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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**

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SAINT LUCIA

Thank you Madam Chair

Saint Lucia is happy to be part of this regional seminar for the Caribbean and would like to thank our sister island - Dominica for their hospitality and generosity.

With regard to the question of the Sahara, my delegation fully supports the UN led political process, and the efforts of the UN Secretary General in order to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution to the regional dispute, as recommended by 17 Security Council resolutions, since 2007.

My delegation welcomes the momentum created in the political process thanks to the holding of two round tables in Geneva with the participation of Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and “polisario”. Saint Lucia supports this round table process and concurs with the Security Council’s in welcoming the commitment of the 4 participants to remain engaged throughout the duration of this process, in a spirit of realism and compromise, to ensure a successful outcome.

Furthermore, my delegation reiterates its full support to the Moroccan Autonomy Initiative, which is in accordance with International Law and the relevant resolutions of UN Security Council. Saint Lucia considers this initiative as the only serious and realistic solution which will end this regional dispute, and bring prosperity to the entire region.

Madam Chair,

I would like also to applaud the efforts of Morocco, aimed at developing the Sahara, improving the standard of living of its inhabitants and allowing them to benefit from the resources of the region, as well as the widely accessible vaccination campaign against COVID-19. In addition to the recent recognition by the United States of America of Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara, a large number of countries have opened consulates in the cities of Laayoun and Dakhla, thus reaffirming Morocco’s territorial integrity and highlighting the economic and social development opportunities of the region for the benefit of its inhabitants.

What’s more, the progress made by the Government of Morocco on the ground, particularly in the promotion of human rights and democracy is very commendable and inspiring.

I am delighted to welcome the participation of the elected representative of the Sahara in this regional seminar, whom I had to opportunity to meet. Her presentation brought a valuable insight from the ground on the question of the Sahara.

Laying the foundations for a world of peace and harmony is a difficult path that requires common action and serious rational reflection from all. This is why my delegation is supportive of the responsible and peaceful management, by Morocco, of the restoration of free movement in the passage of Guergarate following its blockade in November 2020.

Saint Lucia fully believes that it is high time to listen to all the calls of the Security Council, since 2011, to allow the UNHCR to conduct a registration and census of the populations in the Tindouf camps whose basic human rights are being violated.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Thank you Madam Chair.