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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

CLOSING STATEMENT BY

THE CHAIR OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24

Closing remarks

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Special Committee and all participants to the seminar, I should like to again express our gratitude to the Government and people of Saint Lucia for their generous hospitality.

We are particularly grateful for the presence and kind words of His Excellency Earl Huntley, Chair of the Special Committee in 2002 and 2003. His dedicated contribution to the decolonization agenda is heartening and reflects the longstanding commitment of Saint Lucia to the cause of decolonization.

We also are grateful to the President of the General Assembly who has honoured us with his message reflecting his commitment to the cause of decolonization and the work of the Special Committee, and to his Special

Envoy, H.E. Thilmeeza Hussain, for her delivery of said message and being present with us at the Seminar.

I should also like to thank H.E. Ms. Menissa Rambally and her team for the invaluable work done to ensure the success of this event. I again express, through you Madam Ambassador, our immense gratitude for the participation of the Honourable Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister of St. Lucia, during our Opening session.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are very pleased with the participation of a large number of representatives of Territories this year, and in particular the presence of Territories that for some time had not been able to take part in the annual seminar: Anguilla, Saint Helena, New Caledonia and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Echoing the General Assembly, I encourage all

Territories to continue to participate in the work of the Special Committee in order to enhance its understanding of their situation.

The regional seminars are indeed an excellent opportunity to help the Special Committee make a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Territories and devise means of promoting the decolonization agenda, on case-by-case basis.

The seminar has proved to be useful and important as a valuable forum for exchange of views.

The seminar provided us with an opportunity for reflection on how the pandemic has affected and is expected to continue to affect the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to share lessons learned and experience gained in all spheres, particularly on the decolonization process.

We had productive exchange of ideas and views on how to better advance the decolonization agenda.

In this regard, it is worth underlining that the work that remains to be done must be anchored in concrete

actions.

I sincerely thank all participants for their valuable participation and contributions to the discussion. We value your recommendations.

I should also like to express appreciation to all present for contributing to the success of the Seminar.

In this regard, I would also like to thank the interpreters for their excellent work and professionalism. I would also like to thank all staff in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management; the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; the Department of Global Communication, as well as staff from the Ministry for External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs, sound technicians and others for their contributions to the success of the seminar.