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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**

DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTATION

BY

MR. MOERANI FRÉBAULT

**Madam Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,**

**I am a Member of Parliament of the French Republic, elected by the
Polynesian people.**

**I am Marquesan, Polynesian, French—and a child of the Pacific. This
multiple identity is not a compromise; it is a truth, a foundation, a
source of pride.**

**I have not come here to recite a party line. I have come to carry the
voice of those who are never heard. Those who live, who work, who
raise their children and care for their elders in the quiet of our valleys
and our lagoons. Those who uphold the dignity of a people.**

**One day, an old man shared with me a verse from the Gospel of John:
“In my Father’s house, there are many rooms.”**

**To me, that house is Polynesia—a living, diverse home, shaped by
memory, at times painful, but where each person has a place and where
we live in peace:**

**entrepreneurs, modest families, inhabitants of remote archipelagos,
youth, elders, autonomists deeply attached to the Republic, and sincere
independents committed to their ideal.**

**And this house—we refuse to see it divided. We reject the idea that it
be spoken for, or exploited for ideological purposes.**

**Yes, our history has known wounds. But above all, it has forged a
people who stand tall. A peaceful people, but not a passive one. French
Polynesia is not a colony. It is a fully autonomous territory, with its
own institutions and government.**

**All that we are able to assume, we do. And for what we cannot—
currency, defense, justice—even the independentists acknowledge the
weight of these responsibilities.**

The French Constitution guarantees the right to self-determination. But that right belongs to the people—and to the people alone. Not to a handful of leaders. Not to a strategy of foreign interference. Not to an illusion held aloft here, 10,000 kilometers from our reality.

The people have spoken—democratically. In 2024, two of the three pro-independence MPs were overwhelmingly rejected at the ballot box because of their ideological stance.

The message is clear: the Polynesians want to move forward, not rush blindly. They want to grow, not divide. We are not against independence on principle. We are against deception and decisions made without truth or vision. We hold a deep conviction that any attempt to force a change in the political status of our territory risks creating division within our people, and jeopardizing the precious peace in which we live.

The future of Polynesia will not be decided in Paris, nor in New York, nor in Baku. It will be decided in every valley, on every island, within every family, in every gaze. It will be decided where the heart of the Fenua beats—and for all the generations to come.

I invite you to come and see for yourselves. To immerse yourselves in our spirit, our reality, our shared humanity.

I thank you, humbly. Mauruuru.

