



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

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Statement

By

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At the

**United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Middle East
(Yemen)**

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Thank you, Mr. President. We begin by welcoming the comprehensive remarks delivered by Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and Acting Assistant Secretary-General Ramesh Rajasingham. We also welcome Ms. Mayssa Al-Deen, whose research and assessment contributes to our comprehensive knowledge of the situation in Yemen, thereby buttressing efforts to address the complexities on the ground.

As Saint Vincent and the Grenadines nears the end of its tenure on the Security Council, it is truly regrettable that hostilities in Yemen, as well as cross-border attacks on the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, continue unabated and that the humanitarian situation is still one of the world's worst. We deplore the continued fighting, the impact of which is felt deeply by Yemen's most vulnerable people, including women, children and IDPs. The recent car bomb at Aden airport is one of the many examples of the destruction that the conflict continues to wreak on the civilian population. In the face of these dire circumstances, however, there is opportunity for hope. This is due, in part, to the fact that we have a roadmap that facilitates an end to the war. We have repeated that there must be an immediate ceasefire that opens the doors to political dialogue and, through various confidence building measures, we can foster an environment conducive to this dialogue. We have recognised that the success of this dialogue necessitates a Yemeni-led, Yemeni-owned and Yemeni-focused process. The additional element that is a prerequisite, is a genuine demonstration by the parties to the conflict of collective responsibility and political will to prioritize Yemen's future and end the war. Until then, the dire humanitarian and economic situations will persist.

A sustained humanitarian operation that can reach those most in need is critical to the everyday survival of people in Yemen. We welcome the high-level side event that was co-hosted by Sweden, Switzerland and the EU last month, which gave the international community an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the people of Yemen by providing additional funding for aid operations. In this regard, we welcome the pledges made, and urge the early disbursement of the funds. The humanitarian situation is compounded by that of the economy, which has been crippled by the conflict. Between unpaid salaries, depreciation of the currency, significant inflation and the curtailment of important economic sectors, many Yemenis lack the resources to survive on a day-

to-day basis. External support is compulsory. Good neighbourliness of countries in the region and the opening of ports for entry of goods, including fuel, into Yemen are also critical to ease the humanitarian suffering. All parties in Yemen must act responsibly and fairly in distribution of critical goods and fuel.

As we emphasize the need for the resumption of the political process, we also stress that there can be no sustainable peace without accountability. As an international community we must ensure that the parties' obligations are upheld under international law, and also build the capacity of local institutions to guarantee accountability.

Before concluding, allow me to revisit the issue of the SAFER oil tanker, a standard issue that has been raised during every Security Council meeting on Yemen. It is imperative that the relevant parties prioritise a solution with a sense of urgency and that all stakeholders with influence encourage the parties to find a swift resolution to this issue. The catastrophic impact of an explosion or leak must be prevented.

In closing, we affirm our support to the Special Envoy and to all partners working to end the war.

Thank you.