when there is a shortage of predictable and reliable financing for peacebuilding activities.

As we continue working towards silencing the guns across Africa to build peaceful and resilient societies in accordance with the African Union's Agenda 2063, La Francophonie remains an essential partner to the United Nations.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines emphasizes that the challenges of the 21st Century can only be addressed through partnerships that yield people-centred solutions. We commend La Francophonie for its endeavours in this regard, and encourage a continuation of these efforts going forward.

I Thank You.