



**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

**Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Sudan – Thirty-second Report of the
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Permit me to extend appreciation to Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and her team, for their remarkable work. We also thank her for today's presentation of the Thirty-second Report to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005).

Since the Prosecutor's last report in June, we have witnessed considerable progress by the Sudan transitional government in its efforts to restore democracy, peace and stability in the country. This progress includes, inter alia, the conclusion of the Juba Peace Agreement on October 3, 2020 and Sudan's commitment to usher in a new era with the United Nations special political mission - UNITAMS.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes these positive developments unfolding in our sister nation. The Juba Peace Agreement, which comprises provisions to promote human rights, the rule of law, transitional justice and reconciliation, as well as a scope for greater cooperation with the ICC, could be a pioneering instrument to transform the lives of all Sudanese people. In this respect, it is essential that this Agreement is implemented comprehensively and in a timely manner.

Despite these notable advances, we remain concerned about the dire humanitarian and economic situation confronting Sudan, which are exacerbated by Climate Change and the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage the transitional government and all international partners to decisively treat with these vexing issues. Intercommunal violence, together with grave violations against the most vulnerable groups, including women and children, are also very disturbing. We condemn these atrocities and call on the Sudanese authorities to renew their efforts to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable and brought to justice. We also call on the international community, especially international donors, to renew their support to Sudan, and to increase their contribution to the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As champions of a robust international legal system, it is incumbent on us all - party or non-State party to the Rome Statute - to comply strictly with our international obligations. In this context, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines encourages greater cooperation between Sudan and the ICC, particularly to ensure that the Office of the Prosecutor executes its mandate unfettered. We note with gratitude the transitional government's decision in July to amend legislations to repeal criminal laws that prevented cooperation with the ICC, as well as its commitment to conclude a memorandum of understanding with the ICC. The visit to Khartoum by the Office of the Prosecutor last October is also laudable. We are encouraged by these developments and stress that a fortified relationship between Sudan and the ICC augurs well for the respect of international criminal justice.

We underscore that cooperation, and the principle of complementarity are *sine qua non* of the ICC and therefore emphasize that the ICC's jurisdiction is only invoked following inertia from the State to prosecute alleged perpetrators. To this end, we look forward to enhanced cooperation and the

application of complementarity, entrenched in the Rome Statute, to ensure that the four outstanding ICC arrest warrants in Sudan are resolved.

Excellencies:

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands resolute in its condemnation of the grave injustice against the ICC and its officials through unilateral coercive measures in the form of sanctions. It is our view that these unilateral measures are unjustifiable; flagrantly violate our international rule-based system; seek to undermine the work of the ICC; and must be withdrawn.

In conclusion, my delegation reaffirms its commitment to the ICC and repeat its call for non-State parties of the Rome Statute to become members of the ICC.

I thank you!