



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

DIPLOMATIC COURIER



55th Regular Session of the General Assembly
of the Organisation of American States

FULL STORY ON PAGE 11



His Excellency Ambassador John Petter Opdahl of the Kingdom of Norway formally presented his Letter of Credentials to Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on Monday, June 2, 2025.

As part of his official visit, Ambassador Opdahl engaged in a series of courtesy calls aimed at strengthening diplomatic engagement between the two nations. He met with the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning, the Honourable Montgomery Daniel. The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs, including Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary; Ms. Osllyn Porter, Deputy Director of Foreign Policy and Research; and Ms. Jada Swift, Europe Desk Officer. Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



Ambassador Opdahl also met with the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday.

Diplomatic relations between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Kingdom of Norway were established on February 19, 1993. This visit reaffirms the commitment of both nations to deepening ties and advancing shared priorities.



The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed His Excellency Simon Mustard, newly appointed British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, on an official visit.

During a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister, High Commissioner Mustard formally presented his Letter of Introduction to the Honourable Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The meeting reaffirmed strong United Kingdom–Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ties and explored opportunities for deeper bilateral and regional cooperation.



**L-R: Ms. Emma Robinson; Climate Finance Advisor and Design Lead, Caribbean Resilient Infrastructure Platform, Ms. Simone Banister; Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Advisor, Mr. Simon Mustard; British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Ms. Jada Swift; Europe Desk Officer, Mr. Geoffrey Patton; Resident British Commissioner to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Seon Samuel; Political and Projects Officer at the British High Commission
Kingstown**

High Commissioner Mustard also paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, where he presented the Silver-Gilt award won at the 2025 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The award celebrated a United Kingdom-supported exhibit showcasing the nation's vibrant culture and environmental heritage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs extends congratulations to High Commissioner Mustard and welcomes the United Kingdom's continued engagement in key areas including climate resilience, education, trade, cultural exchange, health, and security.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to strengthening this valued partnership, built on shared values and a common vision for sustainable development and regional stability.

A delegation from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the ongoing Sixtieth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), convened in Georgetown, Guyana. This critical gathering of regional Ministers and senior trade officials was taking place in a shifting global trade environment, as CARICOM Member States seek to reinforce economic resilience and deepen integration.

The Vincentian delegation was led by the Honourable Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, and included Mrs. Okolo John Patrick, Director of Trade; Mr. Romel Currency, Trade Officer II; and Mrs. Nicollet Dalton, Trade Officer I.

The meeting, chaired by the Honourable Kerrie Symmonds, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, was focused on several urgent priorities, including but not limited to:

- Advancing trade discussions with the United States and Colombia;
- Finalising the certification of the Belize–El Salvador Partial Scope Agreement;
- Accelerating the revision and implementation of the Common External Tariff and the Community’s Rules of Origin;
- Strengthening regional production and intra-regional trade through modernised trade facilitation policies and entrepreneurship support.



L-R: Mrs. Nicollet Dalton; Trade Officer I, Mr. Romel Currency; Trade Officer II, Mrs. Okolo John Patrick; Director of Trade, the Honourable Frederick Stephenson; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has actively contributed to discussions on dismantling trade barriers, removing longstanding non-compliance issues from the regional agenda, and exploring diversified economic partnerships to mitigate recent global tariff shocks.

The meeting also features a report on the development of a Regional Industrial Policy, viewed as a cornerstone for deepening CARICOM's integration strategy. Delegates are encouraged to focus on finalising and implementing this framework to guide sustainable growth across the Community.

Minister Stephenson and his delegation reiterated Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to collaborative action, efficient use of regional resources, and the strategic alignment of trade policy with the broader goals of economic growth, private sector engagement, and sustainable development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that build a more competitive, inclusive, and integrated Caribbean economy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Consumer Affairs, Regional Integration and the Diaspora Unit extended a warm congratulations to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as it commemorated its 44th Anniversary on Tuesday, June 18, 2025.

In observance of this milestone, the OECS Commission hosted a series of celebratory activities, and Member States were encouraged to actively participate. Among these events were the Thanksgiving Service, OECS Fun Walk and OECS Colours Day. As a gesture of gratitude, the OECS hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, at 9:00 A.M., via live streaming on Facebook and YouTube.



The OECS Fun Walk, themed “Adapting, Innovating, Sustaining: A Unified OECS for a Changing World”, took place on Sunday, June 15, 2025, which commenced at 6:00 a.m. The route began and ended at the Arnos Vale Stadium, proceeding along the Windward Highway to the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (opposite Mariners Inn). The event was free of charge, and interested participants registered via the Registration Form.



Additionally, on Tuesday, June 18, 2025, all citizens and residents of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were invited to take part in OECS Colours Day by wearing the official OECS colours; Green, Yellow, White, or Navy Blue. Individuals were encouraged to capture photographs in their OECS attire and share them on social media platforms using the hashtags #OECSDay and #OECSDAY2025.

The Ministry took the opportunity to urge people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to join in these symbolic acts of regional pride and solidarity to celebrate 44 years of cooperation, integration, and shared progress.



The Honourable Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, met today in Colombia with Her Excellency Francia Márquez, Vice President of the Republic of Colombia.



The meeting took place during the opening of the 3rd CARICOM-Colombia Ministerial Summit, held under the theme: “Sustainable Development and Climate Change.”



Minister Stephenson was accompanied by His Excellency Allan Alexander, Ambassador to CARICOM, and Ms. Yaphet Niles, Foreign Service Officer.



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines proudly returned to the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show after a 34-year absence, earning a Silver-Gilt Medal on May 20, 2025. Held in London, United Kingdom, the event is recognized as the world's premier horticultural showcase. Founded in 1913, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show attracts over 150,000 visitors each year and features top-tier garden designers, horticulturists, and plant specialists from around the globe. In this highly competitive arena, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stood out with an exhibit that captured the island nation's tropical brilliance and volcanic majesty.

The immersive display paid homage to the country's rich natural heritage—featuring lush rainforests, extraordinary biodiversity, and the commanding presence of La Soufrière volcano. The exhibit was led by Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan, with creative direction by Alexandra Grant, and contributions from Gideon Nash, Deshmond Telesford, Ailene Bailey, Kimberley Dougan, Michelle James, and Chantel Williams.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs extended warm congratulations to the entire team for this remarkable achievement and for representing Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with excellence on the international stage.





L-R: Ms. Jollan Thomas; Administrative Officer II, Ms. Nicole Samuel; Senior Clerk, Mr. Clarence Harry; Director of Consumer Affairs

The Consumer Affairs Department participated in the VS Swift Change Management Workshop, held from May 06 to 08, 2025, as part of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Digital Transformation Project.

The workshop focused on equipping public sector teams with the tools and strategies needed to effectively navigate organizational change, improve service delivery, and integrate digital solutions through the VS Swift e-Government system.



Participants of the Human Rights Standards Implementation and Capacity Building Workshop

The United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR), in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs and the United Kingdom's Government, hosted a follow-up workshop on Human Rights Standards Implementation and Capacity Building on May 0_,2025 at Grenadines House. The workshop focused on strengthening institutional capacity, consolidating progress, and supporting the effective implementation of human rights standards.

Honourable Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs led the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the Fifty-fifth (55th) Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, during the period June 25 to 27, 2025.

The General Assembly was convened under the theme “Building Resilient, Inclusive Economies in the Americas” and presented an opportunity for regional dialogue on critical areas including economic development, environmental sustainability and regional security. The Honourable Minister in his remarks at the General Assembly underscored the importance of cooperation, partnerships and inclusive approaches to promote sustainable development; and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ solidarity with the Haitian people and the commitment to a Haitian-led path toward democratic and economic renewal.

The General Assembly adopted various resolutions and declarations and facilitated the process of electing members of organs, agencies, and entities of the Organisation.



L-R: Her Excellency Lou-Anne Gilchrist; Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to OAS, the Honourable Frederick Stephenson; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, Ms. Marsena Ballanytne; Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS

Additionally, the Honourable Minister delivered closing remarks at an event on the margins of the General Assembly on June 26, 2025, organised by Antigua and Barbuda and the Pan American Health Organisation, “Uniting the Americas for Mental Health: From Commitment to Action”; the remarks underscored the call for mental health to be part of the political agenda for the Americas.

The Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also included Her Excellency Lou-Anne Gilchrist; Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS, and Ms. Marsena Ballanytne; Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS.



The Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines officially welcome Her Excellency Ambassador Ayşe Selcan Şanlı, Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Türkiye to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on the occasion of her formal presentation of Letter of Credence to Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan, GCMG, OBE, Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on Monday, August 11, 2025.

During her official visit, Her Excellency Şanlı engaged in a series of courtesy calls designed to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations. These engagements included a joint courtesy call with Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Honourable Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs. She also paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, and met with the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines looks forward to deepening diplomatic ties and fostering mutually beneficial collaboration with the Republic of Türkiye, as both nations work together in the spirit of friendship, respect, and shared development.



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs

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