



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für die Vereinten Nationen e.V.
United Nations Association of Germany

Small States and Great Responsibility: The Smallest Nations and UN Security Policy

22 June 2021

10am – 11.30am EDT (New York), AST (Kingstown)

4pm – 5.30pm CEST (Berlin)

7pm – 8.30pm MUV (Male)

23 June 2021: 2am – 3.30am NZST (Wellington), FJT (Suva)



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

To what extent can the smallest states exert influence in the UN Security Council? What contributions can they make to UN peace efforts? We invite you to a discussion with Rhonda King, Ambassador of the Caribbean island state St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the UN, the smallest state ever to be elected to the Security Council, and further experts.

Approximately one fifth of the United Nations member states have a population of less than one million inhabitants. These smallest member states of the United Nations, including especially many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), are underrepresented in the United Nations Security Council. However, they make significant contributions to the United Nations efforts to uphold peace and security.

Like other states, many of the smallest members of the United Nations have the ambition to contribute with their limited capacities to resolve global conflicts and maintain international security. At the same time, however, they pursue own interests and set specific priorities. This includes, for example, the threats to peace and security posed by climate change, to which many small states and especially island states are particularly vulnerable.

The security impacts of climate change are also among the key aspects on the agenda of the Caribbean island state St. Vincent and the Grenadines. With a population of about 110,000 inhabitants, it is the smallest state that has ever been elected to the UN Security Council. Being one of several Caribbean states that have been represented on the Council in recent years or that want to be elected in the next years, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be member of the most powerful body of the United Nations until the end of this year.

To what extent can even the smallest members of the United Nations exert influence in the Security Council and shape the agenda of the Council for example on the nexus of climate and security? Which contributions do they make to UN peacekeeping missions and how can they contribute to peace and security efforts of the United Nations beyond a membership in the Security Council? Why is it important to include the smallest states in the decision-making process about international peace and security?

We would like to discuss these and other questions with our experts and with you. During the discussion we want to both focus on the example of the current Security Council membership of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as to look on other regions with many small states such as the Pacific islands region, which is the only region that, so far, never has been represented in the Security Council.

Programme

Welcome

- **Dr. Ekkehard Griep**, Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Association of Germany

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: The Smallest State Ever in the UN Security Council

- H.E. Ambassador **Rhonda King**, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

Discussion

- H.E. Ambassador **Rhonda King**, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations
- **Karin Landgren**, Executive Director, Security Council Report
- **Prof. Dr. Steven Ratuva**, Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury
- **Dr. Benjamin Pohl**, Head of the Climate Diplomacy and Security Programme, adelphi

Moderator: **Stephanie Fillion**, Journalist (PassBlue)

The event will take place via Zoom. The language of the event is English. There will be interpretation to German language.

REGISTRATION: Please register for the event via this online form: <https://dgvn.de/aktivitaeten/21-06-22-small-states-and-great-responsibility>. The dial-in credentials will be sent to you via e-mail.

The event will also be livestreamed via the UNA Germany Youtube Channel:
www.youtube.com/user/DGVNeV