



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

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Statement**

by

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

**In the Special Committee on the Situation with regards to the implementation of the  
Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People**

**Question of Las Islas Malvinas**

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
New York

Thank you, madam Chair,

Permit me to congratulate you on your re-election as Chair of the Committee and wish you all the best during your chairmanship.

I also recognize the presence of the distinguished Foreign Minister of Argentina with us today.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes the centrality of diplomacy in our multilateral system. The United Nations was founded and continues to exist on this premise. During these unpredictable times when our multilateral system is faced with a plethora of complex challenges, diplomacy, though difficult, remains paramount.

Today, we reaffirm our full support for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in finding, a prompt, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over *Las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur, Sandwich del Sur y los espacios marítimos circundantes*, in accordance with General Assembly **resolution 2065 (XX)** and all relevant resolutions.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a history of fierce struggle for freedom and independence. As a small independent archipelagic island state, having survived slavery, genocide and colonialism, we remain indisputably anti-colonialist and supportive of decolonization efforts under the auspices of the United Nations. Additionally, our very own existence depends on the robust body of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Any deviation from these international law precepts, is an affront to our existence as an independent sovereign nation.

The General Assembly has consistently underscored that the dispute surrounding Las Islas Malvinas is not the will of a colonized people under alien control, but rather the competing claims of sovereignty over islands that lie a short distance off the Argentine coast. Specifically, in 1976, through **resolution 31/49**, the General Assembly encouraged the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to expedite negotiations and desist from taking decisions that would compromise the process of negotiations. We therefore call on our two friends to respect their obligations under international law.

Indeed, there may be frustration with the pace of negotiations and the ongoing failure to achieve progress in the longstanding sovereignty dispute. Frustration and failure however, cannot, and must not give way to the intemperate urge to impose unilateral quick fixes on an inherent sovereignty dispute.

In recent years, both the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom have taken bold and commendable steps to engage meaningfully on the disputed issue, including the humanitarian

initiative for the identification of Argentine soldiers buried in Darwin. We urge them to continue along this just path.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to the prompt, just and peaceful resolution of this sovereignty dispute.

I thank you.