

### **SVG Remarks – Flag Lowering Ceremony: UNSC December 31, 2021**

- Two years ago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became the smallest nation to be elected to this august Council. As we depart today, we remain humbled and honoured to have served and to be of service - fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to us.
- On behalf of the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I reiterate our sincerest appreciation, to the 193 countries of the United Nations, particularly those 185, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that afforded us the opportunity to share our unique perspectives to find solutions to global complex challenges.
- We thank the elected and permanent members of the Council for their solidarity, support and cooperation during our stint. Indeed, we did not always enjoy consensus in all our decisions, but strived for dialogue, understanding and a conciliatory approach, whilst sensitive to the diversity which exists in the Council.
- As with any endeavour of the size of the Security Council, the tasks required us to be responsible, audacious, innovative, visionary, committed, willing to sacrifice and of a firm conviction. Whether on country specific issues, such as the situation in the Sahel, Syria, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Colombia, DRC, Haiti, or the situation in Libya, to thematic issues ranging from YPS, WPS to the security implications of Climate Change and the COVID-19 pandemic, we endeavoured to make the world a better place - to save lives and leave no one behind.
- The purpose, depth and scope of the Security Council remain very relevant. Without this Council, our international community would be weakened and rudderless. It however remains our firm belief that this Council needs to be reformed to reflect existing realities. It is past time that an African country became a permanent member if the Council genuinely wishes to have home-grown solutions for the continent. After all, most of the issues occupied on the Council's agenda are on the motherland.
- As we lower our flag today, our experience in the Council has further strengthened our resolve to champion peace, stability, security, democracy, sustainable development, good governance and human rights, with a firm conviction that dialogue and mediated solutions, remain central to peace processes.
- I thank you.