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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 SIERRA LEONE



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

245 East 49th Street, New York NY 10017

Statement

By:

Counsellor Victoria M. Sulimani,

Delegate of Sierra Leone to:

**The Pacific Regional Seminar on the implementation of The
Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
Current realities and prospects**

Quito, Ecuador, 31st May, 2012

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to register the sincere apologies of my Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Shekou Momodu Touray, one of the Vice Chairs of the Special Committee, who would have very much loved to address this seminar but is unavoidably absent.

Mr. Chairman,

Sierra Leone welcomes another opportunity to hear the views of representatives of the NSGTs, experts, members of the civil society and other stakeholders on the implementation of the 3rd International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism. It is our fervent hope that at the end of these discussions, we would have obtained adequate information on the best ways to steer our work towards the fulfillment of the objectives of the Third International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism.

Permit me, on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone to thank the Government and people of Ecuador for hosting us this year in this beautiful city of Quito and for the hospitality and excellent organization of this meeting.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to commend our able Chair, H.E. Ambassador Diego Morejón Pazmino, for his leadership and commitment to the work of the Committee. My delegation is honoured to work with you as Vice Chair. We assure you of our fullest cooperation and support throughout your tenure.

Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief since the purpose of our gathering is for the representatives of the territories, experts, members of the civil society and other stakeholders to apprise Special Committee of the status quo in the territories under our purview.

Mr. Chair, fellow Committee Members,

We are in the second year of the Third International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism. In the Secretary-General's message to the Special Committee in February and the one to the Seminar that was read yesterday, he reminded us that 16 NSGTs, home to nearly 2 million people are yet to be de-listed. Clearly, he was calling on all of us, Committee Members, Administering Powers, the NSGTs themselves and the wider international Community to work concertedly towards the full implementation of the decolonization process.

As a member of this noble Committee, and in keeping with the principles of the UN Charter and the relevant resolutions, it is our fervent hope that tangible progress will be made in actualizing our goal of assisting the people of the NSGTs in achieving self-determination during this decade.

In that connection, my delegation would encourage those Administering Powers that have continued to show commitments to their obligations under the UN Charter by developing self-government in their territories and have continued to collaborate with the local governments of their territories by engaging them in discussions on constitutional reviews aimed at granting them greater autonomy and self-government.

We equally welcome the decision of those Administering Powers that have expressed full support for the rights of the people of the territories, including their rights to free association, integration as well as their rights to freely determine their political, economic and cultural status.

Mr. Chair, my delegation takes these regional seminars very seriously because we are mindful of their usefulness to both the Committee and the inhabitants of the territories. In that respect, we wish to underscore the need for increased participation of elected and appointed representatives of the territories. We believe that the views they provide, which are always very instructive, will help inform our deliberations in the Committee. We equally cherish the increased participation of Committee members because as the saying goes "the more the merrier". My delegation will be very much pleased to see more members of the Committee at our next regional seminar.

Let me conclude by encouraging all of us present at this seminar to depart Quito with the determination that by the end of 2020, we would have done considerable work to eradicate colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you for your attention.