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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Second
International Decade for the Eradication of
Colonialism: next steps in decolonization

St. George's, Grenada
22 to 24 May 2007

Statement by the representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement by

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“The Caribbean regional seminar on
the implementation of the Second International Decade for the
Eradication of Colonialism:
next steps in decolonization”

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your able guidance of the Special Committee on Decolonization (C24) as well as for your seriousness in assisting the decolonization process move forward. My thanks also goes to the colleagues in Secretariat of C24 for their excellent arrangement of this regional seminar.

I sincerely appreciate the government and the people of Grenada for hosting this important regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism of which we are all hopeful to take next appropriate step in decolonization to realize the wishes of the people living in non-self governing territories. The warm hospitality of the people of Grenada and the

image of their beautiful country will be certainly remained in my mind for ever. I wish them all happiness, prosperity and success in all aspects of life.

Madam Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran sticks to its position that peoples of non-self governing territories are entitled to choose freely their political system and deserve to decide about their own future- without any foreign intervention or being forced from abroad. In this regard, Iran believes that the issue of decolonization should remain on the agenda of the United Nations as one of the important priorities- as long as millions of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories across the globe expect the United Nations to guide and assist them to put an end to the scourge of colonialism in all its manifestations and remove all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith from the face of our planet.

The United Nations has a success story in helping millions of people under colonization, including the people of Grenada who are now hosting this seminar, to attain their right of self-determination and gain independence. When the United Nations was established in 1945, almost a third of the world's population (i.e. 750 million people) lived in Territories that were non-self-governing, dependent on colonial Powers. Today, less than 2 million people live in such Territories. However, such a success has not been fully accomplished yet- since millions of people still live under the bleak shadow of colonialism. We believe that all countries should bear responsibility in helping the remaining territories to make a right decision about their future political system: independence, integration, free associations, etc. In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to cooperate with and join other Member States in their endeavors and initiatives aimed at eradication of colonialism in all its forms.

Madam Chairperson,

Decolonization is a process that needs a full cooperation of the administering powers. With their collaborations our efforts in this process can bring about positive results. Therefore, as a right step in the right direction the administering powers should establish an official, serious and respectful relationship with the Special Committee on Decolonization. One area of cooperation the C24 has been expecting from the administering powers would be holding seminars in the

colonial territories. This requires the good will gesture from the administering powers. Such seminars in the colonial lands will certainly raise the public awareness among the peoples about their rights and the available options and the necessary action they may take in this regard.

In closing, Madam Chairperson, we hope that the discussions in this seminar- as expected- can assist the Special Committee to make a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Iran as one of the representatives of Asian group in this seminar takes note, with eager and interest, of the views of the people of non-self governing territories with the view to better work in the Committee to realize the wishes and aspirations of millions of people living in the remaining 16 territories.

Thank you