



**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

**Arria Formula – “Implementation of Security Council Resolutions on
Yoauth, Peace and Security by UN Peace Operations”**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

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Thank you Chair/Ambassador

We begin with an expression of thanks to France and the Dominican Republic for proposing and organizing this meeting. We also wish to recognise our other colleague co-sponsors South Africa, Niger, Indonesia, the United States and Tunisia, and welcome the very thoughtful insights shared by our esteemed briefers, particularly the wisdom from our young peacebuilders and leaders.

With approximately one quarter of the global youth population affected by violence or armed conflict, peacekeeping operations and special political missions must consistently engage youth at the levels of programming, participation and leadership. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines encourages increased engagement with youth to determine the terms on which they should be meaningfully included in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In this regard, we take on board the findings of research with youth in which they affirm the intersectional relationship across peace, development, security and social justice, as providing a central framework for integrated policy within the multilateral system. It is with this context in mind that we support the purposeful integration of the youth, peace and security agenda across the UN's peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and special political missions (SPMs).

We recognise important developments, in service of the implementation for resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), including the establishment of 14 youth focal points at the 22 SPMs; UNAMA's focus on empowerment and capacity building among Afghan women; BINUH's work with disadvantaged Haitian youth to provide job training; and the DDR programming WITH Colombian Youth, mentioned earlier by Mauricio. The Colombian DDR programme represents good practice in the implementation of resolutions 2250 and 2419, that also builds on the priority areas and recommendations of the Independent Progress Study on YPS, and the UN Youth 2030 strategy.

We also welcome the ongoing thrust to streamline peace operations under the Secretary-General's A4P initiative, and in this regard, emphasize that only through nationally-owned and socially-inclusive political solutions that incorporate the widest possible range of stakeholders, including youth, can lasting peace and security be realized.

The passing of resolution 2535 (2020) on the fifth anniversary of the youth peace and security, signalled our commitment to recognise and mobilise the role of youth in preventing and resolving conflict, in building and sustaining peace, and decision-making related to

peacekeeping and peacebuilding. There is however need for improvement in the number of PKOs with youth focal points, with a view that all SPMs and PKOs will establish youth and gender focal points, policies and plans. We recognise Indonesia's leadership in the passing of resolution 2538 on women in peacekeeping operations, and call for actions which emphasise meaningful participation of young women in PKOs.

In closing, we reiterate that it is insufficient to work on behalf of youth. The security, political, policy, decision-making and implementation work of peacekeeping operations and special political missions is young people's business. Youth should lead in formulating, designing, delivering, and evaluating the mechanisms and resources designed to support positive transformation of their societies. We support the recommendations housed in the Independent Youth Study (The Missing Peace) of 2018, as well as the specific actions outlined in the resolution 2535 to ensure that there is sustained and effective action in streamlining youth, peace and security within special political missions and peacekeeping operations.

I thank you.