



## **Reassessing The Political Status of Disputed and Non-Self-Governing Territories**

Country: Kingdom of the Netherlands

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The Kingdom of the Netherlands, as a former colonial power, recognizes that Non-Self-Governing Territories present difficult issues that directly affect the daily lives and political rights of their populations. Territories such as Western Sahara, Guam, and New Caledonia face uncertainty, limited participation, and weak protection of human rights. As the host country of the International Court of Justice, basing on historical experiences, the Netherlands supports that lasting solutions includes peaceful dialogue, respect for international law and cooperation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands also underlines the importance of the peace at the disputed zones. Therefore, international law should serve as the main political base for determining the political status of disputed territories.

While addressing the importance of the right to self-determination, the Netherlands does not believe that referendums should be applied automatically in every situation. Referendums are not a solution for every disputed territory alone. Therefore, the Netherlands supports United Nations-supervised referendum processes. It is also important that any referendum be followed by a clear post-referendum system to reduce the risk of instability and dependency. Furthermore, economic strength alone does not equate to full autonomy. As supported by ICJ, the will of population must be effective and genuine in governance.

The Netherlands supports and recommends a balanced attempt that strengthening democratic processes also improving the daily living conditions of local populations. In this way, local elections managed under United Nations supervision should take place in an equitable, independent and secure environment. The application of international electoral standards, the existence of independent audience, and the provision of institutional support are the key elements in ensuring credible elections.

In addition, development and financial assistance should be tailored according to the specific needs of each region. In arid and high-temperature areas, investments in renewable energy—particularly solar power—can contribute to long-term energy security. In other regions, priority should be given to humanitarian aid such as access to clean water, healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure. These investments should

aim to support reconstruction rather than long-term dependency and should not try to change the final political status of any region.