



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United
Nations

At the

**Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian
question**

United Nations Security Council
26 October 2020
New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I also thank Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, for his briefing on developments and trends on the ground. And, we welcome the participation of the Hon. Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine, H. E. Riad Al Malik, and our colleague, the Permanent Representative of Israel, Ambassador Gilad Erdan.

Mr President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains steadfast in our view that the only way to achieve an enduring peace will be on the basis of agreed and long-standing international parameters, relevant United Nations resolutions, and a negotiated two-state outcome which recognises the legitimate aspirations and security needs of both Palestinians and Israelis. Both Israel and Palestine must make sincere efforts not to undermine the peace process and to build mutual trust for the progress of direct negotiations.

This year marks 53 years of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. At this time, the international community must reaffirm our collective support for a two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders and spare no efforts to achieve a viable solution to the conflict. Consequently, **we welcome President Abbas' call for an international conference in early 2021 to resume peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.** The time has come, Mr President, for the international community to meet our collective responsibility under international law to bring an end to the occupation of the Palestinian State.

On October 14th and 15th, the Israeli government approved a plan to build 5,000 settlement units in the West Bank. These settlements, as well as the acquisition of Palestinian territory by force, are illegal. We denounce these illegal and provocative actions and call for the full respect of and adherence to the UN Charter, international law, longstanding international consensus and the relevant UN resolutions, particularly resolution 2334.

Turning to Gaza, we condemn the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel and call on the Israeli Government to immediately lift the siege of the Gaza Strip and allow free the movement of people. It is time to fully end the occupation that began in 1967 and resolve all permanent status issues on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and as reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions. We also, call on Member States to increase funding to UNRWA, as it continues to provide assistance and protection to millions of Palestinian refugees with limited resources.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that a two-state solution with Israel and a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security will be realized in the near future and that this will lead to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Thank you, Mr. President.