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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

**Dili, Timor-Leste
21 to 23 May 2025**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**



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**Remarks by Representative of the Russian Federation
Mr. Rodion Grudinskiy at
C-24 Pacific Regional Seminar in Dili, East Timor**

21 May 2025

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour for us all to convene in Dili because Timor-Leste's own journey from occupation to independence stands as a living lighthouse for every Non-Self-Governing Territory: proof that perseverance, regional solidarity and true multilateralism can guide a people safely through even the darkest colonial night.

The theme of this Pacific Regional Seminar underscores a pressing reality. Many Territories continue to face economic structures designed primarily for the benefit of former administering Powers. Natural resources are extracted on unequal terms, human capital is drained due to lack of local opportunities and unequal economic arrangements; and cultural heritage is often commercialized for the profit of others. Sustainable development of NSGTs is impossible while such exploitation practices persist.

The vivid example of a divide between the people of the Territory and the administering power is French-administered New Caledonia, where restrictive actions by Paris eroded earlier decolonization gains and triggered the worst civil unrest in decades.

Unresolved colonial questions include more than 17 NSGT cases. Puerto-Rico, despite more than forty Special Committee decisions, has not yet exercised its inalienable right to self-determination. Let us not forget all other cases where

administering powers resist decolonization process for their dependent territories and even block discussions on them in the UN.

Colleagues,

A complete victory over colonialism requires more than the transfer of administrative responsibility. It means addressing the long-term consequences of foreign domination such as economic exploitation, displacement of populations and destruction of cultural assets. Requests for reparations and formal acknowledgement of past wrongdoing should not be ignored.

Colonial-era patterns continue to flourish in updated forms. Unilateral coercive measures, politically conditioned technical assistance, interference in domestic affairs - these neocolonial practices contradict both the letter and the spirit of the decolonization agenda. While they persist, eradication of colonialism remains a primary goal for the world community.

Madam Chair,

Exactly this goal was a driving impetus behind a General Assembly resolution “Eradication of Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations” that was adopted by a wide majority of votes in December 2024. The resolution represents a practical step toward implementing the Declaration of 1960, which called for an “immediate and unconditional” end to colonialism.

Establishing a dedicated GA agenda item, expanding UN outreach programmes in this field and eventually designating an International Day against Colonialism would provide an organized framework for renewed and systematic discussion within the United Nations on the effects of colonialism, including its modern forms.

Timor-Leste’s experience demonstrates that determined action can lead to genuine self-government and sustainable development. Let us apply the lessons learned here to the seventeen remaining Territories and to all situations where the legacy of colonialism still hinders progress.

I thank you.