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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
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Statement by
H.E. Ms. Zahra Ershadi
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
Before Caribbean Regional Seminar of the Special Committee C-24
Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 14-16 May 2024

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Madam Chair,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt gratitude on behalf of my delegation for the gracious hosting of this regional seminar by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We are deeply appreciative of the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

Madam Chair,

Despite more than six decades passing since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly, we continue to grapple with multifaceted issues worldwide. This persistence can be attributed to certain countries' reluctance to relinquish power, leading them to exert significant pressure on the Non-Self-Governing territories, thereby obstructing the implementation of the declaration.

Furthermore, these same administering powers adapt their policies, often mirroring their historical colonial practices, to advance their political objectives. This paradox underscores the persistence of power dynamics rooted in colonial legacies, ushering in a new phase of decolonization on a global scale.

Madam Chair, when addressing colonialism, it's crucial to acknowledge the enduring colonial policies inflicted by the Israeli regime on the Palestinian people for over seven decades. The Zionist regime, acting as a colonial entity and occupying power, persists in expanding its occupied territories through settlement construction which violates the basic right to self-determination, as outlined in the UN Charter.

The intentional killing of over 35,000 Palestinian civilians, predominantly women and children, alongside the injury of tens of thousands more, underscores the gravity of the Israeli regime's colonial policies. These policies have led to the forced displacement of Gaza's population and the deliberate destruction of crucial infrastructure, including hospitals, mosques, churches, educational centers, and cultural sites, affecting over 70% of residential areas. Such acts constitute severe international law violations for which the Israeli regime bears full responsibility.

Madam Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its full support to the activities and the hard work of the Special Committee and continues to contribute to the efforts aiming at eradication of colonialism. We believe that the Special Committee on decolonization should enhance its efficiency in order to adopt a more effective working method, improve its interaction and cooperation with Administering Powers, and ensure the active participation of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in determining their own future.

In conclusion, Madam. Chair, I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support to you and to the work of the committee.

I thank you,