



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

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Statement

By

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At the

United Nations Security Council VTC Briefing on the Middle East (Yemen)

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Thank you Mr. President,

I also wish to thank you Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and USG Mark Lowcock, for your updates. Your continued efforts are invaluable. We also extend our gratitude to Mr. David Beasley for his participation, and sobering briefing.

The dire situation in Yemen persists. Coupled with the pandemic, is food insecurity and the threat of famine. Currently, many live in famine-like conditions. We cannot wait for an official declaration, otherwise we would have unjustifiably missed our window of opportunity. These conditions indicate that we must do more, and we must do so now. It is to this end, that we urge for donations to be made to the humanitarian response plan, and for financial assistance to be given to support the economy. The people of Yemen depend on imported goods and, at this moment, cannot afford to survive. Humanitarian aid is critical to assuaging much of this suffering, and it is in this vein that we call on all actors within Yemen, and those who have influence over the situation, to encourage and facilitate the unhindered passage of humanitarian aid, in accordance with international law.

It cannot be made any clearer, that a political solution is the only option. The worsening of the conflict and its consequences have shown that a military solution will achieve nothing. We condemn the recent attack at Aden airport, that threatened the lives of a civilian government, and killed and injured innocent civilians, as well as ICRC humanitarian staff. We express our condolences to the families of the victims, and to Yemen and its people who have suffered enough. We underscore that the perpetrators of this attack must be held accountable and we welcome efforts to establish responsibility for this brazen attack. The parties to the conflict must prove their commitment to the peace process and refrain from any action that undermines the political process, runs counter to calls for a nationwide ceasefire, and amounts to violations of international law. We recognise the Special Envoy's dedication to achieving a political solution, but we underscore that without political will, and Yemeni ownership over the process, there will be no sustainable peace. We have already seen that the parties are capable of working together and negotiating to overcome differences and advance issues. Such momentum should not be lost. The transient gains that one side may achieve as a result of hostilities, cannot compare to what can be achieved in a secure and stable Yemen. Such an environment will benefit all Yemenis and

promote economic growth in the country and the wider region. In this regard, we underscore the role to be played by those in the international community, who must remain constructive, avoiding all acts that may thwart the peace process, pose threats to Yemen's economy and exacerbate the suffering of the people of Yemen. The decision of the United States to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organisation, poses a serious threat to the humanitarian situation and political process. We call for serious consideration of this decision to avoid worsening an already dire humanitarian situation.

In closing, Mr. President, we call for concrete steps to be taken towards ensuring the assessment mission to the SAFER oil tanker. The issue has been ongoing for far too long now, and we move closer to an avoidable disaster with each day that goes by. All relevant actors must work with the UN, in good faith, to resolve this issue.

We reaffirm our support to the Special Envoy and his team, as they work towards concluding the Joint Declaration. We urge the parties to engage constructively on this, and to prioritise Yemen and its people in so doing.

Thank you.