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**FORTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond**

**Castries, Saint Lucia**

**11 to 13 May 2022**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF GRENADA**



GRENADA

C-24 Seminar

Castries, St. Lucia,

May 11-14, 2022

**Check against delivery**

**Madam Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

At the outset, my delegation wishes to place on record, our appreciation for your excellent chairing of this 2022 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

We welcome the timely and relevant theme of this year's Seminar. We further express profound gratitude to the Government and people of St. Lucia for hosting us and warmly welcoming us to this beautiful island.

**Madam Chair,**

We underscore our unyielding support for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and self-determination standards identified in relevant General Assembly resolutions, as the guiding principles moving forward.

It should not go without notice that most of the remaining territories are small islands in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. One of the many factors that small island Non-Self-Governing Territories share with other SIDS of the Caribbean and Pacific is the vulnerability to natural disasters, and in particular, the effects of increasingly violent hurricanes and cyclones as a result of climate change. It also cannot go without notice that we are meeting against the backdrop of an ongoing global pandemic and the further resulting challenges. The vulnerability and peculiar susceptibilities compounded by the current COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to considerably disrupt the sustainable development of many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Like so many small island developing States, many of our sister Territories are heavily dependent on tourism, with economic activities frequently dominated by this particular industry and, for many, serves as the main contributor to their GDP. The threat of COVID-19 can, therefore, cut to the heart of their economic survival and can carry serious impediments to any effort towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

**Madam Chair,**

Many countries throughout the Caribbean and Pacific have benefited from the historic U.N. efforts in helping to advance the political and constitutional processes in the Non-Self-Governing territories.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) continue to support various efforts at political, constitutional and socio-economic advancement of the Caribbean territories which are integral to our overall regional integration process. In fact, five of the seven Non-Self-Governing territories in the Caribbean enjoy associate member status in CARICOM, while a sixth (Montserrat) maintains full membership. The territories of Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are associate members of the OECS, with Montserrat as a full member.

In this connection, my delegation wishes to re-emphasize CARICOM and OECS' statements on the release of the Report of the British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry (COI) and its recommendations, on April 29, 2022. We further draw attention to CARICOM and OECS's support of the decision of the duly elected Government of the BVI to welcome the recommendations arising from the Inquiry for improving governance and their commitment to work with the United Kingdom to address the weaknesses identified in the COI report. And while we welcome the recommendations arising from the Inquiry, we support the elected representatives of the people of BVI in their objection to the recommendation to suspend parts of the Constitution and restore direct rule.

Against this backdrop, Grenada reiterates that "the historical responsibility for strengthening governance in the BVI must rest on the shoulders of the elected representatives and the people of the BVI themselves".

I thank you.

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