



**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

At the

**High-level virtual quarterly debate on the situation in Afghanistan**

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Madame President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends Estonia for convening this important meeting. We thank His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and the briefers for their remarks.

As Afghanistan faces increasing violence and uncertainty, the country requires the continued support of the international community now more than ever. In light of the stalling of intra-Afghan negotiations, international partners need to intensify efforts to broker a ceasefire and restart the peace talks. International and regional actors should exert all diplomatic and political means to influence the situation in Afghanistan in support of a lasting peace settlement and sustainable economic development in the interest of all Afghans. Any peace agreement should protect the rights of all Afghans, including women, youth, and minorities. Moreover, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led process, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. We commend regional players' positive and constructive role in the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, despite the many challenges.

We remain deeply concerned about the wave of violence against women, media workers, civil society activists, government employees, children and health workers, among others. We strongly condemn this violence, including, the recent attack against polio vaccinators, in Nangahar province and the bombing of schoolgirls in Kabul. Furthermore, we urge the parties to protect civilians from the type of unspeakable suffering that has been inflicted as a result of over 40 years of conflict. We must also work together earnestly to eliminate terrorism and extremism in Afghanistan and the wider region.

Also, the drug control problem in Afghanistan and the neighbouring region requires consolidated effort and commitment of all stakeholders. The relevant parties should redouble efforts in striving to resolve this drug problem and its resulting ills. In this connection, we must remain focussed on combating illicit production and trafficking in opiates.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose Afghanistan's vulnerabilities. We are now deeply concerned that the pandemic is spiralling out of control in Afghanistan. We must respond urgently, as an international community, to limit the spread of the virus by providing resources to countries in need. More specifically, we must ensure equitable access to vaccines.

In addition, climate change continues to increase insecurity in Afghanistan. Existing threats to food security and livelihoods will be exacerbated by the high likelihood of drought triggered by La Niña weather. The impact of climate change on food insecurity will lead to new humanitarian crises. We commend the efforts of the FAO through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) – Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window in response to Afghanistan's food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

The urgent humanitarian need calls for sustained and coordinated donor support to the underfunded Humanitarian Response Plan 2021. We call on donors to support the humanitarian response in Afghanistan. Such assistance is vital to scale up life-saving activities across the country.

After the withdrawal of all foreign troops, Afghanistan would be in need of a strong and unified resistance. Our policies on Afghanistan should be geared towards stabilizing and protecting its political stability. Without continued international support, Afghan security forces will collapse, and the country's economic and security morass will deepen and worsen. The role of the UN, particularly UNAMA, and international partners will continue to be extremely important following the drawdown of the international military forces.

In closing, we would like to echo President Ghani's call on every member of the General Assembly and the Permanent Members of the Security Council to help Afghanistan achieve the end-state of a sovereign, united and democratic Afghanistan, at peace with itself and the region, capable of preserving and expanding the gains achieved.

I thank you.