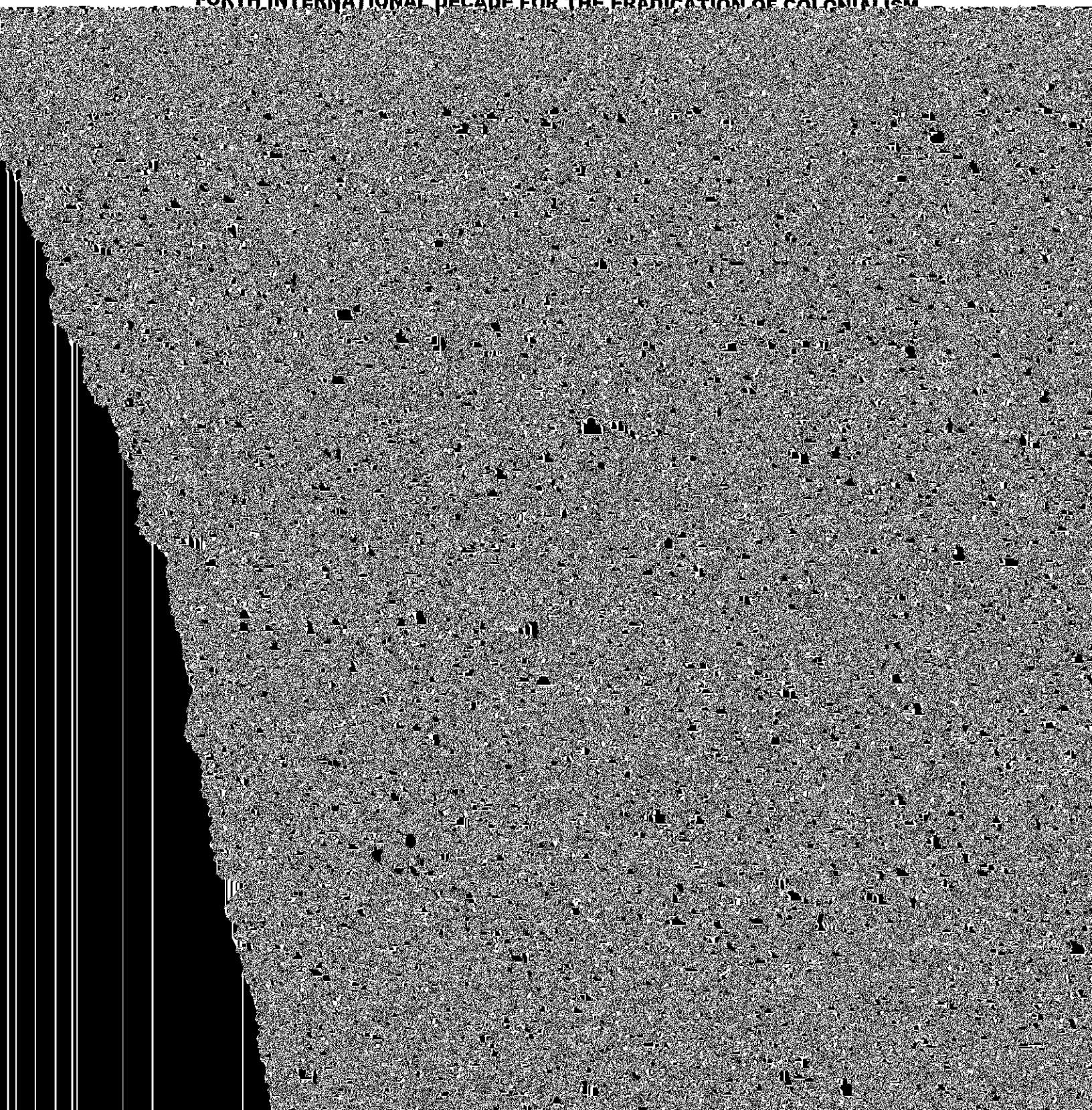


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FORTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM



Madam Chair, Excellency's and distinguished participants,

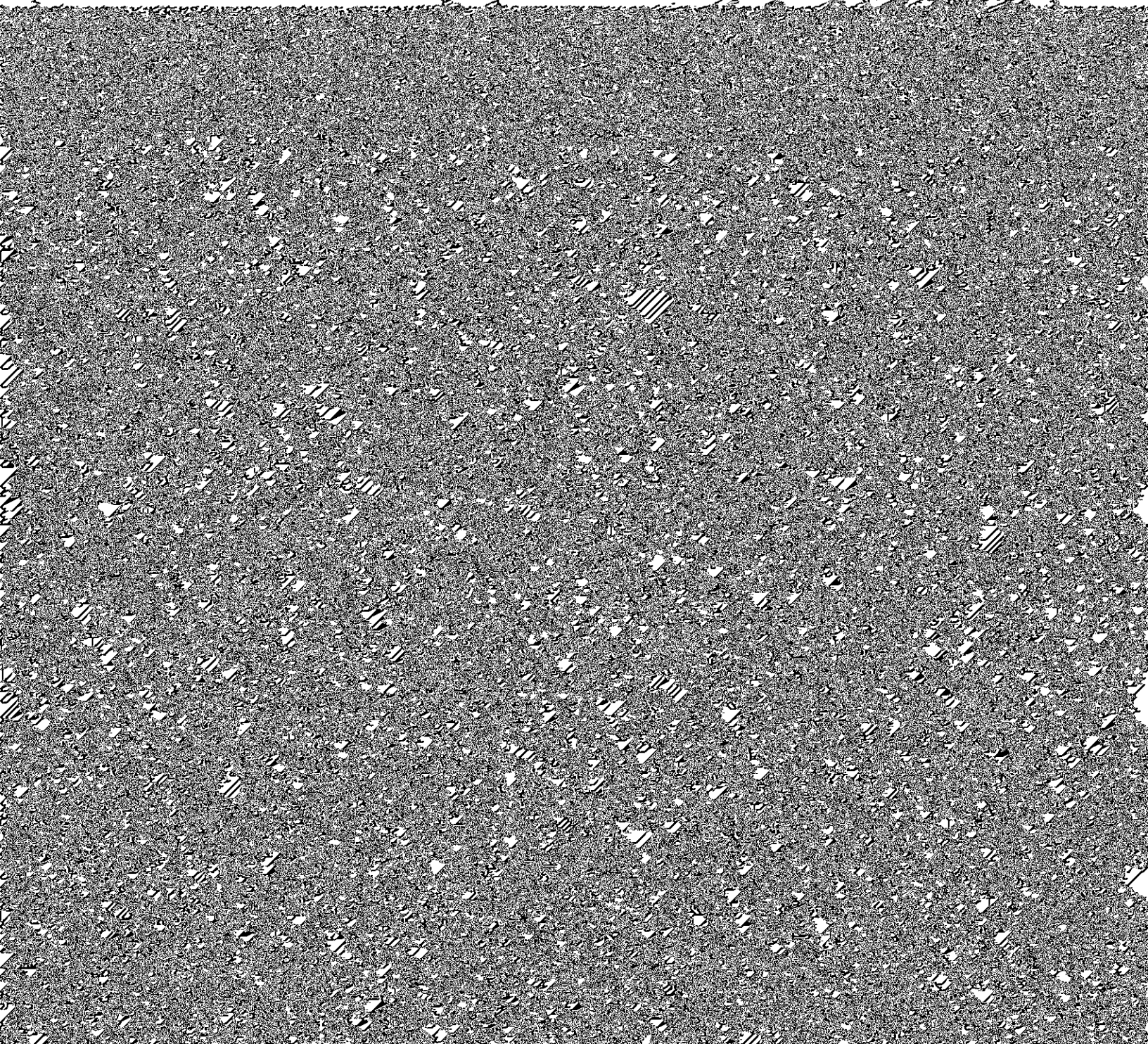
What a breath of fresh air it is, away from the cold concrete jungle of New York and to be charmed by the warmth of the Eastern Caribbean and the Atlantic Ocean, at the home of the "Helen of the West Indies" and the only country in the world named after a woman – Saint Lucia

It is pleasing to note that amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic the impressive turnout of participants for this Seminar, from the far reaches of our global village, from the Blue Pacific, South

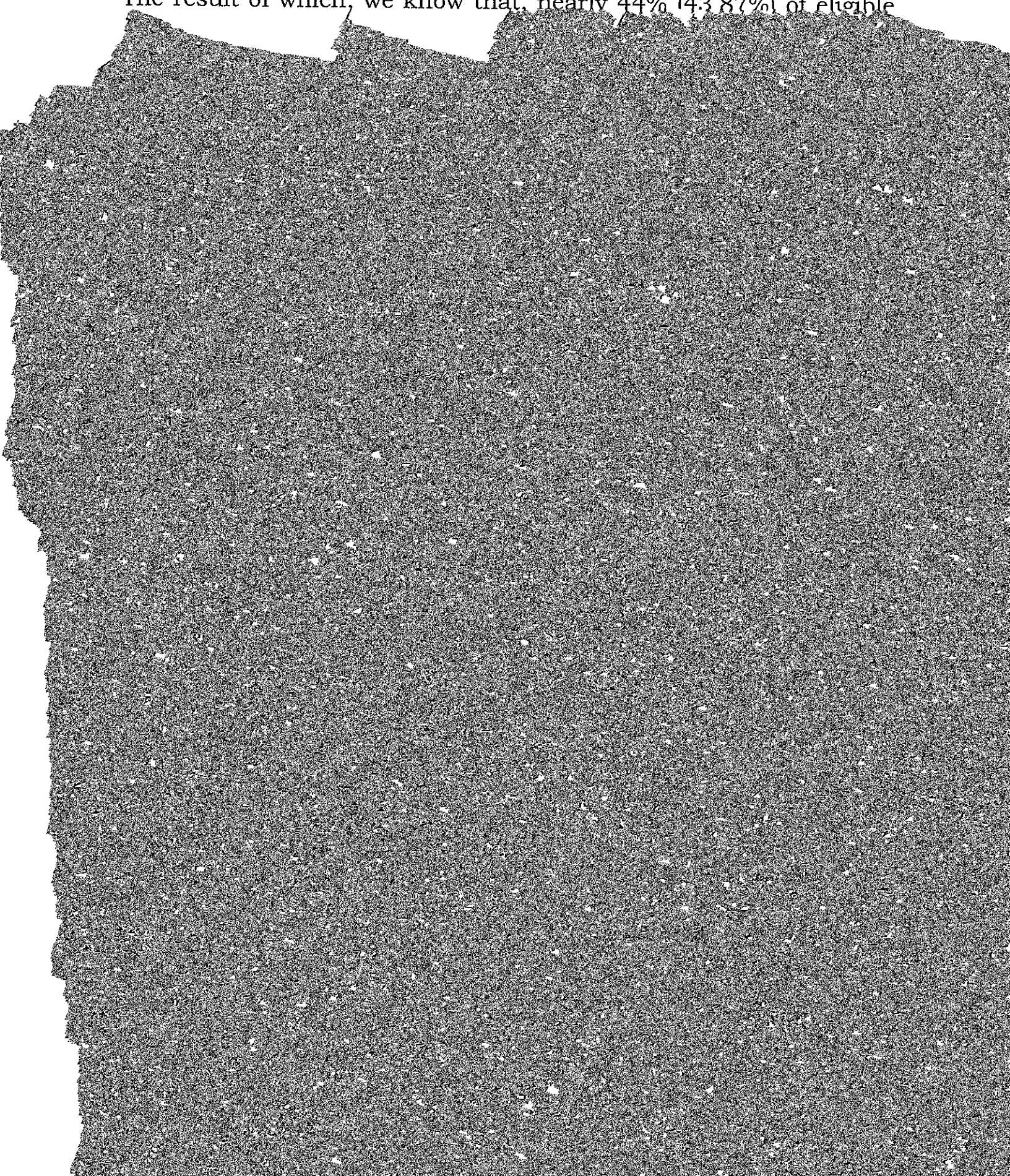
Mr Chair, this Seminar's theme is most timely and pertinent.

Today, the world is awash with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to pose serious challenges to whole of humanity. No-one is safe until everyone is safe!

In the context of this Seminar, the continuing dire impacts of COVID-19 on nearly 2 million peoples in the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories – in their lives and livelihoods, socio-economic development, human rights, freedoms and dignity and their natural



The result of which, we know that, nearly 44% (43.87%) of eligible



By doing so, the Special Committee can be better informed on the realities on the ground in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.