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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: goals and expected accomplishments

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
31 May to 2 June 2011

STATEMENT

BY

the Representative of

Indonesia

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA
AT THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR
KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
31 MAY – 3 JUNE 2011**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentleman,

Allow me to begin by expressing my highest gratitude to the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their warmest hospitality. From the moment I set foot on their soil, I have felt right at home. It is not merely because of the tropical weather, which reminds me of my own country, an archipelagic state situated over 11,000 miles away from here, but the warmth of all the people which inform visitors like me that we are welcomed with open arms.

On behalf of my delegation, I would further like to thank the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for hosting this highly important event, which commences the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Our appreciation also goes to you, Mr. Chairman, for ably guiding this highly important Seminar, as well as to the Secretariat of the C-24 Committee for the excellent organization of the whole programme.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fifty years have passed since the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. During the course of time, we have witnessed the emergence of new independent states. The number of United Nations member states has now almost doubled that of 1960. Despite some of its weaknesses, the UN should not be denied the credit it deserved for being the force which paved the way for this achievement – including through the Declaration.

In the past two days, we have listened carefully to the statements delivered by representatives of the 16 Non Self-Governing Territories. We have perused the assessment and recommendations made by academics, experts and civil society organizations.

Resolution 1541 provided three options for these Non Self-Governing Territories towards the exercise of their self-determination: free association, full integration, and independence. Those options reflect the reality that each territory and people vary, and that they have diverse needs and interests.

My delegation would therefore like to convey the following points to be taken into consideration in the quest of moving forward with the implementation of the Declaration.

First, as self-determination should be the manifestation of the political will of all the peoples of the respective territories, it is important that the people of the territories have sufficient knowledge of all the options stipulated in Resolution 1541, as well as the consequences of each option. The UN might assist by providing this information in any UN language or the local language that is being primarily used in the respective territories, and ensuring that people of the territories have access to it.

Second, the Committee should continue its works in making a careful, balanced, and thorough assessment on the particular condition and situation in each of the 16 NSGTs. It has been repeatedly stated in this Seminar that the solution and answer to the question of each NSGT does not follow the principle of "one size fits all". The process of delisting needs to be carried forward on the case-by-case

basis, as has been underlined by the Chairman in the beginning of the Seminar.

In doing so, the Committee and the parties concerned may also consider to explore other creative solutions and possibilities beyond the existing options which are agreed upon by all parties.

Third, the Committee should continue to engage the Administering Powers and involve them in the above-mentioned efforts. It is significant to enhance the communication between Administering Powers and the NSGTs, as well as between the Administering Powers and the Committee.

Relaying the positive development in decolonization process might be found helpful. In this regard, we applaud the progress taking place in Tokelau, and we encourage New Zealand and Tokelau to continue their cooperation in the decolonization process, and to seek the best ways to address the challenges that may hinder the progress.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to reiterate Indonesia's commitment and full support to the Committee in fulfilling its mandate in the Third International Decade for the Eradication and Colonialism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.