



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

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Statement

By

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Permanent Representative**

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President and I would also like to thank Judge Agius and Prosecutor Brammertz for their comprehensive briefings.

At the outset, we express our condolences on the passing of the distinguished Judge Kam of Burkina Faso. His passing is a tragic loss to the Mechanism. We welcome the announcement of the nomination of his replacement and have full confidence that the Mechanism's mandate will continue to be effectively fulfilled.

Mr. President,

The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals continues to be an essential pillar of the international criminal justice system and its critical role in the fight against impunity cannot be overstated. The Mechanism's activities related to witness support and protection, the monitoring of cases referred to national jurisdictions, the preservation of archives and the provision of multi-faceted assistance to Member States, remain relevant. And for this reason, we reaffirm our unwavering support for its important work.

We continue to applaud the Mechanism for its commitment to ensuring operational continuity, notwithstanding the various challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We note that three judgments are expected to be delivered in June, one having been received just this morning - this is indeed a notable accomplishment, and it certainly speaks to the tireless efforts of everyone involved in the work of the Mechanism.

We recognize the laudable efforts to ensure the rights and wellbeing of persons in detention during this time, including through regular inspections by organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the facilitation of COVID-19 vaccinations. Persons in detention must be treated humanely and with dignity.

Mr. President,

The fulfilment of the Mechanism's mandate is undoubtedly dependent on international cooperation, without which, the Security Council's vision of "a small, temporary and efficient structure, whose functions and size will diminish over time" cannot be achieved.

Where there exists a lack of political will to cooperate with the Mechanism, the search for missing persons, *whose families still do not know their fate*, and the tracking and apprehension of fugitives will be severely impeded. Further, the enforcement of judgments will not be guaranteed, and above all victims will be denied justice.

The arrest of Félicien Kabuga last May is a testament to effective legal cooperation, which is critical for the successful tracking, apprehension and prosecution of the remaining fugitives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

International cooperation also remains necessary to resolve the matter of those individuals who have been acquitted and released and are presently residing in Arusha, Tanzania. We commend the Registrar's efforts in this regard, and it is our hope that a durable solution to this protracted matter will soon be found.

We have taken note of the President's 11th May referral of Serbia to the Security Council. Non-compliance with the obligations encapsulated in the Statute of the Mechanism and Security Council resolutions is unacceptable and serves to undermine the administration of justice and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

Remembrance of the horrific events of the past is an important tool to prevent recurrence. As such, all forms of genocide denial and the glorification of convicted war criminals must be met with condemnation by the international community. They hinder national reconciliation and promote dangerous ideologies which disregard the suffering of victims. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines unequivocally denounces these indefensible actions.

In closing, we urge Member States to engage constructively with the Mechanism in the pursuit of accountability for mass atrocity crimes and the strengthening of the rules-based international system.

I thank you.