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TWENTY
GROUP



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Thank you very much, colleagues, and especially the Chair, Prime Minister Mia Mottley, for welcoming us to this Forum. Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, thank you so much for the tremendous support you have given to this initiative.

We are delighted to be part of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. It brings together not just countries that aim to benefit from it; in our case, we bring direct testimony from the front lines of this common struggle for human survival and economic equity. Thank you for welcoming us.

Our country recently suffered Hurricane Beryl, which destroyed a section of our country where the destruction was total. We were also recovering from the natural disaster of our last La Soufrière eruption, which came at a time when we were already in distress.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines supports the move toward alternative forms of financing and the reform of a financial architecture that does not benefit countries in our situation. Outmoded middle-income metrics continue to deny vulnerable island states such as ours access to concessional resources, forcing us to borrow on commercial terms to repair damage caused by global emissions. Help us continue working in these Forums and others to make funding available to deal with the problems we confront.

The development reset led by this Forum must replace fiscal depletion with durable prosperity. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines fully endorses the Vulnerability to Viability Compact. Critical investments in water security, schools, and resilient health care cannot depend on short-term, essentially punitive debt. Such investments require long-term finance, 40-year terms or longer if possible, and borrowing rates priced below the national economic growth rate.

Furthermore, our government registers its full endorsement of the governing instrument of the Lifeline Fund. This is a big deal, and we thank you, Prime Minister Mottley, and others who have pushed to get it done.

Complacency about temperature overshoot must be rejected. 1.5 degrees remains a non-negotiable boundary for island states. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands united with the Climate Vulnerable Forum in decisive, transformative action, coming together as a group to unlock long-term funding for national investment and development.

I call on all countries to support this, and, Prime Minister Mottley, I take up the challenge to encourage all my CARICOM colleagues to join. Thank you.

H.E. DR. GODWIN FRIDAY

Prime Minister

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines