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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 SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Fellow Participants, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to thank first of all the people and Government of Fiji for consenting within a very short notice to host this year's seminar. In the same vein, I wish to thank them for the abundant hospitality they have extended to my delegation and for all the facilities they have laid at our disposal since our arrival.

A lot of gains have been made by the C24 Decolonisation Committee since its inception but we still need to do more to build upon those gains, and push forward the mandate that is bestowed upon us by the general membership of the United Nations, which is to work closely with the people of the Non-Self Governing territories as well as the Administering Powers so as to realize their aim and aspirations of attaining self government or whichever way they may choose to go in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December, 1960.

I wish to recall the positive comments made this morning by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Fiji; that for the C24 Decolonisation Committee, the time is over for rhetorics and

it should now consider to move towards more positive action that will see the demise of colonialism for the remaining Non Self Governing Territories.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation as a member of the C24 Decolonization Committee takes very seriously the important task that has been given to us and much is expected from us not only by the international community but by the entire people of the colonial territories. It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman that my delegation will continue to support you at all times in your endeavor in carrying out the mandate of the C24 Committee. We appreciate the proactive steps that you and your Predecessor have initiated to engage in a more positive way with the Administering Powers and we will continue to encourage you to move in that direction as it is yielding positive results. We should continue to build on the cordial relationship that now exist between the C24 Committee and the Administering Powers. The C24 Committee should be regarded as a genuine partner in the implementation of the committee's mandate contained in General Assembly Resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1961 as well as other UN Resolutions.

I also wish to recall the instructive comments of our host the Honourable Fijian Prime Minister that as a committee, we should respect the aims and aspirations of the people of the Non-Self Governing Territories. We should have no interest or try to dictate the path they want to take in their political destiny. If they want to stay with the Administering Powers or forge any other kind of relationship, we should respect that. At the same time if they want to attain independence we should equally respect that. It is the interest of the people that is paramount.

My delegation wishes to emphasize that this seminar provides an opportunity to us the members of the C24 Decolonisation Committee to listen carefully to the people of the Non Self Governing Territories as well as the experts, NGO's and the representatives of the Administering Powers on what they have to say with regards to what is actually operating on the ground. Our perception, knowledge, scope and understanding will be enriched and will help us to make a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the various territories, on a case by case basis.

Mr. Chairman, I will not end my statement without making reference to the C24 Visiting Mission to New Caledonia in

March this year. It has been acclaimed by all parties as a successful mission. The members of the mission are working diligently to conclude the report so that it will be ready for presentation in June in New York. The Report will contain concrete recommendations that we hope will add value to the decolonization process in New Caledonia that is laid down in the roadmap of the Noumea Accord of 1998. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the local government and the people of New Caledonia for conducting a very peaceful Provincial election a few days ago. We wish to encourage them to maintain peace and tranquility and exercise patience in dealing with post-election challenges. We also wish to enjoin them to continue to have respect for the due process of the Law and the Rule of Law in all their political engagements. I also wish to commend the French Government for the role it played in terms of providing support to the Mission and unimpeded access they granted us to meet government agencies and other interlocutors during the visit. Without the support of the French government, the Mission would not have been able to achieve its objectives.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you once more for the very able manner in which you are conducting our deliberations.

I thank you all for your indulgence and kind kind cooperation.