



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

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Statement

by

H.E. Hon. Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs
and Information of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Sub-Regional
Organisations: African Union (AU)**

Security Council

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Thank you Mr. President,

It is a pleasure to see you, my brother His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, presiding over this virtual meeting.

Excellencies,

We thank the Republic of South Africa for convening this important and timely discussion, and we extend our gratitude to the Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres, and the Chair of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the distinguished Presidents of Niger and Tunisia for their insightful remarks. As a committed member of the A3+1 and the sixth region of Africa, we put particular emphasis on the theme of today's debate.

The strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, as envisaged by Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, is a critical instrument in our global security architecture, and one which significantly bolsters the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security. Since the signing of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in 2017, this partnership has grown from strength to strength, not only as a mechanism for sharing the collective burdens of security, but as an avenue for the international community to gain access to, and benefit from, the immeasurable expertise of local and regional actors grounded within the unique historical and contemporary realities of the African continent. We have seen the tangible benefits of this growing partnership with the positive developments in the peace processes of the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan. And with the passing of today's PRST on Burundi, we are pleased that this country can now be removed from the agenda of the UN Security Council.

We believe that lasting solutions can never be imposed, but must emerge organically from within. In this regard, we maintain that the positions and priorities as articulated by the African Union, including the "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want" and the "Silencing the Guns" initiatives, present the surest pathway to lasting peace and security across the continent. At a time when the world faces the complex and overlapping impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, rampant Climate Change and growing ecological destruction, mass human displacement, the proliferation of violent extremism, and other contemporary drivers of human insecurity - many of which are felt most acutely in African countries - deeper coordination between the United Nations Security Council

and the AU Peace and Security Council would significantly improve our collective security efforts in both conflict-affected countries as well as those in post-conflict settings.

The nuanced perspectives and principled advice of the African Union should be sought out, systematically and as a matter of priority, ahead of all mandate renewals and mission transitions for Peace Operations on the African Continent. The Security Council should also consult with the AU regularly on the implementation of mandated priority tasks for peace missions in those areas such as security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) - where the African Union has a wealth of expertise and provides operational guidance. We have also borne witness to the comparative advantages of the African Union playing a more involved role in peace operations in a number of contexts, such as in AMISOM and UNAMID, and to this end, our delegation fully supports the use of United Nations assessed contributions for AU-led peace operations. We also encourage both councils to communicate more regularly in a manner which allows for African perspectives to be fully reflected in UN Security Council decisions on African issues, and to pursue earnestly all modalities for information-sharing, including through joint field visits. Finally, we echo the calls of the African Union for an end to all unilateral economic sanctions imposed on African countries so as to assist in the creation of conditions conducive to economic recovery, growth, and stability.

Excellencies,

The immense challenges of today cannot be solved through incrementalism or an outmoded zero-sum game of militarism. Instead, we need principled and pragmatic multilateral solutions. Indeed, no country is an island unto itself, and our contemporary threats to international peace and security can only be solved through collective action and solidarity. To this end, we encourage a further deepening of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union to fashion comprehensive developmental, and reparatory, solutions to the main causes of insecurity, inclusive of those grounded in historical wrongs committed against our global African civilization. As we seek to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must remain ever mindful that a peaceful and prosperous Africa is a central pillar of a safe and secure world.

Thank You.