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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: first quarter review of developments and trends

Quito, Ecuador  
28 to 30 May 2013

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

245 East 49th Street • New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

*by*

**Counsellor Franklyn B. Fawundu**

**Delegate of Sierra Leone to:**

**2013 Caribbean Regional Seminar of the  
Special Committee of 24**

**Quito, Ecuador, 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

*Check Against Delivery*

**Mr. Chairman**

**Distinguished participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Permit me to start by tendering the apologies of my Ambassador, H E Mr. Shekou M. Touray, one of the Vice Chairs of the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization, who because of other competing official engagements is unavoidably absent.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I wish to express my delegation's appreciation for the manner in which you have continued to run the affairs of the Committee. I also wish to add that your decision to extend your term to ensure due diligence to the activities of the Committee is a commendable one, considering the concomitant implications of what the job entails.

Permit me also to express my delegation's sincere thanks and appreciation through you to your Government and people for graciously hosting our Regional Seminars for two consecutive years in this glamorous and picturesque city of Quito. Indeed the hospitality has been enormous and the meeting well organized.

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants,**

Sierra Leone welcomes another opportunity to review progress on our work in this decolonization process because we are mindful of the need to engage, on a regular basis, in constructive and result-oriented discussions geared towards the expeditious and complete eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in line with our mandate contained in resolution 1514.

My delegation fully subscribes to the view expressed by the Secretariat General at the opening of the Substantive Session in February this year that "the risk of movement, while sometimes frightening" was a better option to the status quo. Our delegation has, in the past two Regional Seminars, proffered suggestions we believe could contribute immensely towards the acceleration of the pace we are moving at. Our views on issues such as cooperation between the Committee and the Administering Powers, constructive dialogue between NSGTs and their Administering Powers as well as the need to include regional organizations and civil society organizations in these discussions, have not changed.

However, we would like to restate one of the views expressed at the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines meeting that an action oriented Plan of Action with clear benchmarks could serve as a guide to the Committee in making its work more effective during this decade. It should no longer be business as usual Mr. Chairman. We MUST, in the words of the Secretary General devise "fresh and creative approaches in mobilizing the political will needed to eradicate colonialism" because as he put it, "it has no place in modern world".

**Mr. Chairman,**

This is the Third Regional Seminar we are organizing since the General Assembly declared in 2010 the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We have just witnessed the endorsement, by the General Assembly, of a resolution calling for the re-inscription of French Polynesia on the UN list of Non Self Governing Territories, which, to us as a delegation, was an essential first step towards self-determination of the French Polynesians and therefore a move in the right direction. The primary work, in our view, should be done by us as a Committee in order to achieve this goal; and the support of the wider international arena is of course equally vital. In that connection, we would urge all stakeholders to intensify efforts geared towards achieving more on this issue.

Equally, there is need for the Committee and all parties concerned to remain actively engaged on the issue of Puerto Rico. We must, as members of this noble Committee continue to reiterate the call to expedite a process that can allow for the people of Puerto Rico to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and in conformity with the Principles contained in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**Mr. Chairman.**

My delegation is of the conviction that these regional seminars are platforms and opportunities for both the Committee and the inhabitants of the territories to interact and have a common understanding of how to address these complex issues. The need for their increased participation at these Seminars should therefore not be over emphasized.

In summing up, it should be the resolve of all and sundry that as we depart this august seminar, our aspiration should be geared towards the end of 2020; a moment when we

should be able to tap ourselves on our shoulders for a job well done. With this we can leave an indelible print on the issue of colonialism in all its form and manifestation.

I thank you all for your attention.