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FORTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond

Castries, Saint Lucia

11 to 13 May 2022

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF ANGOLA**

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR JOÃO
GIMOLIECA, DEPUTY-PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE OCCASION OF PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF
COLONIALISM**

11-13 MAY 2022
CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madam Chair,

Allow me at the outset to express on behalf of the Republic of Angola, our appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Saint Lucia, for hosting this important meeting in this difficult period where the world is just recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, madam chair, on your leadership as well as the other members of the bureau for the excellent work develop thus far.

Madame Chair,

As we meet once again to share views to assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical means that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process, my delegation renews its commitment to the Right of People to Self-determination, which is a fundamental right enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Constitution of the Republic of Angola.

The theme of the seminar this year, deals with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of the remaining 17 Non-self- Governing Territories, that have been in the past decades fighting against colonialism and foreign occupation, now exacerbated by the multiple challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Republic of Angola was until 1975, under colonial occupation, and better than anyone can testify on how a foreign occupation is detrimental to the progress and prosperity of one's nation. We remain appalled, by the number of territories that are still under foreign occupation around the world were the populations cannot enjoy their rights to sovereignty, peace, and development.

In this regard, the Republic of Angola calls upon the international community to continue to comply with the engagements assumed in the Resolution 1514 of 14th December 1960 on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Madam Chair,

The Republic of Angola recognizes the efforts of the United Nations and regional organizations in searching of adequate solutions to the achievement of independence and self-determination of the 17 Non-self- Governing Territories, including in the Western Sahara.

Regarding the Western Sahara, my delegation supports the United Nations and the African Union efforts to achieve a peaceful solution in that territory. We remain concerned with the reports of the deterioration the humanitarian situation in the Western Sahara as a result of the ongoing conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to defend a pacific and negotiated solution, under de auspices of the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that the eradication of colonialism must remain a priority of the United Nations.

The full implementation of the instruments adopted on the matter are crucial to achieve this common goal, that will improve the well-being of the population in 17 Non-self- Governing Territories.

The dialogue, between the parties involved, is the key to advance the process of decolonization, which is fundamental to reduce other challenges these territories face including the impact of climate change, the global economic, financial and health crisis, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I THANK YOU