



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO

Statement by the delegation of Mexico in the General debate on decolonization at the Fourth Committee of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, October 15, 2018.

*Check against delivery
Unofficial translation*

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico congratulates you on your recent appointment as Chairman of this Committee. You can count on the support of my delegation for the efficient and substantive development of your work.

Colonialism has not ended and it is not a fact of the past. After 73 years of the existence of the United Nations, the positive value and impact of the decolonization process, as one of the most important contributions of this organization to the current international society, is undoubtable. Nevertheless, the Non-Self-Governing-Territories, main object of the work of this commission, show us that United Nations still has much to do to conclude this task.

We have the obligation to comply with this pending goal and fully implement the spirit and letter of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as stated by Resolution 1514 (XV), as well as other UN General Assembly resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Among other issues addressed by this Commission, we should draw the attention of the General Assembly to the following issues, regardless of our active participation in the discussion of other relevant issues.

Mexico reiterates its recognition to the legal and historical validity of the right of the Republic of Argentina in the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands and their surrounding maritime spaces.

We also reiterate the importance of reaching a just, peaceful, definitive, and mutually accepted solution about the Malvinas, based on the declarations and resolutions adopted by this Organization.

As reflected in the Declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States on June 5, 2018, it is necessary that the governments of the Republic of Argentina and the one of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this prolonged controversy.

Mexico also reaffirms its support to the efforts to reach a peaceful, just, and lasting solution concerning the Western Sahara, in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, as well as the realization of a referendum which includes all the options to determine the destiny of the Saharahui people and which counts with the acceptance of the involved parties. As in previous years, we also call to take the necessary measures so that the MINURSO can operate at full capacity, under conditions of security, so that it can fulfill its mandate effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico reaffirms its commitment and hopes that the work of the Fourth Committee this year conclude with constructive proposals that reveal the support of the international community to resolve, by peaceful means, the pending decolonization issues.

Thank you very much.