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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 NAMIBIA**



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STATEMENT

BY

MS. NEKWAYA IILEKA

SECOND SECRETARY (POLITICAL)

AT THE

**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 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND**

11-13 MAY 2022

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA

Madam Chairperson,

1. Allow me on behalf of the Namibian delegation to express our gratitude to you for your dedication and efforts in spearheading the work of this committee. We equally extend to you our well wishes as you carry out your duties as Chair, please rest assured of our full support and cooperation.
2. This important meeting is an affirmation of the importance we attach to the right to self-determination and the plight of people living under any form of occupation or colonialism. As a country who for many years bore the brunt of colonialism, and today continues to feel the lasting effects of that, we stand firm in our resolve and support of the achievement of this inalienable right.
3. Colonialism, as was the case in 1960 when the landmark Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted remains a serious infringement of the very values, morals and principles that are the bedrock of the United Nations Charter. It also represents a serious impediment to the central promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind.
4. The fact that we still have seventeen Non-Self Governing territories on the UN agenda in this modern day and age speaks to the ground we still have to cover.
5. Amongst those nations and peoples who are unable to freely enjoy the right to self-determination, are the people of Western Sahara. This is despite a longstanding agreement for the holding of a referendum in Western Sahara.
6. Namibia therefore sympathizes with those who are denied their right to self-determination. We have a moral imperative to stand in solidarity with our Sahrawi Brothers and Sisters until their right to self-determination will be achieved.

Madam Chair,

7. Being largely excluded from both the exploitation and the revenues from the resources on their territories, further exacerbates the grievances of the people of Western Sahara.
8. The world as we know it today has changed significantly from what it was in 1963 when Western Sahara first came on the list of non-self-governing territories. A host of contemporary global challenges such as climate change and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic have re-shaped the world, our interactions and how our societies function. The people of Western Sahara have not been immune to the impacts of these.
9. The international community should continue to support efforts aimed at resolving once and for all the question of Western Sahara, the last colony on the Continent, to hold a free and fair referendum to determine their destiny. The decolonization of Africa will not be complete until the day the people of Western Sahara decide the fate of their future status, through a free and fair referendum.
10. Furthermore, we welcome the appointment of His Excellency Staffan de Mistura as the Secretary General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, and we encourage him to continue with efforts to move forward the UN settlement plan on Western Sahara, as we regard as the only way that we can move past this impasse and comply with the resolutions adopted thus far.
11. Non-self-governing territories such as Western Sahara place their trust in us, we cannot let them down, we cannot risk becoming an organisation of rhetoric and inaction. We must seize every opportunity and every effort to implement the necessary Security Council resolutions and decisions which have remained

consistent with the call to hold a free and fair referendum for the people of Western Sahara, and ensure their full and equal enjoyment of their right to self-determination.

I thank you.