



## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **UNESCO LINE MINISTERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE CARIBBEAN HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) line ministers and UNESCO Regional Director for the Caribbean, Dr. Eric Falt, met on June 3, 2026, in the Cabinet Room at the Financial Complex in Kingstown to discuss areas of collaboration aimed at advancing national and regional development priorities.

Discussions centered on strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in key areas, including education, culture, science, youth development, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

Dr. Falt highlighted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' important role within the United Nations system, particularly through its representation on the UNESCO Executive Board. He stressed the need to ensure that the perspectives and development priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to be reflected in global policy discussions and decision-making processes.

He also drew attention to several pressing challenges facing the region, including school violence and the disengagement of young men from education systems. In response, he announced plans for a high-level UNESCO meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica, later this year, which will bring together ministers and experts to explore practical solutions to these issues.

Dr. Falt noted that the visit marked the first high-level UNESCO mission to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since 2006 and followed recent diplomatic engagements in Paris. He reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to working closely with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO and regional partners through its Kingston, Jamaica office.

Secretary General of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Commission for UNESCO, Janeil Henry-Rose, outlined several priority areas for collaboration. These include expanding the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) following the designation of the country's first ASPnet school, exploring UNESCO support for artificial intelligence-enabled learning pathways, and promoting equitable access to digital education while safeguarding data privacy.

Henry-Rose also emphasized the importance of developing climate-literate curricula, creating experiential learning opportunities within biosphere reserves, and integrating community perspectives into the management of World Heritage and local heritage sites. She further highlighted the need to strengthen education systems against climate-related disruptions and preserve living heritage—including music, dance, and traditional crafts—as vital elements of national and regional identity.

Additionally, she stressed the importance of equipping educators with the tools and resources needed to support students transitioning from secondary education to tertiary, technical, and vocational training opportunities.

Minister of Education, Vocational Training, Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Information, Hon. Phillip Jackson, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to UNESCO's mandate and highlighted ongoing efforts to document and protect movable, immovable, and intangible cultural heritage, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters. He also underscored the importance of fostering a culture of peace through student-led initiatives aimed at reducing school violence and encouraging positive youth engagement.

Minister Jackson further emphasized the need to protect biodiversity and promote the sustainable management of biosphere reserves, recognizing their critical role in environmental conservation and sustainable development within SIDS.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepening cooperation between UNESCO and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance education, cultural preservation, youth empowerment, environmental sustainability, and regional development.

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