



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

Ambassadorial-level meeting on the situation in Gambia

Peacebuilding Commission
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New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair for convening today's Ambassadorial-level meeting to discuss The Gambia. I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Gambia and other distinguished briefers, for their informative and comprehensive briefings.

To date, the Peacebuilding Commission continues to serve as an effective platform to sustain international attention and support for the Gambia's political, security, development, and human rights priorities. Consequently, we strongly encourage to the Commission to further strengthen its advisory, bridging and convening roles, to encourage continued international community support for The Gambia.

First, allow me to express our most sincere admiration for the work of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) process, which has made important contributions to national reconciliation and transitional justice in The Gambia. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the Commission undertake comprehensive reviews of the themes in its work programme covering public hearings and investigations. We cannot agree more with the view that there is nothing like telling the truth in the open and that without truth, there can be no justice. Likewise the payment of reparations to victims is a critical step in efforts to make right the wrongs of the past.

We commend the efforts of the United Nations, in particular, the Peacebuilding Commission, which The Gambia continues to count on for support to its peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. Furthermore, we encourage The Gambia to strengthen its engagement with the PBC and call on the Commission, at the request of The Gambia, to use its convening and coordinating power to encourage international support for the TRRC findings and recommendations on reparations, prosecution and institutional reforms. To effectively implement the TRRC recommendations, strengthening the rule of law and justice system is of paramount importance. And we take note of successful legislative efforts which aim to strengthen the rule of law and justice in The Gambia.

With the assistance of the Peacebuilding Fund, The Gambia has made commendable progress in sustaining peace, particularly in the areas of transitional justice, constitutional review,

judicial and civil service reform, and economic development. However, much remains to be done, to cover the country's funding gap for peacebuilding and development priorities. Yet again, we renew our support for the critical function of the Peacebuilding Fund and underscore the need to collectively address the critical challenge of ensuring adequate, predictable, and sustained resources for peacebuilding.

The 4 December presidential election represents a significant step in The Gambia's progress in building and strengthening accountable, sustainable and effective democratic institutions. We call on the international community to strengthen its commitment and efforts to address the critical funding gaps in support of the election process.

I wish to commend The Gambia, based on a recent report, for prioritising climate action and on their progress made towards the goals set out under the Paris Agreement for us all. We underscore the critical linkage between climate change, development and sustaining peace. We reiterate our call on major emitters to sharply reduce their emissions and fulfill their climate funding pledges. Climate change is a collective challenge and inertia on the part of some will have disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable among us.

In closing, we highlight the importance of women's full and meaningful participation and leadership throughout all the processes mentioned today. In this regard, we recognise the work of the Civil Society Gender Platform.

I thank you.