

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF SAINT VINCENT  
AND THE GRENADINES DURING THE 2024 SESSION OF THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION (C-24), UNDER  
AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED “THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO”**

*New York, 20 June 2024*

**Madam President,**

1. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Madam President,**

2. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations have taken note of the 41 resolutions and decisions adopted by the “Special Committee of the United Nations on the Situation with regards to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24)” on the question of Puerto Rico.
3. They have also taken note of the declarations adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People’s Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), among other organizations and groupings, on the question of Puerto Rico.
4. In this context, we take this opportunity to recognize, on the one hand, the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and, on the other one, to emphasize that the people of Puerto Rico constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, which has its own unmistakable national identity.

**Madam President,**

5. We support the call of the “Special Committee of the United Nations on the Situation with regards to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24)” to the government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to promote a process that will allow the Puerto



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Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico.

6. Moreover, we reiterate our full support and solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico in their struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as well as our firm determination to continue participating in an active and constructive manner in all efforts aimed at advancing towards the achievement of a world free of colonialism, with a view to settling once and for all our pending debt with humanity regarding the definitive conclusion of the decolonization process around the world.
7. To conclude, the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations vows to spare no effort in preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the Charter of the United Nations. Hence, we reiterate the priority we attach to putting an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as our full support and solidarity with the Puerto Rican people in their struggle for the realization of their legitimate national aspirations in their free and independent State of Puerto Rico.

I thank you, Madam President.