



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •  
[svgmission@gmail.com](mailto:svgmission@gmail.com) | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the  
Grenadines to the United Nations

At the

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

April 15, 2021  
New York  
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr. President. I also thank Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and USG Mark Lowcock for their briefings and unstinting commitment to the people of Yemen and to a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Mr. President,

The protracted conflict continues to deny the people of Yemen basic rights and freedoms. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is particularly concerned by the stark resurgence of COVID-19, against the backdrop of a strained healthcare system and a lack of adequate supplies. We welcome the shipment of vaccines that arrived at the end of March through the COVAX facility, critical to the COVID-19 emergency response. However, more must be done to support the fight against the pandemic in Yemen.

More broadly, we recall **the pledges made by Member States** during the Pledging Conference held in March, and **urge the rapid disbursement** of funds. We acknowledge the difficult economic circumstances globally, but financial aid is what maintains humanitarian operations, and makes the difference between life and death for many Yemenis.

We also use this moment to **underscore our concern over the persistent fuel shortages**, which have adversely impacted health facilities, undermined humanitarian operations and exacerbated the dire

humanitarian situation. We **call for a durable solution to this issue, which necessitates a full lifting of the blockade.**

Turning to **the security situation**, we condemn the continued hostilities, including the cross-border attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The ongoing fighting within Yemen, particularly in Marib, remains of huge concern on all fronts. It threatens to reverse any political progress previously made and further threatens the lives of many internally displaced persons, who initially fled to Marib to seek refuge. These continued forced displacements underscore that civilians, particularly women and children, are paying the price of this conflict and that **a long-lasting solution is urgently needed.**

Against this dire backdrop, **the momentum within the international community to end the war in Yemen is a positive sign.** In this regard, we welcome the recent engagement between the US Special Envoy, Tim Lenderking, and the German Foreign Minister, in conjunction with Special Envoy Griffiths, and further welcome all efforts undertaken by regional countries and the wider international community to bring an end to the conflict. What is now needed is the unconditional political will to end the war from all stakeholders within Yemen and among those connected to the situation. This begins with an unwavering commitment to a nationwide ceasefire, and the resumption of a comprehensive,

Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process. **We underscore that inclusive dialogue, with meaningful representation and participation of all stakeholders, is critical to sustainable peace in Yemen.**

Before concluding, Mr President, we would like to address the unresolved issue of the SAFER oil tanker. We recognize and welcome the efforts being undertaken to secure the deployment of the UN team. Denial of access to the tanker is a threat to the environment, economy and people of Yemen. Politicization of this issue diminishes any opportunity for cooperation and confidence-building, which is critical to achieving concrete progress. To that end, we call on parties to work towards a meaningful compromise, with the environment and people of Yemen at the fore. When the environment becomes a victim of war, it creates a multitude of problems in the complex relationship between humans and nature that reverberate for generations. We owe it to Yemenis and their future generations to leave a better legacy.

Thank you.