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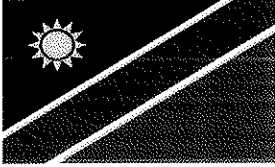
**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International  
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development  
Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Bali, Indonesia  
24 to 26 May 2023**

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF NAMIBIA**



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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MS. HELENA NDAPEWA KUZEE**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT THE**

**PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
COLONIALISM: INNOVATIVE STEPS TO ENSURE THE ATTAINMENT OF  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE NON-SELF-  
GOVERNING TERRITORIES**

**24-26 MAY 2023**

**BALI, INDONESIA**

Madam Chairperson,

1. From the onset I express my best wishes to you as Chair of this Committee and assure you my delegations full support and cooperation.
2. May I also express my delegation's gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for graciously extending their hospitality to us and for the excellent facilities at our disposal in Bali. Namibia further thanks Venezuela for their offer to host next year's Seminar and expresses her support to Venezuela.
3. NSGT's face unique challenges due to their colonial status and ensuring the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guarantees improved well-being of their populations.
4. Development cannot be sustained in the absence of a recognition of the primacy of the Charter-enshrined inalienable right to self-determination. Oppression, occupation, and colonial rule have a disenfranchising nature

which entrenches inequality and erodes developmental aspirations, creating conditions that are not conducive for development to thrive.

5. This rings true for the seventeen Non-Self Governing territories, including the last remaining NSGT in Africa, Western Sahara. Today, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Africa Day, Namibia reiterates its unwavering support to the complete eradication of colonialism, wherever in the world it manifests itself. In Western Sahara, we remain deeply concerned with the lack of progress, particularly the lagging of the United Nations Settlement Plan with the aim of holding a free and fair referendum.
6. Sadly, close to 33 years after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 690 in 1991, the people of the Western Sahara have yet to see the UN, through MINURSO, deliver on its mandate to, amongst others, organise and ensure a free and fair referendum and proclaim the results.
7. It is Namibia's view that limitations on self-determination in all NSGTs have implications for sustainable development.

8. The inability of the local population to exercise their right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development delays the implementation of the SDGs. Furthermore, exploitation without proper consultation and benefit-sharing arrangements of the resources of Western Sahara impinges on and undermines sustainable development efforts.
9. Resultingly, limited access to social services and vast disparities in access to education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure form the basis for entrenched inequality, which does not lend itself to our collective desire to build a world that "leaves no one behind".
10. Committed to the moral imperative to stand in solidarity with our Sahrawi Brothers and Sisters, Namibia believes firmly in addressing these concerns in a manner that respects their rights and aspirations as a crucial precursor for advancing sustainable development.

Madam Chair,

12. Namibia continues to hold in high regard, the work undertaken by Mr. Staffan de Mistura the Secretary General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. We are encouraged by his commitment to continued engagement with the parties and encourage Morocco, the Frente POLISARIO, Algeria, and Mauritania to engage with the Personal Envoy in a spirit of realism and compromise to ensure a successful outcome.
13. Finally, to quote H.E Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia: " It is my firm belief that when the people of the Western Sahara are free and independent, there will be peace between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, and both people will benefit. Because in peace there are no losers, only winners."
14. The yoke of hope carried by the people in non-self-governing territories is a heavy burden. We must therefore ensure the implementation of all resolutions aimed at ending colonialism, occupation and oppression so that collectively, we can experience a world where our focus is on prioritizing the attainment of a developmental agenda that realizes the promise of a better life for all. Afterall, in an ideal world, this Committee would be defunct, the chapters of its world closed

and the UN would boast of more decolonisation success stories.

I thank you.