



STATEMENT BY

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**TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING**

**THE JOINT GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DECOLONIZATION
ITEMS (50-61)**

AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

OF THE

75th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 2020

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon,

Let me begin by congratulating your Excellency, (Amb. Collen Vixen Kelapile) for your election to the chairmanship of the fourth committee and assure you and your bureau of Kenya's full support and cooperation. May I also acknowledge the statement by the PGA and also thank the other briefers for their comprehensive briefings. Kenya aligns herself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

Colonization and foreign domination under any pretext go against the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and are in contradiction with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960 is clear on all peoples' inalienable right to complete freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty, and the integrity of their national territory. Any alien suppression, domination, and or exploitation is therefore outdated and has no place in the contemporary world.

As we celebrate the 75th session of the General Assembly, we must take stock of the achievements the United Nations has made and the critical role this committee has played through the Special Committee on Decolonization in the liberation of colonial Countries and Peoples. Since the birth of the United Nations, more than 80 former colonies including my own country, Kenya, have gained independence. In spite of this significant progress, it is sad that the Special Committee still has 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) on its agenda. My delegation joins the call for a renewed commitment to the question of the granting of independence to colonial Countries and Peoples.

Mr. Chair,

Security Council resolution 690 (1991) established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), to implement the UN-OAU Settlement Plan. However, twenty-nine years later, It is regrettable that the people of Saharawi are yet to realize their liberation. Kenya fully supports any process that will enable the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly the holding of the referendum in Western Sahara. As we approach the end of the third international decade for the eradication of colonization, we must move with speed. Equally, Kenya supports the Middle East peace process, and urges the parties to work towards a lasting solution to the dispute in accordance with various international agreements and United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Chair,

Peacekeeping remains one of the key instruments available to UN in discharging its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Over 100,000 men and women are deployed in peacekeeping missions all over the world working day and night to bring and protect the vulnerable. The shift in the global strategic environment has also affected peacekeeping in different ways. The nature of the current conflicts compounded by violent extremism has made peacekeeping dangerous and more demanding. Peacekeepers today are operating in environments where they themselves are targets of the belligerents. My delegation joins others in thanking these men and women for their service and paying tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price for peace.

Mr. Chair,

The role of regional organizations in peace support operations cannot be overemphasized. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has largely succeeded in dismantling the AL Shaabab terror group in many parts of the country. However, the threat remains. The terror group still retains capacity for large scale terrorist attacks against AMISOM, the Federal Government of Somalia and countries within the region. Kenya supports the Somali Transition Plan, but cautions against a rushed process that risks eroding the gains already realized. To forestall the possibility of a total collapse of the security system therein, we call for the strengthening of AMISOM with UN full support including funding through assessed contributions to enable the mission achieve its mandate.

Mr. Chair,

Kenya believes that space science, applications and technologies have a great potential to help tackle major global challenges such as climate change, disaster management, food security towards the achievement of sustainable development goals. It is therefore critical that as we invest in space science, the benefits realized be made accessible to all.

In conclusion, we believe that decolonization is a matter of urgency and for this reason, all available options that align with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and the United Nations principles should be considered to ensure all Peoples attain self-determination.

I thank you.