



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

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**Statement**

by

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**United Nations Security Council Open VTC:  
“Women and Peace and Security: Twentieth Anniversary of Security  
Council Resolution 1325 (2000) – Focusing on Better Implementation”**

Security Council

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Thank you President,

I would like to thank the Russian Federation for convening this important annual Open Debate. We also thank the distinguished briefers for their valuable contributions.

The adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), twenty years ago, marked a reassertion of long-held demands to eradicate gender inequality, as a prerequisite for inclusive development and sustainable peace. From its inception, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda has existed in alignment with the central purpose for which the UN Security Council was established: to maintain international peace and security by ensuring justice, promoting the rule of law, and safeguarding fundamental freedoms for all without distinction. On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is proud to join member states in recognizing and celebrating the robust framework established in resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent Council outcomes on Women, Peace and Security. We pay tribute to women civil society, the early architects of this Agenda, and call attention to the wider guiding framework established under CEDAW General Recommendation 30 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Today however, with the underrepresentation of women in peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding; escalating levels of sexual and gender-based violence in many situations of conflict; significantly underfunded regional and national gender policies and action plans; women civil society under increased threats of violence; increasing numbers of displaced women and children; and the gendered impact of COVID-19 in conflict affected countries and regions, we must urgently reckon with the significant gaps in translating the existing normative framework into action.

To do so, the Security Council must ensure that gender analysis, and a commitment to gender justice guide all deliberations, outcome documents, operations and actions. Gender equality, partly expressed through the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of diverse women in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, is only attainable with the elimination of all forms of gendered violence and discrimination. Indeed, the Secretary General's Report points to an urgent need to remove structural barriers and intersecting discrimination experienced by women, in support of gender parity in participation and leadership.

The sustained advocacy of women's organisations and the political will that has led to significant participation of Colombian women in formal mechanisms to monitor the Peace Agreement and to trace the implementation of the gender provisions of the Agreement, must become the norm, rather than the exception, across all conflict affected countries and regions. Similarly, we applaud the efforts of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, as it works with the Government of Haiti on issues such as gender-responsive policing and the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence; and we expect to hear more on this issue at the Police Commissioners briefing next Wednesday.

Mr. President,

The current funding model for advancing gender equality remains unpredictable and insufficient. We acknowledge the Secretary General's call for compliance with recommendations of the high-level task force on financing for gender equality, specifically as it relates to increasing funding to women's organisations, the funding of gender action plans,

the widespread promotion of gender budgeting, and the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in promoting gender and age responsive peacebuilding initiatives. In this regard, we urge the donor community to comply with their minimum ODA commitments to conflict affected countries, including for the advancement of gender equality.

There can be no pursuit for global peace that ignores the gendered forms of insecurity threatening half of the world's population. We must equally insist that there will be no pursuit of development outside of the equal leadership and participation of diverse women.

I thank you.