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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

Denarau, Nadi, Fiji 21 to 23 May 2014

RESPONSE BY

MR. KURESHA NASAU

ULU O TOKELAU

Tokelau's Intervention on Measuring Quality of Life

Thank you Mr Chairman for the opportunity to respond to the question by the distinguished delegate from Cuba yesterday. I would also like to join others in thanking the Government of Fiji for hosting a very warm function last night.

I mentioned in my comments yesterday that in 2008, Tokelau and New Zealand agreed to park the question on another referendum and focus on improving the quality of life for our people. This decision in 2008 was reached following the referenda in 2006 and 2007 which were not successful in Tokelau achieving an act of self-determination in free association with NZ.

Tokelau commenced work on planning for the "improvement on the quality of life for our communities" which culminated in a first ever consolidated strategic plan for Tokelau for 2010-2015. The vision for this Strategic Plan is for healthy and active communities with opportunities for all.

Tokelau's National Strategic Plan focuses on 4 pillars to achieve its vision: (1) Good Governance, (2) Infrastructure Development, (3) Human Development and (4) Sustainable Development. The Government of New Zealand actively endorses our Strategic Plan through the Joint Commitment for Development it has signed with Tokelau that focuses priorities specifically to agreed identified key areas of development.

By the end of 2013 we had achieved about 60% of the outcomes under our national strategic plan. Tokelau will review its progress against our current Plan to determine priorities beyond 2015 and include in this the issue of self-determination and how it would address a possible referendum on its self-determination. It could be that the TNSP beyond 2015 will include some indication of the direction for Tokelau in regard to the question of a next referendum.

I am sure that the Government of New Zealand may wish to add further and I thank you again Mr Chairman for the opportunity.

Fakafetai.