



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

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**Statement**

by

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**United Nations Security Council Open Debate:  
“Women and Peace and Security: Investing in Women in Peacekeeping and  
Peacebuilding”**

Security Council

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Thank you, Madam President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks Kenya for convening today's annual open debate and for facilitating the in-person participation of the wider membership. We also welcome the participation of our distinguished briefers, Secretary General Guterras, Executive Director Bahous, USG Lacroix, Madame Diop and Ms. Umenza Velasco.

We begin by paying tribute to women who have, and continue to contribute to peacekeeping and peacebuilding as negotiators, mediators, heads of households, drivers of economies, peacekeepers, and community, civil society and political leaders. We welcome the commitment demonstrated to ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women in UN special political missions, as well as in mediation support teams. However, consistent inclusion of gender provisions in peace agreements and post-agreement implementation remain urgent. The absence of such provisions in all ceasefire agreements, secured in the last few years, is of particular concern. Even with increased efforts at the national, regional and multilateral levels, women's participation across the peace, security and development continuum still falls appallingly short. It is against this backdrop that we wish to make the following three points.

First, with a commitment to women, peace and security cited as a core priority of the Secretary General's Action For Peace (A4P) initiative,

we commend the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in creating space for women leaders to influence peace processes at the national level, including:

- in the Darfur Women's Platform,
- their influence on the Juba Peace Agreement in Sudan, and
- the support provided for the protection and participation of women in the elections in the Central African Republic.

However, mandates of UN Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions must include operational elements to support governments' quest for the equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and across development initiatives.

There is need for greater representation of women in disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and security sector reform. We welcome the commitment of the UN High Representative for Disarmament to the equal representation of women and men in all activities, as well as her office's work in systematically tracking gender data on disarmament, and integrating gender perspectives in preventing proliferation of small arms and light weapons. While these decisive actions are necessary, still missing is a commitment to consistent gender analysis at all levels of operation.

This brings us to our second point. We cannot overstate the need to apply anti-colonial-intersectional gender analysis, as standard in every aspect of the work of the Security Council. The expertise for

conducting such analysis already resides within member states currently grappling with the ongoing effects of histories of colonisation, conflict, economic and ecological precarity, as well as the added burden of navigating the pandemic. Only 36% of 98 member states with WPS national action plans (NAPs) have budget allocations for implementation. In particular, these action plans require budgetary support to fund localisation programmes led by women civil society. Given the critical role of women civil society as architects of the WPS, and the overarching UN gender equality normative agendas, their expertise and proposed actions must feature in the solutions to end gender inequality.

The final point we wish to raise is that there is no circumstance under which conflict related sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls and children, including reprisals against women peacebuilders and civil society, can be tolerated. We must insist on prevention, accountability, and on transforming the conditions that produce this violence in the first place.

The fundamental challenge we face in advancing the WPS agenda is the very challenge that confronts us in securing gender equity and justice globally. We must eliminate unequal relations of power. This transformation is urgent for women. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with a permanent mission to the United Nations that comprises 85 percent women and an all-female leadership team, takes this

opportunity to honor the indomitable spirit of women at all levels who demand change and who work to secure gender and social justice everywhere. Thank you.