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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: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges**

**Saint George's, Grenada  
9 to 11 May 2018**

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY**

**CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24**

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard  
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the  
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries  
and Peoples**

Pacific regional seminar 2018

**Elements proposed for the Closing statement**

by

**His Excellency Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson**

**Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the  
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial  
Countries and Peoples**

Saint George's, Grenada 11 May 2018

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Special Committee on Decolonization, all participants and my own, I should like to reiterate our gratitude to the people and the Government of Grenada for having hosted the regional seminar for the third time, yet another contribution to the cause of decolonization and the work of the Special Committee.

Likewise, I would also like to thank all of you for your valuable contributions to the discussions and constructive dialogue undertaken over the last two days.

A number of important issues and emerging challenges have been addressed during the seminar, with the final aim of moving the decolonization process forward within the context of the Third International Decade.

More importantly, we discussed the opportunities that can be explored when addressing these cross-cutting challenges.

Responding to these various challenges calls for further joint efforts, especially considering the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation.

**Participants have stressed the crucial importance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

In this connection, we recognized the central role played by specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates.

The frank and enriching discussions held during the seminar will, without any doubt, help the Special Committee on the way forward.

As the rich exchange of ideas in this forum showed, close cooperation with all involved is of paramount importance, especially as the Third Decade nears its end.

**In this regard, closer communication and cooperation with the administering Powers has been stressed as necessary to secure tangible progress.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before declaring the seminar closed, allow me to recognize yet again the **spirit of compromise and the** positive contributions of all participants to the success of the seminar.

I greet and thank the interpreters for their professionalism in facilitating our discussions. I also would like to thank the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs; the Secretary of the Special Committee and his team in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management; and the Department of Public Information for their contributions regarding the organization and holding of the seminar.

I hereby declare the 2018 Pacific regional seminar on decolonization closed.

Thank you.

11 May 2018