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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade  
for the Eradication of Colonialism: goals and expected accomplishments

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
31 May to 2 June 2011

STATEMENT

BY

the Representative of

Timor-Leste



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Statement by Mr. LicinioM. Branco

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for hosting this Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It is a privilege to be here and take part in assessing, developing, and enhancing the important work of the C-24.

I would also like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Ecuador, H.E. Dr. Francisco Mena, for his election to the Chairmanship. We wish you well and give our full support to your leadership. You can count on us to work with you.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is a crucial period in our global history. Our universal recognition of the principle of self determination as a fundamental human right is stronger than it has ever been. The desire of all peoples to be independent and treated with equality, fairness, and respect cannot be overstated. The journey of Timor-Leste to independence is very well known in this Committee and was closely followed. We stand in solidarity with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, especially Western Sahara, and offer our strong support that we must free colonized peoples from the shackles of oppression. Western Sahara and the remaining 16 should be given the choice to express and exercise their right to self determination. Extending liberation to colonized peoples is the only way that we can truly achieve global equality and peace.

Timor-Leste believes this Seminar is a strategic opportunity to listen more closely to experts and representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, who may not have the chance to offer their insight at other times. We deeply value the participation of the remaining 16. Equity is essential for the colonization process to move forward, and getting the perspectives from Non-Self-Governing Territories will enrich the discourse and exchange of viable proposals. We urge the Special Committee to hear the voices of the remaining 16 and strongly encourage greater cooperation and dialogue among the Special Committee, administering powers, and Non-Self-Governing Territories. We hope that these discussions will be fruitful and result in actionable proposals that can lead to decolonization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also hopes that the analysis of the Special Committee will foster a positive, constructive dialogue. The goals and conclusions should be pragmatic and lead to the delisting of the remaining 16. It is our great wish that the recommendations and conclusions of this Seminar are forward-looking and practical.

Cooperation within the Non-Self Governing Territories is vital. There must be active regional coordination and a stronger facilitation of regional arrangements.

Timor-Leste continues to offer its unwavering support to the remaining 16 in their just and commendable quest for independence and decolonization. We look forward to hearing more about the work of the Special Committee and joining with all of the C-24 members in eradicating colonialism and achieving the inalienable rights of independence and self determination for all.

Thank you