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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: challenges and opportunities in the process of
decolonization in today's world**

Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis
12 to 14 May 2009

STATEMENT

BY THE REPRESENTATIVE

OF INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**At the
Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Second
International Decade for the Eradication of the Colonialism
Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis
12-14 May 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

As this Regional Seminar enters the final day, we must now turn our thoughts, in a more concrete and productive way, to the future.

What is the best-case scenario for our work?

The best-case is that next year, when the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism comes to a close, each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would have been delisted. That, certainly, was the hope of the General Assembly when the Second Decade was declared.

However, given what we know of the last nine years and our work, it is unlikely that we can reasonably expect such an outcome. But the priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade remain unambiguous.

First, we must remain engaged. It is essential that, within the mandate that governs our work, we intensify the commitment of every stakeholder, particularly the NSGTs. Of equal importance is the cooperation of the Administering Powers, and the preparedness of the Special Committee to continue to encourage and stimulate the necessary dialogue.

Without doubt, through our work in the past in this respect, as well as in the dissemination of information through publications and our interface with the broader international community on the subject of colonization, we have helped to advance the subject.

We must continue with the efforts in the hope that they will yield fruit in the delisting process. It is important, in this regard, to consider the situation of

individual NSGTs and look at how we can take them forward in that way. There is some danger in lumping them together as a category.

In doing this, we can focus more productively and effectively on the specific needs of each NSGT, in terms of their political and economic needs, and in how relevant members of the United Nations system can be of assistance in each case.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to the future, beyond the mandate of the Second International Decade.

As much as it had been hoped that the Second Decade would see to the full resolution of all the issues in the decolonization file, it now seems highly likely that several issues will outlast this period. We would be remiss in our obligations if we did not cast our attention that far, and did not offer any recommendations.

To have the works of the Special Committee sustained and enhanced, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Decade, my delegation is of the view that a Third International Decade may need to be considered. We would like to assure you that Indonesia will continue to work closely with Committee, in accordance with its mandate, in such consideration.

During the remainder of the Second Decade and possibly beyond, we must remain conscious of, and guided by, the political options available to the NSGTs: free association with other independent States; full integration with political rights; or independence.

Beyond those existing options, and in the light of both history and evolving realities, we have to explore other solutions on the decolonization issue.

In my view, one such option could be the systematic delisting of certain NSGTs only if, however, the United Nations fully satisfies itself that such delisting is the will of the people, or that the people of that particular NSGT have effective self-governance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.