



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

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Statement

By

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Counsellor

At the

**Open Debate on the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts:
ISIL/Daesh strategic report**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

Thank you, Mr President, and *we* also thank all our briefers for their presentations.

Mr President,

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism is among our most complex challenges. Every day people continue to lose their lives to terrorism, and families and communities continue to suffer. 21st August 2021 marks the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on that day Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will join the global community in pausing to remember all of those affected by terrorism. As the day approaches, we are ever mindful that we must directly confront the root causes of terrorism to ensure that the pain of these victims is not in vain.

Mr President, while we condemn all acts of violence and atrocious crimes committed by ISIL and its affiliates, it is important to recognise that the traditional methods of warfare have shifted, and the threat of terrorism is growing. Da'esh and other terrorist groups have taken advantage of the disruption, grievances and development setbacks caused by the unprecedented global crisis, both online and on the ground.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines notes with concern the findings in the Secretary-General's report regarding the African continent, where regional affiliates have been further strengthened, especially in West Africa and the Sahel, East and Central Africa. We are particularly troubled about the spill over from Mali into Burkina Faso and Niger, incursions from Nigeria into Niger, Chad and Cameroon, and from Mozambique into the United Republic of Tanzania.

We also note with concern that the ISIL– Khorasan has expanded its presence in several provinces of Afghanistan and Da'esh affiliates in South-East Asia continue to disturb counter-terrorism operations with a steady pace of attacks. We cannot allow Afghanistan to become a safe haven for terrorist again.

All counter-terrorism actions must be conducted in accordance with international law, and with the full implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and relevant General-Assembly and Security Council resolutions. We call on Member States to redouble efforts and remain committed to the full protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms across all efforts to counter-terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. We must also effectively and efficiently share information responsibly with our regional and international partners.

In response to the concerns of terrorism and in an effort to enhance and guarantee a safe and free Caribbean region, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to the CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CT Strategy), which aims to reduce the risk of terrorism and associated violent extremism by denying terrorists the means and opportunity to carry out their activities and improve the Caribbean Community defences against terrorist attacks.

Countering the financing of terrorism remains an essential part of the global fight against terror. Thus, in our efforts to combat emerging terrorist financing risks, we must fully implement resolution 2462, which requires Member States to disrupt and to criminalise the financing of terrorism for any purpose. Moreover, all initiatives to combat terrorist financing must be designed in such a way that they safeguard all legitimate and well-managed financial activities including in offshore jurisdictions.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the relevant international instruments, Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and all subsequent resolutions related to combatting terrorism. It is also imperative that the Security Council continues to play a leading role in promoting international peace and security. We must remain dedicated to strengthening the global alliance against terrorism.

I thank you