

# AROUND THE WORLD

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President of the United Nations General Assembly



**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
BARBADOS**



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# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

As Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Antigua and Barbuda plays a critical role on the international stage.

A Small Island Developing State, Antigua and Barbuda epitomises the core tenet of the United Nations General Assembly: equality - equality of voice, vote, and representation.



Whilst in Saint John's, I was received by H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda. We discussed the issues facing the people of Antigua and Barbuda today including COVID-19 recovery, tourism, *Vaccines for All*, youth, and gender equality.

Thereafter I met with H.E. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. Our discussions included the challenges facing Small Island Developing States dealing with multiple vulnerabilities including climate change, COVID-19, and the need for debt assistance.

I also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, H.E. Chet Greene. We discussed the important role of Small Island Developing States in the multilateral system, climate action, COVID-19 recovery, and implementing SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Following our bilateral discussion, we jointly engaged with the media.

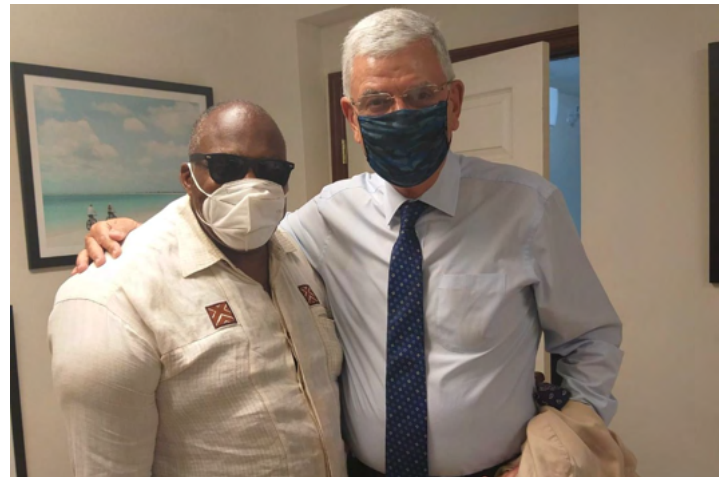


I had the unique opportunity to sit down with H.E. Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health and Environment, H.E. Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy, and H.E Charles Hernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment. We had an in-depth discussion regarding the multiplicity of vulnerabilities facing people in Small Island Developing States including environmental protection for land and oceans, disaster risk reduction and resilience, COVID-19 recovery, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



I thank H.E. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations for his support throughout my official visit.

Before departing, I had the privilege to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of English Harbour and experience the majesty of Shirley Heights.



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines I discovered both the beauty and destructive force of the natural world: from the Tobago Cays archipelago – a designated conservation area which consists of five main islands and extensive coral reef off the coast of Canouan Island, to the ferocious La Soufrière Volcano which caused devastation when it erupted in April. Due to swift action by H.E. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves and his Government, no lives were lost however more than 20,000 were displaced – 6,000 of whom now reside in shelters.



I met with H.E. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and members of his Cabinet. We discussed the critical issues affecting the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines including the humanitarian response to the La Soufrière volcanic eruption, COVID-19 recovery, *Vaccines for All*, climate action and the important role of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a member of the General Assembly, as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council and as former President of the Economic and Social Council.





I was proud to see the United Nations Sub-Regional Team working in tandem with the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, securing the future of the displaced. I paid a visit to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) Hub and met with World Food Program representatives who are doing vital work to meet the needs of Vincentians. It was an honour to witness this operation firsthand, and I urge the international community to provide consistent support for these essential recovery efforts.

Thereafter I embarked on a mission drive with H.E. Mr. Montgomery Daniel, Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the orange and red zones of La Soufrière. H.E. Mr. Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Public Service, Consumer Affairs and Sports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Mr. Didier Trebucq United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean also joined the delegation.



# BARBADOS

In Bridgetown, I was received by H.E. Ms. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, and the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations. Our discussions focused on the multiple vulnerabilities affecting the people of Barbados and Small Island Developing States such as climate action, international financial architecture, foreign debt, the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 – including on tourism- as well as the need for equitable, fair access to *Vaccines for All*.



This was the first visit of any sitting President of the General Assembly to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados. At the outset of the 75th session I committed to prioritising the needs of countries in special situations, and thus I established a Board of Advisors on Least Developed States, Landlocked Developing States and Small Island Developing States. I shared this at the working lunch hosted by H.E. Dr. Jerome Xavier Walcott, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados; H.E. Ms. Lisa Cummins, Minister of Tourism and International Transport and H.E. Mr. François Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations also joined. There, we discussed the important role of Barbados in the multilateral system and the need to work collectively to advance recovery efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and multiple extreme weather events that have affected the region.





I was delighted to visit UN House in Barbados where Mr. Didier Trebucq, Resident Coordinator for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean hosted a briefing on the work of the UN Sub-Regional Team. A total of sixteen representatives joined the meeting, both in-person and virtually from other duty stations in the region, to share their work. I learned that to enhance the coordination of the UN Response, the United Nations Sub-Regional Team decided to create specialized sector groups to respond to the needs of the communities affected by the volcanic eruption. Continued support to the Global Funding Appeal for La Soufrière Volcano Response is critical.

