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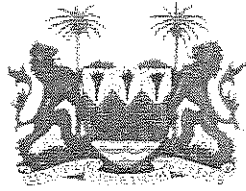
THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in
the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?**

**Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
16 to 18 May 2017**

STATEMENT BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE



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

336 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017

STATEMENT

by

H. E. MR. FELIX ALIE KOROMA
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone
to the United Nations

at the

**Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
The Future for Decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
What are the Prospects?**

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**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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 re-election as Chair of the Committee is one that is commendable, considering the concomitant implications of what the job which is to ensure due diligence to the activities of the Committee.

Permit me also to express my delegation's sincere thanks and appreciation through you to the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for graciously hosting this year's Regional Seminar in this glamorous and picturesque city of Kingstown. Indeed the hospitality has been enormous and the meeting well organized.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants,

Sierra Leone is please to be at this C-24 Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: "What are the Prospect?", another opportunity to review progress on our work in this decolonization process and because of that we are mindful of the need to engage, on a regular basis, in constructive and result-oriented discussions geared towards a speedy 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 in the Secretary- General's Report of February this year that "the the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit ... the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned". This therefore requires free interaction with all interlocutors which our delegation believes could contribute immensely towards the acceleration of the pace we are moving. Our views on issues such as cooperation between the Committee and the Administering Powers, constructive dialogue between Non Self-Governing Territories and their Administering Powers as well as the need to include regional organizations and civil society organizations in these discussions, have not changed. The need for such discussions to be more inclusive is for accountability and transparency. This Committee should be seen by all actors to be fair and just in all its dealings so as to repose confidence in its work.

However, we would like to restate one of our long held views earlier expressed 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, explore every avenue humanly possible to mobilize the political Will needed to eradicate colonialism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General's Report to the Security Council dated 10th April 2015 among other things is requesting for information on the situation on the ground, the status and progress of political negotiations on all Non-Self Governing Territories. The primary work, in our view, should be done by us as a Committee in order to help the Secretary-General 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, we must, as members of this noble Committee continue to reiterate the call to expedite a process that can allow for all Non-Self Governing Territories 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 commend ourselves 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.