

Distr. RESTRICTED

PRS/2018/CRP.4

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges

**Saint George's, Grenada
9 to 11 May 2018**

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR

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

Pacific regional seminar 2018

Statement by

His Excellency Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson

**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**

Grenada, 10 May 2018

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, fruitful discussions in the Special Committee focused on stressing the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territories in light of the 2030 Agenda and the pledge that no one will be left behind.

In that connection, last year the General Assembly by its resolution 72/92 on the “Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, stressed “the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and with respect to the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution 71/226 of 21 December 2016 on disaster risk reduction”.¹

The General Assembly by its resolution 72/93 on the question of the “Implementation of the Declaration on the on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the International institutions associated with the United Nations”, stressed that in the case of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, where development options were limited, “there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development” and that such Territories would “be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system”.²

¹ Resolution 72/92 of 7 December 2017, preambular paragraph 11

² Resolution 72/93 of 7 December 2017, preambular paragraph 11

Further, last year, as it has been the case in previous seminars, the participating members of the Special Committee in the seminar held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines noted in their concluding observations “a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, which included the impact of climate change”, especially in the Territories and also acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Territories “to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability”.³

Participants at the last year’s seminar also underlined that given the cross-cutting nature of the challenges faced by some Territories, “effort must be made through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability” of the Territories which would allow them “to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner”.⁴

In this context, I would like to stress the guidance provided by the General Assembly, that the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within the framework of their respective mandates, is of paramount importance in helping the Territories accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors.⁵

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I cannot express enough my appreciation and gratitude to the people and Government of Grenada for hosting this year’s seminar. Our host country graciously hosted two previous seminars, in 1992 and 2007 and it is telling that in those occasions, participants discussed topics such as the economic and social conditions and the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the viable and sustainable development of the Territories concerned⁶ as well as the next steps in decolonization⁷.

With the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration on decolonization being one of the priorities of the United Nations, I encourage you all to actively and collaboratively continue to engage in the discussions and a constructive dialogue on the theme and the agenda of the Seminar and towards the success in the work of the Special Committee.

Thank you.

10 May 2018

³ A/72/23, Annex II, para. 20, (g) and (j)

⁴ A/72/23, Annex II, para. 20, (i)

⁵ Resolution 72/93 of 7 December 2017, para 9.

⁶ A/AC.109/1114, para. 3

⁷ A/62/23, Annex