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SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

PaCifc regional seminar on the implemntaion of the Second Interational Decade for the Eradication of Colnialism01

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The value of Seminars like ours is to provide a venue for various views
and opinions by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society, and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization to be expressed in an open and constructive manner. The Committee attaches great importance to hearing the voices of the people from the Territories whom it supports in the search for the appropriate ways of self-determination.

Each NSGT still on the UN decolonization list has a unique mix of circumstances, often involving quite complex political issues. It is essential that 'creative thinking' that is sensitive to the circumstances is used by all concerned in addressing these issues, as there is no 'one size fits all' solution. For instance, the wishes of small island states need to reflect their unique vulnerabilities in terms of survival in the modern world. 60 years down the track from GA Resolution 1541, the world has changed - today, major issues of sustainability (in economic, environmental and social terms) confront everyone, but especially smaller, more vulnerable societies.

The challenges of climate change will require significant international cooperation, often relying more closely on neighbors and long-established relationships. There are wrongs that need to be corrected. This is extremely important - it applies to all peoples, even in the biggest of the states.

Hence it is important for the UN to hear the views of NSGTs on how they
see their own future in an interconnected world. The choices of current generations require thinking ahead and considering the interests of future generations as best as possible.

Regional and sub-regional organizations such as the EU, the OAS, the
AU, CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum today pp

what future political status they would like to have. But the United Nations has a mandate, within the framework of the Charter and the key GA resolutions, to assist. That is the point of this discussion in New Caledonia.

At this seminar we are going to assess the socio-economic and political developments in the Territories with a view to working out, in cooperation with the administering Powers and representatives of the Territories, a realistic, action-oriented program of work on a case-by-case basis for the way forward in advancing the decolonization process. To this end, we need to look again at the merits of comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self Governing Territories as provided for by the Plan of Action for the Second Decade.

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