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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

STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



**Statement by the Representative of the Papua New Guinea Permanent Mission to the United Nations at the Special Committee on Decolonisation (C-24) Pacific Regional Seminar, Nadi, Fiji, 21 May 2014**

"Check against delivery"

Mr Chairman;  
Excellencies;  
Distinguished Delegates and Guests; and  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

- I. Thank you for giving me the floor. Firstly, I convey my delegation's warmest appreciation to the Government and the hospitable people of Nadi, Fiji for being a generous and excellent host, as always, and on behalf of our Melanesian sub-region and the Pacific region, to the Special Committee on Decolonisation's Pacific Regional Seminar. Vinaka vakalevu!
- II. I also thank the C-24 and, in particular, you, Mr Chairman and the Bureau members for your decision to convene this important meeting in Fiji. I am sure the amiable setting will contribute to a constructive meeting, which will only confirm that your decision was indeed a wise one.

Mr Chairman,

- III. This meeting, today, again reminds us and the international community of the mandate bestowed upon us by the people of the world to ensure that the remaining vestiges of colonialism are eliminated in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on the UN list that continue to bear the yoke of colonialism.
- IV. Let us not forget the UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Ellison's timely message in February 2014 given to the C-24 in particular and the international community that "colonialism is a historic aberration." This was echoed this morning by the Prime Minister of Fiji. We must therefore make strident efforts to the challenge of eradicating colonialism. This however, must be done in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and peoples and relevant UN resolutions.

- V. We can be proud that the C-24 has come a long way and done a commendable job since its inception, where over more than 80 countries, constituting some 750 million people have been emancipated. However, our work remains unfinished and the pace of decolonization has waned. Today, nearly two million people in the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on the UN list look to us to facilitate their aspirations for self-determination and liberty from colonialism.

Mr Chairman,

- VI. It is however, pleasing to note that under the stewardship of the distinguished delegation of Ecuador, as the C-24 Chair, especially in the last year and half, we have sensed a level of engagement that has breathed a new lease of life to the work of the C-24. This we warmly welcome and fully support.
- VII. Whilst we are encouraged by the positive overtures and engagements by the various Administering Powers in recent years to address specific cases, we believe there is room for further improvement for direct dialogue and constructive cooperation that should be inclusive and broad-based involving all relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis.
- VIII. As we move into the middle of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, we have to ask ourselves important questions as to what we must do to be more effective and resourceful in trying to achieve more positive outcomes. So we would agree with recent proposals made by a number of delegations for us to think outside-of-the-box and deploy mutually agreeable new strategic mechanisms that could help expedite the self-determination process.
- IX. This could include informal dialogues involving all relevant stakeholders and high-level panel discussions under the "good offices" of the Secretary-General or the General Assembly President to renew global leaders focused attention on this human rights issue and to explore practical pathways to rid the scourge of colonialism in our midst.
- X. In closing, and in this regard, I would commend you, Mr Chairman, and your predecessor and other colleagues at the Mission of Ecuador for the various initiatives that have been initiated such as the holding of informal meetings including "outreach" meetings with the Administering Powers. We therefore commend you for this process and encourage consolidation of this pathway.

I thank you.