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FOURTH 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 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Intervention By

Claxton Duberry

Permanent Mission Of Antigua And Barbuda To The United Nations

At

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

The Laguna Resort, Bali, Indonesia,

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Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders: Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: In the Caribbean region- (agenda item 2 (a) (ii)).

1. Madame Chair, let me take this opportunity to extend my delegation's gratitude to the government and people of Indonesia for hosting us and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants to this seminar.

2. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of your bureau and the secretariat who are positioned to lead this seminar to a fruitful and productive session. Please be assured of Antigua and Barbuda's most total cooperation and support during the course of this session.

3. Madam Chair, I take the floor on this occasion to speak on the matter of the BVI one of the remaining 17 territories still under colonialism and is geographically located within the subregion of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean.

4. The BVI is of interest and concern to the people of Antigua and Barbuda by long standing family ties and economic and social relationships.

5. Antigua and Barbuda recognizes of importance the United Kingdom's effort in partnering with the elected Government of the BVI in strengthening the institutions and systems of Government in the Territory to help it position itself to attain a full measure of self-government.

6. Madam chair, Antigua and Barbuda takes note of CARICOM Heads of Government commendation of the Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley and his Administration for the good progress made in implementing governance reforms and firm commitment to consulting the people of the BVI in the process.

7. Antigua and Barbuda also takes note, Madame Chair of the endorsement by the Heads of Government on the United Nations resolution on the Question of the BVI adopted by the 77th UN General Assembly on 12th December 2022 that, among other things reaffirmed the right of the Territory to self-determination.

They reaffirmed CARICOM's commitment to support the BVI at the relevant United Nations fora on decolonization.

8. Madame Chair, in closing the BVI remains one of the possible "low hanging fruit" in this process of decolonization and like CARICOM, Antigua and Barbuda is continuing to closely monitor the situation and believes that the principles of self-governance should be respected in the BVI.

9. Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the free and fair peaceful election in the BVI on 24th April and congratulate Premier Dr. Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley on being sworn in as Premier on 25th April.

1. Madame Chair, on the question on Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda do share similar tides. We have expounded on this fact in many meetings and fora and have pointed to the deep and rich history that we share.

2. Antigua and Barbuda supported the visiting mission to Montserrat, and we remain grateful for the cooperation extended by the Government of the United Kingdom as its administering Power, as well as by the territorial Government of Montserrat in connection to the visiting mission. Such visiting missions always prove to be an integral component in the work of this committee and by extension the activities of C-24.

I thank you.