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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**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**



**Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. Fred Sarufa  
Permanent Representative and Ambassador  
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
at the**

**2025 Pacific Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a  
sustainable future: advancing socio-economic and cultural developments of the  
Non-Self-Governing Territories  
Agenda Item 2: Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-  
Governing Territories (i) In the Pacific Region**

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

**"Check against delivery"**

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**Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished participants;**

At the outset, Papua New Guinea welcomes and commends the attendance and participation at this Seminar by the respective representatives of the regions of the Pacific, the Caribbean and other regions, as well as the respective administering Powers.

Their respective constructive engagement is fundamental to finding amicable and lasting solutions to the unfinished business of the decolonization agenda of the United Nations in those remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by case basis.

In particular, we take note of the new Government of New Caledonia and the presence of President Alcide Ponga of New Caledonia in this Seminar and welcome his briefing this morning. Equally, we recognize the presentations made by Mr. Rock Wamytan of FLNKS, and all other presenters from New Caledonia and the administering Power, France as well as that of the the Melanesian Spearhead Group representative.

On New Caledonia, we remain concerned with the dire situation following the tragic civil unrest last May. This has had serious socio-economic impacts on the people and the Territory, and the ongoing uncertainty remains a challenge to peace, security, stability and prosperity, not only to New Caledonia but the wider Pacific region and which should not be taken lightly.

This is why our Pacific Islands Forum Leaders decided to send a High-level Forum Troika Plus Mission to New Caledonia from 27 to 29 October 2024 to inter alia gather information from all stakeholders in the Territory to understand the situation better and lend support to the efforts for peace and dialogue by the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia and all stakeholders. The Report of the High-level Pacific Islands Forum Troika Plus Mission to New Caledonia should be of interest to the Special Committee on Decolonization.

This situation requires tact and sensitivity and concerted efforts from all stakeholders in New Caledonia and the administering Power.

**Madam Chair**, it is however, pleasing to note that all concerned parties in New Caledonia appear to agree on the importance of and the need for a political dialogue and mutual agreement that builds on a common future for all people of New Caledonia.

We therefore welcome the two recent past dialogue and the third planned for next month, initiated by the administering Power, in working with all New Caledonians to find a peaceful way forward. We further encourage this positive momentum.

How the future status of New Caledonia will be is a choice and decision that is entirely in the hands of the people of the Territory.

It requires consistent, frank, open, transparent and inclusive dialogue. Dialogue that is peaceful, that is in good faith, that is mutually respectful and ultimately one that will help deliver the future New Caledonia wants, as a collective whole.

In closing, the Special Committee should remain seized on this important matter to see how best to lend support where needed.

Finally, we take note of the interesting offer of French Polynesia to be the 2027 Pacific Regional Seminar host and for this to be further discussed with the administering Power and the Special Committee on Decolonization and also took note of the response of the representative of the Administering Power.

I thank you.