

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2011/CRP.15

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: goals and expected accomplishments

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
31 May to 2 June 2011

STATEMENT

BY

The Representative of Algeria

M. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation for the way you are conducting our work. I am confident that your able leadership and vast experience will steer our deliberations to a productive outcome.

My congratulations go also to the other members of the bureau and to the Secretariat of the Committee for the excellent arrangements they made for us.

I would like to thank the Government and People of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their hospitality and for the excellent organizational and logistical work in preparing for this Seminar.

M. Chairman,

Algeria, who suffered immensely from the colonial yoke, attaches great importance to the full completion of the decolonization process and has a longstanding position regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

In this regard, my country supported the launching of the third International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism, in order to give the additional necessary momentum to resolve the remaining cases of colonialism which contravene the provisions of the Charter and the Declaration, as well as principles of international law.

Faithful to its principles, Algeria hosted on December 13-14, 2010, an International Conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514, which gathered Members of this Committee and more than 200 foreign personalities, representing mainly the worlds of politics, culture and the media.

The "Algiers declaration" adopted at the end of this Conference emphasized the continuing validity of Resolution 1514 and underlined the fact that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is contrary to the principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law. The participants were unanimously of the view that the completion of the decolonization process is inevitable.

In doing so, it is important to ensure that the decolonization process of the 16 non self-governing territories inscribed in the list held by this Committee, is dealt with fairly, in accordance with internationally recognized principles and in a manner that permits to their people to democratically choose their own political and economic future and to enjoy and dispose of their natural resources in their best interest.

The importance lies on the full implementation of the principle of self-determination; one of the four UN basic purposes embodied in its Charter and recognized as a fundamental human right in both the two central UN human rights treaties of 1966 and many other international and regional instruments. This right has been also affirmed by the International Court of Justice in many cases (Namibia, Western Sahara, and East Timor), in which its *erga omnes* character was confirmed.

M. Chairman,

Algeria welcomes the positive, though limited, development achieved so far by some non self-governing territories and encourages them to move this historical task forward.

Yet, we remain concerned that, among the 16 non self-governing territories, the Western Sahara is still an issue of incomplete decolonization and its people have not yet been allowed to exercise its democratic right to decide its own future.

Despite many UN resolutions and the International Court of Justice Advisory opinion that affirm that the Sahrawi have international law on their side, they have never been allowed to exercise their right to self determination.

There is no alternative to the principle of self-determination which is also a fundamental human right. The people of Western Sahara must be allowed to determine its own destiny in accordance with the clearly defined principles contained in the UN Charter and its relevant resolutions on decolonization.

We do believe the way forward lies inevitably at the UN which has the responsibility to safeguard the right of people to self-determination; one of the four basic purposes the United Nations shall fulfill, on an equal footing with peace and security, human rights and development. As the United Nations succeeded in organizing a referendum on self-determination in Timor-Leste in 1999, we hope it will do so in Western Sahara in the near future.

M. Chairman,

The Security Council has clearly defined the parameters guiding the negotiations concerning the question of Western Sahara by calling upon the parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions in good faith, 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.

For the negotiation process between Morocco and the F. Polisario to be successful, the two parties have been invited by the Security Council resolution 1979 to demonstrate further political will towards a solution including by expanding upon their discussion of each other's proposals.

Algeria remains hopeful that by upholding those parameters, negotiations called for by the Security Council will produce a positive outcome that is respectful to the right of the Western Sahara people to self-determination.

I thank you.
