



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

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Statement

by

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Deputy Permanent Representative

UNMIK Briefing

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Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank Special Representative and Head of the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mr. Zahir Tanin, His Excellency Mr. Ivica Dačić and Ms. Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla for their briefings.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines takes note of the agreements signed on 04 September 2020 by the Serbia and Kosovo leaders in Washington. In particular, we welcome the various commitments to increase economic cooperation between the parties.

We commend the efforts of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT) in containing the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring that persons made most vulnerable, including displaced persons, receive much-needed health, social and economic support during this critical time. We also appreciate UNMIK's overall initiatives, including those related to women, youth, and trust-building projects. We call on all political parties in Kosovo to unite to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We welcome the resumption of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, and the overall significance of dialogue in resolving the issues and attaining a lasting solution. This is key to stability in the region. In this regard, we applaud commitments by both parties to move forward with "economic normalization." We also call for the implementation of existing agreements in the EU-facilitated dialogue.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends UNMIK's dedication to maintaining and promoting security, stability, and respect for human rights in the Kosovo region, in particular for women and girls. We commend the work of UN Women, UNMIK, and OSCE to promote durable solutions to empower women and girls in Kosovo, such as the awareness-raising campaign that was launched to support survivors and victims of domestic violence.

As we mark the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), we must accelerate actions to facilitate the full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women in preventing and resolving conflict. Women's leadership and contribution to all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as ensuring the safety and protection of women and girls, are essential to comprehensive security.

We encourage efforts in Kosovo to uphold the rule of law, fight against corruption and organized crimes, and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Mr. President,

My delegation also emphasizes the nexus between development and security. Efforts to promote economic recovery must be inclusive, climate friendly and youth and gender responsive, in order to lay the foundation for widespread social and political transformation of the region.

As we conclude, we remain a committed partner in the quest for long-lasting peace in and around Kosovo.

I thank you.