

Distr. RESTRICTED

PRS/2023/CRP.18

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FORTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development
Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Bali, Indonesia
24 to 26 May 2023**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Madam Chair,

I begin by expressing our gratitude to you, the members of the bureau and the secretariat, for your hard work and leadership in organizing this important conference.

And I wish also to express my gratitude to the government and people of Indonesia for their extraordinary hospitality in this splendid corner of our planet much akin to what I imagine the garden of Eden will look like.

Madam Chair, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has long considered that the issue of decolonization should remain one of the major priorities of the United Nations. It is critically important for us to actively engage in the process of decolonization to eradicate colonialism in any form or manifestation. Political colonialism should not only be uprooted, but social, cultural, and economic exploitation must be eliminated. Moreover, it is of great importance that we take sufficient measures to accelerate the process of decolonization under the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People, relevant General Assembly resolutions, and the provisions of the UN Charter.

- Chair, while attaching great importance to the work of the Fourth Committee and the C-24 in providing colonial countries and peoples with the assistance that can enable them to exercise their right to self-determination, we hope that at the end of this conference, we will advance the decolonization process through constructive and meaningful discussions, towards the pathway for a final solution to sovereignty disputes that have remained unresolved for far too long.

Madam chair, in closing, allow me to express the full support of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for Venezuela's interest in hosting the next edition of the C24 seminar in 2024 in Caracas. We also thank Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its willingness to do so.

Thank you.

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