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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 THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

First, I would like to wholeheartedly thank the government and people St. Lucia for their gracious and generous hospitality. My country, the Syrian Arab Republic has had the honor to be the rapporteur of C24 for decades., and we look with the utmost respect and full confidence to all efforts exerted in the decolonization process. Our principled position is that diplomacy and negotiations are concrete steps towards the eradication of colonization.

Madam Chair,

Resolutions of the General Assembly have emphasized that the issue of the Malvinas Islands is a special colonial case involving a sovereign dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom and that the only way to end this dispute is to reach a peaceful solution through negotiations. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding marine areas. This is to ensure respect for the principle of the territorial integrity of Argentina, and in a manner that leads to exercising sovereignty over all of its territories. There are many resolutions on the Malvinas that have been adopted by consensus but have not yet been implemented, so we call on the United Kingdom to engage in a serious dialogue with Argentina to resolve this issue by peaceful means. Furthermore, we stress the need for the Secretary-General to provide his good offices in accordance with his mandate under the Charter with a view to implementing what the General Assembly has requested in their resolutions on the question of the Malvinas.