



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

By

**Diani Jamesha Prince  
Counsellor**

**International Court of Justice Briefing (Private Meeting):**

*Revisiting the Relationship between the Security Council and the International Court of  
Justice, Seventy-five years after the Adoption of the Charter and 100 years after that of the  
Statute.*

United Nations Security Council

28 October 2020

New York

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President and I welcome and thank President Yusuf for his briefing.

Since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the nature of international conflicts has considerably evolved. Now more than ever, a comprehensive, pragmatic whole of system approach across the various organs of the United Nations is necessary to sustain peace and security. The International Court of Justice, as the guardian of the rule of law, therefore, remains an integral component in this construct.

Chapter VI of the UN Charter promotes the peaceful settlement of disputes, yet in this regard, the Security Council has not taken full advantage of the possible contributions of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The Court's consistently high standard of work and well-balanced composition allows the international community to have complete confidence in its decisions and advisory opinions. As such, where the Court has jurisdiction, the Security Council should encourage Member States to make use of its well-established jurisprudence. Further, Member States ought to respect the decisions of the Court, anything less undermines the rule of law and indeed the entire multilateral system.

The link between justice and peace has long been recognized and without the rule of law, the foundation on which the United Nations was created collapses. It ought to guide our responses to the many-sided political and security concerns that currently exist and those which are swiftly emerging. The use of force, unilateral actions, and escalatory rhetoric should be rejected in favour of rational and principled settlements of disputes. In this vein, the Court and the Security Council must work in tandem with each other.

Despite the complex nexus between the political and the legal, Member States have a collective responsibility to engage constructively with the Court. The Court must be able to respond to contemporary issues, such as terrorism and climate change to remain relevant and effective by ensuring justice for those most affected by these phenomena.

We welcome President Yusuf's continued efforts in ensuring that the Court's Judicial Fellows Programme is inclusive and is fully representative of all geographic regions. The programme is

undoubtedly essential to capacity building, as it provides those fortunate enough to be selected and receive funding with experience and training in international law at the “Temple of Peace and Justice”. For this reason, we are in support of the creation of a voluntary trust fund to enable more aspiring practitioners to gain access to this invaluable opportunity and to help bridge the north-south divide.

The Court undoubtedly contributes to peace and security, through the ongoing development of rules and principles of international law. Further, it reinforces the principle of sovereign equality. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore continues to steadfastly support its role and we look forward to the election of judges to the Court in November during our presidency of the Security Council.

I thank you.