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SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES SIGNS WTO FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AGREEMENT

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, March 28, 2026 — Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has taken an important step toward strengthening the sustainable management of its fisheries sector and advancing its Blue Economy agenda with the signing of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Fisheries Subsidies Agreement during the 14th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

The Honourable Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs, signed and deposited the instrument of acceptance on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on March 26, 2026, reaffirming the country's commitment to responsible fisheries governance and sustainable ocean management.

The Fisheries Subsidies Agreement represents a landmark achievement in global trade and environmental policy. It seeks to curb harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing, overcapacity, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, while promoting sustainable fishing practices among WTO member states.

For Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Agreement supports the continued development of the country's Blue Economy, recognizing the critical role of marine resources in economic growth, environmental stewardship, and national food security. The fisheries sector remains an important contributor to livelihoods and economic activity across the nation.

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PRESS RELEASE

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Importantly, the Agreement includes provisions for special and differential treatment for developing countries, ensuring that small island developing states (SIDS) such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines can implement its commitments in a manner consistent with national development priorities. The Agreement also provides access to technical assistance and capacity-building support to strengthen fisheries management and monitoring systems.

Minister Bramble underscored the significance of this milestone, noting that the Agreement presents a valuable opportunity to further enhance the resilience, sustainability, and long-term viability of the fisheries sector, while protecting the marine resources upon which Vincentians depend.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to active engagement in the multilateral trading system, working with international partners to promote policies that support sustainable development, economic resilience, and responsible stewardship of the country's ocean resources.

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