



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

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Statement

by

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Briefing

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Thank you, Madam President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines warmly welcomes the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ms. Ann Linde as Chairperson to the OSCE, and we wish you a successful tenure.

Multilateralism is not only a matter of confronting shared threats but also about seizing opportunities. Our efforts to address longstanding and incipient challenges of climate change, gender equality, and the ever-present threat of military confrontation must be approached with a united front. We, therefore, underline the importance of multilateralism in strengthening coordination among all international and regional organisations, with vital contributions from civil society, women, and youth.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore welcomes Sweden's decision to put women's economic empowerment at the forefront of its priorities. The importance of the equitable treatment of women can never be overstated. Indeed, our participation is crucial in conflict prevention and resolution and for securing better prospects for sustainable development. We therefore wholeheartedly support your intention to fully implement the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in the European region.

We underline the importance of addressing the nexus between climate change and security, and welcome the initiative taken by the OSCE and the Berlin-based think tank Adelphi to launch the regional consultation on climate change and security in South-Eastern Europe, and for completing the first phase of the regional consultation workshop in February.

Lasting peace cannot be sustained without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law. In this regard, we welcome Sweden's focus on these issues, in particular, the right to freedom of expression and media freedom.

Madam President,

The ongoing conflicts in the OSCE region remain the most obvious challenge to European security. Our delegation welcomes the continued focus on finding a sustainable political resolution to the challenges in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. We recognize the vital importance of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the efforts of the Normandy and Trilateral

Contact Groups for their efforts in finding a peaceful solution in line with the OSCE's principles. We continue to support the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, as it remains the basis for the political solution to the conflicts.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the mediation efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We encourage the parties to continue implementing their obligations under the Trilateral cease-fire agreement of November 9, 2020, and to comply with the requirements of international humanitarian law.

To conclude, we reiterate our full support to the OSCE as it continues to promote peace, security, and development in the region. It is only by working together, in full support for multilateral institutions, that these threats can be managed and overcome.

Thank you.