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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

TIMOR-LESTE



**Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
to the United Nations in New York**

**General Statement of Timor-Leste for the Pacific Regional Seminar of
the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C24) in Dili,**

21-23 May 2025

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather today under the inspiring theme: “Pathways to a Sustainable Future—Advancing Socioeconomic and Cultural Development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.”

As a nation that emerged from the shadows of colonization, Timor-Leste deeply understands the profound significance of self-determination. Our independence in 2002 was not merely a political milestone—it was a testament to the enduring spirit of our people and their unwavering pursuit of freedom and dignity. Since then, we have remained committed to building a nation that honors its history while embracing the promise of the future.

In the 21st century, the pursuit of sustainable development is not just a goal—it is a necessity. True sustainability transcends economic growth; it is a holistic vision that integrates social progress, cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship. For non-self-governing territories, this path presents both challenges and opportunities—to forge identities rooted in rich cultural heritage while engaging with a rapidly evolving global landscape.

In Timor-Leste, we have embraced this vision through comprehensive strategies that address the multifaceted nature of development. We have invested in education to empower our youth, recognizing that knowledge is the cornerstone of sustainable societies. Our healthcare initiatives aim to ensure that no citizen is left behind, fostering a healthy and resilient population. Economically, we continue to diversify our sources of income, responsibly manage our natural resources, and promote innovation to build inclusive and robust systems.

Equally important, we remain steadfast in preserving and celebrating our cultural identity. Our traditions, languages, and arts are not relics of the past but vibrant expressions of who we are. By integrating cultural preservation with socioeconomic progress, we ensure that development strengthens—not erodes—our identity, creating communities that are both prosperous and proud.

Yet, we must acknowledge that the path to sustainability is not without obstacles. Climate change, economic inequality, and geopolitical uncertainty present formidable challenges. Timor-Leste recognizes that no nation can tackle these issues alone. It is only through partnership, solidarity, and shared commitment that we can rise to meet them.

Today, I call upon each delegate and every nation represented here to reaffirm our collective dedication to this shared vision. Let us exchange knowledge, share best practices, and support one another in implementing effective, context-sensitive policies. Let us champion initiatives that uplift communities, safeguard our environments, and preserve our cultural legacies.

Together, we have the power to turn aspirations into realities. We can create a world where every non-self-governing territory not only survives but thrives—where socioeconomic and cultural development are not abstract ideals, but lived experiences that elevate the human condition.

Let this gathering be more than a dialogue. Let it be a turning point—a moment where our collaboration lays the foundation for a sustainable and inclusive future. One that honors our past, enriches our present, and secures a better tomorrow for generations to come.

Thank you.