



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**United Nations Security Council Monthly Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr President,

We wish to express our gratitude to Mark and Martin for their updates and continued cooperation with this Council. We also commend their unwavering dedication to the people of Yemen and their efforts to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

Mr. President,

I begin by reiterating that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands in solidarity with the people of Yemen, who have suffered and continue to suffer immeasurably. We underscore, yet again, that the only viable solution to the crisis is an inclusive Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process. This cannot be overstated. We continue to see that attempts at a military solution are counterproductive and come at the expense of the Yemeni people.

As Martin said in his briefing, much is being asked of the parties, but we need to ask a lot of them because “enough is enough”. Let us put this protracted conflict into perspective. We need to truly grapple with the magnitude of its impact. The people of Yemen have been enduring this \conflict for far too long and while no one within Yemen has been left

unscathed by it, we know that the children of Yemen have been, and will continue to be, most affected.

The children of Yemen will suffer psychologically, and to an unfathomable extent, even after the conflict finally comes to an end. Too many children of Yemen go to sleep hungry as the country suffers an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Too many children of Yemen have been deprived of their education, some of whom can sooner describe the sound of a gun, pangs of hunger and of grief, than they can spell, read or write their own name. Too many Yemeni children have never known peace. Too many Yemeni children have only ever known war. Let us allow this to sink in. These are the children for whom we are meant to the guarantee peace and security.

Yet, under our watch, schools continue to be attacked, children continue to be maimed, children continue to be killed, there continue to be reports of sexual assault, and humanitarian access denied. Far too many children, if they survive, will be forever scarred. We are failing them. And this can never be justified. It is time to heed the call of Yemeni women.

We recognize that the world is overwhelmed by the coronavirus and its consequences, but the people of Yemen are fighting on too many fronts all at once. They are our brothers, they are our sisters and their children

are our children all of whom continue to cry out for our help. On their behalf, today, I make a plea to the international community to do better, to do more, before it is too late. I implore the actors within Yemen to work with the Special Envoy, in good faith, to resume negotiations.

We do welcome the additional funding that has been pledged and encourage all donors to disburse funds as soon as possible. We regard the recent prisoner exchange agreement and advancements made towards it, as a huge breakthrough in the political process and a much-needed confidence -building measure.

We appreciate the unstinting efforts of the Special Envoy, Martin Griffith, and his team, as well as the work of OCHA, UNMHA and all other organizations operating to bring relief to the people of Yemen.

However, before closing, we must reiterate our continued concern for the lack of concrete progress on the SAFER oil tanker. This is an issue that must be resolved as soon as possible if we are to avoid a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe in Yemen and the wider region.

Thank you.