



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

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**Statement**

by

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United Nations

**“Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Elders”**

Security Council  
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Check against delivery

Thank you Madam President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends the Republic of Ireland for convening today's discussion, and we thank you - *our esteemed Elders* - for sharing such keen insights which are crucial to the maintenance of international peace and security. Your continued dedication to all of humanity reinforces the work of this council, and we pay you a great deal of gratitude for your unyielding commitment.

Madam President, Excellencies,

The complex web of interwoven peace and security challenges facing states today necessitate a reformed and effective multilateralism that prioritises the collective good, protects our global commons, and privileges the rights and perspectives of all nations and peoples.

In far too many contexts, a lack of access to basic public goods including food and water; shelter and sanitation; education and healthcare; and stable employment, lead to growing levels of inequality and disenfranchisement. A general reduction in public trust, and protracted divisions along ethnic, communal and political lines subsequently ensue.

In fragile settings, such as conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable states, poverty and under-development remain prevalent features etched across the social terrain. These developmental challenges often manifest themselves as painful cycles of hostility and violence, and spur devastating humanitarian crises. We can and we must do

better to protect those made most vulnerable amongst us, and to provide peace and justice to all - in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam President,

The bedrock principles of international law outlined in the UN Charter compel all countries to work together to address global challenges with the full respect for - and complete adherence to - the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of *all states*. These tenets are non-negotiable and must continue to serve as the centrepiece of all efforts to maintain international peace and security. National ownership over peace and political processes must be bolstered, social contracts rebuilt, and earnest attempts at reconciliation pursued.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterates its call for a comprehensive "whole-of-system" approach to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding activities. The Security Council should collaborate more closely with the other main organs of the UN System: the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to fashion practical, gender-responsive, people-centred, and climate-sensitive development strategies, and deliver them to conflict-affected countries in line with their national needs and priorities.

Capacity-building initiatives should be accelerated as developed countries honour their overseas development assistance (ODA) commitments; and ambitious targets for curbing emissions ought to

be set and met by major polluters who in turn should provide increased support for climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. As the climate crisis deepens, the attendant security risks must be taken fully into account by the Council. Reparatory justice for past abuses - *including historical injustices that left dreadful legacies of inequity and underdevelopment in their wake* - must also form part of any serious agenda for lasting peace and security.

Madam President, as we have borne witness throughout this pandemic, we can only protect ourselves by protecting each other. The question of global equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines remains one of paramount concern. So too is the need for all states to abandon unilateral practices, including economic sanctions and other extortionate measures, that impede efforts to recover sustainably from this pandemic.

Through the unity of purpose of the Security Council and the collective action of the wider international community - and further buttressed by the continued advocacy of The Elders and other committed stakeholders - a better future *for all of humanity* remains within our grasp. Let us work together with a renewed sense of hope, devotion, and solidarity to provide peace, security, *and development* to all who yearn for it. I thank you.