

STATEMENT

By

**H.E. Keisha Aniya McGuire, Chair of the Special Committee on
Decolonization**

at the Management Segment of ECOSOC, on 21 July 2020,

**under agenda item 14 entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the
specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the
United Nations”**

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

It is my honour to address the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under agenda item 14 entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”, in my capacity as Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

I would like to draw the Council’s attention to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/75/73, listing specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, to which the provisions of General Assembly resolution 74/95 of 13 December 2019 apply, as well as to the report of the President of ECOSOC, E/2020/52/Rev.1, which contains information submitted by eleven (11) entities of the UN system regarding the support provided to various Non-Self-Governing Territories. I should like to acknowledge with appreciation those UN entities that provided assistance to the Territories and reported this year. I further encourage all specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to give assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to provide information on this subject as requested by the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

As the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism comes to an end, it is worth reiterating the great importance the Special Committee on Decolonization attaches to the support and assistance provided by the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations, on a case-by-case basis and within the framework of their respective mandates, to the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its purview.

Allow me to also recall that the General Assembly has stressed the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations system and with respect to the implementation of relevant resolutions, including resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Challenges faced by the Territories, compounded by the unprecedented and multifaceted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, make it more pressing to ensure that no one is left behind. Against this background, the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, on a case-by-case basis, is a matter of the highest priority.

It should be underlined that the General Assembly has called on the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee including participation in the regional seminars on decolonization. ECOSOC has requested the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations “to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories”.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to draw your attention to draft resolution E/2020/L.22 and corrigendum 1, entitled “Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and

international institutions associated with the United Nations” presented under item 14 of the agenda.

The following Member States have co-sponsored this draft resolution:

1. Angola
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Botswana
4. Cuba
5. The Commonwealth of Dominica
6. Ecuador
7. Fiji
8. Republic of The Gambia
9. Grenada
10. India
11. Indonesia
12. Iraq
13. Lesotho
14. Nicaragua
15. Papua New Guinea
16. Saint Kitts and Nevis
17. Saint Lucia
18. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
19. Sierra Leone
20. Syrian Arab Republic
21. Uganda
22. Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

By the draft resolution before you, the Council welcomes the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

It stresses the special challenges faced by small island Territories in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the UN system.

The draft resolution also points out the extremely fragile economies of the small Territories as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise.

It also takes note of General Assembly resolutions 74/270 entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, and 74/274 entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”.

The draft resolution requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory and to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the Territories, on a case-by-case basis, for the purpose of accelerating progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories.

The draft resolution also requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions.

It further recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to give priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis.

As in previous years, the draft resolution requests the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on those matters.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

In concluding, I would like to underscore the readiness of the Special Committee on decolonization to continue to engage with the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in the implementation of its mandate. Also, I would like to invite all members of this Council to support the draft resolution issued in E/2020/L. 22 and corrigendum 1 before you.

I thank you.