



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**United Nations Security Council Monthly Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr President,

We begin by extending our gratitude to Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and USG Mark Lowcock, not only for their updates this morning, but for their continued commitment to the people of Yemen.

Mr President,

The situation in Yemen demands urgent action, and now, more than ever, we must maintain our engagement. While the window of opportunity for peace has not yet closed, it is quickly narrowing. I recall Mark's previous caution to this Council, in which he stressed that, if we do not help now, Yemen may fall into the abyss. We must act expeditiously to save Yemen and its people, who have been impacted by years of conflict, and are now assailed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the threat of famine, torrential rains, economic adversity, and an underfunded humanitarian response plan. These are perfect conditions for the realization of USG Lowcock's grave warning. In this regard, we urge all donors who have pledged funds to make the necessary disbursements as soon as possible. We recognize that humanitarian aid is not a solution, but it is indeed an avenue through which we can provide relief to the people of Yemen until a sustainable solution can be achieved.

The security situation remains extremely tense and volatile and we reiterate the need for an inclusive, Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process. This cannot be overstated. The only solution is a political one, and there will be no durable political solution unless it is inclusive of all people and groups, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious belief, or other demographic variables. Of equal importance to sustainable peace is accountability for all infractions of international law, including human rights abuses. We encourage the international community and all relevant actors to support Yemen's justice system through

capacity-building, to allow for the effective prosecution of these crimes to promote justice and reconciliation.

Mr President,

We call on all parties to take concrete steps to address the issue of the SAFER oil tanker. To this end, we make a resounding appeal to all parties to prioritize the environment, the people of Yemen and the wider region. The threat posed by the SAFER oil tanker is avoidable, and inaction on this issue can only be regarded as reckless. It is with a great sense of urgency that we encourage actors with influence to actively engage with parties to advance this issue.

We reaffirm our support to the Special Envoy and his team, as we stand in solidarity with the people of Yemen.

Finally, Mr President, I must add that I am tired of *saying* the same thing, *hearing* the same thing over and over again, in response to Martin's and Mark's reports of the fast-approaching, catastrophic point of no return. I am heartbroken and frustrated. Last night, on CNN, I was reminded of the horrific inhumanity when I saw the painfully, disturbing images of emaciated children, countless children are sick and dying of starvation, helpless mothers pleading for us to step up. Yes, *where is* our compassion? Children are dying. People are suffering. Famine in the 21st Century is unacceptable and will be a disgrace, an utter disgrace, and a stain on the international community. More must be done and more must be done *now!* Time is not on our side. And, yes, as Djani just said, it is time to make better choices.

Thank you, Mr President.