



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

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting  
Action on the draft decision**

**“Solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Saint  
Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as neighbouring countries affected by  
the impact of the eruptions of the La Soufriere Volcano”**

General Assembly Hall  
United Nations Headquarters  
28 April 2021  
New York

Thank you, Madam Vice President,

On behalf of the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I express sincere gratitude to all Member States for their invaluable support for the resolution entitled *Solidarity with and Support for the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as neighbouring countries affected by the impact of the eruptions of the La Soufriere Volcano* that was just adopted unanimously by the General Assembly with some 174 cosponsors.

I also express heartfelt appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Guyana H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Chair of the CARICOM Caucus for introducing this resolution on behalf of CARICOM and for her personal outreach efforts. I am also very grateful to the immediate past Chair of the CARICOM Caucus and Vice President of the General Assembly, H. E. Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada for her efforts. We especially thank the entire Group of Latin America and the Caribbean for their familial solidarity. Indeed, all of the Americas have rallied to our cause and we say thank you.

Madam Vice President, Excellencies,

Since April 9, and as we heard earlier, our nation has been confronted by a series of explosive volcanic eruptions which have wreaked havoc on our way of life and economy. Nearly one-fifth of the island's

population has been evacuated to safer areas, and now, we are faced with a monumental challenge of humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction. Amidst these immense challenges, which are further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and have emerged on the eve of the Atlantic Hurricane season, the support and solidarity of the international community is critical to the state and our people. We welcome the launch of the United Nations Global Appeal Fund for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and neighbouring countries, and we express our profound gratitude for the support pledged.

Without the immediate and sustained solidarity from the United Nations, our regional/sub-regional organisations, neighbours and countries near and far, our life and living would be completely unbearable. We thank you! The United Nations and its agencies have been actively at work. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Regional Security System (RSS), the ALBA, the Association of Caribbean States, and their allied regional agencies have been at the forefront with their magnificent efforts.

Madam Vice President, we acknowledge and emphasise the support from the Member States of the Americas who have rallied, and continue to rally, to our cause, as have many others in the wider international community.

It is important to note that within 24 hours of the first set of explosive eruptions, my Prime Minister received a personal call from the UN

Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. Two days after that, the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean based in Barbados, 100 miles east of Saint Vincent, arrived by boat because the airspace was closed —a credit to the new reforms.

In closing, we again thank the international community for their solidarity and we reiterate our strong commitment to working with the governments, intergovernmental and regional organisations, international financial institutions, and the private sector in the recovery process of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as neighbouring countries affected by the impact of the eruptions of the La Soufriere Volcano.

Thank you.