

Foreign Policy Thrust



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The Foreign Policy thrust of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is dynamic in nature and is rooted in three fundamental pillars. They are (i) an independent pragmatic and progressive foreign policy, (ii) adherence to the principles of international law and (iii) solidarity and regionalism.

Implementing a country's foreign policy is a complex and challenging task. With the dynamic environment of world politics, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs to be constantly aware of changes occurring both regionally and internationally. This essentially allows us to respond effectively, ensure the adequate protection of the Nation's sovereignty and to ensure that its views and

positions are duly articulated. While the Ministry serves as an important bridge connecting St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the outside world, the responsibility for promoting relations with other countries is not one exclusively held by the Ministry, but the collective responsibility of a number of other Ministries and agencies. Recognizing the complexity of the environment in which foreign policy is executed, it is crucial that efforts in promoting the nation's interests are streamlined and carried out in close coordination with the other relevant Ministries.

Furthermore, as with all other small island developing states, the pursuance of our national interest is susceptible to various external factors. These changing dynamics of international relations include globalization, technological advancements, trade liberalization, financial crises, climate change and the effects of natural disasters. These challenges compel us to act strategically in an environment of constant change. In addition, the foreign policy is designed to ease the transition of the nation, from a post colonial era to a modern era. This means, the expansion of diplomatic relations beyond the pool of

traditional allies to include new prospects in the interest of our national development needs and priorities.

Presently, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has established diplomatic relations with one hundred and twenty-two countries around the world and will seek to further increase this number with friendly like minded states. To facilitate this process, the State is represented abroad by four embassies and two consulates. In addition, representation also exists in countries where there are no Embassies or Consulates, by way of Honorary Consuls. Currently, there are twenty-seven appointed honorary consuls in various countries around the world, charged with the responsibility of seeking out opportunities for the development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the various sectors.

Be sure to read our next issue to find out where we go next with our continuing efforts to expand our foreign policy!!

Resident Ambassadors

The establishment of diplomatic missions is critical for the strengthening of relations between countries. St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) as a small island developing state like other sovereign countries is engaged in such practise and in keeping with the Vienna Convention, has allowed other countries to establish diplomatic missions in this country.

Presently, there are four (4) resident Embassies located in St. Vincent and the Grenadines representing the countries of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Cuba and most recently the Federative Republic of Brazil. These Embassies are all instituted at the Ambassadorial level. It is important for SVG to encourage the establishment of resident embassies within the state as it ensures that our interest and development priorities are met and

maximises the prospects of the host government, actively engaging the sending state thereby complimenting the contributions to the Vincentian citizenry in areas of health, education and infrastructural developments among others.

The following are photos of all resident Ambassadors in SVG.



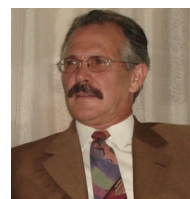
H.E Mr. Yoel del Valle Pérez Marcano
Venezuela
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps



H.E Ambassador
Mr. Renato Xavier -
Brazil



H.E. Ambassador
Mr. Weber Shih -
Taiwan



H.E Ambassador
Mr. Pablo Antonio
Rodriquez Vidal -
Cuba