

Distr. RESTRICTED

CRS/2024/CRP.47

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
pursuing goals and addressing needs of
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
14 to 16 May 2024**

OPENING SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT

BY THE CHAIR OF

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24

2024 Caribbean Regional Seminar

Opening Statement

by

Her Excellency Menissa Rambally

**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**

Caracas, Venezuela

14 May, 2024

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again welcome all the participants to this year's regional seminar.

The regional seminar serves as the kick-off for the substantive discussions of the 2024 session on decolonization.

Since its inception, the C-24 has been examining the application of the Decolonization Declaration to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and making recommendations on its implementation as entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

Each Territory has its own particular circumstances, as recognized in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. The C-24's consideration of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories has been and will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Nearly halfway into the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and with six years left in this decade of action to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee will at this year's seminar, examine the theme "Pursuing goals and addressing needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

The C-24's responsibility to the Territories includes their pursuit of goals and addressing their needs - consistent with the United Nations Charter.

Therefore, it is imperative to hear directly from the Territories during this three-day seminar concerning their immediate, mid- and long-term needs as well as their goals to be pursued. Their first-hand account will enrich our discussion. The situation in each Territory will be considered by this Committee, on a case-by-case basis, in line with relevant GA resolutions.

In this regard, our seminar will discuss potential developments in the NSGTs. We will also look at the myriad of challenges encountered by the Territories including; climate change which continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing the Non-Self Governing Territories, many of which are small island developing states. In addition, the realization of the SDGs including Economic and Social Development.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

For its part, the C-24 has been closely monitoring the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Since the start of the 2024 session this February, the bureau has conducted its annual round of informal dialogues with administering Powers and other stakeholders where up-to-date information on the ground was provided.

Further, the C-24 has recently taken a decision to dispatch a visiting mission to the British Virgin Islands, which will be held soon after our June substantive session, sometime in July 2024.

This annual regional seminar also provides a unique opportunity and space for Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, Member States, experts and civil society representatives, as well as representatives of regional and subregional organizations and the UN system, to share unique experiences. This formal and informal interaction will no doubt enrich the C-24's consideration.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We gather today with determination, to pursue the historic mandate of the United Nations, that is, eradication of colonialism. Our work is unfinished.

Ahead of the annual observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, from 25 to 31 May, as set by the GA in 1999, it is my, and the C-24's, hope that all concerned can work together and consider needs and goals of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuit of decolonization. Such a frank exchange of views and ideas here in Caracas will, for sure, lead to a productive 2024 substantive session to be held this June at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

Thank you.