

## STATEMENT

By

**H.E. Michael Imran Kanu, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone and Vice-Chair  
of the Special Committee on Decolonization**

**at the Management Segment of ECOSOC, on 30 July 2025,  
under agenda item 15 entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of  
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the  
international institutions associated with the United Nations”**

Mister Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is my honor to address the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 15 in my capacity as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

I would like to draw the Council’s attention to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/80/64, listing specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, to which the provisions of General Assembly resolution 79/96 of 4 December 2024 apply.

I would also like to refer to the report of the President of ECOSOC, E/2025/56, which contains information submitted by 14 entities of the UN system regarding the support provided to various Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

This year, the Special Committee on Decolonization convened its Pacific seminar in Dili from 21 to 23 May, under the theme "Pathways to a Sustainable Future – Advancing Socioeconomic and Cultural Development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories."

The seminar’s conclusions and recommendations continue to emphasize that climate change has heightened both the environmental and economic vulnerability of many Non-Self-Governing Territories. Furthermore, ongoing global economic, financial, and health crises have reinforced the urgency of pursuing economic sustainability and diversifying local economies to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>1</sup>

Mister Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

Under item 15 of the agenda, I wish to draw the attention of the distinguished members of the Council to the draft resolution contained in document E/2025/L.18, co-sponsored by the following Member States:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

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<sup>1</sup> See Conclusions and Recommendations, [A/79/23](#), Annex II, para. 29 (j)

3. Cuba
4. Dominica
5. Fiji
6. Nicaragua
7. Saint Kitts and Nevis
8. Saint Lucia
9. Saint Vincent and the Grenadine
10. Sierra Leone
11. Timor Leste
12. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

In addition, after the issuance of the draft resolution E/2025/L.18 the following Member States also joined the co-sponsorship: [to be updated]

I am honoured to introduce the draft resolution, which underscores the United Nations' commitment to advancing decolonization and supporting the peoples of these Territories, on a case-by-case basis, in their pursuit of self-determination and sustainable development.

The draft resolution, inter alia, emphasizes the unique challenges faced by small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving sustainable development due to limited options, and the critical need to secure resources and funding from major institutions within the United Nations system to expand assistance programs for these Territories, on a case-by-case basis.

The resolution requests that United Nations entities and regional organizations assess the conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, and requests that they strengthen existing support measures and formulate assistance programmes within the framework of their mandates, addressing the unique challenges faced by the Territories, on a case-by-case basis.

Mister Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

I invite the Council to consider this draft resolution as a reaffirmation of our ongoing commitment to supporting Non-Self-Governing Territories in their pursuit, on a case-by-case basis, of self-determination and sustainable development

In concluding, I would like to invite all members of this Council to support the draft resolution issued in E/2025/L.18 before you.

I thank you.