

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

**Distr. RESTRICTED**  
**CRS/2017/DP.2**

**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: the future for decolonization in  
the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?**

**Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
16 to 18 May 2017**

**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**PRESENTATION**

**BY**

**MR. CARLYLE CORBIN**

**Caribbean Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:**

**What are the prospects?**

**16 to 18 May 2017**

**Innovative Strategies for the future Implementation of the United Nations Decolonisation Mandate for the Small Island Non Self-Governing Territories (SI-NSGTs)**

**Dr. Carlyle G. Corbin**

**Senior Fellow**

**Dependency Studies Project (DSP)**

---

**INTRODUCTION**

The theme of the 2017 seminar asks the fundamental question of what might be the prospects for the future of decolonisation in the Non Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs). The short answer to this question is that the prospects are directly related to the level of implementation of the many actions called for in the decolonisation mandate which has been adopted by the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly over the decades, and particularly over the more than a quarter-century since the approval of the plan of action of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (IDEC) was adopted by the General Assembly in 1991<sup>1</sup>. How

---

<sup>1</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 71/122 of 6 December 2016 on the Implementation of the Decolonisation Declaration.

to bring about this implementation, in these last years of the third IDEC, is the fundamental challenge.

Since the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly adoption of the Third IDEC (2011-2020) in 2010<sup>2</sup> the U.N. continues to struggle with the implementation of its decolonisation mandate for the Small Island Non Self-Governing Territories (SI-NSGTs), as well as those which are the subject of sovereignty dispute. The decolonisation of the SI-NSGTs is particularly challenged by the failure of the main administering Powers to meet their obligations under Article 73(b) of the U.N. Charter to "develop self-government" on the basis of absolute political equality. Instead their strategy has been to seek to convince the international community that there is a democratic legitimacy in the contemporary colonial arrangements. This is an indefensible argument, but as they do not participate in the process, they don't have to justify it.

In some instances, there are also clear violations of Article 73 (e) of the U.N. Charter with the refusal of one administering power (France) to transmit information on one of the territories under its administration (French Polynesia). In this regard, it is no longer sufficient for the General Assembly to merely express regret that this member State is not complying with the U.N. Charter. It must be made clear that they are in violation of the Charter. The formal withdrawal of participation in the U.N. decolonisation proceedings by the United Kingdom (1986) and the United States (1992) is also indicative of the dismissal by the other main Administering Powers of their responsibilities under the U.N. Charter, all the while lecturing the international community about the importance of "rule of law."

But even as administering Power intransigence has served as an impediment to the implementation of the decolonisation mandate, this must not be used as an excuse for the U.N. system not to carry out the actions which it has been given by the General Assembly. Accordingly, major elements of the mandate, including research and analysis, can be accomplished irrespective of whether the administering Powers are involved or not. Member States must hold the U.N. system accountable for

---

<sup>2</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

implementation of the directives given to it by the General Assembly. In the absence of accountability, what remains is the "repetition of process" with the adoption of resolutions without regard for their implementation.

Accordingly, the paper examines the implementation deficit of relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the NSGTs, the relevant decolonisation plans of action, and the "Plan of Implementation of the Decolonisation Mandate 2006-2007".<sup>3</sup> All have been endorsed by the General Assembly, but much of it has either not been fully implemented or effectively ignored.<sup>4</sup> The paper sets forth some key areas of the mandate which, if they were carried out, would have advanced the decolonisation process in the small island territories.

## I. COMMITMENT TO THE DECOLONISATION MANDATE

Commitments to implementation have been consistently expressed at the highest levels through the over quarter-century of the three IDECs. Most recently, at the February 2016 opening of the Decolonisation Committee, the statement<sup>5</sup> of the then-Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** indicated that:

*"(U.N.) efforts to realise the goals of the third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (IDEC) must shift more towards implementation."*

He emphasised that *"we must do better, focusing on carrying out the actions approved by the General Assembly."*

---

<sup>3</sup> U.N. Document A/60/853; E/2006/75

<sup>4</sup> See the plans of action of the First and Second International Decade(s) for the Eradication of Colonialism (1991-2000; 2001-2010), and from earlier U.N. resolutions endorsing the 1985 "Plan of Action for the full implementation of the Decolonisation Mandate" adopted by the Assembly at the 25th anniversary of the landmark "Decolonisation Declaration" of 1960 (Resolution 1514 XV).

<sup>5</sup> See Statement of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Special Committee on Decolonisation (C-24), 25th February 2016.

The new Secretary-General **António Guterres** one year later in February 2017 commented that:

*"the process was not yet finished, as 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained. "We must unite our strengths to complete this historic task," he stressed, noting that the process would require proactive and sustained engagement by the Committee, the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves and other stakeholders."*

## **II. PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION (POI)**

The present paper reviews the level of genuine implementation of a number of key actions mandated by the General Assembly in decolonization resolutions over the last decade since the Assembly endorsed

2006-07 Plan of Implementation (POI) of the Decolonisation Mandate.<sup>6</sup>

## **III. KEY ACTIONS MANDATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **A. Case by Case Programme of Work**

In its annual resolution on *"implementation of the Decolonisation Declaration"*<sup>7</sup>, the General Assembly has routinely:

*"called upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the NSGTs to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories."*

---

<sup>6</sup> *supra* note 3.

<sup>7</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 71/122 of 6 December 2016 on the Implementation of the Decolonisation Declaration.

This call for a case-by-case approach dates back decades, and has been stymied by the lack of administering power engagement. It has been pointed out that the participation of the administering power is not required for a case-by-case assessment of the territories to be undertaken. It does require the willingness to proceed, and the process can be advanced by simply removing what has become an unnecessary in the resolution requiring their participation to begin the process. Their absence is not an impediment, but an opportunity to use "*innovative means*" to initiate the case-by-case approach. This would provide important clarity on the dynamic of the contemporary dependency arrangements.

### **B. Political Education Programmes**

In its 2016 individual resolutions on the small territories,<sup>8</sup> the General Assembly

*"Recogniz(ed) the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the United States Virgin Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination..."*

The resolution went on to:

*"Calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions."* (emphasis added)

---

<sup>8</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 71/118 of 6 December 2016 on The Question of the United States Virgin Islands.

This is longstanding language for decades, but apart from the tripartite collaboration of the U.N. with the Government of New Zealand and the territorial government of Tokelau, it is difficult to identify other such programmes - even as many territories have been requesting such assistance over the years.

As with the case-by-case work programme, the operationalisation of a credible political education programme for the territories is being impeded by the non-cooperation of the administering Powers but their approval is unnecessary to advance an educational programme for the territories. Accordingly, reference in the resolution to the requirement for the administering Power to be a part of the process should be removed from the resolution, and *innovative means* can be employed to involve the universities, civil society, experts and the territorial governments concerned.

### C. Information

In the area of information, the General Assembly has routinely adopted annual resolutions over the period, most recently in December 2016,<sup>9</sup> on the "*Dissemination of Information on Decolonisation.*" The resolution speaks of the continued efforts to disseminate information "*with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of NSGTs*, and requests the assistance of the U.N. regional information centres (UNICs) to disseminate material to the NSGTs.

However, it has not been determined whether the UNICs actually service the NSGTs in their respective region, as they have expressed the view that their mandate is limited to U.N. member States.

The resolution on information also requests the U.N. system to continue its efforts to "*further enhance*" the information provided on the U.N. website, and requests the U.N. system to develop procedures "*to*

---

<sup>9</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 71/121 of 6 December 2016 on the dissemination of Information on Decolonisation..

*collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the NSGTs, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories."*

The resolution also calls for the U.N. system *"to explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonisation focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information."*

Aside from the presence of information through the decolonisation website, these mandated initiatives repeated in resolutions over the period, have not been realised, and the annual report on implementation of the resolution mandated by the General Assembly does not identify the impediments in carrying out these actions.

#### **D. Role of the Specialised Agencies and other U.N. Bodies**

The area of assistance to the NSGTs from the wider U.N. system is one example of a successful implementation of the decolonisation mandate consistent with annual General Assembly resolutions<sup>10</sup> over the period. In this connection, the Assembly has welcomed the role of a number of U.N. bodies in providing assistance to the NSGTs. Accordingly, the U.N. Development Programme, a number of U.N. specialised agencies the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), respectively have contributed to varying degrees in providing assistance to the NSGTs.

Both ECLAC and ESCAP maintain specific provisions in their respective terms of reference providing for associate membership for these territories. All of the NSGTs under review of the Special Committee, and the unlisted territories, are associate member countries (AMCs) of either of these two commissions, and participate in the programmes and activities of

---

<sup>10</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 71/104 of 6 December 2016 on the 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.



these U.N. bodies. A Working Group of AMCs was created by the ECLAC subsidiary body (*Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee*) in the 1990s to further facilitate their participation in the U.N. system, although this mechanism appears to have fallen dormant.

The territories in the category of "*Associate Members of Regional Economic Commissions*" have also been provided official observer status in the rules of procedure of most U.N. World Conferences in the economic and social sphere dating back to the Earth Summit of 1992. The upcoming Oceans Conference of the General Assembly scheduled for June 2017 includes this category of participation. ECLAC, in particular, has conducted a number of studies in the further integration of the NSGTs in the UN system. These include:

- \* The Participation of Associate Member Countries in U.N. World Conferences (2004)
- \* A Plan of Action for the Further Integration of Associate Member Countries in the United Nations System including its specialised agencies in the economic and social sphere – 2007
- \* "Principle Development Challenges facing Associate Member Countries" - 2016.

The in depth research and capacity building undertaken by the regional economic commissions in the socio-economic development of the NSGTs represents an opportunity for the Decolonisation Committee to develop formal collaboration and would be an innovative way to provide more comprehensive information to member states of the Special Committee.

Finally on the question of U.N. agency collaboration, the General Assembly:

*"Recalls the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation*

*with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination."*

On this point, it is to be noted that whilst the "information leaflet" provides useful general information on a number of U.N. bodies, contact information and their general area of specialisation, the leaflet needs to be made more relevant to the NSGTs themselves in terms of how the territories might actually access these U.N. bodies. For example, what is the status of membership offered to the NSGT by the agency concerned? What is the current level of participation of the NSGTs? Are there costs associated with the membership? Collaboration with the regional commissions would provide much of this essential material.

## **E. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SELF-DETERMINATION**

The General Assembly has routinely recognised the organic link between human rights and the self-determination process. Accordingly, the 2015 resolution on the small territories <sup>11</sup> :

*"reaffirm(ed) that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions."*

The General Assembly also continues to call for collaboration between the Special Committee and the Human Rights Committee within

---

<sup>11</sup> U.N. General Assembly Resolution 70/102 of 9 December 2015 on Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>12</sup> Accordingly, the General Assembly:

*"Reiterates its request that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Committee."*

The General Assembly has also urged the Special Committee to initiate a formal collaboration with other human rights bodies. However, no action has been taken in compliance with these mandates. The absence of collaboration can have consequences. As an example, the annual Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has consistently made reference to the failure to receive requested information from the Special Committee on racial discrimination in the territories even as this issue is of major concern in some territories, most recently with regards to the truth and reconciliation mechanism in Bermuda and general issues of the racial divide in that territory as contained in the report of the 2005 visiting mission to that territory in 2005.

## F. OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the area of ownership of natural resources, the General Assembly<sup>13</sup> has consistently:

*"Urge(d) the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the*

---

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Resolution 79/103 of 6 December 2016 on Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

*peoples of the Non Self- Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization"*

This is a particularly important provision to the economic advancement and environmental health of the people of the territories, but a provision of accountability would be highly useful in determining whether the laws of the respective administering powers are in compliance with this mandate.

The same resolution:

*"Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization."*

In this context, a Secretary-General Report on such activities affecting the self-determination process would be useful especially given the fact that such activities are routinely undertaken which thwart the legitimate right to self-determination of the people of the NSGTs. Dr. Bevacqua of Guam will, no doubt, shed light on one such activity which stems from the overall unilateral power of the administering power to apply laws to the territory - in this case, ruling that settlers from the administering Power must be permitted to participate in the territory's political status referendum.

#### **G. Military activities in Non Self-Governing Territories**

Another such activity can be seen in the use of the NSGTs for military purposes which impede their decolonisation. Only last week, it was

reported that Guam (listed) and the Northern Marianas (unlisted) were being used for military exercises by not one - but three - of the administering Powers (U.S., the United Kingdom and France, along with Japan) amid the geo-strategic positioning in the Asia/Pacific region. It is to be recalled that U.N. decisions as recent as 2002 called on such activities in NSGTs to cease as they impeded the decolonisation process.

Whilst this and earlier such decisions remain wholly applicable, reference to this issue quietly disappeared in the early part of the millennium, and few words are uttered in the decolonisation debate on such "sensitive" issues. Of course, the issue is most sensitive of all to the people of the territories themselves who are being placed on the frontline of potential military confrontation which have nothing to do with them. What are the odds that reference to military activities in non self-governing territories is included in any of the decolonisation resolutions this year?

Of course, some of these are not easy issues, whilst others can be more readily addressed through a more proactive approach and actual accountability. Overall, it is the insufficiency of the implementation of the decolonisation mandate over time amid the increasing complexities of contemporary colonialism which has allowed the issue to perpetuate into a third IDEC - and perhaps a fourth beginning in 2021. This can be tied to the realpolitik of our apparent reluctance to genuinely and meaningfully engage the controversial issues so as not to offend the administering Powers. This goes a long way in explaining why there are still colonies in 2017 in violation of international law - and why we continue to dance a minuet around these matters, while not actually addressing them. Part of the minuet is the adoption of decolonisation resolutions without accountability for their implementation - whilst the repetition of process continues.

Amid this scenario, a number of territories have sought over time to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with legitimate information and assistance from the U.N. as a means to counter the misinformation of colonial legitimisation propagated by the administering powers and/or their proxies in the territories. But the lack of implementation of the decolonisation mandate weakens the position of the

territories in their internal struggle whilst the forces of colonial accommodation continue to point to the U.N.'s lack of implementation.

It is not surprising, thus, that many of the territories have ceased direct participation in the U.N. process. As an example, my own U.S. Virgin Islands discontinued its direct participation in the U.N. decolonisation process after some 25 years of annual engagement with the Special Committee. The lack of implementation of the actions mandated in the territory's resolution made it extremely difficult to justify our continuation in the process. We were simply not able to resist the pressures of the inertia.

#### **H. Legitimate Options for Self-determination**

The 2015 consolidated resolution on the small territories <sup>14</sup> continued its affirmation that:

*" all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,"*

This continues to be an important recognition that there are genuine alternatives to independence as long as the minimum standards of full self-government are met. Accordingly, the Self-Governance Indicators (SGIs) have been developed by the Dependency Studies Project as a diagnostic tool to assess the level of self-government in NSGTs, and to identify the democratic deficits in the arrangement. Self-Governance Assessments essentially debunk the legitimacy of the status quo dependency arrangements, and have been undertaken by the DSP in a number of island NSGTs in the Caribbean and Pacific.

But, even as alternatives to independence are routinely acknowledged in the resolutions, one administering power, the United

---

<sup>14</sup> *supra* Note 9.

Kingdom in 2003, informed the Caribbean territories under its administration that it no longer offered free association<sup>15</sup> - even as the U.K. routinely joins in the annual consensus on the U.N. resolution which recognises the legitimacy of that status. In spite of this clear inconsistency which caused significant confusion in those territories, there was no reference to this issue in the U.N. resolutions covering the small territories. It is this lack of clarity in the territories with respect to the U.N. process, coupled with the denigration of that process often propagated by the administering Powers, which has created a sense of hesitation in the territories to engage the Special Committee.

#### **IV. IMPLICATIONS OF INACTION**

Given the current state of play as highlighted above, it is not surprising that there are few genuine self-determination processes underway in the seven listed NSGTs in the Caribbean administered by the British and U.S., respectively. The plebiscite scheduled for Puerto Rico next month (June 2017) which had held significant promise has now been compromised with the addition of the status quo dependency status as an option.

Ironically, the only recent political status referendum in the region was held in 2014 and 2015 in the Dutch-administered territories of *Sint Eustatius and Bonaire*, respectively. Both have been seeking the proper modalities to be re-inscribed on the U.N. list, or at least be reviewed at the committee level in a similar fashion to that of Puerto Rico. The intricacies of the political status arrangements would support their argument.

In the Pacific, ongoing political status processes in *New Caledonia (Kanaky)* and *Guam (Guahan)* remain subject to the unilateral application

---

<sup>15</sup> The policy statement on free association was made in a letter from the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State Bill Rammell to the elected governments of the British-administered non self-governing territories in the Caribbean dated 12 November 2003.

of the laws of the respective Administering Powers which govern (*directly or indirectly*) the electoral systems of these territories. This is counter to the requisite '*transfer of powers*' required by the landmark *Decolonisation Declaration* in advance of a legitimate exercise of self-determination. Otherwise, what would be the legitimacy of a referendum conducted under the rules of the administering power which has a clear and openly expressed bias towards the outcome?

In both Kanaky and Guam, referenda are being held under rules unilaterally imposed by the Administering power which facilitate the improper participation of settlers from the cosmopole in a process otherwise designed for the people of the territory. Such a procedure cannot be seen as consistent with a legitimate act of self-determination under international law. The General Assembly in its *Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the (Decolonisation) Declaration* (Resolution 35/118) clarified this issue in 1980:

*"Member States should adopt the necessary measures to prevent or discourage the systematic influx of outside immigrants and settlers into Territories under colonial domination, which disrupts the demographic composition of those Territories and may constitute a major obstacle in the genuine exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the people of those Territories."*

Numerous General Assembly resolutions have been adopted - with U.S. approval - recognising that the right to self-determination lies with the people of Guam. Yet, administering power courts recently affirmed the unilateral applicability of its laws to the territory that directly affect the self-determination process, and counter to Article 103 of the United Nations Charter.

## **Conclusion**

Such is the state of play in decolonisation at the U.N. in 2017. As the



U.N. proceeds with all deliberate speed to consider its decolonisation agenda for the year, the lack of decolonisation implementation continues to be the UN's "*Achilles heel*." It is hoped that those member States which stand on principle will raise some of these fundamental questions referenced above, and insist upon the necessary procedural changes to bring about the much needed accountability. This would do the people of the territories a great service for it is the lack of change which has caused many in the territories to feel that their decolonisation is no longer considered a priority by the member States, resulting in their making difficult compromises to "colonial accommodation."

As U.N. decolonisation resolutions have repeatedly stated, innovative methods are necessary to bring about a true process of self-determination leading to genuine decolonisation for the peoples of the remaining NSGTs. This was the very reason why the General Assembly in 1990 adopted the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (IDEC). It is long overdue to take stock of progress made, to identify the obstacles to implementation, and to develop real solutions to give substance to the principles of the U.N. Charter that continue to remain sacred to the people of the NSGTs.

In the final analysis, the budget for the decolonisation agenda items must be modified to reflect the actions called for in General Assembly resolutions to eliminate the rationalization that they cannot be carried out because it is not in the budget.

The consummate Caribbean scholar Sir Shridath Ramphal once wrote that without meaningful progress, "*we may not be able to withstand the pressures of the inertia*." In decolonisation, this has translated over time into a diplomatic fatigue and repetition of process. This can only give credence to the argument that there is legitimacy to a reformed colonial status. This is the contemporary political reality with which we are faced.

Implementation of the mandate is the fundamental challenge.



## RECOMMENDATIONS OF DR. CARLYLE CORBIN, EXPERT

- The international community should seek to enable the peoples of the Non Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, which is a fundamental human right, and to decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of legitimate political status options available to them, including independence. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the dissemination of information to the NSGTs on the functioning of contemporary models of full political equality,
- The Electoral Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs, in consultation with the Special Committee and other relevant United Nations bodies, the territorial governments, and indigenous experts, should develop adequate and unbiased political education programmes for the NSGTs in order to heighten the awareness among the people of the territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the legitimate political status options consistent with relevant resolutions of the United Nations. In this connection, these programmes should precede a genuine act of self-determination which should be exercised in each territory, conducted by or under observation of the United Nations not later than 31 December 2020, in accordance with principles contained in the Decolonisation Declaration and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly including the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,
- The United Nations Department of Public Information should actively disseminate information to the territories on the international decolonisation process in conformity with relevant political education programmes developed by the United Nations (earlier cited), pursuant to General Assembly decolonisation resolutions; and should utilise civil society institutions, United Nations Information Centres, tertiary institutions in the territories, media outlets, government information services, as well as indigenous decolonisation experts from the NSGTs, in this dissemination process,

- The Special Committee should operationalise collaboration with the specialised agencies and other organisations of the United Nations (U.N.); and with the relevant human rights mechanisms such as the Human Rights Council, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Permanent forum on Indigenous Issues, et al; to operationalise those provisions of the *Plan of Implementation of the Decolonisation Mandate (A/60/853–E/2006/75)* which couple the actions called for in decolonisation resolutions with the relevant implementing bodies of the U.N. system in compliance with General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) mandates on assistance to the non self-governing territories.

- The Special Committee should implement the relevant provision of *the Plan of Implementation of the Decolonisation Mandate*, consistent with the special mechanisms employed by the Human Rights Council, through the appointment of an Independent Expert/Special Rapporteur specific to the small island territories not under sovereignty dispute, for the period remaining in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (IDEC) in order to carry out the unimplemented actions contained in the plan of action of the first, second and third IDECs; and the *Plan of Implementation of the Decolonisation Mandate*, in particular:

1) Independent analyses on the progress and extent of the achievement towards self-government in each of the small island non self-governing territories (NSGTs),

2) An analysis on the implementation of the decolonisation resolutions since the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to identify obstacles to their fulfillment,

3) Periodic briefings through an interactive format for the member States of the Special Committee and other interested delegations on developments in the NSGTs affecting their self-determination process.

- The Special Committee should commission independent self-government assessments of each of the small island territories not subject to sovereignty dispute, in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, through the use of the diagnostic tool of Self-Governance Indicators (SGIs) to identify the self-governance deficiencies in the existing colonial arrangements, and to make appropriate recommendations to bring the territories to a full measure of self-government,
- The Special Committee should develop formal collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in order to conduct analyses on the economic and social situation of the small island NSGTs which are associate members of these two regional economic commissions.
- The Special Committee should modify its constructive ten point programme of work on a case by case basis for each small island NSGT by utilising the independent analyses of each territory (earlier cited) as the operative document for initiation of substantive discussions with the representatives of the territories, and those administering Powers which choose to engage the process leading to a legitimate act of self-determination,
- The Independent Expert/Special Rapporteur should visit each of the small island Non Self-Governing Territories as early as possible before the end of the Decade, and report thereon to the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee on the situation in the territory,
- The Secretary-General should ensure that the budget submitted for consideration by member States to fund the U.N. offices servicing the decolonisation agenda items, including the biennial programme plans and strategic frameworks, provide the necessary resources to implement the actions called for in decolonisation resolutions, the plan of action of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and other relevant decisions.