



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statement

by

Her Excellency I. Rhonda King,  
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

At the

**General Debate during the  
Economic and Social Council Operational Activities Segment**

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
New York

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Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aligns itself with the statements made by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community, Ecuador, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Maldives, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and El Salvador, on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States.

Let me begin by offering my congratulations to the Bureau for convening this very important and necessary segment on the operational activities for development, examining our efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The recently adopted General Assembly QCPR resolution that is intended to offer guidance to the United Nations Development System is indeed an excellent starting point for this discussion. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that every effort should be made to ensure the delicate balance that was struck in the negotiation of this resolution is maintained.

Mr President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that the United Nations Development System must continue to work with developing countries including Small Island Developing States, a designation under which all 14 member states of CARICOM including my country falls, in a coordinated and cohesive manner in our quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals which can seem very illusive at times given our many developmental and other challenges.

We must express our concerns at the persistent trend in the reduction of core funding for the development agenda of developing member states as donor partners seem to be increasingly channeling non-core funding toward thematic and other specific projects. This, Mr President, reduces the flexibility of member states to use development funds in areas that need them most.

Another trend of concern is the disproportionate way funds are reallocated to humanitarian and peacekeeping projects and away from development. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines appreciates the realities of those countries that are experiencing humanitarian crises and agrees that these countries need the full support of the international community in resolving those crises and bringing them on to a sustained path to development. We believe, however, that it must not be done at the expense of nor ignoring the developmental challenges of developing countries including SIDS. Even in our development quest, my country and several member states of CARICOM continue to be plagued by natural disasters that leave us battered and bruised and threatens our development gains that are very hard fought, leaving us with no option but to divert scarce resources to efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Damage done by natural disasters are also devastating and disruptive. We therefore urge the UN Development system to work with program countries to coordinate their efforts in a manner that maximizes the presence of those programs to benefit member states.

Mr President,

We welcome the efforts of the UNDS to work with states in identifying creative and innovative ways of financing to promote development in a manner that is country driven and takes into account the priorities of states. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that the Development System must play a significant role in identifying and strengthening the partnerships between international financial institutions, the private sector and stakeholders. We believe that these partnerships are a critical element in transforming the system from one of funding to one of financing as developing countries continue to explore new partnerships to achieve the development agenda that is set out in Agenda 2030. We continue to reiterate also the need for the transfer of knowledge and technology in the process, ever mindful that sustainable development will not occur without the building of capacity in all areas, keeping in mind the pillars of the Agenda 2030.

Finally, Mr President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines looks forward to the report as requested by the QCPR resolution adopted by the General Assembly and its recommendation of making the system more cohesive and coherent to achieve the Agenda 2030. My country stands committed to the cause and pledges its fullest support to this body and the UN Development System for the transparent and fulsome implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I Thank you