



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

By

H.E. Dr. Halimah DeShong

Deputy Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the
Grenadines to the United Nations

**Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations
(League of Arab States)**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

I thank you, Your Excellency Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia for convening today's important briefing. We express our gratitude to H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and H.E. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs for their informative briefings. We also welcome the participation of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash of the United Arab Emirates, Chair of the Arab Group.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States and we commend the members of the League of Arab States for their continued commitment to peace efforts. We take this opportunity to welcome the recently concluded Al-Ula declaration, which we recognize as a positive step towards strengthening regional peace and stability. Such unifying, diplomatic efforts should continue to be pursued, as regional countries build confidence and strengthen relations to overcome common threats.

Regional and sub-regional organizations perform a vital role in mediating conflicts and restoring peace in their respective regions. This is recognized by the UN Charter, in Chapter 8, and even in Note 507, our guidebook on working methods, in paragraph 96. Further, Presidential Statement of June 2019 (S/PRST/2019/5) represents an important development in the relationship between the Security Council and the League of Arab States. The establishment of an annual briefing by the Secretary General of the League of Arab States is a welcomed step towards a more fruitful relationship. Annual briefings have strengthened the UN's relationship with other regional actors such as the African Union and European Union; we hope the same will be true with the League of Arab States. Indeed, the complex conflicts in several Member States in the Arab region underscore the necessity for cooperation between the Security Council and League of Arab States.

The Arab region currently faces several challenges, including the situations in Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine and Syria. These protracted conflicts have resulted in some of the worst humanitarian crises that the world has ever faced, and they undoubtedly impact

regional stability. The only practical and durable solution to secure peace and prosperity in the region is through inclusive political processes rather than military means. The constructive engagement of regional members is significant in achieving this goal and we therefore encourage stronger cooperation between UN Special Envoys and the League of Arab States. This relationship can be mutually beneficial for mediation, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. Regional organizations have invaluable knowledge that can be further enriched by support from the United Nations.

Turning to the situation in Palestine, we reaffirm the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and commend the engagement of the League of Arab States to promote a comprehensive resolution to the decades-long conflict. To this end, we reiterate that the internationally agreed two-state solution, based on pre-1967 border lines, remain the only credible solution for lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, and across the wider region. We also echo President Abbas' call on the United Nations to convene an international conference to launch a genuine peace process, and in this regard, we emphasize that the League of Arab States remains a critical interlocutor for these discussions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored the need for multilateral coordination and cooperation. The socio-economic consequences of the pandemic have been exacerbated by the ongoing conflicts, and humanitarian situations stemming from these conflicts have further deteriorated. To this end, we continue to appeal for a cessation of hostilities in all situations, especially in the Arab region, as called for by the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the League of Arab States in Resolution 2532(2020). Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and remediating the severe socio-economic downturn will require the support of the international community along with relevant regional actors.

In closing, the League of Arab States and the Security Council have a shared interest in maintaining peace and security and promoting the welfare of all people. It is our fervent hope that our two Organizations will continue to strengthen the critical cooperative ties needed to address the multidimensional challenges at hand.

I thank you.