

## 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 24 July 2024,  
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 President

Distinguished delegates,

It is my honor to address the Economic and Social Council, in my capacity as Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization, 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”.

I would like to draw the Council’s attention to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/79/66, listing specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, to which the provisions of General Assembly resolution 78/83 of 7 December 2023 apply.

I would also like to refer to the report of the President of ECOSOC, E/2024/6, which contains information submitted by eleven (11) entities of the UN system, and one (1) international organization, namely the Pacific Islands Forum, 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.

This year, at the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization in Caracas and during the substantive session in June, Territories engaging with the Special Committee reiterated their concerns about the impact of climate change on their already fragile economies and on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar have recognized the increased environmental and economic vulnerability to which the Territories are exposed as a result of climate change, as well as the global economic, financial and health crises on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

One particular case brought to the attention of the Special Committee this year that speaks volumes about the vulnerability of the Territories, is that of the British Virgin Islands. The Territory is still in recovery mode from the experience of two extreme weather events in the space of five weeks, with torrential rains, flooding and landslides that affected infrastructure and set back ongoing hurricane recovery efforts after the Territory was affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

This is yet another example, as reflected in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the annual seminar, of “the important role played by United Nations agencies, regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories to address various emerging challenges and to make progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals”.

In this regard, the importance of the role attached to the United Nations System and other Organizations in contributing to the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization, guided by the relevant resolutions cannot be over emphasized.

Madam President  
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/2024/L.24, concerning the “support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations; co-sponsored by the following Member States:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Cuba
3. Iraq
4. Nicaragua
5. Papua New Guinea
6. Saint Kitts and Nevis
7. Saint Lucia
8. Saint Vincent and the Grenadine
9. Syrian Arab Republic
10. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

In addition, after the issuance of the draft resolution E/2024/L.24 the following Member States also joined the co-sponsorship:

1. Indonesia

The draft resolution before you reaffirms the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their

respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation the Declaration on Decolonization and other relevant resolutions.

The draft resolution stresses the particular challenges faced by small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in planning for and implementing sustainable development as well as the need for continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. It bears in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small Territories as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise.

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 President,  
Distinguished delegates,

In concluding, I would like to invite all members of this Council to support the draft resolution issued in E/2024/L.24 before you.

I thank you.