

STATEMENT

By

H.E. Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia and Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization

**at the Management Segment of ECOSOC, on 26 July 2023,
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”**

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased 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/78/65, listing specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, to which the provisions of General Assembly resolution 77/131 of 12 December 2022 apply.

I would also like to refer to the report of the President of ECOSOC, E/2023/68, which contains information submitted by nine (9) entities of the UN system, and one (1) international organization regarding the support provided to various Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

I wish to acknowledge with appreciation those United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and the regional organization that have provided assistance to the Territories, as reflected in the report E/2023/68 mentioned above.

The Special Committee on Decolonization encourages the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue and strengthen the support provided to the Territories, in accordance with their respective mandates and relevant resolutions, and to further engage with the Special

Committee, specially through their participation in the annual seminar on decolonization and the provision of information called for in relevant resolutions.

The General Assembly and this Council have persistently stressed that without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, the Territories will be constrained in meeting the special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development.

Furthermore, 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”.

It is worth underlining that the Pacific Regional Seminar held in Bali, Indonesia from 24 to 26 May this year, focused on the theme “**Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**”. The SDGs are important benchmarks in the economic and social development of these territories consistent with the mandate contained in Article 73a of the United Nations Charter.

Both during the regional seminar and during its substantive session last month, Territories pointed out the importance of recognizing the need to bolster efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the importance of the support received from the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions.

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

Under item 14 of the agenda, I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished members of the Economic and Social Council to the draft resolution contained in document E/2023/L.29, concerning the “Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations”.

Draft resolution E/2023/L.29 is co-sponsored by the following Member States:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Cuba
3. Dominica
4. Indonesia
5. Iraq
6. Nicaragua
7. Papua New Guinea
8. Saint Kitts and Nevis
9. Saint Lucia
10. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
11. Sierra Leone
12. Syrian Arab Republic

13. Timor-Leste
14. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

In addition, after the issuance of the draft resolution E/2023/L. 29, the following Member States also joined the co-sponsorship:

1. Solomon Islands

The draft resolution welcomes the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and points out the extremely fragile economies of small Territories as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise.

The draft resolution reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

By this draft resolution, the Council requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis.

It is worth reiterating that such assistance and support are of importance in light of the challenges posed by the fragile economies and vulnerability of 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.

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

In concluding, I would like to emphasise the importance attached by the Special Committee to the role and support of the Council in the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate.

I now would like to invite all members of this Council to support the draft resolution issued in E/2023/L. 29 before you.

I thank you.