

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

Caribbean regional seminar 2017

Closing statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño

**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**

**(read out on behalf of the Chair by Mr. Douglas Arcia Vivas
of the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations)**

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 18 May 2017

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Special Committee on Decolonization and all participants, I wish to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the generous hospitality extended to us.

We have engaged in productive discussions about the prospects for the future of decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories especially as we approach the end of the Third International Decade; the perspectives of the administering Powers, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, concerned Member States and other stakeholders, experts on decolonization, and ECLAC, UNDP and UNICEF.

As I stated in the opening address to the 2017 session in February, the C-24 continues to be committed to seeking innovative solutions to fulfil its mandate. In this respect, the exchanges during this seminar are a powerful source of innovative ideas, as the Committee continues to seek suitable means for the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration on decolonization and all relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

During these intense yet productive three days, the Special Committee has heard first hand information from a number of Territories as well as insightful presentations by experts, in addition to the interventions by Member States and other participants. A broad range of issues were discussed thanks to the active participation of all. The relevance and crucial role played by the

Special Committee in advancing the decolonization agenda in accordance with the UN Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations was reaffirmed.

Fruitful discussions held during this year's seminar included a number of concrete proposals for implementation, with a view to helping the Special Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate. Those proposals touched upon various aspects of the work of the Committee such as visiting missions, dissemination of information, political education programmes, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of the UN specialized agencies and funds and programmes. The proposals made here will, without any doubt, enrich the discussions and decisions of the Special Committee and reinvigorate its work.

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident that this regional seminar will help the Special Committee ascertain the steps and concrete measures needed to advance the decolonization process, on a case-by-case basis, and in close cooperation with the administering Powers, the Territories and all relevant stakeholders.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate the gratitude and deep appreciation of the Special Committee to the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the warm hospitality extended to the participants in this event. I should like to particularly thank Honourable Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, for personally opening this seminar.

I should also like to express appreciation to all of you for contributing to the success of the seminar. In particular, I want to thank the outstanding work of the interpreters who have facilitated our exchanges in the last three days. Similarly, I would like to thank the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs; the Secretary of the Special Committee and her team in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management; and the Department of Public Information for their contributions in connection with organizing the seminar.

I hereby declare the 2017 Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization closed.

Thank you.

18 May 2017