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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

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY INDONESIAN DELEGATION
AT THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR OF C-24
NADI, FIJI, 21-23 MAY 2014**

His Excellency Mr. Frank Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji,
His Excellency Mr. Xavier Lasso Mendoza, Chair of the Special Committee C-24,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to extend our highest appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us. The Fijian government's generous offer to host the Pacific Regional Seminar this year has also provided an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful island of Denarau.

Our appreciation also goes to Ambassador Mendoza and the Secretariat of the C-24 for the hard work in preparing the seminar. We are pleased to note the larger participation of member states in the Seminar, as we trust that their presence and inputs, as well as those of the Non-Self-Governing Territories', international agencies', experts', and other stakeholders', will contribute to the discussion on the this very important issue.

Distinguished participants,

In the fourth year of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, there remain seventeen territories on the United Nations' decolonization agenda. This fact has prompt many, particularly member states, to voice their concern.

However, there are also developments that may help raise our expectations reasonably higher and keep us focused in our attempts to move forward.

When the Deputy Secretary-General delivered his remarks at the opening session of the first C-24 meeting a few months ago, he had rightfully commended the Committee's progressive efforts in advancing its mandate. At the initiative of the Committee, a number of dialogues between the Committee and the administering Powers had resumed with a promising prospect. Last March, after

a few years, the UN had dispatched a visiting delegation to the New Caledonia with regard to the implementation of the Noumea Accord.

Such progress would not have taken place, had there not been mutual understanding and consent between the Special Committee and the administering Powers.

There is no other way, in our view, but to build upon these initial steps.

These also highlights the significance of good faith and cooperation from all parties concerned take part in the joint efforts to build mutual trust, which is a necessity to move the process along.

We therefore urge the Chair to continue engaging administering Powers and to continue finding innovative ways on that account. My delegation would accordingly like to reiterate Indonesia's unremitting support to the Chair in this effort, including through our membership in the Bureau of the C-24.

Noting with appreciation the administering Powers' cooperation in the process, we would also like to encourage them to stay on track on this direction. We would also encourage them to engage in the dialog with the people of the respective NSGT, as well as other relevant member states.

Distinguished guest,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Amidst the heartening development between the Committee and the administering Powers, my delegation remains on our stance that there is serious need to expedite the decolonization process. My delegation strongly encourages the discussion on possible new measures, in a pragmatic and realistic manner, and on a case-by-case basis given the unique and specific situation in each territory and community.

My delegation would thus like to suggest on a few points of thought on the way forward in the quest of decolonization.

First, it is of high importance to ensure that the people of the non-self-governing territories will make an educated informed decision with regard to their political status, in particular to the three options provided by Resolution 1514 and Resolution 1541. It is equally important to ensure that they understand their options and that they will eventually make the decision to the best interest of their respective communities.

In that vein, it is utterly important to make available and accessible for the NSGT communities all the necessary and relevant information, through training and/or publications or other forms of communication.

Second, there is the need to observe the non-self-governing territories in the discussion on sustainable development goals, as they are among the vulnerable communities facing special challenges. The territories lie on geographical positions that are prone to natural disasters and are most likely affected by the climate change.

The international community should assist non-self-governing territories in their development and in addressing those challenges and mitigating the adverse impact of climate change.

In this regard, we would like to convey our appreciation to the UN agencies, including UNDP and UNESCO among many others, that have been involved in the ECOSOC-led programs to assist NSGTs. We would also like to take note with appreciation of the UN member states that have pledged scholarships to the people of NSGTs. We would encourage the administering Powers to join forces in these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,

I shall conclude now by reinstating Indonesia's continuous support and strong commitment to the Committee. My delegation looks forward to a fruitful deliberation on the advancement of the decolonization agenda.

I thank you.