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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)

14-16 May 2024
Caracas, Venezuela

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Madam Chair,

Let me start by expressing our appreciation to the Government of Venezuela for hosting this Regional Seminar in the beautiful city of Caracas. I wish to take this opportunity to also congratulate you on your re-election as Chair, alongside the Bureau members of this Special Committee. We have the utmost confidence in your leadership and extend our full support in steering this Committee.

We look forward to the outcome of the Seminar that will contribute to advancing the decolonization of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with UN resolutions.

Madam Chair,

As an advocate for decolonization and self-determination of nations and as a country born out of this process, we firmly believe that addressing the situation of the 17 remaining Non-Self Governing Territories is crucial for promoting global justice and dignity for all peoples. To advance the decolonization process of these territories, several important steps must be taken.

First and foremost, empowering the people of these territories to have a meaningful voice in their governance is essential. This can be achieved through advocating for the recognition and protection of their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the UN Charter and international law.

Furthermore, raising awareness about the continued existence of colonialism in the 21st century is vital in garnering international support for decolonization efforts. This can be done through educational initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and diplomatic

efforts to highlight the injustices faced by the peoples of these territories and the urgent need for their decolonization.

Additionally, engaging with the administering powers of these territories and encouraging them to uphold their obligations under the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions is crucial. Administering powers must be held accountable for their actions and policies in these territories, and urged to work towards a peaceful and timely decolonization process.

It is important to emphasize that both the administering Powers and the territorial peoples that such Territories could be said to have reached a full measure of self-government if one of three options had been achieved: ***free association; integration; or independence. None of those options should be imposed. Rather, they must be the result of the freely expressed wishes of the territorial peoples.*** It is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Collaboration and solidarity among nations and peoples around the world are also essential in advancing the decolonization of the remaining Non-Self Governing Territories. By standing in solidarity with the peoples of these territories and advocating for their rights on the global stage, we can help create a world free from the legacy of colonialism and oppression.

In conclusion, advancing the decolonization process of the remaining 17 Non-Self Governing Territories requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the peoples of these territories, civil society organizations, administering powers, and the international community. By taking these important steps and working together

towards a common goal, we can contribute to a more just and equitable world for all.

Given that Timor-Leste was once a non-self-governing territory and whose independence was achieved through a transparent decolonization process, in which the Special Committee on Decolonization played a central role. This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of popular consultation/referendum in Timor-Leste. I would like to propose and offer Timor-Leste's willingness for the very first time to host this event in 2025. It will certainly be an experience and utmost importance to this committee to gather and meet on Timor-Leste's soil, and leave not only a mark in history but also the triumph of democracy and humanity.

Thank you