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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 TIMOR-LESTE**

11 MAY 2022



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF TIMOR-LESTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR KARLITO NUNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN NEW YORK

THE 2022 CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION (C24)

11 May 2022
Castries, Saint Lucia

Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair, Excellencies, and distinguished representatives,

My delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Government and the People of Saint Lucia for their generous support in hosting this Seminar and we look forward to outcomes that will assist in the analysis and reevaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the approach on how best to accelerate the decolonization process of the Territories based on the UN relevant resolutions.

Madam Chair,

Timor-Leste takes a great pride for being associated with the decolonization process led by this Special Committee as a success story. However, it is also our concern that four decades after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, there are still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories waiting to advance towards their self-determination.

We would like to underscore that the international community has a responsibility to bring about a speedy, successful, and sustainable solution for the total eradication of colonialism. Reflecting on our own history, we see that the joint commitments of all parties, including the political will of the colonial and administering powers to engage in new dynamics will be crucial in addressing the complex challenges of the remaining 17 Territories in line with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

Timor-Leste wishes to emphasize the importance of decolonization process that is guided by the aspirations and needs of the communities living in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, who are currently dealing with pressing challenges from the

health, social, and economic consequences of the COVID-19, as well as the economic consequence of the war in Ukraine, and the impacts of climate change with devastating natural disasters that have further exacerbated their struggle to build sustainable and self-sufficient economies.

We call for greater international cooperation in harnessing all available assistance to the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to help addressing their challenges and make progress towards their desired self-determination objective.

Madam Chair,

We believe that the intense and dynamic discussions in this seminar will lead to concrete and meaningful outcomes. Timor-Leste remains committed to the goal of Decolonization and offers a firm support to speed up the process in the remaining years of the fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Thank you.