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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
pursuing goals and addressing needs of
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
14 to 16 May 2024

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



STATEMENT

BY

MR. FRED SARUFA

CHARGE D' AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PERMANENT

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

**2024 CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR 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: AGENDA ITEM 2 (a((ii): "PERSPECTIVES OF
THE ADMINISTERING POWERS, THE NON-SELF-
GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS:
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING
TERRITORIES: IN THE PACIFIC REGION "**

14 MAY 2024, CARACAS, VENEZUELA

"Check against delivery"

Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished fellow participants;

In my national capacity, I wish to make a few points regarding the evolving situation in New Caledonia's self-determination process.

Before doing so, I want to pay tribute to all participants from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region for joining us in this year's regional seminar and for the respective useful presentations made.

Madam Chair, turning to New Caledonia, we have heard the participants from New Caledonia and also the administering Power's representative, their various impassioned views on the self-determination process in New Caledonia, and particularly the present regrettable serious outbreak of violence, looting and burning of properties, overnight in New Caledonia.

This is indeed a very serious concern that this Committee must not take lightly, as the lives of the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia is at serious risk. We have heard today in this room the strong sentiments held by different stakeholders from New Caledonia and the administering Power.

Papua New Guinea, together with the members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries, comprising Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and my own country, PNG, together with the FLNKS of New Caledonia, have over many years been clear to this Committee of the high importance of managing the decolonization issues at stake to avert potential conflicts and violence and for peaceful dialogue to address the future of New Caledonia, guided by the wishes of all New Caledonians.

We reiterate the call for peaceful dialogue and to prevent any further escalation of the situation. The underlying issues to the conflict we are now witnessing are well known to the people of New Caledonia, this Committee and elsewhere.

This requires that all stakeholders of the NGST are better listened to and to adequately address the underlying issues amicably.

For our part, leaders of our Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) last August recommitted to work in solidarity with the people of New Caledonia to assist where we can, and in accordance with the wishes of New Caledonia and the administering Power.

In this hour of need for New Caledonia, we will endeavour to work with all C-24 members and the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia for peace, security and stability to be restored and maintained. We cannot afford to let this situation deteriorate.

Madam Chair, this necessitates that the Committee work expeditiously with the administering Power to undertake the Visiting Mission to New Caledonia that has already been agreed, to examine further the situation on the ground in the Non-Self-Governing Territory and help the Relevant stakeholders address the issues amicably.

Finally, **Madam Chair**, let me also inform this meeting that our MSG Leaders reaffirmed last August that New Caledonia's inclusion on the United Nations Decolonization List of Territories is protected and maintained.

Thank you.