



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

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Statement in Explanation of Vote before the Vote

by

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to the United Nations

General Assembly

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Mr. President,

It is clear from the debate over the past two days that the membership of the United Nations is united in its call to end the war in Ukraine and return to diplomacy.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines wishes to offer an explanation of its vote on the draft resolution before us today.

Mr President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will vote in favour of the draft resolution. We will vote in accordance with our steadfast commitment to upholding the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which form the core of multilateralism and gave birth to our United Nations 76 years ago. It bears repeating, Mr President, that these principles underscore respect for sovereignty, political independence and the territorial integrity of states and enjoin Member States to refrain from the threat or the use of force in the conduct of their international relations.

Our support for the draft resolution is rooted in our conviction that the strict adherence to international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and the principles of peace, dialogue and compromise for the preservation of humanity *is not optional*.

As a small island developing state, full compliance with the bedrock principles of international law remains an existential issue. We take the floor *again*, Mr President, to repeat our call for these principles to be applied consistently and upheld as universal truths, instead of selective, uneven and unpredictable tools to further great power ambition, *anywhere and by anyone*.

Historically, and in recent times, we have witnessed the naked-hypocrisy, double standards, and cynical misapplication of international law, which we have condemned. Today, we strongly emphasize that our august assembly should apply the fundamental principles of our Charter *impartially*, irrespective of the size, economic and military power of the principals involved.

Mr. President,

In the midst of prevailing global challenges, such as the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, we simply *cannot* afford another conflict.

War does not manage grievances.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore calls for *an immediate ceasefire* to avert further bloodshed, human suffering, and a global catastrophe and to engage in peaceful dialogue, to find a solution to this war, *post-haste!*

Today, we must unite for peace.

Thank you and peace profound to all!