



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •
svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

By

H.E. Inga Rhonda King

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

At the

**United Nations Security Council VTC Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

May 12, 2021
New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr. President.

We thank Mr. Martin Griffiths and Mark Lowcock for their briefings, and their continued efforts towards alleviating the impact of the conflict on the people of Yemen, and working towards attaining overall, long-term peace. We also welcome our colleague, PR of Yemen.

Mr. President,

Efforts between the UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and interested parties, including with regional actors, provide a launching pad for peace in Yemen. We call on all parties to the conflict to seize this opportunity, and show a readiness for compromise and to engage before the window for peace closes.

Continued hostilities prolong suffering, threaten confidence building, and undermine the peace process. A nationwide ceasefire is needed immediately. It is time that the parties silence their guns and focus their attention on negotiations and achieving peace in Yemen. This process must be inclusive, as marginalisation of any group will be counterproductive to sustainable peace efforts. The process must be Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned and all groups, including women, youth and minority groups, must be afforded equal opportunity to participate.

We appeal to members of the international community to exert their influence on the parties to encourage them to engage urgently and constructively with the Special Envoy and all stakeholders.

Turning to the dire humanitarian situation, for months it has been compounded and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the deteriorating economic situation, increased hostilities and subsequent displacement, and a palpable gap in the global aid budget. The recent torrential rains and deadly floods that have assailed thousands in Yemen are a source of additional concern. While we welcome the entry of fuel ships at the Hodeidah port, the circumstances in Yemen demand greater action.

Over 20 million people in Yemen rely on life-saving humanitarian assistance, and OCHA has reported that almost half of Yemen's children under the age of 5 will suffer from malnutrition, including 400,000 who may die without urgent treatment. These innocent children, who play no part in this unjustifiable, multi-generational conflict, suffer the most. The parties in Yemen have not only a moral obligation to ensure the delivery of aid, but a legal obligation to do so. International Law requires parties to a conflict to allow and facilitate the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid, and further prohibits the destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure. The statements at the recent Open Debate on

indispensable civilian objects were evidence of the international community's commitment to this fundamental obligation. We must all condemn any act by parties to the conflict in Yemen that violates international law.

Before closing, Mr President, we turn our attention to the ongoing and unresolved issue of the SAFER tanker, which has now, much to our displeasure, become a standard part of our interventions and Mark has already said, earlier today, that there is nothing new to report. Nevertheless, the international community, including regional States, and the parties in Yemen are all aware of the grave threat that this tanker poses to the environment, economy and the people of Yemen. Promises can no longer be merely ventilated but must translated into concrete action to avert a catastrophe.

Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim Brothers and Sisters around the world.

Thank you, Mr President.