



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

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

**Open VTC Meeting on the Situation in Libya – Twenty-First Report of the
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

This year marks the 10th anniversary since this august Council referred the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and we acknowledge the significant progress achieved.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its appreciation to Prosecutor Bensouda, for the detailed presentation of her Twenty-first report to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

As a critical component of our multilateral system, the ICC remains a bastion of hope and justice and integral to Libya's transformation.

Mr. President,

Cooperation is a central tenet of the Rome Statute and State parties are required to fulfill their obligations under international law. More specifically, resolution 1970 obliges ALL members of the United Nations to cooperate with the ICC on Libya.

Accordingly, we recognized the ground work between the Government of National Accord and the ICC, but stress that we cannot afford to lose any momentum under the new Government of National Unity (GNU). The circumstances in Libya are now propitious to strengthen cooperation between these two parties, and as such, we look forward to their enhanced cooperation to ensure that the ICC can fully and effectively discharge its mandate.

Of equal importance, is the principle of complementarity. It is important to emphasize that the ICC's jurisdiction is only invoked when States are unable or unwilling to prosecute those accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

We are therefore concerned that several arrest warrants of the ICC remain outstanding. It is imperative that State and non-State parties assist in apprehending or securing the surrender of ICC fugitives so that they are brought to justice. Likewise, it is essential that the reported deaths of Mahmoud Mustafa Busayf Al-Werfalli and Al-Tuhamy Mohamed Khaled are verified.

As cases are unresolved, the atrocities committed remain a gaping wound in the collective consciousness of Libyans, which must be healed.

Mr. President,

Although Libyans have set their gaze on new horizons, commencing with general elections on December 24, the GNU still has an arduous task ahead, including inter alia, addressing security shortcomings, treating the covid-19 pandemic, fully implementing the ceasefire agreement, unifying institutions and confronting the dire humanitarian and human rights situation. In this connection, the specific concerns of displaced persons, refugees and migrants, especially those in detention centers, must be prioritized.

Libya can benefit tremendously from the experiences of the ICC to assist in building a robust national justice system, as the *raison d'être* of this organization is justice for all victims.

After witnessing the devastation Libya endured during the last decade, there ought to be no doubt of the critical role of the ICC in its objective of ending impunity, protecting human rights and bringing justice and reparations to the victims.

Perpetrators of heinous crimes must not continue to enjoy impunity and we must all aspire to ensure justice, remains the cornerstone of all democracies.

To this end, we repeat our call for non-state parties to subscribe to the Rome Statue, and for State and non-State parties to fully respect their international obligations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands committed to the Libyan peace process and reaffirms its support for the UN multitrack process, including UNSMIL's efforts and all other constructive initiatives, which aim to bring lasting peace and stability throughout the country.

I thank you!