

Distr. RESTRICTED

CRS/2024/CRP.29

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

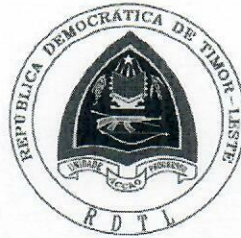
**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
pursuing goals and addressing needs of
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

14 to 16 May 2024

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF

TIMOR-LESTE



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

STATEMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO BE DELIVERED BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR DIONISIO DA COSTA BABO SOARES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AT THE REGIONAL SEMINAR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
DECOLONIZATION (C24)

On the issue of Falkland/Malvinas Island and Gibraltar

14-16 May 2024

Caracas, Venezuela

Check Against Delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair.

In advancing the decolonization process of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, we firmly underscore the significance of fostering dialogue and negotiation among all parties in the process to resolve the existing conflicts and establish a clear framework for these territories. Our primary focus should be on ensuring the full execution of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through comprehensive programs that can tangibly improve the quality of life for individuals residing in these territories.

In addressing the case of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas in particular, Timor-Leste implores all stakeholders to reinitiate meaningful and constructive consultation and dialogues with the view of achieving a mutually acceptable and enduring resolution to the protracted territorial dispute. It is of utmost importance that these dialogues adhere to relevant United Nations resolutions, with the ultimate objective of attaining a harmonious and sustainable conclusion.

We believe that dialogue and negotiation will need to be at the centre of any conflict resolution. There is no other way that the parties of the dispute resort to other means rather than a peaceful resolution to the dispute based on the UN relevant resolutions.

It is essential that the Special Committee facilitates talks between the UK and Argentina to resume dialogues and negotiations to resolve the sovereignty dispute and promote joint UK-Argentina cooperation on issues like fisheries, joint oil exploration, and environmental protection.

Madam Chair,

On the issue of Gibraltar, we see the importance of the re-initiation of the Tripartite talks among the parties. The Committee should take steps to facilitate negotiations between the UK, Spain, and Gibraltar to address sovereignty and co-sovereignty options.

In the meantime, we encourage UK-Spain-Gibraltar cooperation on issues like trade, tourism, and environmental protection.

Above all these issues, it is important to remind all parties involved underlining that a final resolution to the above territories must consider the historical background as well as the application of relevant international law principles, such as self-determination and territorial integrity.

Thank you