



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

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**"Peace and Security through Preventive Diplomacy: A Common Objective to  
all UN Principal Organs"**

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Check against delivery

Thank You Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends Mexico for convening today's discussion, and we thank the briefers for their remarks. Our delegation ardently supports, *and conscientiously advocates for*, a comprehensive "whole-of-system" approach that addresses peace and security, development, and humanitarian issues in a holistic and systematic manner. To this end, we place special emphasis on the theme of today's debate.

Mr. President,

The interconnecting health, socioeconomic, political and security challenges occasioned by COVID-19 has further illuminated the need for steadfast political resolve, buttressed by purposeful collective action, to address our contemporary struggles. As we grapple with the complexities of this pandemic; the many-sided ordeals of the Climate Crisis; and the numerous security risks aroused in fragile countries and regions, we must work assiduously to end conflicts, to build resilience, and to procure peace, security and development for *all* of humanity.

In pursuit of this noble cause, unilateral measures and hegemonic motives - *both of which undermine the norms of multilateralism and erode essential human rights, including the right to development* - should be

abandoned. Political dialogue, preventive diplomacy, and other participatory approaches - hinged upon the ideals of inclusivity and equality - should be earnestly pursued by *all* states.

At the institutional level, it is essential that the complementarity between and amongst the organs and specialised agencies of the United Nations is enhanced. At the strategic level and in the field, cross-pillar engagements between all peace and security, development, humanitarian and human rights actors should be vigorously pursued.

Mr. President,

This United Nations has provided the international community with its most viable plans and development models for widespread peace and prosperity. But as we wade further into the uncharted waters of the 21st Century, with protracted conflicts that spur large-scale humanitarian crises; disruptive technologies that sever our social fabrics; and a climate catastrophe that envelops many vulnerable countries and peoples with great uncertainty; a more refined and collaborative multilateralism is clearly needed.

The Security Council must continue its leading role in the maintenance of international peace and security. At the same time, more creative and

innovative approaches should be brought to bear to address existing implementation gaps, which range from conflict prevention to post-conflict peacebuilding, and across the spectrum of thematic questions concerning women and youth; Climate Change and environmental degradation; and other fundamental challenges of sustainable development.

The bridging, advisory and convening roles of the Peacebuilding Commission; the functional commissions and policy platforms of ECOSOC; the mediatory and technical capacities of the ICJ - *on matters pertaining to the rule of law*; and the popular consensus and agenda-setting powers of the General Assembly ought to be leveraged more often. This much, and more, should be done with the full support of the wider international community, including regional and sub-regional organisations and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to help deliver on existing agreements - in particular the Sustainable Development Goals. Preventive diplomacy and proactive political engagements, *underpinned by the guiding principles of international law*, must remain the centrepiece of this multi-stakeholder approach.

To conclude, Mr. President, let us keep the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic fresh in our minds: that collective political action, *steeped in*

*the virtues of unity and solidarity*, remains the surest pathway to address our current struggles and future afflictions. Let us collaborate more closely to cultivate a lasting peace and prosperity to be enjoyed by the entire global community. Finally, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aligns with the Statement to be delivered later by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you.