Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Briefing on the Situation in Libya – Twenty-second Report of the
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

United Nations Security Council

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Thank you, Mr. President,
At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes and congratulates Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan Q.C., in his new role at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

We also thank him for his first presentation before this august Council - the Twenty-Second Report of the Prosecutor of the ICC to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) and welcome the distinguished Permanent Representative of Libya to today’s meeting.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by reaffirming Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ unwavering commitment in upholding international criminal justice, which is the raison d’être of the ICC and the premise on which we ratified the Rome Statute in 2002. Fundamentally, we believe the ICC has a critical role to play in our collective pursuit for peace, justice and accountability, particularly in the investigation of the worst crimes against humanity, including genocide and war crimes; as well as ending impunity and bringing justice to victims.

We are cognizant that States have the primary responsibility in ensuring that justice is properly dispensed in accordance with their own domestic laws and systems. We are equally mindful that whenever States are unable or unwilling to prosecute those accused of committing the most serious crimes, our multilateral system ought to play a significant role. For these reasons, international courts like the ICC, have been established to guarantee that justice prevails for victims.

Mr. President,

Libya is on the precipice of a new era - to turn a new leaf in one of its darkest chapters in history. At this juncture, approximately one month before Libya holds its first national elections, the people, especially the victims, must be at the core and the backbone of Libya’s justice system that will facilitate peace, stability and national reconciliation. We therefore encourage the Libyan authorities to continue advancing efforts to end impunity, protect human rights and bring justice and reparations to the victims.
Specifically, we urge the Government of National Unity (GNU) and Prosecutor Khan, to consolidate the gains of their predecessors. At this crucial stage of Libya’s history, stakeholders can ill-afford to lose any momentum in seeking justice for the victims of atrocities.

We therefore underscore the importance of cooperation and the principle of complementarity of the Rome Statute. We maintain that the circumstances in Libya are propitious to strengthen cooperation between the GNU and the ICC, and as such, look forward to the visit of the Prosecutor to Libya in early 2022, to meet with the Libyan authorities and enhance cooperation that may allow the ICC to effectively discharge its mandate.

Additionally, we echo our repeated calls for non-state parties to subscribe to the Rome Statute, and for State and non-State parties to fully comply with their international obligations in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains in full solidarity with Libya and underscores that it is past time that historical injustices are redressed and done in a spirit of national reconciliation, healing, reparation and social justice.

I thank you!