



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Statement

by

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“United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Transitions”

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Check against delivery

Thank you Madam President,

At the outset, I thank H.E. Secretary-General Guterres, Her Excellency Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and President of the Community Development Association of Sudan, Ms. Safaa Elagib Adam for their insightful remarks and commend the Republic of Ireland for convening this timely discussion. We also welcome Her Excellency Minister Lekhi of India.

Peacekeeping engagements are important political tools that shape and reconfigure the social, economic and civic landscapes of conflict-affected states. Despite their indispensable role, peace operations face a range of impediments that hinder their effectiveness and performance. These include:

- the changing character of conflict, where asymmetric threats, including acts of terror, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other unorthodox, *but increasingly sophisticated* tactics, are used by combatants;
- the shifting priorities and competing political objectives of powerful actors, *both local and foreign*, that wield influence over peace processes; and,
- the prevalence of risk multipliers, such as climate change which exacerbate human suffering and breed new patterns of conflict.

Against this precarious and uncertain backdrop, mission transitions and exit strategies must always be conducted with the full consent and consensus of all stakeholders, particularly that of the host country. Regular triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat, and the troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs) is essential to ensure that all drawdowns and transitions are strategically sound.

Exit strategies should never be driven by budgetary considerations, but rather determined through a comprehensive review of the situation on the ground. In all circumstances, the needs and priorities of host countries must preside over any decisions to withdraw or reconfigure peacekeeping missions.

Madam President,

It is an oft-repeated mantra, *but one that bears reiterating*, that the peace, security and development challenges facing our world today cannot be solved in isolation of each other. Nor can they be sufficiently addressed by military means only. In all theatres of operation, there is an urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive development solutions to reinforce ceasefire agreements, buttress peace processes, and provide conflict-affected communities, in particular their disenfranchised youth, with viable opportunities for life, living and production. Peace dividends provided through sustainable gender-responsive and climate-friendly development initiatives pave the way for successful transitions and sustainable exits.

Through the institutional nexus between the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC - *with the peacebuilding commission (PBC) playing its bridging, convening and advisory roles* - greater coordination, coherence and complementarity across all peace, security, development, human rights, and humanitarian activities must be pursued. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines encourages all Member States and international financial institutions (IFIs) to scale up their financial support to all peacebuilding initiatives and mechanisms, including to the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

We also underscore the invaluable commitments of regional and sub-regional organisations, especially the African Union (AU), to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In all settings, and at all stages of the conflict-cycle, we must strive to draw on the immeasurable expertise of local and regional actors, whose political and community-level engagements are better suited than externally-imposed "*one-size-fits-all*" approaches. Their contributions are crucial when devising, implementing, and evaluating rule of law, security sector reform (SSR), and transitional justice initiatives, which prove vital to sustainable exits and reconfigurations. Cultural and religious leaders, academia and civil society representatives, *particularly women*, are indispensable stakeholders for successful transitions.

To conclude, Madam President, my delegation emphasises the need for focused, realistic, and actionable mandates, *for both peacekeeping and peacebuilding*, backed by adequate resource allocations to achieve the desired political impact. During drawdowns and mission transitions, when the risks of relapse to conflict are elevated, peacekeeping gains should always be supplemented and safeguarded by comprehensive development and peacebuilding solutions.

I thank you Madam President.