



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

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**Statement**

by

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to the United Nations

At the

**Arria-Formula meeting: The threat to international peace and security posed by  
the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the Impact of Emerging  
Technologies on International Peace and Security**

16 September, 2021  
New York

Thank you Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes today's discussion and we thank the Permanent Mission of Mexico for hosting this meeting. I wish Mexico a happy Independence Day. We also thank our briefers, for their remarks.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty, recognises the urgent need to control small arms and light weapons. At the regional level, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) recognises the urgency in protecting our people from the illicit trade in small arms, light weapons and ammunition, which we do not manufacture, export, or import on a large scale but we suffer the burden of the repercussions. Further, CARCOM has accelerated our Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030.

Insecurity resulting from the misuse of small arms and light weapons undermines conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and socio-economic development including education, health and social cohesion. The impact of this scourge on women is disproportionate and we must keep this gender dimension in mind.

On the African continent, in the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, Central African region, the Horn of Africa, Sudan, South Sudan and Libya, the intensity of violence is driven largely by the prevalence of small arms and light weapons. Our delegation supports ongoing initiatives on the African continent to combat the illicit flow of small arms and light weapon : the African Union's "Silencing the Guns by 2020" campaign, the ECOWAS SALW Convention, Kinshasa Convention and the Nairobi Protocol. At the same time, we underscore the necessity of capacity building and support to help with successful implementation.

In many contexts, large quantities of small arms and light weapons in the hands of non-state actors, including gangs, challenge state authority, undermine governments and destabilise countries. Tracing these weapons is of particular concern to us, as is preventing the illegal proliferation of these weapons into the hands of bad actors.

Six years after the adoption of Resolution 2220 (2015), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognises the need for its implementation. We also value efforts to build on this resolution and to mainstream combatting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across our Security Council agenda, wherever relevant.