



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

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**Statement**

by

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

**Closed VTC Meeting on Situation in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**

United Nations Security Council

10/14/2020  
New York

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Thank you, Dimitri,

I also thank SRSG Colin Stewart and ASG Bintou Keita for their briefings.

In 1991, this august Council adopted resolution 690 and created MINURSO with the specific purpose and mandate of assisting in finding a solution to the oldest, unresolved conflict on the African continent. We, once again, call on all parties and the international community to assist MINURSO in implementing its mandate. Likewise, we renew our call for the appointment of a personal envoy of the Secretary General, who remains critical to the efforts in finding a political solution to the conflict.

Since our last consultations, we have been monitoring very closely the situation in Western Sahara and reaffirm that the only viable solution to this dispute is through constructive negotiations, with the interests of the people of Western Sahara at the forefront. We acknowledge that the security situation, though relatively stable, remains unpredictable. In this context, we note the maintenance of the ceasefire and urge all parties to strictly comply with the military agreements, respect international law and adhere to all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, in particular, resolutions 2440, 2468 and 2494.

Although the security situation is reasonably stable, we are concerned about the humanitarian and human rights situation, exacerbated by the pandemic. We therefore urge all parties to redouble their efforts in addressing the humanitarian challenges and further encourage international donors to continue contributing to UN humanitarian agencies to address their financial deficits, thus enabling meaningful support to the groups made most vulnerable.

Similarly, we applaud the collaboration amongst Morocco, Algeria and the Frente Polisario to facilitate MINURSO's operations in its response to COVID-19. The spirit of cooperation exhibited by the parties is testament to the importance of dialogue and inclusivity in overcoming difficulties. We call on these parties to demonstrate this same spirit to resolve the longstanding crisis.

Colleagues:

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering commitment in finding a just, amicable and lasting solution to the situation in Western Sahara, which can only be realized through responsible multilateral efforts. The African Union also has a fundamental role to play in advancing the peace process and therefore we call on this noble

Organization to accompany the United Nations in assisting us in finding a mutually beneficial solution.

Finally, we endorse the recommendations in the Secretary General's latest report *S/2020/938* and thank the Troop Contributions Countries (TCCs) for their efforts in promoting peace in the region and recognize the activities towards improving female participation in MINURSO.

I thank you.