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**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility**

**Parish of St. John, Dominica  
25 to 27 August 2021**

**SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT BY**  
**THE CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24**

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

**2021 Caribbean Regional Seminar**

**Substantive Statement by**

**Her Excellency Ms. Keisha Aniya McGuire**

**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**

**Parish of St John, Dominica, 25 August 2021**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The beginning of the Fourth Decade is an important occasion to reflect on all aspects of the work done by the Special Committee in fulfilling its mandate, received from the General Assembly 60 years ago, as I indicated a few moments ago.

Decolonization – both one of the most historic and successful mandate of the Organization - remains a priority for the United Nations. Despite the difficulties and limitations, our resolve remains unwavering.

The last Decade saw a new momentum that we must not only preserve, but even better, strengthen.

As pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report on the Third Decade, generating further momentum “requires strengthening action-oriented dialogue and identifying concrete and implementable steps”.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, as I have maintained, and as underlined by this year’s seminar theme, commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility, are central aspects to our work and as such guide our quest to eradicate colonialism.

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<sup>1</sup> See A/75/220/Rev.1 para. 33.

In doing so, we have reinvigorated the visiting missions to the Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as one of the most powerful tools the Committee has in the fulfillment of its mandate. In the past Decade, the Committee dispatched three visiting missions, despite financial constraints, and thanks to a creative approach: two to New Caledonia, in 2014 and 2018, which were both conducted to assist the Territory in the period leading up to the referendums on self-determination, held in November 2018 and October 2020, and with the cooperation of France as the administering Power. And one to Montserrat, in 2019, with the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Committee is also considering the dispatching of further visiting missions while taking into account the ongoing circumstances.

Starting in 2013,<sup>2</sup> the Committee resumed the annual informal and interactive dialogues with the administering Powers and other stakeholders, promoting greater cooperation and creating a mutually beneficial space for consultation. It is our goal to continue improving dialogue and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers. The year that has passed has posed a number of challenges due to the Covid pandemic in terms of meetings, but we have not been deterred from our commitment to meeting with administering Powers and other stakeholders thanks to virtual means. Moreover, we successfully held our substantive session this past June in person.

We have also strengthened the discussions held in the annual regional seminar setting. In the past Decade, the Committee held nine regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, which have included the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers, Member States, other stakeholders, regional organizations, specialized agencies, and experts.

Finally in the past decade we also initiated the practice of holding an annual meeting with the Secretary-General. Since the first meeting held in November 2013,<sup>3</sup> the Bureau has continued the practice as a useful tool “to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis”.

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This new Decade that is beginning should drive us to seek better results. The voices of the Territories must continue playing a fundamental role so that the Committee can fulfill its mandate effectively. In this regard, let me thank the territories present today for having been able to participate in this important gathering.

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<sup>2</sup> See A/70/73, para. 14

<sup>3</sup> See A/70/73, para. 14

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This seminar, organized with the generous support of Dominica, provides us with a conducive framework to address these issues. I invite you to engage in a constructive dialogue and bring your ideas and suggestions to the table, which undoubtedly will enable us to do our work better being guided by collaboration, pragmatism and agility.

Thank you.

25 August 2021

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