



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

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

**United Nations Security Council Arria Formula:
“Youth, Peace and Security: Capitalising on Intergenerational Dialogue to
Build and Sustain Peace and Enhance Social Cohesion at Community
Levels”**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

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Good afternoon Excellencies, Colleagues

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is pleased to join other Member States in co-sponsoring this event. Indeed, the plans and policies of our Government recognise and mobilise youth leadership at all levels, including within our formal political structures and at the level of community organizing. But there is much more to be done, nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that young people always have seats at the table.

It is undeniable that young people must occupy the vanguard of social transformation for sustainable peace and development in conflict affected countries and regions. Five years after the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015), at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has further eroded the security situation in several regions of the world, young people are actively engaged in building and sustaining peace at the local, national, regional and global levels. We recognise the vision and leadership of our youth briefers and take this opportunity to endorse actions which accelerate the implementation of *ALL* Security Council commitments on youth, peace and security.

UN Youth Advisor for Somalia, Joao Scarpelini, reminded us in September that young people are challenging the UN and its partners “to go beyond ad-hoc initiatives and to establish mechanisms of participation that would create a permanent platform for dialogue.” *ALL* SPMs and PKOs must establish youth and gender focal points, policies and plans that work alongside national and regional youth and gender machineries at all stages of the conflict-cycle: conflict-prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Young people must also be actively consulted, as contributors and beneficiaries, of all efforts to consolidate peace - such as security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs.

We welcome the AU’s “10-Year Implementation Plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) 2020-2029,” which provides an important roadmap for concrete action, at the national and regional levels, across the five key pillars. This framework builds on Africa’s vision of its youth, as outlined in the African Youth Charter, and as captured in “Silencing the Guns in Africa,” and its Agenda 2063.

We endorse youth-led national, cross-regional, intergenerational exchanges and dialogues on progress and challenges, with the support of the YPS mechanism within the United Nations. Intergenerational, gender-just, geographically and racially diverse co-leadership of national, regional and cross-regional dialogue and decision-making, must become standard operational practice. It means the meaningful participation of young women, and displaced and refugee youth in formal national, regional and UN-led actions for building and sustaining peace.

As a Council, we cannot be satisfied that youth civil society continue to support their communities, in spite of threats of violence, and against our shortcomings in mainstreaming actions to accelerate the full implementation of the YPS agenda. Young people are among the most gravely affected by protracted conflicts globally. They would also, unjustly and inevitably, bear the future burdens of Climate Change and ecological destruction. Yet they emerge as leaders in building and sustaining peace; too often having to insert themselves into formal processes. Celebrating the essential contribution of Somali, Haitian, Afghan, Colombian, Sahelian and other youth in conflict affected countries and regions is not enough. We must commit to accelerated actions with youth to operationalize and enhance the existing YPS normative framework. Let us be reminded that the future we all want, and that which our young people rightfully deserve, can only be attained through multilateral solutions that cater to the needs, interests and priorities for **all** in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you.