



# **GRENADA**

**STATEMENT BY**

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FIRST SECRETARY**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Joint general debate on agenda items  
57-61: Decolonization Cluster**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished colleagues,**

At the outset, my delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you, **Mr. Chairman**, on your unanimous election as Chair of the Fourth Committee, and through you, the other members of the Bureau. We are confident with your stewardship we will have a successful session.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Grenada aligns itself with the statement delivered by Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on agenda item 54 – Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and agenda item 56 – Question relating to information. I have the further honour to take the floor in my national capacity to speak on agenda items 57-61: decolonization cluster.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Decolonization and the work of the Fourth Committee has extraordinary significance and is of great importance to Grenada, having travelled along the path of decolonization ourselves, 46 years ago to date. With this in mind, we welcome the opportunity to emphasize once again Grenada's firm and abiding commitment to the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the work of this Committee to achieve decolonization. We also underscore our unyielding support for the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and in particular, place on record Grenada's firm commitment to General Assembly resolutions asserting the need for an end to colonialism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the start of the decolonization process, almost a third of the world's population lived in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Today, we have 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on the agenda of the Committee. The decolonization of over 80 territories is evidence of the effectiveness of the United Nations and this Committee. But, it must also be acknowledged that the decolonization process has significantly slowed.

However, all is not lost, Mr. Chair. Grenada highlights the recently held second self-determination referendum in New Caledonia on 4 October 2020, in accordance with the 1998 Nouméa Accord, which is indeed a positive step forward in the ongoing self-determination process of the Territory.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Grenada further notes with great satisfaction the successful dispatch of a visiting mission by the Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) to our sister CARICOM member, Montserrat, in December 2019. My delegation welcomes the report of the mission contained in document A/AC.109/2020/20 and highlights the conclusions and recommendations therein.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With regard to Western Sahara, Grenada continues to convey its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General in advancing the political process. Grenada expresses its unwavering support for the ongoing political process—committed to by the Security Council since 2007—aimed at attaining a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, based on compromise, to the Western Sahara dispute, as recommended by the resolutions of the Security Council, including Security Council Resolution 2494, adopted on 30 October 2019.

In that vein, Grenada steadfastly supports the roundtable meetings held in 2018 and 2019, with the participation of Morocco, the Frente Polisario, Algeria and Mauritania therein, and encourages the incoming Personal Envoy to sustain the roundtable process, in order to achieve a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution based on compromise, as the need for which was emphasized in Security Council Resolution 2494.

We also welcome the Autonomy Initiative presented by Morocco, on 11 April 2007, a viable proposal to put an end to this dispute; and we, likewise, note the Security Council “welcoming serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward towards resolution;”

My delegation underscores, as recognized by the Security Council, that “achieving a political solution to this long-standing dispute and enhanced cooperation between the Member States of the Maghreb Arab Union would contribute to stability and security, in turn leading to jobs, growth and opportunities for all the peoples in the Sahel region.”

**Mr. Chairman,**

It should not go without notice that most of the remaining territories are small islands in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. One of the many factors which small island Non-Self-Governing Territories share with other SIDS of the Caribbean and Pacific is the vulnerability to natural disasters, and in particular, the effects of increasingly violent hurricanes and cyclones as a result of climate change.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It also cannot go without notice that this meeting is taking place against the backdrop of an ongoing global pandemic and the further resulting challenges. The vulnerability and peculiar susceptibilities compounded by the current COVID-19

pandemic have the potential to considerably disrupt the sustainable development of many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In this context, like so many small island developing States, many of our sister Territories are historically dependent on tourism, with economic activities frequently dominated by this particular industry and, for many, serves as the main contributor to their GDP. The threat of COVID-19 can cut to the heart of their economic survival and can carry serious impediments to any effort toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In closing **Mr. Chairman,**

The world is aware that the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly marks a major milestone of this organization that have charted and guided international affairs.

This year (2020) also marks the 60th anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Adopted by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960). And 30 years have elapsed since the start of the First International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

As the UN celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, my delegation looks forward to the UN declaring the period of 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and calls on the international community to lend its fullest and broadest support thereto. We must mobilise all our efforts to complete the unfinished decolonization agenda consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Indeed, it is our collective responsibility to move forward with an increased sense of urgency and with assurance that whatever the challenge, our common political will with actions must remain the overarching guiding principles that ushers us to work purposefully together in this esteemed institution of the United Nations, to adopt contemporary measures to produce tangible results to achieve genuine decolonization.

I thank you.

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