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**Statement**

by

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**Arria-Formula Meeting on Mandating Peace: Enhancing the Mediation  
Sensitivity and Effectiveness of the Security Council**

Security Council

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Thank you Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes today's discussion, and we commend co-sponsors, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Vietnam for hosting this initiative. We also thank our esteemed briefers for their critical engagements.

Mediation, of course, is an important tool in preventive diplomacy allowing for grievances to be adequately ventilated and sufficiently addressed to avert the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. When supplemented with other policy tools, such as confidence building measures, observation and verification activities, targeted communications, training and education support, and inclusive and participatory dialogues on political and peace processes, mediation provides an effective pathway to negotiated settlements.

We welcome the ongoing commitment of the Secretary-General's Special Envoys and Special Representatives in their efforts to advance political and peace discussions in a number of regions through shuttle diplomacy. We also emphasize the important role of various regional and sub-regional organizations that contribute meaningfully to the settlement of disputes through mediation. The mediation efforts of the ECOWAS Mission to Mali, which supported the swift appointment of a civilian-led government, following the military coup in August, underscores the effectiveness of regional mediation processes in maintaining international peace and security.

Lasting peace can never be imposed. It must grow organically as parties build trust and stable relationships. In this vein, we believe that "neighbours know best" and as such, the United Nations Security Council should deepen its cooperation with the African Union and other regional organizations to benefit from the comparative advantages that may be realized from working alongside those actors with the expertise and contextual understanding of local and regional dynamics to conflict. These actors are better placed to provide effective mediation than those who are far removed from the history, politics, and culture of life in conflict-affected states.

Mr. Chair,

The focus of mediation should always be to realign social and political norms to allow parties to abandon conflictual relationships, and instead pursue inclusive engagements that yield positive outcomes that cater to the needs and interests of all parties. To be most effective, this process

should support national ownership over peace and political processes, and be complemented by targeted peacebuilding and development efforts that address root causes of insecurity. Indeed, one may argue that development provides the surest pathway to conflict resolution, and mediation efforts should be integrated into the broader goals of peace and prosperity.

I Thank You.