



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

At the

**Arria-Formula meeting on the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Peace
and Security**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Chair,

First, allow me to commend the co-hosts for convening this timely meeting and to express my appreciation to the speakers for their valuable briefings.

Today's peace and security landscape is being altered and redefined by emerging technologies which have the profound potential to change our lives and relations between States. Recent technological developments in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital and surveillance technology, biotechnology, and nanotechnology, have the potential to transform our societies and economies in positive ways. At the same time, they raise new ethical, legal, and political questions in relation to peace and security. In our view, existing international law should continue to guide efforts in these fields.

The current wave of technological change has created new opportunities for multilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas, including peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation. However, they also embolden bad actors, including organised criminals and terrorists, to expand their power and influence in detrimental ways. Without the necessary political will and concerted cooperation between Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector, and civil society, it will be impossible to ensure that technologies are used responsibly for the benefit of all humanity.

History has taught us that major conflicts often occur in the absence of a stable, enforceable framework to manage inequalities of power. The focus on how existing international law or political norms apply to the uses of certain technologies by states is imperative. Effective political and diplomatic efforts require aligning emerging technology regulation with general discussions related to scientific and technological developments. Greater attention must also be paid to capacity building, and more tailored approaches for development assistance must be provided to individual nations, particularly developing countries. We encourage the international financial organizations, aid agencies, and private foundations to commit to bridging the digital divide.

Member States and the United Nations system should work towards implementing standards already agreed in relation to emerging technologies; identifying capacity gaps and related challenges that hinder implementation and supporting Member States to overcome such gaps. We firmly believe that the United Nations system must continue to serve as a platform for engagement on emerging technology-related issues that may pose a threat to international peace and security.

To conclude, we reaffirm, the United Nations (UN) Groups of Governmental Experts' (GGEs) consensus view that relevant international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable to information and communications technologies and essential to maintaining peace and stability. The Security Council must ensure that shifts in power based on these new technologies do not threaten international peace and security. Neither

should these shifts affect negatively the observance of human rights. It is imperative for Member States to implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, and to strive to work together to build trust, and to enhance peace and security for all countries and peoples.