

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Facilitate the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

priorities for the remainder of the Decade

Bandung, Indonesia
14 to 16 May 2008

Statement of welcome

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H.E. MR. IMRAN CÜTARI, Secretary-General

Department of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Indonesia

Welcoming Remarks by

H.E. Imron Cotan
Secretary General
Department of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Indonesia

At the Opening of
The Pacific Regional Seminar
On Decolonization

Bandung, 14 May 2008

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia, in particular the
of we gather here for the 2008 United Nations Pacific Regional Seminar
Decolonization.

Indonesia is greatly honoured to host this seminar. Apart from the privilege of
playing host to such an important event, we are also given another opportunity to
fulfill our constitutional mandate to contribute to a better world of peace and social
justice. Decolonization, after all, is a fundamental form of social justice.

It is particularly significant that we are holding this seminar in Bandung, site of
the historic Asian-African Conference. In his opening remarks, the Conference took place in this
very building, "Securing Indonesia."

Here, on 18 April 1955, President Sukarno, the founding President of
Indonesia, stood before the first generation of Asian and African leaders and attested
to their united stand on the issue of decolonization. "A common
common detestation of colonialism in whatever form it appears. We are united by a
common detestation of racism. A common determination to
preserve and stabilize peace in the world."

In that historic conference, the new emerging sovereign nations of Asia and
Africa gave notice to the world at large that they were determined to take an active
role in the mainstream of international affairs. They also rang the death knell of
colonialism in its classic form of outright and barefaced domination.

On that occasion, 29 countries were represented in this building. Fifty years
later, in 2005, when the Government of Indonesia is

Government of South Africa hosted the golden anniversary of the Asia-Africa

sovereignty were represented.

It is therefore clear that much progress has been made. But not to the extent that decolonization is no longer an issue. It still is.

Thus, this seminar is held at a very critical juncture, as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is swiftly approaching its scheduled completion in 2010. The main theme of this year's seminar, "priorities for the remainder of the decade," is therefore very timely.

We have a full agenda before us. The fulfillment of that agenda depends on each of you who represent the Special Committee member states, the administering Powers, and the Non-self-governing Territories.

We urgently need to identify pragmatic, constructive, and innovative ways to push the decolonization agenda forward. In doing so, we must think outside the box.

We must do this in the context of the realities of our time.

For the sake of the peoples of the remaining Non-self-governing Territories,

than half a century ago, so that it will impart Godspeed to our deliberations.

tasks we set out to accomplish in this seminar

Thank you and I wish you a pleasant stay.