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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES WELCOMES CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, January 19, 2026** — On Monday, January 19, 2026, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary-General, Dr Carla Barnett, met with the Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs at the Ministry's Conference Room. Dr Barnett was accompanied by her Chef de Cabinet, Janice Miller.

During the engagement, Dr Barnett extended congratulations to the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs and engaged in substantive discussions on a range of regional and institutional matters. These included Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' responsibilities within CARICOM, the CARICOM Free Movement regime, an overview of the CARICOM portfolio, the country's current role within the regional architecture, and the coordination of foreign policy at regional level.

The Secretary-General also encouraged Vincentians to consider employment opportunities within the CARICOM Secretariat, noting that increased participation would enhance both the effectiveness of regional institution and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' contribution to regional development.

In closing, the Minister expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for her leadership and continued service to the Caribbean Community. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to collaboration, dialogue, and partnership in advancing shared regional priorities.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs remains firmly committed to working closely with CARICOM in furtherance of regional integration, sustainable development and collective prosperity.

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For further information, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs at telephone number 784-456-2060.