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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization
through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

Saint George's, Grenada

2 to 4 May 2019

CLOSING STATEMENT BY

THE CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries
and Peoples**

2019 Caribbean Regional Seminar

Statement by

Her Excellency Ms. Keisha Aniya McGuire

**Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples**

Saint George's, Grenada, 4 May 2019

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As we conclude the 2019 United Nations Caribbean regional seminar, convened under the auspices of the Special Committee on Decolonization, I should like to express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of Grenada for hosting, for the fourth time, this important event of the Special Committee.

Grenada is now proud to have hosted the greatest number of seminars, along with Fiji. This is yet another testimony of the unflagging commitment of Grenada to the cause of decolonization and to the work of the United Nations.

I am very pleased to note that this year's seminar has seen a significant number of participants: nine Non-Self-Governing Territories, 21 out of 29 C-24 members, six other Member States and three out of four administering Powers.

In particular, I would like to underscore the participation of four Non-Self-Governing Territories from the Caribbean where this year's seminar focuses. In this context, it is noted that Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2012, 2013 and 2006 respectively. It is encouraging to have so many Non-Self-Governing Territories among us, taking part in the discussions and enhancing the Committee's understanding of the situation in those Territories.

Echoing the resolutions of the General Assembly, I encourage them "to continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the

Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process.” The Committee is called on to ensure proper follow up to the concerns expressed and to further consider these issues during its June session.

We had good and constructive discussions on the important issues and topics on the seminar’s agenda, especially on how to move forward the decolonization process. I would like to thank all participants for having made such valuable contributions.

Presentations and subsequent interactive discussions touched upon such issues as the role of the Special Committee, the perspectives of the different stakeholders and the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Territories.

The importance of enhanced cooperation and active participation of the administering Powers, Non-Self-Governing Territories and relevant stakeholders has been underscored. We had frank exchange of views which are useful for the work of the Special Committee to be considered during its June session in New York.

The seminar proved its value in facilitating wide-range deliberations by enhancing the capacity of the Special Committee to better ascertain and understand the conditions in each Territory.

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding, I should again like to express appreciation to all present for their contribution to the success of the seminar.

In this connection, I want to thank the interpreters for their professionalism in facilitating our discussions. I also would like to thank all the United Nations Secretariat staff in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management; the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; and the Department of Global Communication, as well as staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sound technicians and others for their contributions to the organization and holding of the seminar.

I hereby declare the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization closed.

Thank you.

4 May 2019