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**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**FORTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond**

**Castries, Saint Lucia**

**11 to 13 May 2022**

**DRAFT REPORT**

## **Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond, held in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 11 to 13 May 2022**

### **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution [75/123](#), declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth 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 Colonialism ([A/56/61](#), annex) 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 Fourth International Decade.

2. In its resolution [76/105](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2022, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific 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 would 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 2022, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

### **II. Organization of the seminar**

5. The seminar was held in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 11 to 13 May 2022. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of Members States of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part (see appendix I). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

6. The seminar was conducted by 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, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian

Republic of). Two administering Powers: France and the United Kingdom participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia and Spain.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) and Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Cote d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (PRS/2022/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee:
  - (a) Defining challenges and opportunities in the Fourth International Decade;
  - (b) Promoting action conducive to sustainable development in the Territories.
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 Pacific region;
    - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
    - (iii) In other regions;
  - (b) Harnessing lessons learned in response to the pandemic towards recovery;
  - (c) Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with particular emphasis on health (Goal 3).
3. Role of the United Nations system in efforts to assist the Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Recommendations to achieve decolonization in the Fourth International Decade: concrete proposals for the Special Committee.

### **III. Proceedings of the seminar**

#### **A. Opening of the seminar**

10. On 11 May 2022, Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, Philip Joseph Pierre, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Development and Youth Economy of Saint Lucia, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the seminar via a pre-recorded video.

## B. Statements and discussions<sup>1</sup>

13. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) and (b). The Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Cuba, Dominica, Chile, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Papua New Guinea.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by Engel Raygadas on French Polynesia, Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja on Guam, and Mickael Forrest on New Caledonia. Presentations were made by the following experts: Michael Lujan Bevacqua and John Connell. Statements were made by the representatives of France and Papua New Guinea. Statements were also made by two experts: Naïa Wateou and Dimitri Quenegei.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i). The representative of France made an additional statement. A statement was also made by one expert: Robert Kapeori. Two experts made additional statements: Naïa Wateou and Dimitri Quenegei. A statement was also made by John Joseph Bossano. Additional statements were also made by Engel Raygadas and Mickael Forrest.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Kenneth Hodge on Anguilla, Benito Wheatley on the British Virgin Islands and John J. Malcolm on the Turks and Caicos Islands. Presentations were also made by two experts: Carlyle Corbin and Wilma Reverón-Collazo. Statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Bolivia (Plurinational State of). Statements were also made by Joseph John Bossano, Engel Raygadas, Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 May, the seminar decided to reopen agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard statements by three experts: Roch Wamytan, Julien Boanemoui and Naïa Wateou. The representative of France made an additional statement. A statement was also made by Mickael Forrest.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of Falkland Islands (Malvinas)<sup>2</sup> by Gavin Short, Gibraltar by Joseph John Bossano and Western Sahara by Sidi Mohammed Omar and Bahiya Ghalla. A statement was made by an expert: Paula Vernet. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Argentina, Saint Lucia, Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, Grenada, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Cuba, Syrian Arab Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Timor-Leste, Dominica, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Algeria, Angola, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Gambia, Mexico, Namibia and Morocco. A statement was made by an expert: Wilma Reverón-Collazo. Additional statements were made by Cuba, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Algeria and Morocco. Sidi Mohammed Omar also made additional statements.

19. At the 4th meeting, on 12 May, the seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c).

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<sup>1</sup> All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

20. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard presentations via a pre-recorded video by Simona Marinescu, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, and Dale Alexander, Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. A statement was made by one expert: Carlyle Corbin. Statements were also made by Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest.

21. At the same meeting, the seminar considered agenda item 4. Statements were made by Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest. A statement was also made by one expert: Carlyle Corbin.

22. At the 5th meeting, on 13 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar agreed on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which were approved under silence procedure prior to the meeting, as orally revised.

### **C. Closing of the seminar**

23. Also at the 5th meeting, on 13 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document (PRS/2022/CRP.29), as orally revised, 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 Saint Lucia (see appendix II).

25. Also at the same meeting, the Special Envoy of the President of the General Assembly, Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations, read out a message from the President of the General Assembly. Ambassador Earl Huntley, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Chair of the Special Committee 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.109/2022/19, annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee.

## Appendix I

### Pacific Regional Seminar, Castries, Saint Lucia (11 to 13 May 2022)

#### List of participants

##### Members of the Special Committee

Antigua and Barbuda	Anthony Liverpool
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Marcelo Zambrana-Torrelío
Chile	Andres Alejandro Borlone Diaz
Côte d'Ivoire	Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo
	Yassi Maximin Brou
Cuba	Yumirka Fernández Palacios <sup>a</sup>
Dominica	Kelver Dwight Darroux
Grenada (Chair)	Keisha Aniya McGuire <sup>a</sup>
	Nerissa Williams <sup>a</sup>
	Michael Mitchell
Indonesia	Arrmanatha C. Nasir
	Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji <sup>a</sup>
	Ardina Desnita Tinaor
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa <sup>a</sup>
Russian Federation	Gloria Agaronova <sup>a</sup>
Saint Lucia	Guillaume Simon
	Menissa Marcelle Rambally <sup>a</sup>
	Earl Huntley
	Nancy Nicholas
	Carlton Henry
	Michelle Joseph
	Shantelle Polius
	Rovin Fevrier
Sierra Leone	Alhaji Fanday Turay <sup>a</sup>

	Victoria M. Sulimani
	Karen Jean Baimarro
Syrian Arab Republic	Aliaa Alia <sup>a</sup>
Timor-Leste	Karlito Nunes
	Joaquim José Costa Chaves
Tunisia	Nasreddine Naouali <sup>a</sup>
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Leiff Escalona
	Jorge Arturo Reyes Hernández
	Juan Echeverría
<b>States Members of the United Nations</b>	
Algeria	Ennadir Larbaoui
	Toufik Koudri
	Rafik Kessai
	Abdelkarim Hamiane
	Farida Azzi
Angola	João Iambeno Gimolieca
Argentina	Gonzalo Sebastián Mazzeo
	Maximiliano Javier Alvarez
Belize	Carlos Fuller
Botswana	Miliko Laba
Brazil	Ánuar Nahes
	Humberto Costa
Gambia	Lang Yabou
Ghana	Felix Nyarku
Haiti	Christopher Pierre
Maldives	Thilmeeza Hussain
Mexico	Carlos Iván Gonzalez
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Abderrahim Kadmiri
	Redouane Houssaini

	Mostafa Mouahhidi
	Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat
	Omar Kadiri
	Said Ait Talebe-Ali
	Majdoline Mouflih
	Salma Arka
Namibia	Eusebius Kashindi
	Nekwaya Iileka
Spain	Pablo Gutiérrez-Segú
<b>Administering Powers</b>	
France	Marine de Carne De Trécesson
United Kingdom	Lesley Saunderson
	Ayodele Hippolyte
<b>Non-Self-Governing Territories</b>	
Anguilla	Kenneth Hodge
Bermuda	Kathy Lynn Simmons
	Thomas Christopher Famous
	Gina Hurst-Maybury
British Virgin Islands	Eliezer Benito Wheatley
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) <sup>b</sup>	Gavin Short
French Polynesia	Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph John Bossano
	Albert Poggio
Guam	Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja
New Caledonia	Mickael Forrest
Saint Helena	Karl Thrower
Turks and Caicos	John J. Malcolm
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO)
	Mohamed Salec Abdesamad (Frente POLISARIO)



M'hamed Abba

Ghalla Bahiya

### **Intergovernmental organizations**

African Union

Fatima Kyari Mohammed

### **United Nations system**

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean)

Lorraine Nicholas

### **Funds and programmes of the United Nations system**

United Nations Population Fund

Aurora Noguera-Ramkissoon

### **Experts**

Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Julien Boanemoui

John Connell

Carlyle Corbin

Robert Kapoeri

Dimitri Qenegei

Wilma Reverón-Collazo

Victor Tutugoro

Bastien Vandendyck

Paula Vernet

Roch Wamytan

Naïa Wateou

Charles Wea

<sup>a</sup> Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

<sup>b</sup> 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).

## Appendix II

### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Lucia**

*The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,*

*Having met* in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 11 to 13 May 2022, 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 Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Philip Joseph Pierre,

*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 Saint Lucia 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 Saint Lucia.

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