

**General Assembly  
73<sup>rd</sup> session  
Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. BASHAR JA'AFARI  
(SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC), RAPPORTEUR OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING  
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

**New York, Monday, 8 October 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Fourth Committee of the 73rd session of the General Assembly. I also extend my congratulations to the other members of the bureau and wish you all a productive session.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

As Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Decolonization, a.k.a. the C-24, I have the honor to introduce the C-24's report on its work during its 2018 session, A/73/23. The report comprises thirteen chapters and two annexes. This year's report follows the structure of the recent annual reports of the C-24 since 2013, hence I shall be brief.

**Chapter I** provides a general account of the work of the C-24 in its 2018 session and includes future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2019. **Chapters II to VII** focus on the following specific themes: Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism [which ends in 2020]; dissemination of information on decolonization; question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories; information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the United Nations Charter; economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; and, lastly, implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. **Chapters VIII through XII** covers the C-24's consideration of the questions of 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, namely, American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

The final chapter, **Chapter XIII**, contains 19 draft resolutions the C-24 adopted as the recommendations to the Fourth Committee for the latter's consideration and action.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to underscore that during the year 2018, the C-24 continued to discharge its responsibilities and considered developments in the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and Puerto Rico, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions. At the Pacific regional seminar held in St. George, Grenada, in May, the C-24 focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and social, economic and environmental challenges in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In June session, following careful consideration of the agenda before the C-24, all resolutions and decisions were adopted by consensus, the C-24's *modus operandi*.

Therefore, it is a great honour for me to hereby present to the Fourth Committee the recommendations contained in the Committee's 2018 report. It is my hope that members of the Fourth Committee will consider those recommendations favourably.

With the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining on the United Nations' list, decolonization is not a thing of the past. New Caledonia is a case in point. In less than a month from today, on 4 November, New Caledonia will conduct a referendum on self-determination, pursuant to Nouméa Accord of 1998. People in New Caledonia will decide whether New Caledonia should assume full sovereignty and become independent. In March, the C-24 dispatched its visiting mission to New Caledonia to assess at first hand the implementation of Nouméa Accord, including the preparation for this upcoming referendum. The report of the C-24 reminds us of the need to sustain the decolonization efforts in New Caledonia and the same applies to all other Territories under consideration. Advancing the decolonization agenda is our collective responsibility. Let us reaffirm our commitment to the cause of decolonization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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