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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 KITTS AND NEVIS

St.Kitts and Nevis' statement at the Pacific Regional Seminar in Bali

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor, and since it is my first time, I want to take this opportunity to commend you Madam Chair and the bureau for your hard work thus far on the committee and for organizing this seminar, you have my country's full support. And to the Government of Indonesia I would like to say a huge thank you for your kindness and hospitality since our arrival in your beautiful country.

This 2023 Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Decolonisation Declaration is particularly significant to Saint Kitts and Nevis as it converges with the fortieth anniversary of our independence in September 1983. As Haiti was the first country of the Western Hemisphere to win its independence in 1804 through a period of struggle against the colonial forces of the day, CARICOM countries as our own were beneficiaries of a concerted United Nations decolonisation process as a direct outcome of the adoption of the landmark Decolonisation Declaration of 1960. Hence, the independence of the majority of the small island developing states in the Caribbean and Pacific regions was advanced through the momentum generated by the Decolonisation Declaration and the important work of the UN Decolonisation Committee.

As we reflect on the rich history of our political evolution, we must emphasize the point that Saint Kitts and Nevis, in 1983, was the final country to achieve independence in our region. Thus, it has been 40 years since the last territory in the Caribbean has achieved the "full measure of self-government" referred to in the UN Charter. This period of dormancy is of particular concern as the decolonisation process appears to have stalled. This is especially significant for the Caribbean region as seven of the seventeen non self-governing territories recognised by the General Assembly are in the Caribbean. Five of these territories enjoy associate membership in our regional body of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with the sixth, Montserrat, enjoying full membership. Three territories are associate members of our subregional body, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Suffice to say, decolonisation remains a core issue for Saint Kitts and Nevis, and for our wider Caribbean civilisation.

Saint Kitts and Nevis hosted the Caribbean Regional Seminar in 2009 as the last scheduled activity of critical importance for the Caribbean under the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. That seminar was actually chaired by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia. We will soon approach the midpoint of the Fourth International Decade. It is a sobering thought that despite the longstanding mandates adopted by the United Nations to accelerate decolonisation for the remaining territories, the process remains incomplete. Saint Kitts and Nevis stands with our colleagues of CARICOM and the OECS in supporting the neighboring territories of our region in their efforts to overcome the challenge of contemporary colonialism which they continue to face.

In the process, the principle of absolute political equality must continue to be the guiding standards applicable to the small island territories, just as they were the standards to decolonise other former colonies. The legitimate political status options of independence, free association and integration should be made available to these territories, consistent with United Nations

resolutions. It is the attainment of full self-government for these territories which must remain our ultimate goal.

In conclusion, we regard this regional seminar as a mechanism to devise recommendations on the way forward to ensure that this sacred right to self-determination, as a fundamental human right, is realised by the remaining non self-governing territories so that their people can achieve full political equality consistent with recognised international standards.