



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

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Statement

By

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Second Deputy Permanent Representative

United Nations Security Council briefing on UNMIK (Kosovo)

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks SRSB Mr. Tanin for his detailed briefing. We commend you and the entire UNMIK team for the support provided to the people of Kosovo in stabilising the situation in the region, mitigating the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and addressing the socio-economic needs within communities made most vulnerable.

We also express appreciation for UNMIK and the United Nations team in their constructive engagement with women and youth in Kosovo, particularly through their trust-building initiatives and those aimed at promoting the fight against gender-based violence.

We take note of the meetings held in Brussels between the EU High Representative, Mr. Josep Borrell, the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, and the Serbian President. My delegation welcomes the resumption of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina after a prolonged suspension. The normalization of relations between the parties is crucial to the stability of the region, and we encourage the sides to continue their engagement constructively, in good faith and to build on the progress achieved so far for a peaceful solution.

We regret recent tensions stemming from issues surrounding license plates and condemn the incidents of vandalization of religious and cultural sites, as mentioned in the Secretary General's report. We call for unified action to address such issues.

Further, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines encourages the Government of Serbia and the authorities in Kosovo to maintain the principles of the rule of law and good governance, uphold fundamental freedom and promote protection and respect for human rights. At the same time, we take this opportunity to reiterate the significance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in political and peace processes and the COVID-19 response. We encourage the greater participation of women and youth in these processes.

We conclude by reaffirming our support for the critical work that UNMIK continues to do to fully implement its mandate in Kosovo in promoting security, stability, and respect for human rights.

Thank you.