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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
12 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)

12 May 2022
Castries, Saint Lucia

Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair,

I would like to commence by congratulating you for the way you have been leading us until today.

Madam Chair,

We would like to once again 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 journey to the self-determination process, 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 exploring 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,

In the case of Western Sahara, we are greatly concerned with the escalating tensions in the disputed territory since 2020 that poses further challenges to the people of the Western Sahara in meeting their economic, social, and political needs.

Apart from the said negative development, we note with satisfaction, the judgment of the General Court of the European Union last year on Western Sahara that has helped to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Western Sahara towards their natural resources in line with the UN Charter and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on Decolonization, as well as their right to enjoy their natural resources and to dispose of them in their best interest.

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Staffan de Mistura by the UN Secretary General as his special envoy for Western Sahara. We remain committed to work for the reinforcement of a credible political process that will lead to more progress towards the exercise of the right to self-determination of our Saharawi brothers and sisters.

On the question of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, we respectfully urge Argentina and the United Kingdom to continue the dialogue to find a peaceful and permanent solution over the disputed territory, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

In relation to the Question of Gibraltar, Timor-Leste also respectfully urges the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Spain to continue in a constructive dialogue towards a permanent solution based on the relevant UN resolutions.

I thank you.