



## **BONAIRE'S PATHWAY FROM BAKU THROUGH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

August 22, 2024 Baku, Azerbaijan

# Welcome Message

**Dear Conference Participants,**

On behalf of Baku Initiative Group in collaboration with Bonaire Human Rights Organization and Movement for Change, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the **"Bonaire pathway from Baku through United Nations General Assembly to Self-determination"**. As the leaders of these esteemed organizations, we are honored to have you join us for this pivotal gathering, where we will explore one of the most pressing issues of our time: Bonaire and its ongoing struggle for the right of self-determination.

This conference is dedicated to understanding and supporting Bonaire's journey towards self-determination—a fundamental human right enshrined in international law. As we delve into this critical theme, we aim to foster dialogue, build solidarity, and chart a path forward that respects the will of the people of Bonaire and their aspirations for autonomy and governance.

The struggle for self-determination is not just a political issue; it is a matter of identity, culture, and justice as our delegation will elaborate. Bonaire's experience reflects broader global dynamics where communities are striving for recognition and the power to shape their own futures. Your presence here is a testament to the importance of this cause, and we believe that the conversations and collaborations that will take place during this conference will contribute significantly to advancing Bonaire's rightful claims on the global stage.

Each of our organizations is committed to advocating for human rights, justice, and the principles of democracy. By uniting for this conference, we are amplifying the voices of those who seek freedom and self-governance, and we are contributing to a more just and equitable world.

We encourage you to engage deeply with the discussions and panels that have been carefully designed to maximize impact. This is more than just a conference—it is a movement toward meaningful change. Let us challenge ourselves to think critically, act boldly, and stand in solidarity with the people of Bonaire and all communities fighting for self-determination in the framework of decolonization process according to the relevant UN and NAM resolutions .

Thank you for joining us in this important endeavor. We look forward to the impactful ideas that will emerge and the collective actions we will take together. Welcome to the Bonaire Pathway through United Nations to Self-Determination, where together, we will make a difference.

Warm regards,

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Baku Initiative Group  
Executive Director  
**Mr. Abbas Abbasov**

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Bonaire Movement for Change  
Founder  
**Mr. James Finies**

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Bonaire Human Rights Organization  
President  
**Ms. Davika Bissessar Shaw**

# **The Dependency Studies Project**

## **Study and Analysis on Dependency Governance**

### **Assessment of self-governance sufficiency in conformity with internationally-recognised standards:**

### **Country Bonaire**

#### **SUMMARY**

Political, economic and social inequality continues to linger at the end of the first decade of the entering-into-force of the public entity/body status for Bonaire. This is one of the overall findings of the recent "Assessment of self-governance sufficiency in conformity with internationally-recognised standards" conducted by Dr. Carlyle Corbin, Senior Analyst of the global Dependency Studies Project (DSP). The Assessment utilised the specific set of Self-Governance Indicators designed to assess the balance of power between the Netherlands and Bonaire, and to gauge the level of Bonaire's political equality in accordance with international standards established for Integrated Jurisdictions.

#### **Right to Self-Determination**

The Assessment began with the broader question of whether Bonaire's political transition to public entity status was the result of a credible exercise of self-determination. On this point, the Assessment analysed the developments emerging from the 2004 referendum on political status options; the differing interpretations of the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Future Constitutional Status of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba; and the subsequent developments in the run-up to the 2010 Bonaire referendum held in December of that year.

It is recalled in the Assessment that the results of the 2010 referendum which overwhelmingly rejected the public entity status were not accepted by the Netherlands owing to the 50 per cent threshold of registered voters having not been met. However, the Assessment pointed to several delays in the referendum date originally scheduled for various times throughout 2010 with the vote only coming after the public entity status had gone into effect. The Assessment observed that the referendum postponements, along with the ultimate change of language of the referendum question, played a significant role in the low voter participation. According to DSP Senior Analyst Corbin, "a major obstacle was the disagreement over the voter eligibility included in the Bonaire Referendum Ordinance which was ultimately annulled by the Governor of the former Netherlands Antilles."

The Assessment went on to review the subsequent 2015 referendum in which the Bonaire

electorate, once again, overwhelmingly rejected the public entity status with the required percentage of voter participation achieved. Corbin noted that these results were not ACTED upon by the Netherlands, this time for the reason that the exercise was considered nonbinding.

The Assessment noted that the 2015 referendum had coincided with a Dutch five-year review of the public entity status, and was followed by the embedding of Bonaire (along with the other two public entities of Sint Eustatius and Saba) into the Dutch Constitution in spite of the 2015 referendum results and vocal opposition in the islands. The Assessment concluded that there remained serious questions about the legitimacy of the method by which the public entity status was imposed, and later entered into the Dutch Constitution, given the repeated disapproval of the people through democratic expression in multiple referenda.

The Assessment determined that the process was tantamount to unilateral annexation and violative of the inalienable right of the people of Bonaire to self-determination, and counter to the international legal principle of “*ex injuria jus non oritur*” (“unjust acts cannot create law”). The Assessment resolved that the imposition of the status on Bonaire amounted to “an involuntary annexation through partial integration of a people into a larger state without formal consent, against their expressed will, and irrespective of the applicability of international law on self-determination which has clearly been circumvented.” Accordingly, the Self-Governance Indicator on the right to self-determination was judged in the Assessment at the lowest level of 1 on the scale of 4 in recognition that while the principle of self-determination continued to apply to Bonaire, the position of the absorbing state (Netherlands) was that said right had been effectively extinguished.

### **Applicability of Laws**

The Assessment then proceeded to review compliance of the imposed status with minimum standards of equality through political integration. In this connection, the second of the three main SGIs applied to Bonaire examined the “extent and nature of applicability to the integrating jurisdiction of the laws and regulations of the absorbing state.” In this connection, the Assessment explored a wide array of official documents, academic analyses, scholarly writings, United Nations (U.N.) resolutions and other relevant material. Included in the research were analyses conducted by official Netherlands study groups, independent academic bodies, and international experts.

In this connection, the research revealed noteworthy difficulties and inconsistencies in the application of Dutch laws and regulations to Bonaire. As one Dutch academic pointed out, the people of Bonaire did not envisage having to implement Dutch laws which lacked popular support in Bonaire. The Assessment specified that under the public entity status the Dutch government has the unilateral authority to decide which external laws and regulations would be applied and which would not, and there was a decidedly insufficient consultation process in place to regulate such imposition. One academic study cited in the Assessment indicated that marginal improvement in consultation between the Dutch and Bonaire officials came only after the important unilateral changes have been made unilaterally in the run-up to the political transition to public entity status.

Accordingly, the SGI on the “Extent and nature of applicability to the integrating jurisdiction of the laws and regulations of the absorbing state” was measured at slightly above the lowest level of 1.5 on the scale of 4 reflective of an absolute unilateral authority of the Netherlands to apply laws and regulations to Bonaire in the ‘public entity’ status with only the modicum of consultation identified after the political status change.

### **Equal Status and Rights of Citizenship**

The third of three main SGIs assessing “equal status and rights of citizenship” was reviewed with extensive scrutiny of academic, political and other material available in the public domain to determine whether the international standards of political and economic equality had been met. In this connection, the Assessment observed that the public entity status did not provide the same democratic rights as that of Dutch municipalities with which the new arrangement was being compared at its beginning in 2010. The Assessment observed that Bonaire (Sint Eustatius and Saba) were placed under a separate article of the Dutch Constitution limited to ‘public bodies,’ confirming that they were not municipalities even as they were being referred to colloquially as ‘special municipalities.’

On the question of political representative which is often used to counterbalance otherwise unequal political status arrangements, the Assessment found that the public entity status of Bonaire also fell short with a lack of direct political representation within the Dutch Second Chamber. The Assessment noted that an electoral college was formed to facilitate public entity participation in the First Chamber, but that, overall, the level of political representation and participation of Bonaire (Sint Eustatius and Saba) in the political system of the absorbing state (Netherlands) did not meet the level of full political equality enjoyed by other integrated polities such as the French overseas departments.

From the perspective of economic equality, the Assessment noted that the geographic, cultural, and other differences between the Caribbean and European “parts of the Kingdom” were being used to justify the significantly lower living standards than those enjoyed in the ‘European part.’ In this regard, the research showed that social benefits in the “Caribbean part of the Kingdom (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba)” had been kept low, and that higher minimum wages and benefits had been considered undesirable for extension by the Netherlands to the Caribbean public bodies..

The Assessment emphasised that the lower standards of support came amid increasing economic challenges in Bonaire including higher trade deficits, declining GDP, considerable increases in housing prices, insufficient wage growth, higher prices, and other factors. The Assessment referenced the submission of a Dutch lawyers group to the “U.N. Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” that alluded to the application of a double standard with a significantly more expensive cost of living in the islands than in the Netherlands, but with the islands receiving receive lower benefits.

The Assessment highlighted the important social impacts of in-migration from the European Netherlands on the demographic composition of Bonaire, citing Netherlands statistics that between

2011-2017 persons from the European part of the Netherlands formed the largest group of migrants. The Assessment referenced longstanding U.N. resolutions that called on Member States to adopt the necessary measures to discourage or prevent such migration at the level that would disrupt the demographic composition of the territories under their administration, and that such practices contribute to the minoritisation of the indigenous population in their homeland. As cited in the Assessment, the Dutch lawyers group put it most succinctly:

“Whether called a democratic deficit or colonialism, it is clear that the current imbalance within the constitutional framework is a legacy of inferiority deriving from our colonial history. Although individuals do not always act according to these discourses in daily life, racialized discourses on national identity persists, often classifying ‘original’ Dutch Caribbean populations as distinct peoples. The historically grown constitutional imbalance is therefore susceptible to maintain racialized discourses and practices.”

Accordingly, the SGI on equal status, rights of citizenship and extent of political participation was measured at the lowest level of 1 on the scale of 4 reflective of limited voting rights and no effective representation in the absorbing state for the citizens of the integrated jurisdiction, along with the gross differential in access by Bonaire to economic and social programs.

### **Concluding Observations**

The Self-Governance Assessment of Bonaire concluded with the following observation:

“All things considered, the inalienable right to self-determination must lead to a transformational process of decolonisation and democracy – or it can be replaced with a distorted process resulting in the cruel hoax of colonial reform perpetuating the inequality that the process was supposed to replace. This was the case with respect to (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba). It is to be observed that dependency governance is not democratic governance, just as colonialism is not democracy. The ‘public body/entity’ renamed ‘territorial public body’ is one of several global dependency governance models erroneously projected in the 21st Century as forms of democracy, and applied in a fashion that circumvents the inalienable right to genuine self-determination under international law. This is how the scenario has evolved for Bonaire.”

Upon examination of the oeuvre of research, the Self Governance Assessment of Bonaire can only conclude that any projection of Bonaire as a model of democratic governance is illusory at best. Instead, what has been created is yet another form of 21st Century colonialocracy - deficient by all measures of democratic governance. However, whilst colonialism remains illegal, its illegality is often a matter of power, not justice. This is the fundamental challenge to the contemporary process of self-determination and its consequent decolonisation for island jurisdictions such as Bonaire.

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**Senior Analyst**  
**cgcorbinmon@yahoo.com**



On 14-16 May, 2024 "Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, Pursuing goals and addressing needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories", organized by the Special Committee on Decolonization was held in Caracas, Venezuela.

The Republic of Azerbaijan for the first time in its history has participated at this Regional Seminar.

## UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION (C-24)

### ASIA - PACIFIC



### AFRICA



### LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN



### EUROPE





**STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED**

(pages 16-19)

United Nations  Nations Unies

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**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
pursuing goals and addressing needs of  
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**  
**14 to 16 May 2024**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
**AZERBAIJAN**

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# UNITED NATIONS NON-SELF-GOVERNING-TERRITORIES

Administering power	Non Self-Governing Territory
France	French Polynesia (relisted in 2013) New Caledonia (relisted in 1986)
United Kingdom	Anguilla Bermuda British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Montserrat Pitcairn St. Helena Turks and Caicos Islands
United States	American Samoa Guam US Virgin Islands

## Our trajectory is to achieve the following

Netherlands	<b>Bonaire</b>
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## **BONAIRE'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND SELF-DETERMINATION – THE LEADERSHIP OF JAMES FINIES**

In 2004 James Finies, young commercial banker attended several governments organized public debates in Rincon and Jeugdhuis Jong Bonaire where he objected to the Referendum committee and its president on the concept of the planned status referendum. He subsequently echoed his reservations publicly on a live radio program

Youtube video on Bonaire's Fight for Justice and Self-Determination:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj3zKvE5hHw&t=7s>

On October 7, 2010 James Finies wrote a letter of objection to both Dutch and local government institutions

towards the illegal integration of the BES islands into the Dutch constitution. - 2012, 2017, and 2019 he organized a boycott of the Dutch Parliament elections on Bonaire. Our organization created a ballot box and a voting-center where the Bonerian citizens boycotted the Dutch elections by giving us their Dutch voters-cards in our protest ballot-boxes, which were publicly burned (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzyJXdUp-N0>).

In 2013, our foundation carried out a door-to-door signature drive and collected over 3500 signatures, representing over 20% of the Bonaire 2013 population requesting a referendum for Bonaire.

He filed several Human Rights complaints procedures with the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva.

Mr. Finies pleaded for international support at the 30th COPPPAL congress in Mexico through guidance Mr Rudy Croes of Aruba former Minister of Justice, resulting in the adoption of a resolution supporting Bonaire and Statia, which stipulated that COPPPAL would undertake actions to lobby the issue through their decolonization committee and other international forums.

In 2013 he organized a protest-event and in a personal private meeting with King Willem Alexander and Minister Plasterk he discussed Bonaire unlawful status and requested support for referendum and change of status.

After the King promised to help Bonaire, James Finies president NKBB received a written confirmation from the Netherlands' Minister Plasterk to respect Bonaire's self-determination rights and right to hold a referendum (see annex).

He organized several protests-events during the visits of Dutch government and parliament delegations to Bonaire.

A protest-march for 24-hours non-stop was held, starting from the south end of the island through all the neighborhoods of Bonaire to support the request for a referendum.

– James Finies carried out a protest action in the form of a sit-in, 24/7 for 222 consecutive days at the entrance of the Government building refused to leave until a referendum was given to the people of Bonaire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbzBcUtkjkY>.

He launched an aggressive awareness campaign to vote No in the referendum Bonaire 2015 which resulted in a record turnout of 62%, of which 65% voted rejecting the current status.

He founded the Caribbean Progressive Alliance with members from non-independent Countries and territories under the Dutch, French, British, USA, and Colombia. All the islands have different dependency arrangements and situations and, on a case by case basis, decolonization & reparation policies.

In 2016, we joined forces with Sint Eustatius government and civil society organizations.  
He filed an official complaint against Holland with ACS country members in Havana.

In 2016, he formed a delegation along with Davika Bissessar from Bonaire with the government of Statia to go to the UN, NY and had meetings with several country missions of the Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations in New York.

In 2016 James Finies spoke at UN C24 International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of NSGT meeting and denounced Holland's violations of self-determination and human rights  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jat9DEMzc2U>.

In 2016/2017 personal meeting with the 2 vice-chair and the chair of the C24 committees and met and communicated with all members of C24

In 2016 we were invited by the chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization and participated in Cultural activities for the NSGT at the UN.

In 2016 he wrote and filed an official complaint of the Dutch Human Rights violations with the Security Council and Secretary General Ban Ki Moon with regards to Holland contending for a seat in the Security Council.

In 2017 we were the co-coordinators of a conference in Sint Maarten of COPPPAL ``Unifying in Solidarity to eradicate colonialism in the American continent".

-In 2017 we visited the UN headquarters NY again to present NKBB's Green Paper to all Members of the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations and requested to adopt resolution to support our cause.

-In April 2018, NKBB organized a delegation to raise awareness on the illegal annexation of Bonaire and to object to the deposition of the Government of Sint Eustatius and meet at Caricom headquarters in Guyana with the Assistant -Secretary General Ambassador, Mr. Granderson.

In 2018, The Bonaire Green paper and the Sint Eustatius White paper were officially disseminated to all Caricom Member Countries.

-In May 2018, NKBB represented by James Finies, met with Caricom Secretary General Ambassador, Mr. Irwin La Rocque in the Bahamas at the COFCOR meetings.

-In 2018 NKBB went further and met with several Human Rights Organizations and Amnesty International in the Bahamas.

-NKBB met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Decolonization in Grenada at the 2018 UN C24 seminar and held historical meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Grenada who vowed to support Bonaire in their struggle.

In 2018, NKBB affiliated with the Grenada Human Rights Organization.

2018 In Barbados we met with leaders – who are now part of the government of Prime Minister Mrs. Mia Motley. We also met with Human Rights Organizations and Caribbean Peace Movement leaders and NKBB was invited to represent the Dutch Caribbean islands in the Caribbean peoples movement for integration and reparations trajectory.

International Conferences organized by James Finies and Davika Bissessar Shaw 2016 to 2023:

In 2016, the Conference ``The Political Future of the Dutch Administrated Caribbean” . speakers Dr. Carlyle Cobin – UN Expert, Manolo Pichardo -President of COPPPAL, Rudy Croes - Vice President of COPPPAL and speakers from Aruba, Curacao, Statia, SXM, San Andres and Puerto Rico.

In 2017, conference in Bonaire ``The Political Future of the Dutch - administered Caribbean II” was organized with speakers Dr. Carlyle Corbin UN Expert, and speakers from Puerto Rico, San Andres, Statia, SXM, Curacao, and Aruba.

In 2018, conference in Bonaire ``The Political Future and the Right of Self-determination of the Caribbean III” was organized with Dr. Carlyle Corbin - UN Expert and speakers from Curacao.

In 2019, conference in Bonaire “The Political Future, the Right of Self-determination and REPARATIONS of the Caribbean IV was organized with Dr. Carlyle Corbin - UN Expert, Speakers from Aruba, Curacao, Statia, San Andres, French Guiana, etcetera.

In 2020, conference in Bonaire “The Political Future, the Right of Self-determination and REPARATIONS of the Caribbean V”.

In 2021 – 2023 organized conference “The Political Future, The Right of Self-Determination and Reparations of the Caribbean

-In 2020, we established the executive committee NUKEB with the objective to regain the autonomy of Bonaire and Bonaire Human Rights organized inter-island seminar: Train the Trainer – Listing of Bonaire on the UN Non-Self-Government-Territories

In 2020, NKBB pre-launching of the book: Bonaire "Self-determination Denied"

-In 2020, we received the completed "Assessment of self-governance sufficiency in conformity with internationally-recognized standards: Country Bonaire".

-Organized in 2021, the anti-2nd chamber elections campaign on Bonaire with the result 77% boycott-protest no show action

2020 James Finies and Davika Bissessar Shaw founded Bonaire's first human rights organization: Bonaire Human Rights Organization

-In 2019, we commissioned the Corbin's group Dependency Studies Project to do Bonaire's Assessment. Bonaire people donate and fund an independent UN-accredited investigation report titled "Assessment of Self-Governance Sufficiency in conformity with internationally recognized standards: Country: Bonaire" by Dr. Carlyle G. Corbin from Dependency Studies Project. Similar reports have successfully supported the re-listing of French Polynesia in 2013 and deter the UK inquiry to return the British Virgin Islands to UK rule in 2022/2023

2022

1 June: -The three main Dutch constitutional and legal experts, Prof. Dr. Gert Oostindie, Prof. Gerhard Hoogers, and Dr. Wouter Veenendaal, were ordered in 2022 by Dutch government to fact-check our trajectory to be re-listed on the UN NSGT list. They officially reported to Dutch government of the erroneous and premature delisting in 1955 of Bonaire and the other Netherlands Antilles islands.

2022

Nos Ke Boneiru Bek/Bonaire Human Rights Organization granted NGO membership of Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean – COPPPAL

March 2023 - Historical meeting with Organization of East Caribbean States- OECS Director General Dr Jules in Castries, Saint Lucia

In the 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of OECS Authority in St Kitts & Nevis 18-19 June 2023 under leadership of Saint Vincent and Grenadines Prime Minister Gonsalves the meeting unilateral agreed to support Bonaire Case

June 2023 Participate in New York, United Nations Headquarters New York, in 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

Bonaire Human Rights Organization Foundation granted United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special Consultative Status as first in Bonaire's and possibly former Netherlands Antilles islands history : <https://esango.un.org/civilsociety/showProfileDetail.do?method=showProfileDetails&profileCode=686884>

Bonaire Human Rights Organization granted Associate Member of CARICOM Reparation Commission as first in Bonaire's and former Netherlands Antilles islands history with a formal relationship with CARICOM

December- The Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) commission a COPPPAL office in Bonaire in collaboration with Bonaire Human Rights Organization and PPU

December- James Finies announced founding and launching of civil-society Movement For Change and political party: Pueblo Progresivo Uni (PPU)

## 2022 to 2024

James Finies and Davika Bissessar undertake a pilgrimage of over 600 days, raising awareness throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, UN New York, and Europe. They seek solidarity and support for a UN General Assembly resolution to list Bonaire back on the UN NSGT. Countries visit/dialogue with leadership includes: Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Panama, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Suriname, Guyana, Barbados, St Vincent & Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Nicaragua, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Anguilla, US Virgin Islands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTX5nJVancM&t=243s>

December 2023 - COPPPAL in collaboration with Bonaire Human Rights establish on Bonaire first and only office in former Netherlands Antilles commissioned by Vice-Secretary General Jorge Carcia Cordova on behalf of COPPPAL President Alejandro Moreno Cardenas

## 2024

April 2024 – Participated in United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland in United Nations 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Permanent Forum of People of African Descent Conference

May 2024 -- Participate as COPPPAL International Observers in Santo Domingo Presidential Elections

May 2024 – Participate in Antigua & Barbuda in United Nations Small Islands Development States Conference

June 2024 – Participate as COPPPAL International Observers in Mexico General & Presidential Elections

June 2024 – Participate in United Nations New York, Conference Towards Independence and Fundamental Freedoms: C-24's Role in Ending Colonialism organized by Baku Initiative Group

July 2024 – Participate in Baku, Azerbaijan Congress of French Colonies organized by Baku Initiative Group

July 2024 – Baku, Azerbaijan founding together with more than 15 organizations from territories under French Colonialocracy - the International Liberation Front.



Baku Initiative Group Executive Director  
**Mr. Abbas Abbasov**

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The Baku Initiative Group's consistently raised and continues to raise awareness of global community about real situations on the ground in colonized regions in its comprehensive and successful activities. Our organization supports and will support actions on saving core values of equality and justice, and we strongly believe that we will make an essential contribution to the elimination of colonialism and neocolonialism through promoting and protecting relevant international law and principles.

Baku Initiative Group's held nearly 20 international events so far, dedicated to political, economic, and cultural consequences of the colonialism and gross violations of human rights in colonized regions.

Supporting Bonaire and other colonized countries until their independence gained is a moral responsibility for the sake of the humanity, legal responsibility for the sake of the international law!



## Note of Thanks

As this independent assessment concludes, the measure of self-governance of Bonaire does not conform to internationally-recognised standards. To address this shortcoming caused by the elaborate and disingenuous structure of the Charter and government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we the people of Bonaire are looking towards the international community to hold the Dutch state accountable.

After addressing our situation at the UN in 2016, we started the trajectory to be re-enlisted on the list of Non Self-Governing Territories. Every nation has its rights and being on this list that ours are given to us, through supranational mechanisms established by the United Nations.

By putting Bonaire on this list, the Dutch government is subjected to comply with article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulates that countries administering over a non self-governing territory must respect the culture of the people in the territory, treat the people justly, and ensure for their political, economic, social and educational advancement.

Furthermore, the administering country, the Netherlands in this case, has the responsibility to develop self-government in account with the political aspirations of the people, Bonaire in this case, and permit international bodies to assess the progress in the non-self-governing territory, with annual reports delivered to the UN.

Based on the result of the last referendum of 2015 whereas the Bonaire peoples rejected this state-structure and are being governed in a status not of their choosing, further since our peoples are being destitute and reduced to a minority on our island in less than a decade, a systematic eradication of the natives and taking into account the results of the Self-Governance Assessment of Bonaire, we are appealing for your support in our struggle.



"Support Bonaire to be listed on the Non Self-Governing Territories of the United Nations"

**James Finies**

**Leader Pueblo Progresivo Uni**

**Founder Movement For Change**

**Vice-President Bonaire Human Rights Organization**

United Nations



Nations Unies

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## **FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
pursuing goals and addressing needs of  
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)  
14 to 16 May 2024**

## **STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN**

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### **Déclaration**

Madame la Présidente,

Mesdames et Messieurs participants et invités,

Aujourd'hui est un moment historique pour la République d'Azerbaïdjan, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter. Pour la première fois, l'Azerbaïdjan participe au séminaire régional du Comité spécial de la décolonisation - C-24 - concernant l'application de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et aux peuples coloniaux. La partie azerbaïdjanaise exprime sa gratitude à la partie Vénézuélienne et à Mme la Présidente pour avoir accueilli ce séminaire et soutenu la participation de mon pays.

En fait, il s'agit d'une suite logique de la participation et de la contribution actives de l'Azerbaïdjan lors de sa présidence du Mouvement des Non-Alignés, en 2019-2023, et actuellement en tant que membre de la «Troïka».

Au début du mandat de l'Azerbaïdjan à la présidence du Mouvement des Non-Alignés, mon pays

a déclaré que ses priorités et ses activités seraient basées sur les Principes de Bandung. L'une des questions abordées lors de la Conférence de Bandung a été la lutte contre le colonialisme. Les participants à cette conférence ont indiqué que *« la soumission des peuples à l'assujettissement, à la domination et à l'exploitation étrangères constitue une négation des droits humains fondamentaux, est en contradiction avec la Charte des Nations Unies et est un obstacle à la promotion de la paix et de la coopération internationales. Le colonialisme, dans toutes ses manifestations, constitue un mal auquel il doit être mis fin rapidement »*.

En 2006, le 14e Sommet du Mouvement s'est tenu à La Havane, à Cuba, et la «Déclaration sur les buts et principes du Mouvement des Non-Alignés et son rôle dans la conjoncture internationale actuelle» a été adoptée.

Dans cette déclaration, les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement, inspirés par les Principes de Bandung, ont déclaré que l'Objectif du Mouvement dans la situation internationale actuelle était de *«coordonner les actions et les stratégies afin de lutter conjointement contre le colonialisme»*.

L'Azerbaïdjan est extrêmement préoccupé par la persistance du colonialisme au XXIe siècle et par les tendances croissantes à de nouvelles manifestations du colonialisme. À cet égard, l'Azerbaïdjan salue et soutient le rôle du Comité C-24, ainsi que le séminaire qui se tient aujourd'hui sur le thème «Poursuivre les objectifs et répondre aux besoins des Territoires non Autonomes».

L'Azerbaïdjan a promu les valeurs du multilatéralisme dans le cadre de sa présidence du Mouvement des Non-Alignés, qui rassemble 120 pays, et a, à cette fin, favorisé la création de réseaux de parlementaires, de jeunes et de femmes sous l'égide du Mouvement des Non-Alignés.

Pendant sa présidence du Mouvement des Non-Alignés, la République d'Azerbaïdjan a également joué le rôle de locomotive dans la lutte contre les nouvelles tendances coloniales.

Notre État a appelé la communauté internationale à ne pas fermer les yeux sur cette pratique répugnante de néocolonialisme conduisant à l'assimilation forcée, notamment dans des outre-mer de France, et a initié une nouvelle vague contre le néocolonialisme.

Le fait que le Président de la République d'Azerbaïdjan, S.E. M. Ilham Aliyev, ait régulièrement abordé ce sujet dans des forums internationaux prestigieux et ait promu la question de l'abolition complète du colonialisme au nom de la justice et du droit international, a été apprécié par les peuples vivant sous des conditions coloniales dans le passé et aujourd'hui.

Le 6 juillet 2023, à Bakou, une conférence internationale ayant pour thème «L'élimination complète du colonialisme» a été organisée dans le cadre de la réunion ministérielle du Bureau de coordination du Mouvement des Non-Alignés.

À l'issue de cette conférence, les participants ont décidé de poursuivre et de renforcer la lutte jusqu'à l'éradication complète du colonialisme et la libération de leurs peuples, afin d'élaborer une nouvelle approche des relations internationales fondée sur la coopération mondiale, le respect de l'égalité et de la souveraineté des peuples.

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## **FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
pursuing goals and addressing needs of  
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)  
14 to 16 May 2024**

## **STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN**

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### **Déclaration**

Madame la Présidente,

Mesdames et Messieurs participants et invités,

Les mesures prises par l'Azerbaïdjan dans le sens de la décolonisation au cours des dernières années ont suscité une grande confiance dans les nations, y compris dans les territoires d'outre-mer de la France, qui tentent de se libérer du colonialisme, et dans les États et territoires qui souffrent encore du néocolonialisme, même après avoir obtenu leur indépendance.

Pour mener une lutte institutionnelle et orientée vers les résultats contre le colonialisme, dans le cadre de la réunion ministérielle qui s'est tenue à Bakou, une ONG internationale appelée Groupe d'Initiative de Bakou (GIB) a été créée sur la base de la proposition des participants.

Au cours des dix derniers mois de sa création, GIB a organisé une dizaine de conférences internationales. Trois conférences ont eu lieu au siège des Nations unies à New York, Genève et Vienne. Une conférence s'est tenue à Istanbul, en Türkiye, tandis que les autres conférences ont eu lieu à Bakou, la capitale de l'Azerbaïdjan.

Le 25 mars dernier, GIB a participé à la troisième conférence du réseau parlementaire du Mouvement des Pays Non Alignés en tant qu'invité spécial.

C'est pourquoi les partisans de l'indépendance de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, de la Polynésie française, de la Guyane, de la Martinique, de la Guadeloupe, de Wallis et Futuna, de la Corse, ainsi que de Mayotte, les dirigeants politiques, les députés, les experts, etc. participent activement aux événements organisés par le GIB en Azerbaïdjan et à l'étranger et font entendre leur voix auprès de la communauté internationale.

D'éminents experts, historiens, représentants de groupes de réflexion des anciennes colonies françaises telles que l'Algérie, le Maroc, la Tunisie, le Sénégal, Haïti, le Niger, le Mali, le Cameroun et d'autres, ainsi que des spécialistes des études coloniales, des professeurs d'université et des représentants d'ONG de divers pays du monde, participent activement aux événements de GIB et y apportent leur contribution.

En raison de la politique de décolonisation de l'Azerbaïdjan, les graves répercussions du colonialisme et du néocolonialisme, ainsi que les graves violations des droits fondamentaux auxquelles sont confrontées les personnes vivant sous la domination coloniale, la restriction délibérée des libertés des personnes, la politique d'assimilation délibérée sont portées à l'attention de la communauté internationale. Ces questions sont discutées dans des instances internationales telles que les Nations unies, le Mouvement des Non-Alignés et d'autres.

À cet égard, mesdames et messieurs participants au séminaire, j'attire votre attention sur les adresses du Président de l'Azerbaïdjan aux participants des événements organisés par le GIB en octobre et novembre 2023 à Bakou sur les thèmes du «Néocolonialisme : violations des droits de l'homme et injustice» et de la «Décolonisation : L'autonomisation et le développement des femmes». Il peut être souligné en toute confiance que ces adresses, diffusées en tant que documents officiels de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies et du Conseil de sécurité, peuvent contribuer aux activités du Comité C-24.

L'Azerbaïdjan réitère son intérêt pour une coopération étroite avec le Comité C-24, notant que les activités du Comité jouent un rôle important dans la mise en œuvre réussie de la 4ème Décennie internationale de l'élimination du colonialisme.

En conclusion, j'invite le Comité C-24 et ses pays membres à collaborer étroitement avec le Groupe d'Initiative de Bakou dans la lutte contre le colonialisme et le néocolonialisme. En outre, l'Azerbaïdjan pourrait accueillir la prochaine réunion du Comité C-24.