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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization
through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

Saint George's, Grenada

2 to 4 May 2019

DRAFT REPORT

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures, held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May 2019

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism¹ and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.
2. In its resolution 73/123, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2019, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region.
3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. Discussions at the seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.
4. The respective contributions of the participants would be further considered by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2019, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

5. The seminar was held in St. George's, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May, 2019. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

¹ A/56/61, annex.

6. The seminar was conducted by H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Three administering Powers, France, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Honduras, Morocco, Spain and Uganda.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 2 May 2019, H.E. Ms Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts (Dominica) and Mr. Yassi Maximin Brou (Cote d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Mr. Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (CRS/2019/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in making viable advancements in the Non-Self-Governing Territories through cooperation, collaboration and consensus:

- (a) Strategies to ensure the advancement of the decolonization process;
- (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders.

2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders:

- (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
 - (i) In the Caribbean region;
 - (ii) In the Pacific region;
 - (iii) In other regions;
- (b) Strategies to overcome the challenges in decolonization;
- (c) Ensuring the well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their political, economic, social and educational advancement.

3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.

4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 2 May 2019, H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, H.E. Mr. Peter David, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General gave a message to the seminar through a video.

B. Statements and discussions²

13. At the 1st meeting, on 2 May, the representative of Cuba made a statement concerning its representative accredited to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations in New York who had planned to participate in the seminar but was unable to do so due to the non-issuance of a visa by the US authorities and the importance of this issue being further addressed by the Committee. The Chair made a statement. The representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Nicaragua, Grenada and Algeria made statements in support of Cuba.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement expressing concern over the question of non-funding by the United Nations for the participation of a representative of Frente Polisario in the seminar. Statements were also made on the same issue by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Algeria in favour of previous practice. The Chair made a statement clarifying the decision in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the Caribbean Regional Seminar adopted by the Committee as reflected in A/AC.109/2019/19. The representatives of Sierra Leone, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire, Chile, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Congo, Papua New Guinea, Grenada, Indonesia, Fiji, and Morocco made statements in support of the Chair.

15. At the same meeting, under agenda item 1, the Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, China, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Timor-Leste, Argentina, Spain, France, Uganda as well as Mr. Joseph Bossano. Further statements were made by the following experts: Ms. Wilma Reveron-Collazo and Mr. Peter Clegg.

²All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

^c A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 2 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by H.E. Mr. Andrew Fahie, Premier, on the question of the British Virgin Islands, H.E. Mr. Walter Roban, Deputy Premier on the question of Bermuda, and H.E. Mr. Tregenza Roach, Lieutenant Governor on the question of the United States Virgin Islands. Presentations were also made by three experts, Mr. Peter Clegg, Ms. Judith Bourne and Ms. Wilma Reveron-Collazo.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement. A statement was also made by Mr. Joseph Bossano and Mr. Sidi Omar. A statement was also made by Mr. Peter Clegg.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Mr. Manuel Terai on the question of French Polynesia, and Mr. Melvin Won Pat-Borja on the question of Guam. A presentation was also made by the expert Mr. Michael Lujan Bevacqua. Statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Chile, New Zealand and France.

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 3 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of Falkland Islands (Malvinas)³ by Mr. Roger Anthony Edwards, Gibraltar by Mr. Joseph John Bossano and Western Sahara by Mr. Sidi Mohammed Omar and Mr. Mhamed Abba.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar heard further statements by the representatives of Cuba, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor Leste, Chile, China, Papua New Guinea, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Spain, Argentina, Algeria, Honduras and Morocco as well as Mr. Joseph Bossano, Mr. Sidi Mohamed Omar and Mr. Roger Edwards. Additional statements were made by Algeria and Morocco. A statement was also made by Mr. Luis Vernet.

21. At the 4th meeting, on 3 May, the Seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c), as well as agenda items 3 and 4. Under agenda item 3, a presentation was made by Ms. Denise Blackstock, United Nations Population Fund. The seminar heard statements by the representatives of Sierra Leone and Fiji. Statements were also made by Ms. Wilma Reveron-Collazo and Ms. Judith Bourne.

22. At the 5th meeting, on 4 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultation on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

³ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

C. Closing of the seminar

23. Also at the 5th meeting, on 4 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document (CRS/2019/CRP.13), which was adopted.

24. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada (see appendix II).

25. Also at the same meeting, the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, H.E. Mr. Peter David made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

26. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly.

27. Participating members reaffirmed the continued relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

28. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2019/19, annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee.

Appendix I

Caribbean Regional Seminar, Saint George's, Grenada (2 to 4 May 2019)

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Grenada (Chair)	Peter David Alva Browne T. Adrian Joseph Keisha Aniya McGuire ⁴ Nerissa Williams ⁴ Michael Mitchell
Antigua and Barbuda	Asha Challenger ⁴ Claxton Jessie Curtis Duberry Chantal Phillip
Chile	Ricardo Bosnic Leyla Soraya Vasquez Islame
China	Han Xu
Côte d'Ivoire	Yassi Maximin Brou
Congo	Fernand Eugène Ondako
Cuba	Iraida Guerrero Zúñiga
Dominica	Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts
Ethiopia	Lila Desta Asgedom ⁴
Fiji	Gene Bai
Indonesia	Mohammad Kurniadi Koba Aloysius Selwas Taborat
Iraq	Mohammed Qasim Karem
Nicaragua	Michael Rene Campbell Hooker
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa
Russian Federation	Stanislav Aleksaev ⁴
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sam Condor

⁴ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Saint Lucia	Bynta Ernest
	Shauna Charles
Sierra Leone	Francis Mustapha Kai-Kai ⁴
	Victor Abdulai Sheriff
Syrian Arab Republic	Ammar Awad ⁴
Timor-Leste	Julio Da Costa Freitas
	Leoneto Spinhola Ley de Araujo Mantilo
Venezuela	Jorge Guerrero Veloz
	Gustavo Díaz Aular
	Naidely Álvarez

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Abdallah Baali
	Larbi El Hadj Ali
	Manel El Ayoubi
Argentina	Gonzalo S. Mazzeo
Honduras	Tulio Mariano Gonzales García
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Abderrahim Kadmiri
	Redouane Houssaini
	Khaddad El Moussaoui
	Omar Kadiri
	Majdoline Mouflih
	Adil Lyamani
	Zhor Saidi
	Karim Bouhamidi
	Rachid Sabri
	Hamza Chbihi
Spain	David Izquierdo
Uganda	Philip Ochen Andrew Odida

Administering Powers

France	Philippe Ardanaz
	Sandra Lalié

New Zealand
United Kingdom

Anton Ojala
Steve McCready

Non-Self-Governing Territories

Bermuda
British Virgin Islands

Walter H. Roban
Andrew A. Fahie
Claude Skelton Cline
Najan Christopher
Eliezer Benito Wheatley
Hamlet Mark

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)⁵
French Polynesia
Gibraltar

Roger Anthony Edwards
Manuel Terai
Joseph John Bossano
Albert Poggio

Guam
Montserrat
United States Virgin Islands
Western Sahara

Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja
Debra Lewis
Tregenza A. Roach
Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente Polisario)
Sueilima Tieb Ahmed Salem (Frente Polisario)
Mhamed Abba
Ghalla Bahiya

Funds and programmes of the United Nations system

United Nations Population Fund

Denise Blackstock

Regional organizations

Melanesian Spearhead Group

Ilan Anama Kiloe

⁵ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Experts

Michael Bevacqua*

Peter Clegg*

Judith Bourne*

Wilma Reverón-Collazo*

Luis Vernet

Appendix II

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 2 to 4 May 2019, in Saint George's, Grenada, to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement at the opening of the seminar, by the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, H.E. Mr. Peter David.

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Grenada for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for this seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Grenada.
