



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY
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AT THE

4TH COMMITTEE MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM 60.
“Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples”

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election, and assure you of Uganda's full support and cooperation.

Indeed my delegation has no doubt that you will steer the work and expectations of the 4th committee diligently.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of completing decolonization. It is indeed unfortunate that, in this century, the charter of the United Nations has not been fully respected and violations of human rights and all sorts of atrocities are still being committed by the occupying territories in the world and Africa in particular. It is therefore more timely than ever before to ensure decolonization is completed.

Secondly, the right of self-determination is not a mere right but an inalienable right. There is a general consensus amongst scholars that the right to self-determination means that all peoples have the ultimate authority without adjourning their self-determination and without any other interference in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. This right is considered as an important principle of international contemporary positive law. Therefore, self-determination is a right rather than a simple principle of the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman

The peoples of the occupied territories must be given an inalienable right to self-determination to be exercised by the establishment of an independent state, integration or association with other states. The outcome should be the result of the free choice by the people of the territory concerned and expressed through democratic processes.

It is imperative to note, the legal basis for the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination lies in the UN doctrine relating to decolonization and the continuing status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self Governing Territory. This entails that the Saharawi people have an inalienable right to self-determination and independence to be expressed in a free, fair and democratic manner in line with the UN resolutions.

It is thus important to note that Western Sahara remains the only remaining colony on the African continent and as it has been on the United Nations list. As stated the UN recognized the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and independence. Therefore, the continuous colonial occupation of Western Sahara constitutes a challenge to the principles of the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to self-determination, decolonization and the sanctity of colonial borders, respect for human right and humanitarian support, International legality and the centrality of the United Nations, Non-exploitation of natural resources of the illegally occupied territory must be respected. It is in this context that Uganda supports the inalienable right of the Western Sahara people to self-determination and finds regrettable of the countless violations of United Nations and African Union resolutions and decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

On Palestine issue, Uganda has always been a supporter of the two state solution and therefore urges the Parties to resume dialogue since Peaceful Settlement of disputes is fundamental to comprehensive security, stability and development.

Mr. Chairman

Thirdly and in conclusion, strengthening strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations has always been earmarked as very crucial but its realization has been rather slow. The African Union has played an important role on the continent and therefore the decisions reached should be respected by the United Nations once agreed upon by the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government.

I thank you for your attention.