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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 BELIZE**

Belize Statement on Western Sahara

Madam chair,

On the question of Western Sahara, the ICJ's advisory opinion found that there was no impediment that would affect the application of resolution 1514 (XV) in the decolonization of Western Sahara and, in particular, of the principle of self-determination. The UN Security Council has consistently stated that the parties should negotiate under the auspices of the Secretary General with a "view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations."

Madam Chair

1. The principle of the right to self-determination is a core tenant of Belize's foreign policy. Belize's unwavering support for the right to self-determination arises from its own experience of decolonization and its struggle for independence. Belize supports the aspiration of the Sahawari people to fully exercise their right to self-determination.
2. The decolonization agenda has worryingly stalled. The people of Western Sahara have seen very little progress on the full decolonization of their nation. Therefore, it is important that the international community and the UN continue to give this situation the attention that it deserves.
3. Belize will continue to cosponsor and support the resolution on the Question of Western Sahara in the General Assembly.
4. Belize supports the UN efforts and believes that the solution for the dispute must be a negotiated political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

To conclude, madam Chair, Belize welcomes the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the next C24 Seminar next year.

Thank you.