



**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

**UNSC Meeting: Thirty-Third Report of the
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Pursuant
to UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005)**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Permit me to extend sincerest gratitude to Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and her team, for their remarkable work vis-à-vis the situation in Darfur.

We also thank her for today's comprehensive presentation of the Thirty-third Report to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005). We further acknowledge the presence of the distinguished Chargé' d'Affaires of Sudan with us.

As this is her final presentation to this August Council, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would like to thank the Prosecutor for her leadership and invaluable contribution in advancing the agenda of our international criminal justice system.

The preamble of the Rome Statute affirms that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and that their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national level and by enhancing international cooperation.

In 2005, this Council adopted resolution 1593, which enjoined all members of this Organization to ensure that the most serious crimes in Darfur were investigated, impunity ended and justice brought to all victims, in firm adherence to the Rome Statute.

Today, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines renews its commitment to upholding this resolution and the principles and purposes of the Rome Statute. It is our firm conviction that the ICC has a central role in our collective quest for justice and peace. More specifically, in countries like Sudan that are undergoing transformative democratic processes, the ICC can play a vital role in their peacebuilding and development, by contributing to the full guarantee of justice for victims.

Mr. President,

This Council, together with all the members of this Organization, bear testimony to the progress in our sister nation and we are indeed heartened by the positive developments. We encourage the Sudanese transitional government to continue along its progressive path and advance with the necessary reforms, including finalizing the establishment of transitional institutions such as the Transitional Legislative Council.

We are cognizant that socio-economic and intercommunal challenges, among others, still linger. However, we are confident that Sudan's tenacity will permit it to forge forward.

The international community, especially international donors, ought to continue supporting Sudan, including increasing their contribution and support to the National Humanitarian Response Plan.

At this important juncture of Sudan's renaissance, the people, especially the victims of the most heinous crimes, must be at the core. We therefore reiterate the importance of the full and well-timed implementation of the Constitutional Document and the Juba Peace Agreement.

Sudan's advances are commensurate with the deepening of cooperation with the OTP - exemplified by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding last February and ongoing visits to Khartoum to undertake investigative activities.

Equally evident are the conclusion and ratification of numerous international instruments on issues related to the protection and promotion of human rights, transitional justice and the implementation of the National Plan to Protect Civilians. These, indeed, bode well for upholding the enduring principles of our international criminal justice system. We therefore maintain that Sudan has the primary responsibility to protect its citizens, as well as investigate and prosecute atrocities.

Mr. President,

The principles that inform our Charter are the same timeless principles that undergird the ICC. Both the United Nations and the ICC are mutually reinforcing and have a symbiotic relationship.

In this respect, we look forward to the further strengthening of cooperation between Sudan and the ICC and the application of the principle of complementarity, engrained in the Rome Statute, to ensure full accountability for all five suspects in the Darfur situation and for the OTP to effectively execute its mandate, in accordance with international law.

In closing, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines fully endorses the conclusion made in the Prosecutor's Thirty-third report. It is now time that in the specific cases of Darfur, historical injustices are redressed and they should be done in a spirit of national reconciliation, healing, reparation and social justice.

I thank you!