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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 DOMINICA**



Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

STATEMENT BY:

Mrs. Barbara Dailey

**Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business
and Diaspora Relations**

On the Occasion of

2022 Pacific Regional Seminar
on the implementation of the
Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

**Thursday 12, 2022
Castries, St Lucia**

Salutation:

Madam Chair

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

...Good Morning...

I have the honor to present this statement on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

My delegation is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this years' Regional Seminar and wishes to commend the Government of Saint Lucia for its hospitality and efforts at ensuring a successful gathering.

I also acknowledge your efforts, madam Chair, to ably manage the session.

Allow me at the outset to reaffirm the full support of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica for the work of this Committee.

Madam Chair, Dominica has been consistent in its participation in programmes and activities of this forum and remains committed to playing its part in the C-24, particularly, in light of the numerous socioeconomic, environmental and cultural challenges faced by Non-Self-Governing Territories in a world of compounding crises.

With respect to the question of the Sahara, the Commonwealth of Dominica fully supports the United Nation's involvement in the political process, aimed at reaching a realistic, practicable, mutually acceptable solution to the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara. Dominica also acknowledges the role of the UN Secretary General, in advancing efforts towards the achievement of a solution to this dispute, pursuant to the recommendations of the UN Security Council.

In addition, Dominica reaffirms its support for the Morocco Autonomy Plan, proposed by the Kingdom of Morocco to end the conflict over the Sahara and regards this Plan as the basis for the realistic and practicable solution, stability, peace and continued development of which the UN referenced.

I take this opportunity to commend the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its efforts at developing the Sahara, resulting in the improved quality of living .and broader opportunities for inhabitants of the Southern provinces.

The development of the Sahara has been evident in improved infrastructure, and advancements in healthcare, education and housing, as well as pursuing an aggressive foreign policy that has attracted foreign presence including the recently inaugurated Consulate of the OECS.

Madam Chair, Over the past two years, the world has endured the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic which has borne devastating effects on all countries and territories. That season has taught us many salient lessons. At the forefront, the pandemic has underscored global interconnectedness, and the need for collective action, unity, inclusiveness, and multilateralism in addressing all challenges.

Madam Chair, before I end ...

I must also make brief mention of the situation as it relates to the British Virgin Islands.

The situation involving its Premier is unfortunate and should be dealt with and, as far as we are aware, is being dealt with and that should be allowed to take its course.

But, in our view this should not be the basis to begin or end any discussion as it relates to the right of the people of the British Virgin Island to self-determination. All scenarios are not created equal.

Madam Chair, allow me once again to express the gratitude of my delegation for the opportunity to participate in today's seminar, and affirm the commitment of my Government to the work of the C-24.

Thank you