



**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

**Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

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I thank Under Secretary General Voronkov and Assistant Secretary General Coninx for their informative briefings. Their ongoing endeavours to ensure balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are critical to our efforts to maintain international peace and security.

The transnational threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups demands urgent attention. In order to mitigate and counter this looming threat, Member States and the international community must enhance coordination and adapt tools to properly confront the challenges of today.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains deeply concerned about the ever-evolving threat of ISIL's activities in different regions of the world, from the Middle East and Africa, to Europe and Asia. In this connection, effective international cooperation in gathering and sharing information and intelligence, regarding the emerging threats, is required to better anticipate changes and prepare responses. To this end, we commend the joint efforts of UNOCT and

CTED in facilitating the delivery of counter-terrorism related technical assistance to Member States, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017).

It is of paramount importance for Member States to collectively address the ongoing challenges presented by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). In addressing the complex issues related to FTFs, Member States must coordinate and build on efforts at the national, regional and international levels, in accordance with international law, particularly human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. As the Secretary-General's report reflects, a significant number of children affiliated with ISIL have been detained in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. We reaffirm our support for those Member States involved in the rehabilitation and re-integration of repatriated children and urge States to share good practices and lessons learned from the successful repatriation of their nationals from core conflict zones.

More remains to be done to better address terrorist financing. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded persistent difficulties faced by Member States in countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), bringing new challenges relating to, *inter alia*, increased reliance on online transactions and reduced direct contact with customers. It is our firm belief that compliance with counter-terrorism provisions can be addressed through better regulation. Equally, initiatives to combat financing of terrorism must be designed in such a way that they bolster, rather than undermine, legitimate socioeconomic activity. De-risking in the financial sector should be grounded in mutually collaborative agreements that effectively address terrorist financing, while at the same time, protect the banking industries in affected countries against negative economic pressures.

Let me conclude by recalling our obligation, as the global body charged with maintaining international peace and security. Our mission should be to counter ISIL and the broader threat of terrorism, by working closely with partners to keep the world safe, by impeding ISIL funds in a sensible and targeted way and

mitigating against the effects of terrorist propaganda on people around the globe. We must remain united and effective in our efforts to combat this scourge of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

I thank you.