

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2013/CRP.11

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: first quarter review of developments and trends**

**Quito, Ecuador
28 to 30 May 2013**

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to start by warmly thanking and congratulating the Government of Ecuador for hosting for the second consecutive year this important Seminar of the C-24 on "the Implementation of the third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

I would like also to seize this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. Chairman for the excellent manner in which you are conducting our deliberations and to reiterate my delegation's confidence in your able leadership and vast experience.

My congratulations and thanks go also to the other members of the Bureau and to the Secretariat of the Committee for the excellent arrangements made to facilitate our work.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria attaches great importance to the work of the C-24 and appreciates its efforts aiming at facilitating the full completion of the decolonization process in the non self-governing territories, in a manner that allows their people to democratically choose their own political and economic future.

Algeria's support to the C-24 is mainly driven by its firm conviction, shared I believe by everyone here in this room, that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations has no place and must be brought to a speedy and unconditional end, in conformity with the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation shares the concerns expressed during this Seminar about the lack of progress in resolving the remaining cases of colonialism, two years after the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 65/119 launching the third international decade for the elimination of colonialism.

My delegation joins the call made by many speakers for more efforts to be exerted in order to pursue the implementation of the plan of action contained in document A/56/61 which states clearly that the "ultimate goal should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories”.

At the end, everyone agrees that there is no alternative to 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 also in many other international and regional conventions.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria remains concerned that, among the non self-governing territories, Western Sahara is still an issue of incomplete decolonization. I will not go through the historical background of the conflict; rather I would like to address four points:

1. This is the best Forum to recall, without the risk of being challenged, that the question of Western Sahara is a decolonization issue and that is qualified as a non-self governing territory by the United Nations since 1963 when Western Sahara was still a Spanish colony.
2. The fact that the conflict is about a decolonization issue needs to be understood as implying that it can only be resolved through the Sahrawi people exercising their right to self-determination. This position is rooted in a democratic principle with universal validity that has been recognized and implemented in all colonial cases.
3. Despite many UN resolutions from both the General Assembly and the Security Council, all reaffirming the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination, and in spite of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ which concluded that the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination should be implemented in line with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the people of Western Sahara are still yearning to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination.
4. The United Nations assumes a particular responsibility in implementing the principle of self-determination, which is enshrined in its own Charter. It cannot renounce to this responsibility for the sake of so-called *realpolitik* propagated in some quarters. In fact, the current impasse over Western Sahara can be seen as adding to the challenges that the UN is already facing with respect to its authority and credibility.

Mr. Chairman,

While today it has become fashionable to speak about a political solution that is mutually acceptable in the context of the negotiation process triggered by the Security resolution 1754 (2007) between the two parties Morocco and Frente Polisario, some tend to overlook the principle of self-determination by making the error of trying to determine unilaterally the future of the people of Western Sahara without consulting them in a genuine way.

This assumption is totally false. In all its resolutions, including the most recent one 2099 (2013) adopted on 25 April 2013, the Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara by expressing its attachment to “a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara”.

Algeria remains hopeful that by upholding this very important principle, the negotiations called for by the Security Council will produce a positive outcome that is respectful of the international legality.

For its part, Algeria will continue to support the UN Secretary General and his Personal Envoy in their efforts aiming at achieving the process of decolonization of Western Sahara.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize the commitment of the African Union to the full desalinization of Western Sahara, which has been reaffirmed most recently in the strongest terms during the 21st AU Summit held in Addis-Ababa on 26-27 May 2013. In the final declaration, Heads of State and Government of the African Union expressed “unwavering and unconditional support to the struggle of the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination.”

I thank you.
