



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Statement

by

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**Arria Formula Meeting: Protecting the Peacekeeper - Suppressing the
Deployment of Improvised Explosive Devices Against Peace Operations**

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Thank you Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends the Republic of Kenya for convening today's discussion and we are pleased to join as a co-host of this event. We also thank our esteemed briefers for their remarks on this important topic.

Against the backdrop of a continually evolving global context, in which cross-border challenges like terrorism, organised crime, health crises, and climate change threaten the social fabric of fragile states, peacekeeping engagements have become increasingly complicated. Peacekeepers are mandated to carry out difficult tasks in increasingly harsh environmental, political and security conditions. The presence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) add further complexity to these operational difficulties by impeding the performance of peacekeeping operations, confounding situational awareness, and threatening the lives of peacekeepers, humanitarian personnel, and civilian populations. Peacekeeping missions must therefore be equipped with the necessary expertise and resources to detect and counter these threats. These capacities must also be transferred to host countries to strengthen national ownership and responsibility for explosive ordnance.

The indiscriminate use of IEDs against peacekeepers, humanitarian actors and civilians must be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators held to account. When the guiding International Humanitarian Law (IHL) principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions are ignored, states should spare no effort in ending impunity for the resulting crimes. All states and the regional and sub-regional organisations within which they are situated must work diligently together to improve transparency and accountability across supply lines; to manage the traceability of IED components; and to mitigate their illicit transfer across porous borders.

At the field level, there is an urgent need for capacity-building, through both technical and financial assistance in all regions, particularly to conflict-affected countries in fragile regions across the Sahel, Central Africa and the Horn of Africa. Core competencies in areas such as ammunition stockpile management and explosive ordnance disposal should be incorporated into Security Sector Reform (SSR) programmes, and modern technologies that enhance IED awareness and facilitate route clearance should be transferred to affected states. Our delegation also emphasises the importance of information-sharing among States, regional and international

organizations and the private sector to tackle the interconnected challenges of transnational organised crime and terrorism that have enabled the proliferation of IEDs.

To conclude, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends its gratitude to, and reaffirms its support for, all troop and police contributing countries and their uniformed personnel. We commend their ongoing commitments and sacrifices, and we welcome all efforts to enhance their safety and security. I thank you.