



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE
GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

DIPLOMATIC COURIER



The Governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Sierra Leone established diplomatic relations.

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SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES HOSTS ITS FIRST NATIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING VIRTUALLY IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)



L-R: (Front row): Ms. Latoya Pope; Counsellor; H. E. Dr. Douglas Slater; National Coordinator of the Presidential Secretariat of CELAC in SVG, Andreas Wickham; Deputy Coordinator for the Presidential Secretariat of CELAC in SVG.

(Back row): H.E. Gustavo Martinez Pandiani; Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Argentine Republic and National Coordinator of the Argentine Republic, Ms. Aliaka Jones; Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ms Oslyn Porter; Deputy Director of Foreign Policy and Research.

On March 28, 2023, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines chaired its first National Coordinators Meeting virtually at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

The meeting was successfully chaired by His Excellency, Dr. Douglas Slater with the support of his staff from the CELAC Secretariat.

His Excellency Gustavo Martinez Pandiani, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Argentine Republic,

and National Coordinator of the Argentine Republic, the immediate past Pro Tempore President of CELAC was present at the meeting, signaling the full support and solidarity of the Argentine Republic and the membership of CELAC with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' as Chair of the Community.

The Meeting of National Coordinators convenes in the country holding the Pro-Tempore Presidency, unless States agree otherwise.

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These meetings coordinate dialogue and political consensus at the national level, facilitate regional integration, monitor cooperation on projects within the organisation, organise, coordinate and observe working groups, function as the preparatory body for the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and report the findings of working groups to the Ministers.

National Coordinators serve as a link between Member States and the Pro-Tempore Secretariat by coordinating and directly monitoring topics under discussion, and meet twice yearly before the Meeting of Foreign Ministers. Each country is assigned one National Coordinator and one Alternate or Deputy National Coordinator.

The first National Coordinators Meeting recorded participation from twenty-two Member States of CELAC, where a comprehensive work plan to guide the activities and initiatives for the year was presented by His Excellency Andreas Wickham,

Deputy National Coordinator of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to CELAC and deliberated by the CELAC membership.

The agenda of the National Coordinators' meeting also included a briefing to the CELAC Membership by His Excellency, Dr. Douglas Slater on the upcoming CELAC- EU Summit which is scheduled to convene in Brussels on July 17-18, 2023. This is the first CELAC-EU Summit within five years and will be co-chaired by Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves in his capacity as the Pro-Tempore President of CELAC and His Excellency Charles Michel, the President of European Council.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE BIENNIAL CONSULTATION 2023

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade hosts its annual Biennial Consultation from the 26-30 June 2023.

The objective of the consultation is to:

A. Provide a platform for fostering greater political and economic opportunities by the Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consuls General, and Honorary Consuls, in keeping with St. Vincent and the Grenadines' development agenda.

B. Provide additional guidance to Vincentian diplomats and consular agents on the strategic goals and objectives as outlined within the National Economic and Social Development Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2013-2025) and supplementary policy documents.



**H.E. FRANCIS ETIENNE, AMBASSADOR
EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENPOTENTIARY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FRANCE TO THE OECS,
PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAINT VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES**

H.E. Francis Etienne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Republic of France to the OECS, presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at Government House on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Ambassador Etienne also met with The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister, Hon. Keisal Peters; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Godwin Friday; Leader of the Opposition, as well as other high-level officials on the 12th and 13th April 2023.

Over the years, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and France have enjoyed cordial diplomatic relations.



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED FOURTH TRADE POLICY REVIEW



(L-R): Mrs. Nicolette Dalton; Trade Officer I – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Honorable Keisal Peters; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs. Okolo John-Patrick; Director of Foreign Trade – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines successfully completed its fourth Trade Policy Review (TPR) as part of the country's obligations as a Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva on the 3rd and 5th of May 2023.

The main purpose of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism is to improve adherence by all WTO members to rules,

disciplines and commitments made under the multilateral trade agreements and where applicable the plurilateral agreements. SVG's fourth TPR focused on the macroeconomic and trade performances, trade and investment patterns, trade policy initiatives and trading arrangements.

The delegation was headed by the Honorable Keisal Peters; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and included, Mrs. Okolo John-Patrick; Director of Foreign Trade – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Mrs. Nicolette Dalton; Trade Officer I – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Republic of Sierra Leone have officially established diplomatic relations as of April 12, 2023.

A Joint Communique signaling the establishment of diplomatic relations was signed by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines represented by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone represented by H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

Diplomatic relations between both countries is guided by the terms of the Vienna



H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961. The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of April 24, 1963, and the Charter of the United Nations.

The establishment of relations holds further significance as Sierra Leone celebrates its independence today, April 27, 2023. The Government and People of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines congratulates the Government and People of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the occasion of their 62nd anniversary as an independent nation.

H.E. DAVID MALAGA, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU, PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

H.E. David Malaga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Peru, presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at Government House on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

Ambassador Malaga also met with Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister, Hon. Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Rochelle Forde, Speaker of the House of Assembly and other high-level officials during the course of his visit.

The Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Republic of Peru established diplomatic ties on May 5, 1986 and have enjoyed cordial relations over the years.



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE'S ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2023



Participants listen attentively at the winner of the Envoy category reads the winning essay

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade successfully concluded its Annual Essay Writing Competition with an Awards and Prize-Giving ceremony on Thursday, June 22, 2023. In this year's competition, there were 34 participants from primary, secondary, and tertiary educational institutions across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Students aged 9-13 years participated in the Envoys category while students aged 14-18 years participated in the Ambassadors category.

The annual competition has been supported by Digicel SVG which is the lone sponsor. Digicel provided Samsung smart phones, cash prizes to the tune of \$1,500, and trophies. The competition provides a platform for youth to hone their research and writing abilities. It also allows participants to garner in-depth knowledge on local, regional, and international affairs and events through research and applicability to their lives, as well as to the Vincentian society.



ENVOYS & AMBASSADORS TOP 5 AWARDS



1st Place
**RYLLI TYLER L.V
MATTHIAS**



1st Place
LEAH NANTON



2nd Place
BELLE ADAMS



2nd Place
KENDAL SAMPSON



3rd Place
ADIAN STRAKER



3rd Place
BRADLEY ALEXANDER



4th Place
LENDRE PEMBERTON



4th Place
CHRISTEL SUTHERLAND



5th Place
LYNN EXUME



5th Place
CHRISTI WILLIAMS

**H.E. MS. BEATE STIRØ, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY,
PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**



H.E. Beate Stirø, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at Government House on Friday, April 21, 2023.

Ambassador Stirø also met with Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister, Hon. Godwin Friday; Leader of the Opposition as well as other high-level officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour on Friday, April 21, 2023.



The Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Kingdom of Norway established diplomatic ties on February 19, 1993.

SVG DONATES PAINTING TO OAS

The Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the Organization of American States (OAS) donated a painting 'The Prayers of Spring' to the Art Museum of the Americas, in Washington, D.C, United States of America, on behalf of the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OAS, H.E. Louanne Gilchrist, handed over the painting on Friday, March 31st, 2023, to the Secretary General of the OAS, H.E. Luis Almagro.



The piece, aptly titled "The Prayers of Spring", represents a beacon of the coming of spring, the season of new life, fruitfulness, hope and faith in God, according to the artist, Mr. Calvert Jones. The painting features the Poui tree in full bloom outside the historic St. George's Cathedral in Kingstown and is an outstanding work from the artist's portfolio, in his own Tropical Realism style. It will form part of the permanent collection of the Art Museum of the Americas.



The painting contains ash from the La Soufrière volcano that erupted in April 2021, and, according to Ambassador Gilchrist, "is a representation of the vulnerability of our island and the embodiment of the resilience of our people." Mr. Jones, in his note to the audience, explained that "shortly after the eruptions began, the Poui trees were seen bursting with glory against the gray, gloomy drenching of volcanic ash." The painting has therefore captured the hope and optimism of Vincentians which will now be on permanent display.



The donation occurred just over two weeks after our nation celebrated its National Heroes' Day on March 14th, honouring Paramount Chief His Excellency Joseph Chatoyer and on the last day of our symbolic heritage month. Ambassador Gilchrist noted that the donation is an important step in strengthening cultural diplomacy and in promoting understanding, appreciation, tolerance and respect for others.

Secretary General Luis Almagro thanked the Permanent Mission for the gift and reinforced the importance of cultural diplomacy the importance of the representation of the CARICOM States, as the region prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary.



H.E. MS. THEODORA MAGDALENA MIRCEA, AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA, PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



H.E. Ms. Theodora Magdalena Mircea, Ambassador of Romania, presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at Government House on Friday, April 21, 2023.



Ambassador Mircea also met with Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister, Hon. Godwin Friday; Leader of the Opposition as well as other high-level officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour and the Ministry of Education and National Reconciliation on Friday, April 21, 2023.

The Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Romania established diplomatic ties on May 22nd, 2003.

IN HONOR OF MR. DENNIE WILSON - FORMER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS



- Overall responsibility for Diplomatic, Consular and United Nations matters;

- Assisting in the promotion of foreign policy with respect to the State(s) and Organisations to which he was accredited and also with respect to the Organisations to which St. Vincent and the Grenadines holds membership;

- Presenting to these States and Organisations the views of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on matters of policy; and

- Overseeing the New York Tourist Office and promoting trade, tourism and investment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is grateful for his years of service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade offers sincere condolences on behalf of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The late Dennie Wilson served as Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations from the period January 1, 1995 to June 30, 1999.

Mr. Wilson was then appointed Permanent Representative and served for the period of July 1, 1999 to April 24, 2001.

During his tenure he served St. Vincent and the Grenadines by carrying out the following duties which included:



PRODUCED BY:

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

GOVERNMENT OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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