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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: current realities and prospects

Quito, Ecuador
30 May to 1 June 2012

STATEMENT

BY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA



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**Statement by
Elleonora Tambunan
Representative of the Republic of Indonesia**

For

**The Pacific Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism**

Quito, Ecuador, 30 May - 1 June 2011

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentleman,

At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's high appreciation to the government of Ecuador for graciously hosting the first Pacific Regional Seminar of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to convey our gratitude to the government and the people of Ecuador for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates, since the first day we set foot on the charming city of Quito. Let me also take this opportunity to commend H.E. Ambassador Diego Morejon-Pazmino, for ably leading the Committee since assuming chairmanship. Last but not least, our appreciation also goes to the Bureau of the Committee and the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the Committee's works, including for the Seminar.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My dearest friend, the distinguished representative of Sierra Leone, made a correct observation yesterday on the lack of presence of the member states of the Special Committee of 24, in the Regional Seminar. While I can attest that there is a comparably larger participation of member states this year, there were definitely times when the Committee witnessed a higher rate of attendance, not only in New York, but also in the Regional Seminars.

My colleague from Sierra Leone has put forth some well-thought proposals on how to have member states back in the discussion with representatives of the Non Self-Governing Territories, experts, and international organizations, particularly UN agencies. It is also important, however, to acknowledge the fact that the diminished enthusiasm might have stemmed from frustration that there has been little progress in the implementation of the UN decolonization agenda in the past few years. A decade has passed since the United Nations member states adopted the second Plan of Action to eradicate colonialism, which is still used as the basis for the Committee's works in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. And today, sixteen territories remain on the decolonization list.

We would, therefore, like to reiterate our call to the Committee, to seek ways and measures to expedite the decolonization process. The Chair has rightfully stated in the beginning of the Seminar, that it is time to make new innovations based on pragmatic and realistic approaches. The Plan of Action has called for the Committee and its member states to make an assessment on the implementation of the Plan of Action, so as to have a better understanding on its progress, and to objectively identify the impeding factors and what needs and can be done to address those issues. The presentations by the representatives of the Territories, as well as the experts, delivered in this Pacific Regional Seminar, may give significant contribution to the assessment making.

On the other hand, using a pragmatic approach is also a recognition to the fact that the

solution and answer to the question of each Non-Self Governing Territory does not follow the principle of "one size fits all". The process of delisting should therefore be carried forward on the case-by-case basis. To this end, political will and active participation of all concerned parties, including the Administering Powers, play a great role.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Plan of Action has also made an emphasis on the role of the Administering Powers in advancing the United Nations decolonization agenda. While a few Administering Powers have been partaking in the discussions and dialogues with respect to decolonization, and by actually set an exemplary case as demonstrated by New Zealand and Tokelau, it is indisputable that in most cases there is a visible lack of participation of the Administering Powers in the process.

Having said this, my delegation would like to support the Chair's suggestions on some possible modalities to engage the Administering Powers, including the brainstorming sessions and an informal dialogue between Committee members and representatives of Administering Powers in New York, focusing on a few specific issues.

As insinuated above, the keyword in all questions in the UN decolonization agenda is dialogue. In this regard, we would like to underscore the importance of all concerned parties to make use of the relevant UN forums or to foster bilateral dialogues to find a common ground to move forward, and reach an agreement.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Some of the proposals made by the Chair, delegates, and representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as sending UN visiting missions to the Territories and publishing information on the UN decolonization agenda – particularly the three options available for the peoples of the Territories – will require adequate funding and good cooperation with related UN bodies and main committees. In view of the UN's budget situation, it is important for the Committee to find innovative ways to address the budget issue, including by engaging the relevant UN agencies and/or other international and regional organizations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to reiterate Indonesia's commitment and full support to you and to the Committee in fulfilling its mandate in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.