



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission
Youth, Peace and Security**

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Thank you Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes this discussion on youth, peace and security. I commend our young briefers today — we need to be speaking *with* and *not about* our younger citizens. **We therefore underscore the critical role of the PBC in supporting local, national and regional actions to advance the full and effective participation of youth in peacebuilding.**

We welcome the support provided by the PBF through the Youth Peacebuilding Initiative (YPI) to improve youth participation in peacebuilding. The introduction of YPS roadmaps by a growing number of Members States signals a commitment to enhance youth participation in building and sustaining peace, and in advancing development. **In this regard, the recent publication of the YPS Programming Handbook can serve as a key resource for governments and civil society.**

With persons under the age of 35 accounting for three-quarters of Africa's population, actions to accelerate implementation of the YPS agenda is central to peacebuilding efforts on the continent. As Africa delivers on its Continental Framework on YPS, the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership for Peace and Security must be youth and gender responsive. **Further cooperation between the PBC and various regional and sub-regional organizations to**

advance youth-led peacebuilding initiatives is necessary in fulfillment of Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063 as well as to Silence the Guns.

We note that the Commission will maintain its operation in the 15 country and regional contexts covered in 2020; as well as the increase in funding to the YPI in 2020 when compared to 2019. **However, significantly more funding is required to support youth capacity building, education, training and overall youth-focused development initiatives.**

Finally, we welcome the PBC's draft implementation plan, and encourage action on its targets, in support of mainstreaming the youth and peacebuilding agenda. **And we endorse the call to include the issue Climate Change, not only because it is one of the defining issues of our time, but also because it is of critical importance to the youth across the globe. Indeed, just yesterday, during the security council open debate, we heard from council members the importance of the PBC engagement on this issue.**

Thank you.