



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

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**Statement in Explanation of Vote
Before the Vote**

By

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King
Permanent Representative**

Territorial Integrity of Ukraine: Defending the Principles of the UN Charter

United Nations Security Council

10 October 2022

New York

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Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will **vote in favour** of the draft resolution and wishes to offer an explanation of its vote before the vote.

The recent referenda and subsequent signing of treaties to annex several regions are deeply disturbing developments in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We do not consider that the manner in which the referenda were conducted was in accordance with the tenets of international law. As such, they constitute violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

Our **vote in favour** of the resolution serves to firmly underscore that the bedrock principles of sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity must be respected and strictly adhered to by all. These principles are sacrosanct, and they should be applied consistently and upheld in the international community as universal truths.

The conflict in Ukraine has tragically resulted in great loss of life and the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure. Additionally, its global repercussions have had catastrophic impacts on countries located far beyond its borders. We therefore reiterate the resounding call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for the exercise of restraint in all actions.

The only path towards peace, Mr President, is through diplomatic engagement that prioritizes constructive dialogue and good-faith negotiations that take into consideration the legitimate security concerns of **all** parties. Provocative rhetoric, unproductive diplomatic posturing, and actions that exacerbate tensions and

intensify the existing high-alert postures, *which bring us increasingly closer to nuclear catastrophe*, are unhelpful and wholly objectionable. A responsible international community should therefore seek to encourage the type of engagement that prevents further polarization and facilitates a prompt diplomatic resolution to this conflict. The incessant talk on all sides of total victory, whatever that means, opens the door to a nuclear Armageddon. *Let us give mature diplomacy a chance to achieve peace.*

Mr. President,

Peace is the legitimate aspiration of all peoples. The world cannot countenance, nor can it afford, another catastrophic conflict.

I thank you and peace profound!