

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: assessment of decolonization process in today's world

**Nouméa, New Caledonia
18 to 20 May 2010**

WELCOME STATEMENT

BY

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**Chairman of the Special Committee on the
Situation with regard to the Implementation of the
Declaration on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples**

I would like to welcome all participants to the Pacific Regional Seminar organized by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. This resolution declared the period 2001–2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The plan of action for the Decade, as you are aware, among other measures, calls for holding regional seminars alternately in the Caribbean and Pacific regions as well as at the United Nations Headquarters.

This Seminar is the last in the series of decolonization seminars that have been planned for the Second Decade. As we are at the very end of the Second Decade, this seminar is an important landmark for the Special Committee to assess the implementation of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, 2010 marks two major milestones in the United Nations history of decolonization. Firstly, it is the 50th anniversary of the General Assembly's key declarations (Resolutions 1514 and 1541) that demanded self-determination for Colonies and Trust territories. Shortly thereafter, the Special Committee was itself established to act as the United Nations' 'instrument of decolonization'.

Secondly, 2010 marks the end of the Second Decade on Decolonization, intended to further the objectives of the United Nations in relation to non-self-governing territories.

This seminar is taking place in the Territory that is going through a very challenging and complex process of determining its political future in close cooperation with the administering Power, France. The Special Committee regards the hosting of the seminar as a significant manifestation of improved cooperation between the administering Power and the Committee in advancing the decolonization process in general and in the Pacific region in particular.