

**Distr. RESTRICTED**  
**CRS/2024/CRP.27**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
pursuing goals and addressing needs of  
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**  
**14 to 16 May 2024**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF**

**SIERRA LEONE**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. AMARA SOWA**

**AMBASSADOR & DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ON**

**WESTERN SAHARA**

**C24 CARIBBEAN SEMINAR**

**CARACAS, VENEZUELA**

**15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

(Please check against delivery)

228 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017  
2126884985 | [sierraleone@pmun.net](mailto:sierraleone@pmun.net) | [www.slmissionun.gov.sl](http://www.slmissionun.gov.sl)

**Madam Chair,**

1. Thank you for the commendable way you are steering this seminar.
2. On the “**Question of Western Sahara**” Sierra Leone expresses its unwavering support for the ongoing **United Nations political process** under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and the facilitation of his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara **Mr. Staffan De Mistura** aimed at reaching a realistic, practicable, mutually acceptable, and durable political solution based on compromise.
3. Given the dynamics of the conflict, we are of the view that a **resumption of the roundtable process**, in the same format and with the same participants in accordance with Security Council resolution 2703 will enhance communication and lead to a peaceful settlement of the dispute. Therefore, it is imperative to find all possible ways to resolve the impasse by leveraging the relevant Security Council resolutions adopted since 2007.

4. Accordingly, Sierra Leone supports the **Moroccan Autonomy Initiative** which the Security Council has described as serious and credible to move the process forward in its successive resolutions since 2007.
  
5. Sierra Leone welcomes the **socio-economic and infrastructural development in the Western Sahara**, which has led to the empowerment of the population and improvement of the Human Development indexes in the region. We welcome the participation in this seminar, elected representatives of the Western Sahara, democratically elected on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
  
6. My delegation affirms its support to **MINURSO** and its contribution to creating and maintaining calm and stability in the region, particularly the facilitation of negotiations for advancing the political process. We emphasize the need for parties to the conflict to continue supporting the Mission in the performance of its ceasefire monitoring duties as mandated by Security Council resolution 2703. We acknowledge the progress made in

strengthening cooperation and communication with MINURSO which has improved the Mission's operational capability.

7. Further, parties to the conflict are encouraged to pursue their efforts towards maintaining the **ceasefire agreement** and we reject any renunciation of this agreement from any quarter, which will be a violation of resolutions adopted by the Security Council and an impediment to a conducive environment needed for the resumption of the political process.

8. We also call on parties to the conflict to refrain from actions or attacks that threaten the **safety and security of all civilians and UN personnel**, noting that the safety and security of civilians and UN personnel is non-negotiable. We encourage the parties to sustain and prioritize their respective efforts to enhance the **promotion and protection of the human rights of all persons**.

9. We therefore **commend** the steps and initiatives taken by the **Kingdom of Morocco**, and the role played by the National Council on Human Rights Commissions operating in Dakhla and Laayoune,

and the Kingdom Morocco's interaction with Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council as highlighted in Resolution 2703.

10. The humanitarian situation of the refugees in the Tindouf camps and elsewhere should be given due attention by ensuring that the basic needs of refugees are met and that their rights are respected. We support the strong request by the Security Council resolution 2703 (PP23) for registration in the Tindouf refugee camps and emphasize the importance for efforts to be made in this regard.

11. Let me close by calling on parties to the conflict to engage in the ongoing political process in good faith and in the spirit of compromise.

**I thank you.**