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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for
the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

Denarau, Nadi, Fiji
21 to 23 May 2014

CLOSING STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FIJI

CLOSING STATEMENT: PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE UN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONISATION
23 MAY 2014

Chairman of the Special Committee, H.E Xavier Lasso Mendoza
Vice Chairpersons
Distinguished Representatives and Observers of the C24
Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen

On behalf of my Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who is not able to be here with us today, due to prior scheduled engagements, it is my great honour to say a few remarks to close the 2014 Pacific Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held here on beautiful Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji.

We are elated to be once again rendered the opportunity to host the Committee for the fourth time. And we hope that you've thoroughly enjoyed our hosting and the support provided by my fellow colleagues in the Secretariat of the seminar and the host hotel- Sofitel Fiji.

Your meeting here in Nadi is an important one might I say in closing this seminar. As you embark on reviewing the developments and trends of the important role you play in this UN process, let me once again reiterate the words of my Prime Minister when opening the seminar on Wednesday morning (21st May). He stressed the importance of listening to the people in this process. If they choose independence, we must respect and support their decisions. If they choose some form of association, we must support their rights to negotiate as equals- the relationships that best serve their interests. In Fiji, we are neutral about what they decide.

This Pacific seminar is held at the background of many challenges, it being political, economic or environmental faced by Territories, some of these are subjects of your agenda discussions in these past three days. One such threat is those being imposed by

climate change, particularly for our small Pacific Island countries and territories.

While addressing such threats as imposed by Climate Change are predominantly outside the influence of this august body, it is vitally important that they are collectively considered in your deliberations so that measures put forward do take into account the sustainable livelihoods of our respective island communities still under administering powers towards the long term. It calls for all our united efforts to work together involving development partners, UN systems and agencies, the Bretton woods institutions, and other international organisations. In the words of my Prime Minister once again, "We have to take a very pragmatic approach".

Finally, it will be a remiss on my part not to mention and thank those whom have helped us host this seminar ably and efficiently. First, the Secretariat staff from New York and your hard working staff, thank you. Second, my fellow colleagues from the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for the arrangements and facilitations. Last but not the least, the host hotel, Sofitel Fiji. Vinaka Vakalevu.

We wish you well as you travel back to your loved ones and duty stations. May God's travelling mercies be with you all.

With those few words, I now officially close the Seminar.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

Amena V Yauvoli (Mr)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Republic of Fiji.