



**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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**Situation in the area of operations and activities of the United Nations
Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)**

United Nations Security Council
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New York

I thank USG Jean Pierre Lacroix for his informative briefing on the situation in the UNDOF area of operations and on the activities of the Force and Observer Group Golan for the period from 20 November 2020 to 20 February 2021.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its unwavering position that the occupied Syrian Golan is an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic. So, let me be clear: the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, we reject any annexation measures imposed by Israel on the occupied Syrian Golan.

The continued Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan poses a threat to security and stability in the region. Therefore, we urge the Security Council to perform its designated role of maintaining international peace and take urgent action in order to ensure the full implementation of its 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 350 (1974) and 497 (1981), the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure full withdrawal by Israel from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

My delegation remains concerned by the continuation of violations of the 1974 Disengagement of the Forces Agreement, notably the breach of the ceasefire that occurred on 24 November and 3 February. We therefore call on the parties to fully respect the terms of the Agreement, to exercise maximum restraint and to prevent any breaches of the ceasefire in the area of separation. Once more, we reiterate that there should be no military forces, equipment, or personnel in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu statement issued on 9 February that "The Golan Heights has been and will continue to be a part of the State of Israel," and "With an agreement or without an agreement, we are not leaving the Golan. It will remain under the sovereignty of the State of Israel." My delegation rejects Israel's claim over the Syrian's Golan and reaffirms that Israeli's "decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect," in accordance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

The liaison function of UNDOF is vital to de-escalate tensions during periods of heightened tension between parties. Moreover, it is essential for both parties to the Agreement to engage constructively to facilitate the advancement of the mission's plan for an incremental return to operations and positions in the area of separation and to ensure that the mission is able to fully fulfil its mandate, including to conduct inspections on Alpha and Bravo sides.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all TCCs and peacekeepers of UNDOF and UNTSO, who have contributed to and supported a peaceful solution to the question of the occupied Syrian Golan, one which respects the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and other rights that are recognized by international law during the past 54 years.