



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

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**Remarks**

by

**H.E. I. Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United  
Nations

**Official Launch of Group of Friends in Defense of the United Nations Charter**

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Thank you, Samuel,

We applaud this important initiative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and your personal leadership, Samuel, in ensuring that it materialised. We also thank the representatives of the Secretary General and President of the General Assembly for their opening remarks.

Excellencies,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is pleased to join today's official launch of the Group of Friends in Defense of the United Nations Charter and fully endorses the Declaration that will be adopted.

In 1980, approximately one year after our independence, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became a member of the United Nations. Our posture then, as it is today, was rooted in our steadfast conviction to uphold the enduring purposes and principles of the Organization, with international law at its core.

We believe that all sovereign States, no matter their size, political, economic or military might, have the right to co-exist equally, to ensure the development of their peoples and the upliftment of humanity. Accordingly, preserving, strengthening the values and promoting the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development, and human rights; are of paramount importance.

Full adherence to international law is also an existential issue for my country. In multiple fora, we have been strenuously and consistently championing the universally accepted body of international norms and principles, including those laid out in the United Nations Charter. As a small island developing state with no standing army, vulnerability to external shocks and often sidelined to the margins of (lopsided) decision-making by powerful cliques, international law is the only force on which we depend to safeguard our survival, democracy, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. It is therefore imperative that we categorically safeguard the fundamental tenets of international law.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is honoured to be part of this Group of Friends, which has a special opportunity and task to ensure that the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter remain vital to diplomacy. Rolling over for business as usual, would be a gross dereliction of our collective responsibility to humanity.

In defending the Charter, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recommits to its values and underscores its centrality to our multilateral system in confronting present and future challenges and also in finding collective and creative solutions, which will redound to the benefit of all humankind so that we can exist together in harmony and peace.

I thank you.