



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

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Statement

by

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Nations

Arria Formula on Myanmar

Security Council

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Thank you, Chair, and thanks to the UK for organizing this timely Arria meeting on Myanmar. We would also like to thank the briefers for their insightful presentations.

Saint Vincent and Grenadines remains concerned about the rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar following the coup on February 1st. The ongoing political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated the humanitarian situation, and the people of Myanmar require urgent assistance in their fight against the pandemic.

Recalling Security Council resolution 2565, we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the equitable, safe, and unhindered delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine and medical supplies to affected communities in Myanmar. It is imperative for the authorities to take immediate confidence and trust-building measures to promote vaccination campaigns to combat the virus. These steps are crucial now more than ever in light of the deteriorated health system and fast spreading of COVID-19 cases, and the increasing number of deaths.

The respect of human rights is especially crucial in vulnerable communities, notably in the Chin and Rakhine States, where increasing armed conflicts has led to thousands of more people being displaced, including women and children. This is deeply worrying as children are easily targeted for recruitment by armed groups. We recognize the impact of these threats on civilians and the region, and we call on all parties to armed conflict to fully respect international human rights law.

We strongly condemn all attacks against health workers and health facilities, schools and other civilian infrastructures and urge those responsible for these reprehensible acts to be held to account. Further, we reiterate our call for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained. Conducive conditions must also be created to ensure that those displaced can return to their homes in a safe, voluntary, and sustainable manner.

Finally, we reaffirm our continued support to the efforts of Special Envoy Burgener and ASEAN, and we call for the immediate implementation of the 5-Point Consensus. The people of Myanmar are in urgent need of sustainable collective efforts with support from the international community. Hence, full and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines must be a priority.

I thank you.