



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Statement

by

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**“Peace and Security in Africa: Addressing Root Causes of Conflict While
Promoting Post-Pandemic Recovery in Africa”**

Security Council

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Thank you Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks the briefers for their incisive remarks, and we commend China for convening this timely and important discussion. As a member of the A3+1 and the sixth region of Africa, our delegation attaches great significance to the theme of today's debate.

Mr. President,

The complex and consequential challenges of the 21st Century demand, more than ever, an effective and coordinated multilateralism that bolsters national ownership, enhances lives and livelihoods, and delivers peace, security and development for *all*. This priority is felt acutely across the African continent, where comprehensive developmental and reparatory solutions are urgently required to address the root causes of fragility and insecurity, including those grounded in the historical injustices committed against our global African civilization.

Against the backdrop of COVID-19, security risks have become accentuated, social contracts have faltered, public trust has diminished, and ethnic, intercommunal and political divisions have deepened. African countries shoulder a disproportionate share of these societal burdens:

- Across the Sahel, 29 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance;

- in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, almost 22 million people are acutely food insecure;
- and millions more remain displaced across the continent - with Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and the DRC accounting for a significant share of forcibly displaced persons.

And as the human costs of conflict, climate change, COVID-19, and other contemporary challenges, such as terrorism, continue to escalate; the international community's support for, and solidarity with, governments and their affected populations is a crucial prerequisite for a better future.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms our strong belief that lasting solutions can never be imposed. The surest pathway to peace and security in Africa is through home-grown solutions as articulated by the African Union, including the "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want" and the "Silencing the Guns" initiatives. These should be granted the full support and attention of the international community.

The immeasurable expertise of local and regional actors, grounded within the unique context of Africa must be leveraged more often through enhanced partnerships between the United Nations, the African Union (AU), and the sub-regional organisations that span the continent. These regional arrangements should be bolstered and the bedrock principles of international law must always serve as a guidepost for all peace and security, development, and humanitarian activities.

Developed countries should unequivocally honour their overseas development assistance (ODA) commitments, and provide greater debt-relief and longer-term capacity-building assistance in line with national priorities. Prejudicial constraints, including unilateral coercive measures, imposed on African countries ought to be withdrawn; and inclusive, people-centered, and climate-informed solutions delivered in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a matter of priority, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates our calls for COVID-19 vaccines and other critical medical supplies to be made available, affordable, and accessible by all. Production capacities should be expanded in developing countries, including across the African continent, to alleviate the strain on global supply chains and assist with building immunity everywhere. We welcome the decision of some countries to waive intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines and other related products, and hope that the ongoing discussions at the WTO will lead to a timely and equitable outcome.

In closing, Mr. President, I reaffirm my delegation's appeal for a comprehensive "whole-of-system" approach to conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. It is essential that all UN agencies and bodies, international financial institutions (IFIs), and other actors across the multilateral system, work closely with the African Union and its member states to create conditions conducive to economic recovery, growth and stability. Indeed, as peace and security issues on the continent occupy more than half of the Security Council's

agenda, greater efforts are needed to ensure that our African brothers and sisters are not left behind. A stark and increasingly volatile post-pandemic global condition - *marked by deep social and economic cleavages* - must not become tomorrow's reality.

I Thank You.