



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

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**Statement**

By

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At the

**Arria Formula Meeting on Sea-Level Rise and Implications for International  
Peace and Security**

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Thank you Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends Viet Nam for convening this meeting on Sea-Level Rise and Implications for International Peace and Security, particularly ahead of the COP26 in Glasgow. We also thank our briefers for their presentations.

Climate change, and accompanying issues such as rising sea-levels and shifting weather patterns, has multi-layered effects across the world, and exacerbates conflict and instability. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Sixth Assessment](#) report bleakly predicts that Coastal areas will see continued sea-level rise throughout this century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. It further cautions that extreme sea level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century.

This is the harsh reality that underscores the urgent need for climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation funding and an effective mechanism for loss and damage. Developing states, with the least resources to cope with a changing climate, are often most heavily dependent on the natural environment and have to prepare for the worse, given the already ‘irreversible’ nature of some impacts.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) the debilitating impacts of increasingly intense climatic shocks threaten the continued existence of our nations and people. Low-lying states are faced with the threat of loss of territory, social capital, and governance capacity—which can converge to undermine sovereignty and statehood.

Sea-level rise also threatens saltwater intrusion leading to degradation of freshwater resources. Compounding factors will create humanitarian crises, endanger lives and livelihoods, increasing displacement and competition over scarce resources, destroy coastal infrastructure, and cause social tension; that can ultimately affect international peace and security.

Scaling up ambition in mitigation is the first step to addressing climate threats. It is also critically and urgently necessary that developed countries, at a minimum, deliver on their \$100bn commitment, separate and apart from Official Development Aid. The financing architecture also plays an important role in supporting the ability to enhance climate and disaster resilience and hence addressing the high debt service burden of the most vulnerable countries will be essential.

We stand in solidarity with conflict-affected countries where climate change exacerbates water and food insecurity and humanitarian crises, stokes conflicts over resources, and creates significant socio-economic challenges.

**We call for more analysis and research on the implications of sea-level rise, and its consequent coastal erosion impacts on the societies and economies of the affected countries, including the security dimension.** Gaining a better understanding of how food systems, human mobility, infrastructure, security and other dimensions will be affected, will help to prepare and build resilience where needed.

Climate-related risks cut across the spectrum of development, humanitarian, peace and security and environmental concerns. A coherent response is therefore required, across all key pillars of the United Nations and within the respective mandates of UN organs.

To this end, **the Security Council should also be responsive to what is outlined by governments of conflict-affected states** as the principal climate-security challenges and approaches, including in their Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

I thank you.