



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

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**Statement**

By

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**Briefing on Bosnia and Herzegovina requested by the Russian Federation**

United Nations Security Council

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Please check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks the Officer-in-Charge of the Europe and Central Asia Division, Mr. Hervé Lecoq for his briefing. We also recognize the presence of Ms. Turkovic, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

We begin by expressing our appreciation to the outgoing High Representative, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his work and contribution to the security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as promoting the political process and full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Agreement remains a fundamental pillar to peace and stability, including the creation of an environment conducive to the voluntary return and integration of refugees into communities. We take note of the recent decision of the Steering Board of the Peace and Implementation Council to appoint Mr. Christian Schmidt as the new High Representative. We also take note of the difficulties the Office has had in meeting its mandate and we hope that a climate can be created for all parties to work together and overcome these problems.

We recognize and cannot understate the significant role that the Members of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC SB) have played and will continue to play in contributing to ensuing international support for the Dayton Peace Agreement. The value of the work of the Security Council to the stability and long-term security of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina also cannot be understated. We have seen the value of our united and coordinated effort over the past twenty-five years. This work is needed now more than ever as the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are trying to recover from the massive socio-economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, my delegation encourages the members of the Peace and Implementation Council to work in a spirit of mutual collaboration and coordination and to engage in constructive dialogue with all parties.

Consensus in decision making is desirable and should be our aim. Given the critical role of the Security Council to stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it would have been prudent to consult the Security Council on this most recent matter. At the same time, we fully appreciate that lack of consensus should not derail progress and that the legal requirements for the appointment of the new High Representative have been met. We hope that all parties can move past the differences surrounding the recent appointment of the newly selected High Representative and work together.

To conclude, we reaffirm our full support for the stability, political independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the role of the Office of the High Representative. It is crucial for all parties to work together to fully implement the Peace Agreement as this represents a path toward stability in the region.

I thank you.