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Distr. RESTRICTED
PRS/2012/CRP.21

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for
the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects

Quito, Ecuador
30 May to 1 June 2012

STATEMENT

BY

The Representative of Algeria

Mr. Chairman

Allow me at the outset to express my delegation's appreciation for the excellent way in which you are conducting our work. We are confident that your able leadership and vast experience will steer our deliberations to a productive outcome.

I would like also to thank you personally and, through you, the Government of Ecuador for the hospitality and for the excellent organizational and logistical work in preparation for this Seminar.

My thanks go further to the other members of the Bureau and to the Secretariat for the arrangements made to ensure a successful Seminar.

Mr. Chairman

Algeria attaches a great importance to the full completion of the decolonization process and has, in this regard, a longstanding position regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

My country has supported the launching of the third international decade for the elimination of colonialism in order to give the additional necessary momentum to the resolution of the remaining cases. While exposing clearly the delay in completing the task of decolonization, the adoption of the third international decade insists also on the determination of the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve that noble goal.

It is our belief that the completion of the decolonization process is inevitable given the fact that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is in contravention with the principles of the UN Charter and with the norms of international law.

Mr. Chairman

Within the framework of the third international decade for the elimination of colonialism, our objective remains the same as contained in the Plan of Action (document A/56/61), which has clearly outlined the necessity to ensure "the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and with the principles contained in the Declaration".

Therefore, the importance in this process lies with the full implementation of the principle of self-determination, which is one of the four UN basic principles embodied in its Charter and recognized as a fundamental human right in the UN human rights treaties of 1966 and in many other international and regional instruments.

In doing so, it is important to ensure that the decolonization of the 16 non self-governing territories is dealt with fairly and in a manner that permits to their peoples to freely choose their political and economic future and to dispose of their natural resources.

Mr. Chairman

My country remains particularly preoccupied by the situation in the neighboring territory of Western Sahara, one of the 16 non self-governing territories. The people of this territory are not yet allowed to exercise their fundamental right of self-determination and to freely decide their own future in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and its relevant resolutions on decolonization.

It is worth recalling that Western Sahara is the last place of colonial rule in Africa, which is still waiting to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination. Both the International Court of Justice in 1975 and the legal Department of the United Nations in 2002 have presented opinions that both confirm that the final status of the territory of Western Sahara is yet to be determined and reaffirm the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination. However, the referendum mandated by the Security Council three decades ago has yet to be materialized.

Algeria is of the view that the way forward lies inevitably with the United Nations exercising fully its responsibility to safeguard the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination in accordance with resolution 1514 of the General Assembly and with the United Nations rules and practices on decolonization.

Our hope remains that, as it did successfully in the past, the UN Organization uphold its obligations and provide the necessary conditions that will enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise its right to self-determination in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman

The Security Council has clearly and repeatedly defined the parameters guiding the ongoing negotiations to find a solution to the conflict of Western Sahara, by calling upon Morocco and the Polisario Front to enter,

in good faith, into negotiations without preconditions, with a view to achieving a solution that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

For this negotiating process to be successful, the two parties have been also invited by the Security Council to demonstrate further political will, including by expanding upon their discussion of each other's proposal.

Algeria remains convinced that the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination is the only way forward to settle this last unresolved problem of decolonization in Africa.

In this regard, while deploring the latest developments in the negotiating process which might impact negatively on, and further complicate the search for a solution to the conflict of Western Sahara, my country reiterates its full support for the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations and his Personal Envoy, Mr. Christopher Ross; to assist the two parties to the conflict, namely Morocco and the Polisario Front, in their search for a solution based on the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you.