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

2014 Pacific Regional Seminar

Draft closing statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Xavier Lasso Mendoza

**Chair 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**

Nadi, Fiji, 23 May 2014

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Special Committee, I wish to express our sincerest thanks for the warm reception from the people and the Government of Fiji, which, it can be said without a doubt, has left us all with lasting gratitude and appreciation for this beautiful country. Vinaka vaka levu

The active involvement of all the participants has enabled us to identify important ideas for consideration, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Committee's mandate.

As I said in my substantive statement last Wednesday, the Special Committee and the Administering Powers, together with the Territory in question, must develop and finalize a constructive programme of work, on a case by case basis, in order to ensure the implementation of the decolonization mandate.

The complete decolonization of a Territory is not achieved overnight, so we must not delay taking the first step in the process, to avoid the risk of being left empty-handed at the end of the Third Decade.

I believe that we need to continue the rounds of consultations begun in 2013 with the aim of generating specific proposals, always on the basis of a case-by-case analysis and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

That work can be carried out only through close cooperation with the administering Powers and the Territories.

As I said in my opening statement, the relevant resolutions, legal opinions and practice of the General Assembly provide a useful conceptual and legal arsenal for the implementation of the decolonization mandate.

There is no need for us to reinvent the wheel. As resolution 68/97 of 2013 recalls, "the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

I should like, once again, to express the sincere gratitude of the Special Committee to the Government and the people of Fiji, for their hospitality and support in ensuring the success of this Seminar.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention and thank the interpreters for their excellent work, which gave us the best possible understanding of the participants' statements.

Again, I thank all here present for making this Seminar a success. In this regard, I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary of the Special Committee and her team in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the team of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information for their valuable assistance in organizing and conducting the event.

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I declare the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization, held under the auspices of the United Nations, closed.

Thank you.

Draft: Decolonization Unit
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