

**Distr. RESTRICTED**  
**CRS/2024/CRP.8**

**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. MR. AMARA SOWA**

**AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT**

**OPENING SESSION**

**THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION**

**14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Caracas, Venezuela**

(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.slmission.gov.sl](http://www.slmission.gov.sl)

**Madam Chair,  
Excellencies  
Representatives from the Administering Powers  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Allow me to express appreciation, through you, to the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, for consenting to host this year's Caribbean Regional Seminar, four years into the "Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021-2030)". We are pleased with the courtesies accorded us and the facilities placed at our disposal. We look forward to experiencing the warmth and beauty of this historic city of Caracas.
2. Our participation in this Seminar renews my delegation's commitment to the UN Charter, provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) and all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly that guides the work of the Special Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities to the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. This year, our discussion is guided by the theme "***Pursuing goals and addressing needs of the Non-Self Governing Territories.***" It reflects our collective ambition to ensure that the peoples of the

Non-Self-Governing Territories are heard, respected and catered for. As we engage in this dialogue with Administering Powers, inhabitants of these territories, and relevant experts we have the responsibility to examine each territory on a case-by-case basis in accordance with relevant UN resolutions on the respective subjects.

- 4.** Addressing the needs for the Non-self-Governing Territories, means, a holistic assessment of the political, social, economic and environmental challenges faced by these territories. We should continue to rally the needed support from the international community and remind Administering powers of their obligations to the people.
- 5.** My delegation acknowledges the importance of this seminar which continues to be one of the most effective multilateral platforms for constructive and open discussions aimed at accelerating the decolonization agenda.
- 6.** We encourage all stakeholders to use this opportunity to reflect on the gains made and prioritize actions that will address the Territories unique challenges, especially their vulnerabilities to

climate change and gaps in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**7.** In conclusion, I hereby reaffirm my delegations strong support to the work of the Committee and stress that joint action is needed to address the challenges facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories as we guide them through the process of their political choice.

I thank you.

