



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
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Statement

by

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**“Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Diversity, State-building and the
Search for Peace”**

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Thank you Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commends the Republic of Kenya for convening this discussion, and we thank our esteemed briefers for their salient remarks. At this moment in history when many intractable conflicts seem to stem from clashes of identity along ethnic, communal and political lines, today's debate is as pertinent as it is timely.

Peace and security, *at both the community-level and at the national scale*, are corollary to the social relations through which stable identities of responsible citizenship are moulded. All stakeholders, including women and youth; religious leaders; ethnic and indigenous minorities; elected officials; and representatives from the private sector, academia and across civil society, must therefore be mobilised to build public trust and to cultivate social cohesion. This multi-stakeholder approach, *centred around diversity and inclusiveness*, provides the surest pathway to building stable and resilient societies.

Mr. President,

It is axiomatic that peaceful communities - *rendered upon the ideals of unity and social solidarity and sustained by a sound socioeconomic basis* - can only be achieved through comprehensive developmental and reparatory solutions. These stratagems must address not only the symptoms - *but also the root causes* - of conflict and insecurity, including:

- poverty and unemployment;
- socioeconomic and political marginalisation;

- pervasive hunger and acute food insecurity;
- a changing climate, widespread environmental degradation, and the security risks they produce; and,
- the lasting legacies of underdevelopment and intergenerational trauma left in the wake of egregious human rights abuses, *including the historical crimes of chattel slavery, native genocide, and violent colonisation that brought with them a systemic racism that persists to this day.*

These stressors, *most evident in vulnerable settings*, serve to heighten social and economic inequalities and deepen political divides, both within and between countries. Against the backdrop of the current pandemic, in which these afflictions have been greatly amplified, we must move swiftly - *taking bold steps and innovative measures* - to promote a common agenda that systematically addresses all of these concerns; to prevent conflicts and to build and sustain peace.

Greater efforts must be made to advance a "whole-of-system" approach in which all organs and specialised agencies of the United Nations work in tandem to enhance sovereignty, reinforce social contracts, and hasten the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, there can be no "one-size-fits-all" approach.

Practical, people-centred, and climate-sensitive solutions must be delivered across the peace and security-development-humanitarian nexus, and implemented in line with the particular needs, cultural perspectives, and national priorities of *all* concerned countries.

Committed stakeholders, particularly the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and partners from the Global North, should scale up their capacity-building and overseas development assistance (ODA) initiatives. Focused and coordinated multilateral action on contemporary security risks such as terrorism, cyber crime, COVID-19, and Climate Change should be pragmatically and extensively pursued. Certainly, these emergent issues have already become battlegrounds of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech; serving to erode statebuilding processes along the way.

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the complementary role of the peacebuilding commission (PBC) - *through its bridging, advisory, and convening platforms* - to foster comprehensive multi-stakeholder approaches to peacebuilding. It is crucial that these efforts are intensified to foment social cohesion and strengthen national peace processes. Robust measures to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustained financing for peacebuilding remain an urgent priority.

As we continue this struggle for global peace, those challenges relating to diversity must form part of both the analysis and the prescription - *in all contexts*. Furthermore, conflict-prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding must *always* be conducted in line with the principles of international law and with special consideration for the demographic diversity, cultural sensitivities, and the material circumstances of development in each country. I thank you.