

**United Nations Transforming Education Summit
National Statement of Commitment
St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, having endured the deleterious effects on its education system, which resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and the eruption of its La Soufriere volcano in April 2021, has reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that our citizens recover fully from these two monumental crises.

Therefore, the Government will redouble its efforts to:

1. Provide opportunities for the continuous professional development of teachers;
2. Bolster the digital competencies of teachers and students in the use of teaching and learning technologies;
3. Provide additional support to vulnerable students and their families to improve their academic performance;
4. Improve upon the support systems for students who exhibit gaps in attaining the learning outcomes for literacy and numeracy appropriate to their age and stage of development;
5. Reintegrate into the formal and informal education sector those children, young people and adults who abandoned their education during the COVID-19 pandemic and
6. Utilise multiple modalities to reach students whose socio-economic status continues to make accessing online learning challenging.

The Government will continue to transform and reimagine its education system to prepare its children, young people and adults to adapt to the challenges of living in a globalised world.

Therefore, we commit to the following:

1. Review the national curricula to ensure that learners acquire the skills, values, attitudes and knowledge required for 21st-century life, living and production;
2. Ensure schools are inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy for all who use them;
3. Provide secondary school students with TVET learning opportunities irrespective of their perceived learning aptitudes;
4. Decentralise some educational services out of their centralised location;
5. Continue to promote the value of the CARICOM Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) and adopt the CARICOM qualifications framework (CFQ) and

6. Work toward ensuring that schools are outfitted with smart teaching technologies and renewable energy and have access for students with all forms of disabilities.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to crafting an unambiguous expression of its national education targets and benchmarks in line with the SDG benchmark indicators by:

1. Upgrading the minimum qualifications for becoming a teacher, thereby attracting the best and brightest into the profession;
2. Ensuring all students attain minimum competencies in the learning outcomes for literacy and mathematics;
3. Increasing education financing as a proportion of GDP/ total public expenditure;
4. Addressing the gender disparity in graduation rates to ensure more boys complete secondary school in comparison to their female counterparts;
5. Expanding the provision of education to early learners up until the year before they enter primary school and
6. Ensuring all students complete their secondary education with the skills, knowledge, values and attitudes to make them caring and productive citizens.

Finally, the Government will commit to working on creating sustainable public financing of education by:

1. Providing schools with the autonomy they require to make them self-sufficient for some aspects of their educational provisions, furthering partnerships with the private sector and NGOs to contribute more to education;
2. Minimising wastage in the education system and
3. Creating a shift in the mindset of nationals regarding the notion of education being free and not an investment.

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, mindful of the impact of colonialism on its education system, continues to make monumental strides in fashioning an education system that is historically and culturally relevant to Vincentians.