



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

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

**Open VTC on “The situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question”**

United Nations Security Council  
20 May 2020  
New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I wish to thank Special Coordinator Mladenov for his briefing.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to follow with concern the developments affecting the State of Palestine and its people. We are deeply concerned about Israel's latest announcement to annex large areas of the West Bank, as early as in July and call for the cessation of the construction of new settlements and of all other illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem.

Annexation constitutes a serious violation of international law and severely undermines the viability of the two-state solution. My delegation remains committed to the international consensus on the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Moreover, we remain concerned with the continued deterioration in all Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 and call on all parties to abide by their obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2334. We reaffirm our support for a negotiated, two-state solution based on the pre-1967 lines with mutually agreed land swaps. Any solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must adequately and justly address the needs of both sides.

Security Council resolution 2334 "calls for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including all acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction. However, we continue to get reports of clashes between Israeli forces and civilians across the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip resulting in injuries and loss of human life. We condemn these acts of violence and call upon Israel to abide by its obligations and responsibilities under international law.

Amidst these worrying developments, UNRWA continues to face chronic financial deficits. We urge the international community to continue providing funding for UNRWA and bilateral programs in the West Bank and Gaza, in order to improve and preserve access to primary and secondary medical care for refugee and non-refugee populations.

To conclude, we urge Israel, the occupying power, to reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. A comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to an end to the occupation and achieve a two-state solution.