

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

Distr. RESTRICTED
CRS/2013/CRP.7

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends**

**Quito, Ecuador
28 to 30 May 2013**

STATEMENT BY ALIKI FAIPULE SALESIO LUI

ULU O TOKELAU

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

'QUESTION OF TOKELAU'

**STATEMENT BY ALIKI FAIPULE SALESIO LUI
ULU O TOKELAU
(TITULAR HEAD OF TOKELAU)**

**Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: current realities and prospects**

QUITO, ECUADOR

28-30 MAY 2013

Mr. Chairman - Your Excellency Ambassador Diego Morejón of the Republic of Ecuador

Rapporteur and Distinguished Members of this Seminar

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to make a presentation to this Seminar on behalf of the people of Tokelau. I acknowledge the Almighty Father for His

guidance and protection and wish to convey to this Seminar the good wishes and greetings from Tokelau. The Republic of Ecuador is a long way from my home but we have felt quite at home with the hospitality and support that has been accorded to me and my delegation to allow us to be here today. I would like to thank the Government of Ecuador and especially the people of Quito for that warm hospitality.

power or partners from those that have yet to develop such a relationship. This is an important reality because through this criterion we can be more focussed on the

level Territories and their respective administrative

(1) The Special Committee should actively explore the needs of each of the territories and see whether their capacity to engage internationally is limited or compromised by virtue of their current political status. In this regard I am talking specifically about territories that I referred to as "Schedule A" in my statement above. New Zealand and Tokelau's special relationship, for the most part, provides adequate funds for the necessary developments and activities that keep our small nation buoyant, however there are still many challenges that lie ahead particularly in the areas of renewable energy and climate change. This may be a time of financial constraints, but the development needs of Tokelau remain great.

safe and efficient shipping service. Tokelau has developed a Joint

and traditions which affirm the identity of her people. Regretfully since the establishment of the UN Framework for the Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of Parties, Tokelau has been unable to truly articulate its position in this situation.

As a non self governing territory of an Annex One country, we understand that there will be challenges in advocating Tokelau's perspectives. Tokelau has not been able to obtain membership of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to name but three such coalitions. Several fellow Pacific island states have questioned whether, if Tokelau is not a SID then

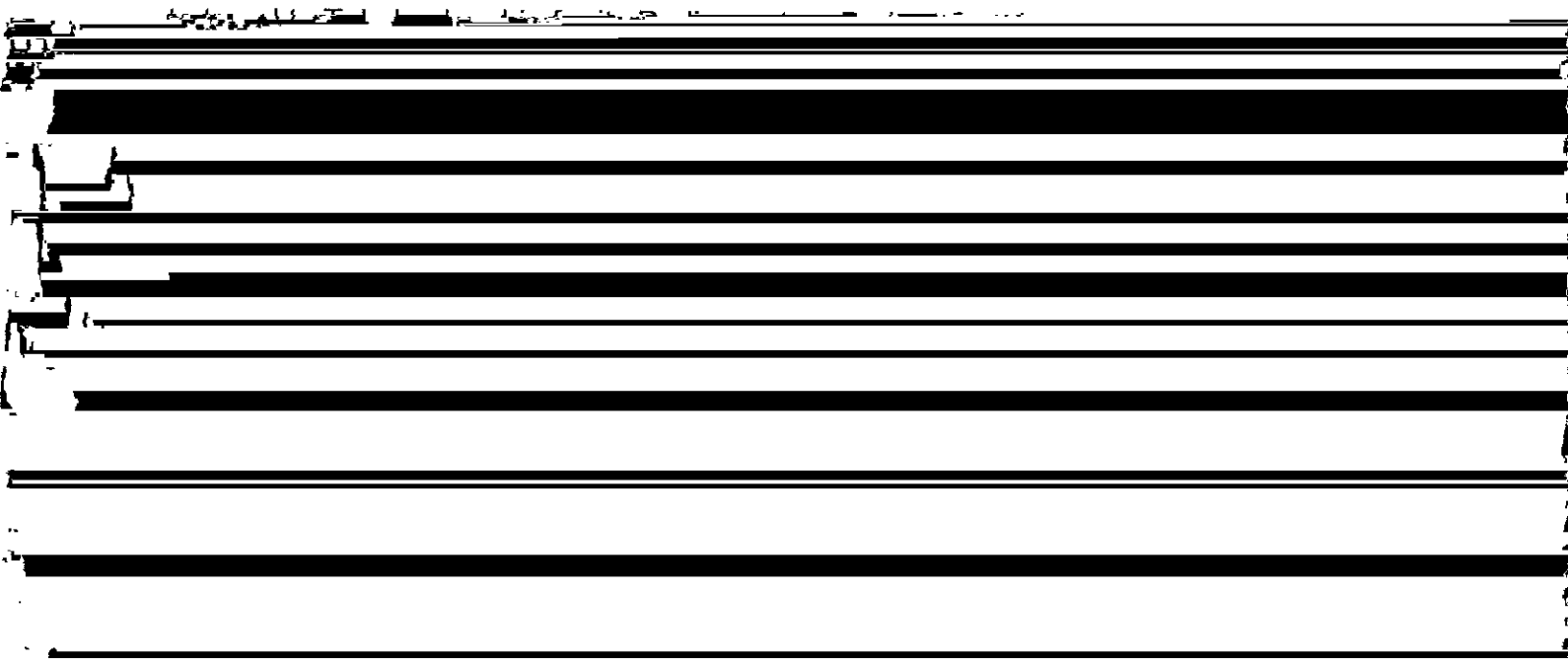
lessons learned can be shared with its regional brothers and sisters and that our statements and comments can be made along-side all other SIDS in a similar situation to it.

As a territory, Tokelau is not eligible for Global Environment Funds (GEF) to assist her communities to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of its changing environment due to the effects of climate change. Mr. Chairman, we seek

would aspire to under an act of self determination. All three options have their difficulties and it would be worthwhile for territories to understand these and the strategies that may be used to manage them, and hence provide greater incentive to move down the track to greater autonomy. The self determination options require efforts to make them real and relevant within the current evolving global landscape. The options need to encourage momentum and

Mr Chairman, the issues I have raised above may be different from that of other territories for various reasons. Tokelau's prospects for the future have been encouraged by two key factors. The first factor is Tokelau's determination to improve the quality of life for its people as demonstrated through our political will and drive to implement the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2010-2015. The second is the continuing support of our national development priorities by the

Mr Chairman and members of the Seminar, in conclusion I would like to formally record our heartfelt thanks and continuing gratitude to the people of New Zealand for their support to Tokelau as it deals with current issues and looks with optimism to its future. We also like to thank you Mr Chairman and the Secretariat for organising this Seminar. Please accept our sincere gratitude. Mr Chairman, as you are aware, Tokelau seeks your indulgence for my delegation to leave the Seminar early in time



I thank you once again for the opportunity given to Tokelau to address this Seminar on Tokelau's current realities and prospects for the eradication of colonialism in our time.

I wish you all the best in the deliberations and a safe journey as you return to your homes.

Fakafetai lahi lele!