



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

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Hon Dr. Ralph E Gonsalves**

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines

**“Draft Statement to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of  
the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”**

September 22nd, 2021

New York

Check against delivery

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Comrades and Friends,

Amidst the ignoble manifestations of a skewed international system, lay the legacies of a violent colonial era, injustice, and racist economic inequality. This painful history pollutes the present political order, and gives rise to booming cries for global peace and justice.

The gross human injustices and the atrocious crimes of indigenous or native genocide and chattel slavery, particularly the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in African bodies, must prompt an appropriate recompense to help heal our collective memory, mend our strained social fabrics, and advance meaningfully, materially, the sustainable development agenda - *with special consideration to all former territories of brutish colonialism and imperial disorder.*

The cause of reparatory justice - *championed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and promoted by social activists globally* - remains an indisputable moral imperative. This legitimate demand, *buttressed by the abject manifestations of today's unequal political economy, and firmly grounded in the precepts of international law,* should prompt the governments of ***all*** former colonising powers to atone for past misdeeds of native genocide and the enslavement of Africans through earnest attempts at reconciliation and practical recompense for the enduring legacies of these crimes against humanity.

Immediately, tangible commitments by liable European nations must be made to build institutions and help strengthen capacities - *according to national needs and priorities, and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals*. CARICOM has, in this regard, advanced a Ten-Point Agenda for reparatory justice.

Undoubtedly, the legacies of under-development, injustice, and exclusion persist. Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines fully endorses the Political Declaration addressing these central concerns.

As we mark this 20th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and traverse this historic International Decade for People of African Descent, let us be ever more focused and creative to advance a common agenda to uplift ***all*** of humanity. These are great causes; and great causes have never been won by doubtful men and women. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is not doubtful. Progress is being made; but more is yet to be done!

Let's work together for a better humanity.

Thank you!