



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

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**Statement**

By

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Counsellor**

**International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President and I thank Judge Agius (*President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals*) and Prosecutor Brammertz for their comprehensive briefings. We congratulate Judge Agius and Prosecutor Brammertz on their reappointments and we also congratulate Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou on his appointment as the Mechanism's new Registrar.

Mr. President,

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1966, which established the Mechanism, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering support for this important pillar of the international criminal justice system. The critical role that the Mechanism continues to play in the fight against impunity for mass atrocity crimes and its contribution to reconciliation is irrefutable. The Mechanism has also substantially developed jurisprudence and continues its effective and efficient work in other practical aspects such as witness support and protection and multi-faceted assistance to Member States.

We continue to applaud the Mechanism's commitment to operational continuity while still ensuring the health and safety of staff, witnesses and persons in detention, despite the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to note that courtroom proceedings resumed with the implementation of special arrangements, and we commend the Mechanism's use of virtual processes in its adjusted working methods.

Mr. President,

The Mechanism's success is greatly dependent on the full cooperation of Member States and the Mechanism cannot achieve the Security Council's vision of being a small, temporary and efficient structure without it. The May 2020 arrest of Félicien Kabuga after twenty-three years as a fugitive is a testament to the effectiveness of international cooperation and it is the only path towards the tracking, apprehension and prosecution of the remaining six fugitives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

It is also international cooperation which enables the search for missing persons, the enforcement of judgments and assists with witness protection and relocation. On the point of witness relocation, the matter of those individuals who have been acquitted and released and are currently residing in Arusha, Tanzania, unfortunately remains unresolved. It is our hope that a sustainable solution will swiftly be found and we welcome the Registrar's proactive efforts in this regard.

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines emphatically denounces all forms of genocide denial and the glorification of convicted war criminals. Genocide denial promotes dangerous ideologies, impedes the fight against impunity and hinders reconciliation. It further delegitimizes and shows wanton disregard for the suffering of victims of horrendous crimes - *for which the facts have been incontrovertibly determined*. The recognition, education and remembrance of painful periods in history are critical to preventing the re-emergence of hateful rhetoric and ensuring that such crimes are never repeated.

The Mechanism continues to effectively fulfil its obligation to uphold the principles of international law, even in the face of a global health crisis. However, this is a shared responsibility and we urge Member States to intensify their cooperation with the Mechanism. We must remain committed to the pursuit of international justice and the protection and strengthening of the rule of law.

Thank you.