



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**Peacebuilding Commission Ambassadorial-level meeting on the situation in
the Great Lakes Region**

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New York

Thank you, Mister Chair, for convening this meeting, and allow me, at the outset, to thank our briefers for their remarks, as well their continued cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Special Envoy's Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region, followed by an Action Plan to secure its implementation, is a key initiative that reinforces the necessary political momentum in the region. The priority areas outlined in the Action Plan are pillars upon which peace, inclusion and prosperity in the Great Lakes Region is achievable. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategy, we underscore the need for widespread engagement. We therefore encourage the inclusion of all stakeholders, as well as civil society, in the implementation of this comprehensive framework. We further underscore the need for regional and subregional organisations, as well as the international community, to provide all necessary support to efforts undertaken to implement the provisions to the Strategy.

Commitment to peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of any conflict through inclusive dialogue, is the only sustainable path to long-term peace. I take this opportunity to highlight the role of the PBC, and underscore the need for sustained and meaningful engagement with the Security Council on the situation in the Great Lakes Region. The PBC is uniquely placed to provide first-hand information and specific guidance on the relevant country configurations, thereby adding a dimension that allows for more informed decisions by the Security Council. We welcome the work that has been undertaken by the PBC to include women in this process and strengthen their participation in this regard..

Further critical to regional stability, is the coordination of efforts to combat various challenges, including the issue of proliferation of arms and illegal trafficking, internal displacement, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the persistent activities of foreign armed groups. The regional acknowledgement of the need for joint action to combat some of these challenges is a positive indication of new opportunities to advance peace efforts. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the engagement of the PBC on the Great Lakes Region, and will continue to actively participate in this forum as the people of the region work towards sustainable peace and development.

Thank you.