



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

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Statement

By

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Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the
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At the

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

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New York
United Nations Security Council

Thank you, Mr. President.

We thank our briefers, Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and ASG for OCHA Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, for their presentations this morning.

It is unfortunate that we have to begin our remarks today with a statement of condemnation of the continued hostilities in Yemen, including the recent indiscriminate strikes that landed on an IDP camp in Marib and the bombing in Hajjah, both of which resulted in loss of life. We echo the calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire and for the parties to engage in political dialogue.

For years, the conflict in Yemen has continued unabated, leading to consequences that will reverberate even after a political solution is achieved. Lives and livelihoods have been lost, critical infrastructure destroyed, the healthcare system fractured, the economy has been decimated and food insecurity has intensified with many lacking the purchasing power to access basic food and essential services. The multifaceted nature of this conflict demands that a solution must be equally multifaceted. In this regard, a political solution to the armed conflict must be pursued in parallel with a comprehensive plan to reinvigorate the economy. These two factors ie the lack of a political solution and the decimated economy — are drivers of the conflict and are deeply connected to the catastrophic humanitarian situation. This has left millions in need of assistance, including nutrition, health care, and critical WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) supplies. To this end, we appeal to donors to disburse funds and increase pledges with a sense of urgency to ensure a sustained humanitarian operation, and call on the parties to honour their obligations under international law to ensure and facilitate the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to those most in need. While we underscore the indispensable nature of humanitarian aid, we

also note that this is merely a palliative response to the symptoms of the conflict and not a solution. Our ultimate goal is a durable end to the daily suffering of people in Yemen, which can only be achieved through an inclusive political solution.

Mr. President,

This is the final statement that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will deliver on this file in the Security Council. Since our assumption of responsibilities on January 1, 2020, we have repeated our appeals monthly for the parties to commit to a sustained cessation of hostilities, and the resumption of an inclusive political process that is Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned, and reflective of all groups within Yemeni society. Women cannot be excluded from this process, but must instead be afforded the opportunity to meaningfully participate in decision-making and in the shaping of agendas and practices. While there exists diplomatic momentum within the international community for an end to the conflict, this momentum will not be translated into concrete action on the ground without the political will of the parties. We appeal to stakeholders with influence to engage constructively with the parties to the conflict to encourage an end to the violence and a resumption of dialogue. To our counterparts in the Security Council, as we take our leave, we urge you to remain united on this file, with the well-being of the Yemeni people and the peace, security and prosperity of their nation and the region, at the forefront of all discussions and actions. On this note, we reiterate our support for all efforts made in good faith to address the ongoing threat posed by the SAFER oil tanker.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to stand in solidarity with the Yemeni people, as this august body works towards the discharge of its mandate, in

line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is time for the people of Yemen to experience the state of peace that they inherently deserve. Thank you.