

**STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
DARLINGTON KADYAUTUMBE**

Mr Chairman, allow me to appreciate and thank the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for hosting this Seminar for the 3rd time and their hospitality to the delegates.

The General Assembly adopted Resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December 1960 in order to complete the process of decolonization of Non Self Governing Territories (NSGT). This resolution provided for these States to exercise their right to self determination through these options:

1. Sovereign independency.
2. Association with an independent State.
4. Integration with an independent State.

In the following year in 1961, the General Assembly established this Special Committee to monitor the implementation of the above resolution. Zimbabwe appreciates and supports the work of the C24 Committee.

On Western Sahara, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) through Resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991. That followed an agreement between Morocco and Frente POLISARIO. More than 25 years later, there is no referendum conducted in Western Sahara. The occupying power failed to honour the resolution.

Another Resolution, 1754 (2007) called on both parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solutions, which was to provide for the Self-determination of people of Western Sahara.

The latest Resolution, 2351 (2017) was adopted by the Security Council on 28 April 2017 to extend the mandate of MINURSO by one year until 30 April 2018. In this Resolution, the Security Council called on the parties to the Western Sahara to resume negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions in order to facilitate a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution. The Council also called on the parties to cooperate fully with the operations of MINURSO and to take the necessary steps to ensure unhindered movement of UN personnel in carrying out their mandate.

In the Resolution 2351, the Council emphasized the importance of the parties' commitment to continuing the preparations for a fifth round of negotiations. The Council also called upon them to determine political will to work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to resume negotiation, and to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Mr Chairman, lastly, the UN is urged to enforce compliance to its resolutions so that the Saharawi people can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. The Committee is urged to send a Visiting Mission to Western Sahara. Zimbabwe continues to support the resolutions of the United Nations and the African Union on Western Sahara. We also continue to support the work of this Committee.

Mr Chairman and the distinguished guests, I thank you.