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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:
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 TIMOR-LESTE**



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF TIMOR-LESTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

STATEMENT BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR KARLITO NUNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN NEW YORK

THE 2023 PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON DECOLONIZATION (C24)

25 May 2023
Bali, Indonesia

Check Against Delivery

Madam Chair,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for their support in hosting this Seminar.

We wish to also congratulate you Madam Chair on your election as the Chair, and the reelections of the members of the Bureau of this Special Committee, and we thank you and the Secretariat for the hard work in organizing this Seminar.

Madam Chair,

In order to accelerate the eradication of colonialism, the aspirations of the people in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, related to their political status, as well as their historical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural scopes, must become the focus of the work towards advancing the decolonization process.

We wish to emphasize on the importance of dialogues and negotiations between all parties to conflict to terminate conflicts and proceed with clear definition of the status of the remaining Non-self-governing territories, and ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through integrated programs, that can generate concrete impact on the lives of the people in the territories.

Madam Chair,

Western Sahara is the last Africa's colony that remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory under this Special Committee since it was first listed in 1963. The recent development in the disputed territory, especially the escalating tensions that took place since November 2020 has raised our concern particularly on further challenges posed towards the efforts in finding the peaceful solution to the issue.

To promote peace and security in the disputed territory, we are of the view that the strengthening the UN peacekeeping presence with the addition of a human rights component to the mandate of MINURSO to monitor the human rights situation in the territory, is needed to improve the human rights situation in the territory. In addition, we continue to call on the occupying power to allow the UN visiting Missions and the Red Cross Organization to visit Western Sahara to help in addressing the humanitarian needs of the people.

Madam Chair,

We welcome the recent consultation on MINURSO held by the UN Security Council to hear briefings from all the UN High-level entities assigned to work on the issue. Moreover, we are particularly pleased with the recent consultation held between the Permanent Representative of Frente Polisário to the UN and the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Western Sahara. We look forward to more dialogues and negotiations between all parties involved to advance the decolonization process.

Madam Chair,

We share the view that, a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the issue of Western Sahara can only be achieved with a full respect towards the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination. We wish to underscore that, only the Saharawi people have the right to decide on their own future, and any proposed solution, including the so-called autonomy proposal of the occupying power, will need to be considered only by the people of the Western Sahara through a free and a fair Referendum organized by MINURSO.

As always, we stand ready to continue to support our Saharawi brothers and sisters, and we will use any important momentum as a great opportunity to work for more progress towards the exercise of their rights to the self-determination.

Madam Chair,

On the question of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, we respectfully urge Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume their dialogue to find a peaceful and permanent solution over the disputed territory, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Meanwhile on Gibraltar, we also respectfully urge the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Spain to continue in a constructive dialogue towards a permanent solution, based also on the relevant UN resolutions.

Madam Chair,

We wish to also express our support towards the generous offer of Venezuela to host the next Regional Seminar of this Special Committee.

I thank you