



BANGLADESH

Statement under General Debate on all Agenda Items on Decolonisation at the Fourth Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

Statement by: Mr. Tareq Md. Ariful Islam, Deputy Permanent Representative

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Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. You may count on my delegation's full support in discharging your responsibilities.

The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, runs to contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, and undermines international peace and security.

Bangladesh unequivocally subscribes to this notion, in line with its Constitutional obligation that stipulates support for, and I quote, "*oppressed peoples throughout the world waging a just struggle against imperialism, colonialism or racialism*".

Here, I recall the words of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his maiden speech at the UN General Assembly in 1974 following Bangladesh's independence, and I quote, "The very struggle of Bangladesh symbolized the universal struggle for peace and justice...The right to self-determination which the Charter of the United Nations promised could be redeemed only through the supreme sacrifice of millions of valiant freedom fighters in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The struggle still continues against the illegal occupation of territory by aggression, against the use of force to negate the legitimate rights of peoples, and against the practice of racial discrimination and apartheid... The process of decolonization, through greatly advanced, has yet to reach its ultimate goal."

In keeping with those words that still resonate with the current realities, Bangladesh reiterates its full support for the aspiration of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and relevant UN resolutions. Further, we support the fundamental and inalienable rights of all

peoples to self-determination, in particular those belonging to non-self-governing territories and other territories under foreign occupation and colonial domination.

The Declaration of Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries had been adopted in 1960. Till date, we have 17 non-self-governing territories around the world. We reaffirm our support for the UN's continued efforts towards decolonization pursuant to spirit of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism designated during 2021-2030. We continue to support the work of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization, i.e. C-24, and look forward its constructive deliberations and far-reaching outcomes in the days ahead.

In this connection, we recall the responsibilities of the Administering Powers under the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions for promoting the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the non-self-governing territories. We urge the Administering Powers to extend their cooperation to C-24 in discharging its mandated responsibilities, and where applicable, facilitate the Committee's field missions in the territories under their administration. We further recommend the Administering Powers to develop time-bound programmes of work on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the relevant UN Resolutions and C-24 mandate, and regularly comply with their reporting obligation under Article 73(e) of the UN Charter.

The comprehensive and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states, and I quote, "further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment." In our shared commitment to "leave no one behind", the UN must continue to work towards meaningfully addressing the challenges faced by peoples of non-self-governing territories and territories under foreign occupation in their legitimate political, economic, social and educational advancement.

In this context, we particularly highlight the need for educational and training assistance for the students of non-self-governing territories. We appreciate those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and request others in a position to do so to follow suit.

I thank you.