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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**

**PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT BY
THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT
COORDINATOR FOR SAMOA, COOK ISLANDS,
NIUE AND TOKELAU**

**Distinguished Members of the Special Committee on Decolonization,
Dear Participants, Malo Ni!**

On behalf of the United Nations team in the Pacific, I would like to thank the Committee for the invitation to address the Pacific Regional Seminar and share our work in Tokelau.

I have served as UN Resident Coordinator for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau since March 2018. During this time, I led the first joint United Nations mission to Tokelau and engaged with the taupulega and people in Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu, the three beautiful atolls of Tokelau.

I would like to acknowledge from the outset the firm commitment and efforts of New Zealand and Tokelau to the ongoing development of Tokelau in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway.

The UN stands fully committed to assisting Tokelau in achieving its development aspirations and vision as encapsulated in the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and will continue efforts to support Tokelau in building forward better in light of the impacts of the Covid19 pandemic.

Let me present in brief the support that the UN provides to Tokelau in achieving the SDGs:

In what regards securing financial resources for Tokelau:

- Since 2019, Tokelau has been the beneficiary of all of the allocations that the Resident Coordinator Office helped to mobilize for all four countries we cover from Samoa from the SDG Fund, namely the 3 million allocation for the development of Social Protection Floors, the 1.1 million for Integrated National Financing Framework and the 2.3 million allocation for SIDS specific initiatives. For the latter, Tokelau alone received 424,400 \$ for integrated policy solutions, financing and digitalization.
- In the response to the pandemic, the UN system in 2021 collectively committed over US\$600,000 in Tokelau, a 20% increase from 2020 owing to the additional funding allocated by the COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund.
- Until 2019, a dedicated UN Volunteer visited regularly Tokelau to assist with project formulation and monitoring.

- To date, the Resident Coordinator Office does not have a country coordination officer in Tokelau. According to Art. 168 of the UN Secretary-General QCPR Report A/75/79, additional resources for coordination in territories serviced by multi-country offices need to be funded outside the special purpose trust fund, such as through contributions by the Member States to which the territories relate and/or other funding partners. I confirm that we are discussing with the Government of New Zealand the possibility of receiving funds to have a coordinating staff for Tokelau and potentially national UN volunteers.

Some highlights of UN's Work in Tokelau include

- Development of the first **Common Country Analysis (CCA)** Report for Tokelau (2021)
- **With regards to Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Environment Protection**
 - Installation of automatic weather stations via an India-funded project to contribute to the national early warning system network
 - Procurement of 3 incinerators (1 per atoll) via GEF SGP to support a systemic approach to waste management
 - Development of circular economy interventions, namely recovery of glass waste
- **In terms of Economic Empowerment**
 - Drafting of Social Protection Policy and Capacity Development on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure poverty and address life-cycle vulnerabilities (UNDP, UNESCAP, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO)
 - Employment creation in the waste management sector through value chain development of glass waste stream
 - New Joint SDG Fund Joint Programme focusing on digital transformation and blue economy, leveraging the potential of the new submarine cable linking Tokelau to the Southern Cross NEXT submarine fiber-optic cable
- **In Governance**
 - Strengthening institutional arrangements, policies and processes for effective decision-making within the Taupulega, General Fono, the Council and ongoing Government
 - Development of village bylaws to provide governance framework for village councils

- **In Health System Strengthening, we:**
 - Upgraded quarantine and isolation facilities, enabling the atolls to accept 100 Tokelau repatriates from Fiji and NZ
 - Delivered training on Covid19 case management protocols for Department of Health staff
 - Supported Covid risk communication by the Government through mandatory community workshops and radio programmes in Tokelauean
- **Business and Public Service Continuity**
 - Enabled government and business continuity through the provision of Zoom licenses
- **Socio-Economic Recovery**
 - Conducted rapid assessments and Socio-Economic Impact Assessments to gauge the pandemic's impacts on vulnerable groups and inform policy-making

Soifua (*in Samoan and Tokelauan, Soifua is a form of thanking and closing a public address*)