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Nations

**"International Peace and Security in the Face of Terrorism and Climate
Change"**

UN Security Council

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Check against delivery

Thank You, Mr President,

At the outset, permit me to convey - *on behalf of the government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* — our deepest appreciation to the Republic of Niger for convening today's discussion. I also thank our distinguished briefers. [We also wish to thank the briefers, H.E. António Guterres, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and H.E. Mammal Nuhu for their important contributions to this debate.]

Mr President,

Amidst the ebbs and flows of these tumultuous times: as the social and economic costs of COVID-19 multiply; as more lives and livelihoods are disrupted globally by climate change; and as the consequences of terrorism escalate—in *terms of the global security implications and the political repercussions that ensue*—urgent multilateral action is clearly needed.

It is no coincidence that the countries most affected by underdevelopment, oftentimes preceeded by colonization, are also those most subjected to the security risks of climate change and terrorism. Indeed, in fragile contexts, poverty and unemployment, hunger and food insecurity, socioeconomic and political marginalisation, and other social ills intertwine to create fertile breeding grounds for terrorism and organised crime. And as these conflict drivers are further compounded by the climate crisis, the

most vulnerable amongst us often become trapped in painful cycles of insecurity and underdevelopment.

These woes, *of insecurity and underdevelopment* cannot be solved in isolation of each other. We must avoid short-term planning and superficial approaches that merely circumvent—*and fail to address*—the root causes of conflict and insecurity. We will only overcome these challenges through comprehensive development plans and strategies that reinforce sovereignty, rebuild public trust, restore social contracts, and adorn all nations and peoples with peace and prosperity.

In pursuit of these noble aims, we cannot be divided in purpose and separated by narrow national interest. Nor can we rely on militaristic means or a narrow economic calculus. These will prove both elusive and illusory. The only solution is for the international community to work together - *in unity and solidarity* - to deliver on existing agreements, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Accords. Developed countries and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) ought to scale up Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and capacity-building initiatives. Practical, people-centred and climate sensitive solutions should be developed and extensively delivered in line with the needs, priorities, and developmental imperatives of concerned states. All stakeholders, *including powerful states*, should conduct their affairs in accordance

with the guiding principles of international law. And major and historical emitters must take ambitious action to set and meet climate targets, including our target of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise above pre-industrial levels (which is already upon us). Developed countries must also significantly scale up support for adaptation and mitigation. We also encourage further efforts, by all Member States, to meaningfully advance climate action through the UNFCCC.

The thematic draft resolution that has been put forward within the Council can also bolster a comprehensive approach on these multi-dimensional challenges. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution and encourages all States to stand in solidarity with those affected by climate-related security risks today, and in the future, if we do not drastically change our trajectory.

We also take this opportunity to express our support for the G5 Sahel Joint Force which is critical in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

It has become abundantly clear that the challenges of terrorism and of Climate Change, and of underdevelopment and insecurity can only

be solved through fresh ideas, innovative solutions, and modern developmental narratives that tell a different story than the one that we lament today. Let us work together to build a better future for all countries and peoples. I thank you.