

!

! !
!

Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

!

September 22nd, 2024

New York

Check against delivery

(Time Limit: 5 minutes)

Mr. Secretary-General, H.E. Antonio Guterres; Mr. President; Your Excellencies.

Today, we are presented with a historic opportunity. The Summit of the Future has been billed as the chance for us to reinvigorate our multilateral system, particularly following the 2023 SDG Summit. This system has been ailing for far longer than many have wished to acknowledge, but we are now poised to finally make surgical incisions that can aid healing at a fundamental level.

For the better part of a decade we have been limping towards the goal of the 2030 Agenda. Notwithstanding the difficulties faced along the way, I commend the tireless efforts to achieve “A Pact for the Future”, which aims to re-align us to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and make the UN fit-for-purpose.

The discussions which have taken place over the past three years, have undoubtedly forced into the spotlight the deficit of trust and the geo-political tensions that have challenged us in securing a more inclusive, cohesive and

The first order of business is to comprehensively reform an outdated international financial architecture that has been ill-suited to respond to our vulnerabilities and special circumstances.

There must also be redress for the millstone of crushing debt with which we struggle as we seek to avoid sinking into a quicksand of exogenous shocks. A multi-laterally led overhaul of the debt architecture is an imperative.

Additionally, my country's current recovery efforts from the ravages of Hurricane Beryl, present an unambiguous example of the necessity of reinforcing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The international community must facilitate more ambitious action to address the Climate crisis and safeguard a resilient future.

Further, it would be remiss of me not to underscore the urgent need for reform of the peace and security pillar of our global governance structure. The anachronistic composition of the Security Council has been one of the root causes of the criticisms leveled against it. The credibility and legitimacy of the UN

while recognising and preparing for the requirements of tomorrow. We must follow-through and build upon these agreements for global cooperation, including the requirements for robust means of implementation, for the benefit of future generations.

This is the moment in time to commit to global leadership that transcends nationalistic disputes and siloed concerns and take the noble steps forward that would place us collectively on a path to more resilient and equitable peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Thank you.