



**Highlights of the participation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Delegation, led by Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves,
Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines during the High Level week of the 78th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**



**Prepared by the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations
2023**



On Monday September 18, 2023 the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Keisal Peters attended the opening session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Summit marked the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will address the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, including the deterioration of key social, economic and environmental indicators and will focus on people and ways to meet their basic needs through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Monday September 18, 2023 - Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Keisai Peters headed to the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany for a working lunch hosted by H.E. Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and H.E. Annalena Baerbock, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany. The lunch meeting featured an exchange of views on international climate policy, including the upcoming COP28, financing challenges faced by SIDS, and the 2024 SIDS4 Conference.



Monday September 18, 2023 - The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the 13th Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Association and Caribbean States (ACS).



On Monday September 18, 2023, Prime Minister Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), hosted a historic event, bringing together leaders of CELAC and the African Union (AU) to foster a strategic partnership. Prime Minister Gonsalves expressed that it is important for CELAC and the AU to embrace each other in the true spirit of cooperation for the benefit of the almost 2 billion people who inhabit these two continents/regions: Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Leaders at the event who expressed their desire to deepen and strengthen relations between the two regions included H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Xiomara Castro, President of the Republic of Honduras and Incoming President Pro Tempore of CELAC, H.E. Alberto Fernandez, President of the Republic of Argentina, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chair of the African Union Commission and H.E. Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil.



H.E Xiomara Castro, President of the Republic of Honduras and Incoming President Pro Tempore of CELAC speaks during the dinner hosted by President Pro Tempore of CELAC, Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



L-R: H.E. Moussa Faki Mahmat, Chair Person of the AUC, Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General CARCIOM, The Honourable Prime Minister Ralph E. Gonsalves and H.E. Mauro Vieira, Foreign Minister of Brazil



Honourable Prime Minister Gonsalves introduces H.E. Azali Assoumani President of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union to the Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



Honourable Prime Minister Gonsalves with H.E. Azali Assoumani President of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union to the Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade engages with H.E. Fatima K. Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union, H.E. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and H.E. Dr. Douglas Slater, National Coordinator, St. Vincent and the Grenadines CELAC Secretariat



Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade converse with the Prime Minister of Sint Marteen, H.E. Silveria Jacobs.

Day 2



Tuesday September 19, 2023 - Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines lead SVG's delegation at the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.



September 19, 2023 - Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines met for a bilateral meeting with H.E. Francia Elene Marquez Mina, Vice President of the Republic of Colombia. During the meeting, both leaders discussed areas for cooperation such as sports and the protection of forests, as well as the issue of reparations and the crisis in Haiti which are of critical importance to the region.



Tuesday September 19, 2023

Top left: The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade chaired the launch of the Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters (FACRID) between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU).

Top Right: The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with Dr. Douglas Slater, National Coordinator and expert Ms. Latoya Pope of the SVG CELAC Secretariat.

Bottom: The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade posed for family photo at the launch of FACRID.



Day 3



Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines gave the feature address at the high-level event for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) entitled “Moving beyond the status quo: Actions towards accelerating SIDS Energy Transition to Strengthen Climate Resilience” organized by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative.



Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines spoke during a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at the United Nations. The Honourable Prime Minister highlighted the need for the efficacious reform of the IFIs and reiterated support for the Bridgetown Initiative and the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), while particularly calling for a special carve out to be made for reparations. The Prime Minister was supported by the Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and H.E. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.



Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines had a very spirited exchange with Portuguese President, H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa the during the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Both leaders discussed cooperation between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Portugal for people to people exchange, as well as in Education, Sports and Culture.



Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines signed the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) at the United Nations Headquarters.



The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of St. Vincent and the Grenadines spoke at the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response at the United Nations.

Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Mrs. Gonsalves attend a Reception hosted by the United Arab Emirates where they mingled with several diplomats and officials including His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and H.E. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly.





Prime Minister Gonsalves also gave remarks during a gala dinner hosted by His Excellency Ahmed Al Khateeb, Saudi Minister of Tourism and Chair of the Saudi Fund for Development.

Day 4



Thursday September 21, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves participated in a High-Level Meeting of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti with Caribbean Partners where leaders met to discuss the multifaceted crisis in Haiti, including the humanitarian, political and security situation. Prime Minister Gonsalves also shared a moment with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry and St. Lucian Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre (bottom left) and other leaders including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Barbados Prime Minister Mia



Thursday September 21, 2023 – Dr. The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade chaired a Ministerial Meeting of the L.69 Group which culminated in a press statement reaffirming the commitment to comprehensive Security Council Reform and made a call for progress in delivering concrete outcomes.



Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was interviewed by Latin American television network tele**SUR** at the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.





Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines met with United States Ambassador Mr. Paul A. Folmsbee. Discussions revolved around the ongoing crisis in Haiti and other key regional challenges including the flow of guns and the impact of sanctions. Also present was Dr. Douglas Slater, National Coordinator of the CELAC SVG Secretariat.



Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade during a bilateral meeting with H.E. Denis Colindres, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua. The Ministers discussed the issues of unilateral coercive measures and sanctions, as well as pressing matters facing the region that could be addressed within the context of CELAC.



Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines met His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and Minister of State for International Cooperation in the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy. Among matters discussed were the further formalisation of cooperation between SVG and the UAE in areas such as food security, agriculture and school feeding programmes. Consideration was also given to the establishment of a SVG diplomatic presence in the UAE.



Day 5



Friday September 22, 2023 - Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Leaders' Meeting where leaders of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) adopted a declaration addressing the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, Access to Finance for SIDS, Oceans and Climate Change.



Prime Minister Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves and Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, H.E. Sergey Lavrov.



Prime Minister Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves and other leaders during a working lunch for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Climate Adaptation hosted by H.E Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of St. Vincent and the Grenadines spoke during the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

Day 6



Saturday September 23, 2023 - Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines arrives at the United Nations Headquarters in New York ahead of his address during the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.



Video footage of the Honourable Prime Minister being escorted to the podium.

Scenes from the Honourable Prime Minister's addressing the General Assembly





The Honourable Prime Minister during his address highlighted several issues of critical importance to the international community and in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Honourable Prime Minister also articulated how St. Vincent and the Grenadines in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is at the forefront of seeking to fortify political cooperation, enhancing integration efforts and building vital bridges with the European Union, African Union, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the BRICS, Arab League and the United States of America.

The Prime Minister further stated that, notwithstanding the imperfections of a multilateral system, grounded in international law and civilized norms, the General Assembly of the United Nations can be the fresh hope, the beacon, the light, not merely to inspire, but to draw out a goodness, a high quality and a nobility which is often not yet known to be possessed by our respective peoples, in addressing the challenges the world is facing.



Several CARICOM leaders including Grenadian Prime Minister the Hon. Dickon Mitchell, other Ministers and officials lined the halls of the General Assembly to congratulate the Honourable Prime Minister after his address.

The Honourable Prime Minister then left for Brooklyn to attend and speak at the funeral of the late Vaughn Toney, CEO of Friends of Crown Heights and Ambassador-At-Large for St. Vincent.



Saturday September 23, 2023 - The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and other Foreign Ministers at the 23rd Meeting of the ALBA-TCP Political Council.

Day 7



Sunday September 24, 2023 - The Honourable Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other CARICOM Foreign Ministers at the Eighteenth Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly.