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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: assessment of decolonization process in today's world

**Nouméa, New Caledonia
18 to 20 May 2010**

STATEMENT

BY

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On the Occasion of the Pacific Seminar on the
“Implementation of the 2nd International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”

Noumea, New Caledonia
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Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Aimee
Members of the Committee of 24
Distinguished Country Representatives
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed my pleasure to address you all today on behalf of Mrs. Nileema Noble, who unfortunately could not be here herself due to a family emergency that drew her home to the USA.

I thank the Chairman and C-24 for the invitation to UNDP and indeed the UN family in the Pacific Region to address this gathering. I come before the Committee for the first time however I am not a stranger to the work of the C-24 in relation to NSGTs and in particular to Tokelau, having been closely involved in Tokelau’s process of self-determination since 1994, the year when their elders or *Taupulega* first expressed their interest in walking up that pathway. The C-24 had been visiting the islands since the 1970s hence I do believe a great deal of impetus had been built up as a result of these consultations on self determination. Tokelau has received unequivocal support from their Administering government, New Zealand and it has been our privilege to work closely with New Zealand in making this dream come true for the people of Tokelau. UNDP has been supporting Tokelau under a special relations agreement that was signed between NZ and UNDP in the 1980s and in fact a former RR indicated to me very clearly that UNDP in the case of Tokelau, also took its mandate from Article 73e of the Charter of the UN and work of the C-24. We have therefore been reporting every year to the GA and ECOSOC on our programme of assistance to Tokelau.

UNDP is dedicated to supporting national governments to achieve their development priorities, as most typically highlighted in their national development plans or articulated through other means by the government. We are in the business of supporting ‘home grown’ ideas which we supplement with a solid foundation of analytical research and capacity development to ensure that the best possible approaches towards these ends are adopted and importantly, that we do no harm in the process – a mantra that we strive diligently to uphold and promote. That is to say, that we look at all angles of good governance and human rights in order that cultural and historical mainstays of life of the indigenous populations are maintained and that their natural resource base and environments are preserved for current and future generations. UNDP’s rich reservoirs of global and regional expertise and knowledge networks in the 6 practice areas (poverty reduction; democratic governance; environment (including climate change); HIV/AIDS; CPR; and gender mainstreaming) are readily drawn upon in this endeavour.

The main areas of support by UNDP towards Tokelau's self-determination have been channeled through a constitutional development and governance programme involving the following key initiatives:

- Governance reform initiatives, including the 'Modern House of Tokelau', which supported what was essentially Tokelau's 'home grown' government structure for the 3 traditional villages on each atoll. Under the MHT the General Fono was formed with a 3-year election system where the democratically elected *faipule* (village leaders) are designated the *Ulu o Tokelau* (titular head of the 3 *faipule* council) every year until each village has had the opportunity to lead the country and its parliament (general fono). The MHT also had a profound impact on the entire structure of the Tokelau public service whereby the leadership and decision-making was integrated back into the traditional system under the 3 village *taupulega* (traditional leaders and elders).
- In addition, UNDP supported both the 1st and 2nd referenda on the Treaty of Free-Association with New Zealand where UNDP representatives were also present alongside UN observers and the Tokelau Administrator. As you know, both referenda failed to achieve the 2/3rds majority required. As a follow-up to the 2007 referendum results, New Zealand and Tokelau agreed to a 'pause' in their efforts on this front, opting to focus on other development priorities and the MDGs.
- The Tokelau/UNDP Country Programme Action Plan, 2008-2012 (US\$1.1m) is contributing to this process by focusing on issues related to: equitable economic growth and poverty reduction; good governance and human rights; crisis prevention and recovery; and sustainable environmental management; with gender equality as a cross-cutting theme.
- UNDP's Sub-regional Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme (CCSDP) is aimed at supporting gender-centred initiatives focusing on environmental management; disaster risk reduction; climate change adaptation; sustainable livelihoods including eco-cultural tourism, food security, energy efficiency and renewable energy use. The above priorities have been identified through the use of the Appreciative Inquiry methodology which informs development of the 3 village level plans. Three Village Sustainable Development Plans for Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu have been finalized and are presently under implementation. Tokelau was heralded at the 2009 Appreciative Inquiry Conference held in Katmandu, Nepal as the first country in the world where every citizen had participated in an AI process. Additionally in 2009, the CCSDP helped all 3 atolls to become more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change (i.e. rising sea levels) and natural disasters through up-scaling soft and hard climate change protection barriers (seawall). The CCSDP also ensured that Tokelau was represented at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) by sending 2 Tokelau reps. By doing so, Tokelau reps further raised the profile of Tokelau internationally, as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. UNDP, under the CCSDP, has plans in 2010 to continue up-scaling climate change protection measures as well as investing in renewable

energy options as Tokelau aims to become the first country in the world to be completely renewable by 2015 – a goal that UNDP fully supports.

- Steady increases in the cost of imported fossil fuels as well as Tokelau's fragile environment underscore the importance to Tokelau of a significant shift to renewable energy sources, as well as the vital need for increased awareness within the communities of energy conservation and efficiency. Tokelau is therefore moving towards 100% utilization of renewable energy sources for driving development in the country. Support for this was made available through a UNDP/Government of France pilot photovoltaic energy programme. This is expected to be reviewed with the Tokelau government to determine a plan of action and resource mobilization towards this end that can be supported by UNDP.
- UNDP will continue its support for capacity development through a sub-regional South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development Programme which will disseminate development lessons and best practices within the sub-region, encourage community-to-community learning and develop results-based management capacity and promote communications and leadership, including leadership training for youth. Institutional mechanisms and capacities will also be strengthened for effective disaster response.
- Status of women. The Tokelau/UNDP CPAP, 2008-2012 is committed to gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in its areas of focus highlighted earlier. UNDP continues to follow-up and provide support to the National Gender Strategy developed in 2007 with UNDP's and UNESCO's support.

Mr. Chairman,

This year was the first time that the UN system submitted a report to ECOSOC and I would like to highlight this report today for your information. Tokelau is supported by the UN Resident Coordinator Office and UN Country Team based in Apia, Samoa. Of the 18 member agencies of the Samoa UNCT, 8 UN agencies and offices: UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNISDR, UNOCHA and WHO officially cover Tokelau through associate membership. 5 of these agencies: UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO have developed specific multi-year programme activities for Tokelau through their CPAPs, Biennial Workplans, Annual Workplans and regional programmes. The other 3 (UNIFEM, UNISDR, UNOCHA) provide support through their Pacific regional programmes mainly focused on capacity development/training workshops.

The total UN assistance to Tokelau from 2008-2012 is approximately US\$1.4million, the bulk of this coming from UNDP (US\$1.1m).

UNDP has the biggest programme followed by WHO, then UNFPA and UNICEF. UNESCO also provides considerable support but in the form of technical assistance for national policy development through advisory support from the UNESCO advisors either on site on the atolls and via email and working with the Office of Tokelau in Apia. UNICEF and UNFPA provide mainly 2 types of support: equipment and supplies and capacity building funding for training in adolescent and reproductive health,

immunization and child protection programmes. UNIFEM, UNISDR, UNOCHA provide some support through funding participation of Tokelau in regional workshops and training.

UN Agency	Activities	2008-2012 (USD)
UNDP	National & MDG planning, South-South; Human Rights; Governance; DRR/DRM; Climate Change support. Through the Community-Centred Support Development Programme UNDP will continue to provide soft and hard support to Tokelau focusing on climate change, disaster risk reduction/management; gender advocacy; adaptation; mitigation and protection. Some specific initiatives included support for participation of Tokelau leaders at the COP15 in Copenhagen, capacity and training and further support for COP16.	\$1,083,000
UNESCO	Technical assistance with policy development in the areas of National Women, Youth and Cultural policies.	\$30,000*
UNFPA	Reproductive Health & Adolescent Health	\$71,000**
UNICEF	Health (Vaccination & Equipment supplies), Training	\$23,200
UNIFEM	Participation of Tokelau nationals in regional UNIFEM training on gender equality (eg 2008 regional 10-day UNIFEM/SPC/ USP electoral studies project funded Building Resources In Democracy, Governance and Elections – BRIDGE). Train the Facilitator (TIF) workshop at the SPC- CETC in Narere, Fiji.	\$5,000
UNISDR	Participation of Tokelau nationals in regional ISDR programmes in support of integrating disaster risk reduction in National Disaster Management Plans.	\$5,000
UNOCHA	Last UNOCHA related in-country support was for the UNDAC mission in Tokelau in response to TC Heta (2004). UNOCHA has been in communication with Tokelau Office on assistance for disaster response, preparedness and also liaising closely with NZ on coordinated support to Tokelau based on 2008 NZA mission to Tokelau.	\$2,000
WHO	Health Human Resources development – (scholarships, training, participation at workshops) & Medical Supplies	\$243,132***
Total:		\$1,463,332

* mainly technical assistance including travel of UNESCO advisers to Tokelau

** inclusive of 2007-2009 expenditures and 2010-2012 projected figures.

*** inclusive of expenditure in 2007-2008 & projected figures for 2010-2011.

- The UN/CROP Integrated Strategic Plan for Tokelau (ISP), 2008-2010 was developed by the government of Tokelau. UN Agencies and 5 CROP agencies in response to Tokelau's request for harmonized donor assistance. The ISP along with the Pacific Sub-Regional UN Development Assistance Programme (UNDAF) for 2008-2012 serving 14 PICs provides the over-arching guidance for the CPAP, 2008-2012 signed by Tokelau and UN Agencies (August 2008).
- Strategies were identified to address Tokelau's 6 national development priorities (in 2007) of: (i) village development; (ii) health; (iii) education; (iv) transport; (v)

communications; and (vi) economic development. The overall support provided by the CROP and UN Agencies under the ISP are in 3 forms:

- Technical Assistance (policy development and technical service interventions)
- Capacity Development (education, training and institutional capacity development)
- Small Grants (for grass-roots development in environment, economic and social areas).

- The UN/CROP ISP for Tokelau further informed the preparation of the first ever Tokelau National Strategic Plan, 2010-2015 supported by New Zealand (recently approved in 2009).

- Following are highlights of the UN agencies and UN systems support (provided and planned) to Tokelau. 2006-2012:
 - UNESCO has been working since 2007 with the Government of Tokelau to support the development of national social sector policies in the area of gender/women and youth. In early 2010, the National Women's Policy for Tokelau was approved and the Youth Policy will be submitted to the General Fono in May for approval. UNESCO will be working with Tokelau in 2010 and 2011 in supporting the mapping of Education for Sustainable Development; HIVAIDS into the national curriculum and into national development plans and policies. UNESCO's priority in the science sector is to support the development of a Renewable Energy Policy for Tokelau and addressing disaster risk reduction issues in collaboration with UNDP.
 - In March 2009, the WHO office in Samoa and Fiji and fielded a mission to Tokelau to assist the Health department to manage the influenza outbreak. Dr. Kool from WHO provided much needed support to the medical staff on Tokelau in 2009. This was immediately prior to the support provided by WHO on H1N1 in April 2009 which included provision of protective equipment, tamiflu tablets and technical assistance, advisory support.
 - In November and December 2009, the UN system provided support to the Ongoing Government of Tokelau in their preparation for COP15 – refer UNDP section for details.

CONCLUSION

The UN /UNDP system continues to support Tokelau and seeks ways to simplify its programming and reporting systems to the country bearing in mind its limited human resource base e.g. more joint programming, joint missions, etc.

UNDP maintains a very flexible approach to Tokelau a fact which has been greatly appreciated by the government over time.

UNDP's ongoing close partnership with New Zealand is viewed as vital to the success of supporting development priorities over the short and medium term and achievement of the MDGs over the long-term, a goal which is also shared by the Tokelau Government.