



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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

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Statement

By

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United Nations

At the

**United Nations Security Council Briefing – Letter Russian
Federation PR (S/2014/264)**

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Good afternoon all.

We begin by joining the members of the Council in welcoming our briefers, representative of the Secretariat, Ms. Heidi Grau Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-office, and representatives from the Special Monitoring Mission and OCHA, and extending our gratitude to them for their very informative briefings.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to stand steadfast in its advocacy of, and adherence to, the immutable principles of international law. These are the foundational truths upon which our international community is built, and within which small states like ours can exist. To deviate from these principles will be an assault on the rights and privileges of *all* States and we deplore any action to this effect.

Mr. President,

We express our concern over the current situation in the Donbass region. International law cannot be sporadically applied, or set-aside in the pursuit of convenient or expedient solutions. Its application must be equal. To this end, we underscore relevant international principles as guiding tools in the resolution of this crisis, including the Minsk Agreements

Recently, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines emphasized its support for the Minsk Agreement, as we expressed our hope for full implementation under the auspices of the Normandy Format¹ and the Trilateral Contact Group². The tenets outlined in the Minsk agreement are necessary for lasting peace. We highlight the importance of the ceasefire in achieving this and deplore all violations of this measure. The ceasefire remains an indispensable component of the Agreements.

Mr. President,

We take this time to recognize recent efforts that have been made, particularly as it relates to confidence building measures. Trust between and among relevant parties is crucial to strengthen any dialogue and achieve a sustainable solution. Continued prisoner exchanges must be encouraged, as well as efforts towards identifying further areas of disengagement. We are also encouraged by the fact that the Special Monitoring Mission has recorded fewer ceasefire violations in some areas.

We welcome the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission that continues to observe security across the region and report on the situation. To facilitate the Mission in the discharge of its mandate, we emphasize the need for the safe and secure access for its staff on the ground, including unrestricted movement of SMM personnel.

We end by emphasizing our support for the Special Monitoring Mission and the framework established by the Minsk Agreements, and stressing the need for unconditional implementation, by both parties, of the provisions within.

Thank you.

¹ The Normandy Quartet consists of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France

² This comprises Ukraine, Russia and OSCE