



**Statement by  
Mr. Fred Sarufa, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
at the**

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of  
the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and  
Peoples Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating  
decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

**2 May 2019, Saint George's, Grenada**

---

**"Check against delivery"**

**Madam Chairperson**, Honourable Peter David, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada and distinguished host of our meeting, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and invited participants from Non-Self-Governing Territories, Administering Powers and others in attendance at this important annual dialogue of the Special Committee, which is entrusted the mandate by the UN Charter and the General Assembly to end colonialism in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories.

My delegation is well pleased to note the impressive turn out for this meeting, in part, may I suggest, as a consequence of the appeal of the "Spice of the Caribbean." We commend the respective delegations and participants for taking seriously the importance of working together to find lasting political solutions by peaceful means and on, a case-by-case basis, that meet the expectations of the constituents in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

**Madam Chairperson**, in this spirit, Papua New Guinea pays special tribute and applauds the Government and the people of Grenada for being not only so generous to host back-to-back, the Special Committee's Regional Seminar but also to do it exceptionally well. Grenada's elevated and proactive actions, including as C24 Chair, in and of itself, is a good omen for the work of the Special Committee.

This also reminds those of us in the Special Committee and from the Pacific region to step up to the plate to play our part by hosting the next Regional Seminar after a hiatus of 5 years.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Turning to the procedural matter at hand with respect to the participation of the representatives from Western Sahara that has been raised, my delegation recognizes and supports the decision taken by the Chair in accordance with the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Committee earlier this year and is appreciative of the rationale and explanation provided by the Chair.

We note also the importance of involving all stakeholders in Western Sahara for not only this Caribbean Regional Seminar but all other UN related processes in finding a lasting and peaceful political settlement of the Question of Western Sahara.

Finally, my delegation would underscore that whilst it is important to address procedural issues such as participation in this context however, this should in no way undermine and detract the focus of this Seminar that needs to be accorded to the substantive parts to advance efforts in finding a peaceful, just and durable solution to the Question of Western Sahara.

Thank you.



**Statement by  
Mr. Fred Sarufa, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
at the**

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of  
the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and  
Peoples Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating  
decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

**2 May 2019, Saint George's, Grenada**

**"Check against delivery"**

**Madam Chair,**

May I also take this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation, to say how honoured and humbled we are for the confidence and trust shown and entrusted by the Special Committee, for us to serve as this Seminar's Rapporteur, for a second consecutive year.

This is indeed a serious responsibility we don't take lightly and with all of your support and guidance, we can, together, prepare and adopt by consensus a report for this Seminar that is representative of the dialogue had in strengthening the hand of decolonization, which we all can take pride in.

**Madam Chair,**

Turning to the Special Committee's role in improving the effectiveness of the decolonization agenda, one possible measure that could be considered is to have a special review and focus on a limited number of Non-Self-Governing-Territories that hold much more promise for their decolonization, as was raised by the distinguished representative of Gibraltar, which is exactly what I wanted to also share.

For instance, in the Pacific region, this could be considered for the Question of Tokelau and the Question of Pitcairn.

In Tokelau's Case, we know that in the last referendum on self-determination held nearly 12 years ago (February 2006 and October 2007) did not meet the two-thirds threshold needed to trigger its final political status determination.

This has been placed on hold indefinitely as desired by Tokelau with the focus now on meeting the basic needs of Tokelauns in partnership with New Zealand as the Administering Power.

Whilst being respectful of the wishes of the people of Tokelau, the Special Committee could revisit the specific areas such as the possibility noted by Tokelau that it could in future change the two-thirds majority threshold for the referendum, but should put in place measures to ensure that a threshold would be supported by a clear majority in each village, to guarantee unity.

Addressing this potential key area could lead to a possible final outcome.

With respect to Pitcairn, given the realities on the ground including the population size in question, (39 at home and 12 away) and the land area (35.5 square km) and exclusive economic zone (834,000 square km), we need to revisit the question of self-determination with the people of Pitcairn and the Administering Power, UK. The last reported statement on the self-determination for Pitcairn was made in May 2004 in Madang, PNG during the Pacific Regional Seminar.

The main point here is that we as a Committee need to take a closer review, on a regular and consistent basis, the decisions taken on self-determination by NSGT and their Administering powers and see how best we can support the aspirations of those under the yoke of colonialism.

I will pause for now and make other additional comments on other aspects, where and when necessary.

Thank you.



**Statement by  
Mr. Fred Sarufa, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
at the**

**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of  
the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and  
Peoples Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating  
decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

**2 May 2019, Saint George's, Grenada**

**"Check against delivery"**

**Madam Chair,**

Let me begin by commending the speakers from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, some of whom have joined us for the first time at this Regional Seminar, for their rich presentations, which are welcomed and serve as useful contributions to the Committee's work in support of the decolonization agenda.

My delegation would like to also warmly welcome to this meeting our friends from the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region, including French Polynesia, Guam and the representative of the Higher Commissioner of New Caledonia and for their respective presentations. We also acknowledge the participation by the distinguished delegations of New Zealand and France, as Administering Powers, and note with interest the useful contributions.

With respect to New Caledonia we note that the representatives of the FLNKS were unable to join us here as they are now in the process of the Provincial Elections taking place.

We note the briefing by the representative of the High Commissioner of New Caledonia on the self-determination referendum held on 4 November 2018, including the high voter turnout of around over 80% of the eligible self-determination voters as commendable. We however, note also that the outcome of the referendum indicated that the proportion of voters who supported Independence was higher than what many pundits had predicted.

This is in part, attributable thankfully to the great efforts of the Special Committee members that made a major difference.

We also recognize the people and Government of New Caledonia and also the Administering Power, France, for the excellent cooperation and work leading to New Caledonia's highly successful self-determination referendum last November 4.

Madam Chair, for my delegation, as an unfinished business, the self-determination of New Caledonia under the UN decolonization process remains a priority for my delegation and also the Melanesian Spearhead Group comprising Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia's FLNKS. We look forward with renewed vigour to pick up from the self-determination ballot process.

We reaffirm our pledge to continue to lead and support the excellent work that has been done on The Question of New Caledonia by this Committee and also to constructively engage in peaceful dialogue with all concerned stakeholders to further advance New Caledonia's self-determination.

As we stated in February this year in our opening meeting, this Committee should also take some time to consider using the outcome of the recent self-determination referendum in New Caledonia to review, assess and learn lessons from it that could help the Committee exercise its mandate. We will be pleased to join such an effort from the Special Committee.

Thank you.