

## Annex II

### **Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: assessment of the decolonization process in today's world, held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, from 18 to 20 May 2010**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 55/146, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 64/106, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples envisaged for 2010, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The objective of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to hear the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization. It assessed the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including follow-up to the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, and aimed to identify policy approaches and practical ways of dealing with the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in a changing world. The seminar also assessed the constitutional evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government and self-determination, with a view to developing, in cooperation with the administering Powers and representatives of the Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Furthermore, the seminar aimed to further identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to Territories within an integral framework, particularly to ensure the sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

4. The seminar also aimed to assess the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism as the Decade comes to an end, and to identify priority actions for the remaining year of the Decade and possible approaches and priorities beyond 2010.

5. The contributions of the participants were intended to serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session in June 2010, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the

fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

## II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, from 18 to 20 May 2010. It held five meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental, regional and other organizations and experts took part. The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

7. The seminar was conducted by Donatus Keith St. Aimee, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea and Saint Lucia. France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, administering Powers, participated as observers. Representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Morocco and Spain also participated.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 18 May 2010, Robert G. Aisi (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Vice-Chair of the seminar. Tumasie Blair (Antigua and Barbuda) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar.

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. The role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
  - (a) Analysis of results, ongoing processes and prevailing trends at the end of the Second Decade;
  - (b) Assessments and lessons learned;
  - (c) What comes next?
2. The perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments, as well as the views of experts and civil society, on the resolution of the remaining challenges:
  - (a) In the Pacific region Non-Self-Governing Territories;
  - (b) In the Caribbean region Non-Self-Governing Territories;
  - (c) In other Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories:
  - (a) Presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and others;
  - (b) Perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments, and the views of experts and civil society.
4. The way forward: advancing the decolonization process with all concerned.

### III. Proceedings of the seminar

#### A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 18 May, Donatus Keith St. Aimee (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in his capacity as the Chair. The statement of the Chair appears in appendix I to the present report.
11. At the same meeting, Philippe Gomés, the President of the Government of New Caledonia addressed the seminar.
12. The High Commissioner of France in New Caledonia, Yves Dassonville, also addressed the seminar.
13. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General.

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

14. At the 1st meeting, on 18 May, the Chair made a statement (see appendix I). Statements were also made by the President of the Government of New Caledonia, Philippe Gomés, and Victor Tutugoro of the Political Bureau of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste.
15. At the same meeting, Mr. Gomés also responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Morocco, Algeria, Mali and Cuba.
16. At the 2nd meeting, on 18 May, the seminar heard presentations by two experts, Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia) and Yoko Oryu (Japan). Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Agence Kanak de développement (New Caledonia), Guahan and Chamorro Studies Association (Guam) and the Pitcairn Islands Study Center (United States). The observer for Gibraltar made a statement.
17. At the 3rd meeting, on 19 May, statements were made by the representatives of American Samoa, Tokelau, New Zealand and the Cayman Islands. One expert, Carlyle Corbin, made a statement. Representatives of Papua New Guinea and Cuba made statements. The representative of New Zealand made a further statement. The Chair also made a statement.
18. At the same meeting, the seminar heard statements by the representatives of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)\* and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario). The representative of Morocco made a statement.
19. At the 4th meeting, on 19 May, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Spain and Algeria. The representatives of Morocco and Algeria made

<sup>a</sup> All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization>.

\* 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).

further statements. After a statement by the observer for Gibraltar, the representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Chile and Cuba also made statements.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar heard presentations by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and an expert, Carlyle Corbin. The representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Frente Polisario.

21. At its 5th meeting, on 20 May, the seminar held a general exchange of views on the way forward for the Special Committee, including priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade and possible approaches and priorities beyond the Second Decade. The representative of Indonesia made a statement.

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

22. At the 5th meeting on 20 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

23. At the same meeting, the President of the Government of New Caledonia addressed the seminar.

24. At the same meeting, the Chair made a closing statement.

25. Also at the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of France and New Caledonia (see appendix II).

## **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 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. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2010/18, annex), participating members presented the conclusions and recommendations set out below to the substantive session of the Special Committee.

### **A. Assessment of the Second International Decade**

29. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Noted the coming to an end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. While reflecting on these landmark events, they assessed the progress

achieved, reviewed existing methods of work, and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task, requiring continued efforts by the Committee beyond the Second Decade;

(b) Identified a number of cross-cutting issues in the process of decolonization during the Second Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially on Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self-governance;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of the challenges faced by many Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's interconnected world, underlined that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(d) Recognized the important role played by regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges, and in this connection welcomed the participation in the seminar of the representatives of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Melanesian Spearhead Group;

(e) Underscored that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding their future political status in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(g) Recognized the role of the business community, including non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories through good corporate citizenship in their business practices;

(h) Underscored the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations on a case-by-case basis;

(i) Recognized that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom in the seminar;

(j) Recognized also the importance of active engagement from other States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Morocco and Spain in the seminar.

## **B. Assessment of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region**

30. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representatives of American Samoa, New Caledonia and Tokelau and the information they provided to the seminar, and also welcomed the participation of experts and representatives of civil society of Guam and New Caledonia and a representative of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, who shared their views on the process of decolonization in the above Territories;

(b) With regard to the current constitutional developments in American Samoa, took note of the information provided to the seminar by the Governor of the Territory and commended the efforts of the territorial Government with a view to enhancing public awareness of the ongoing preparations for submitting constitutional amendments;

(c) Took note of restrictions faced by the territorial Government in the use of land, the disposal of funds allocated by the administering Power, and the impact of the United States-level minimum wage laws on the Territory's economy;

(d) Expressed appreciation for the invitation addressed to the Special Committee to pay a visit to the Territory during its constitutional convention to be held in June 2010;

(e) With regard to the situation in Guam, expressed concern over the impact of a United States military build-up in the Territory on the cultural identity and the use of land by the indigenous people;

(f) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory;

(g) With regard to New Caledonia, expressed their appreciation for the statements made by the President of the Government of New Caledonia, the High Commissioner of France and Kanak representatives and the information they provided;

(h) Took note of the political, socio-economic and cultural steps taken by the territorial Government of New Caledonia in the implementation of the Nouméa Accord aimed at correcting the existing imbalances;

(i) Recognized that, in a territory with such a large indigenous population, traditional governance structures and cultural practices could enhance good governance and provide stability;

(j) Recognized the value of the experience of the decolonization process in New Caledonia;

(k) With regard to the situation in Pitcairn, welcomed the enhancement of decision-making in the Territory through the restructuring of its governance system;

(l) Welcomed the introduction of human rights provisions into the 2010 Constitution;

(m) Encouraged the administering Power to provide the required personnel training to enable the islanders to run their restructured administration;

(n) Took note of the specific circumstance of the Territory, including its size and remote location, among other things, which would pose particular challenges for self-determination;

(o) With regard to Tokelau, expressed their appreciation for the statements made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau and a representative of New Zealand as the administering Power;

(p) Took note of Tokelau's intention to exercise its right to self-determination again some time in the near future and, meanwhile, concentrate on addressing its pressing economic needs;

(q) Encouraged the Territory and the administering Power to continue their close cooperation with a view to concluding a new three-year package of funding for Tokelau and to find the right balance between the principles of equity and viability in the implementation of the process of decolonization.

### **C. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region and other Territories, including follow-up to the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar**

31. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation in the Pacific regional seminar of the representatives of the Cayman Islands and Western Sahara, and of the observer for Gibraltar, and the information they provided, and also welcomed the presentation by an expert, who shared his views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region;

(b) With regard to the Cayman Islands, took note of the promulgation of a new Constitution in November 2009, following its approval in a referendum, and of the reaffirmed position of the territorial Government that it had no mandate from its people to pursue full political independence;

(c) With regard to Western Sahara, recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 64/101, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009) and 1920 (2010) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called on the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars to the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;



(d) With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(e) With regard to the question of Gibraltar, welcomed the continuing work of the Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar involving Spain, the United Kingdom and the territorial Government.

#### **D. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

32. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of UNDP at the seminar and appreciated the information on assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories provided by the representative;

(b) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including participation at the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(c) Supported the role of United Nations regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

#### **E. Analysis and assessment of the Second International Decade and the way forward**

33. As their recommendations, participating members:

(a) Reaffirmed that all peoples have the right to self-determination, and by virtue of that right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided



until all outstanding decolonization issues have been resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special Committee needed to continue to approach each case with an open mind, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with emerging challenges, advised that effective participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as natural disaster preparedness and community empowerment;

(g) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(h) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curriculum of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) In view of the important role of women in the process of decolonization, underlined the fact that gender equality needed to continue to be supported, which would contribute to good governance and enhanced capacity for self-governance through equal rights for all;

(k) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions

on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(l) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(m) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(n) The Special Committee should re-tool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(o) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance the Non-Self-Governing Territories; in that regard, the Special Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(p) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress achieved and things to be done, and in that connection, invited the Special Committee to consider the suggestion to develop a specific project proposal;

(q) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and in that regard, noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(r) Suggested again that the Special Committee needed to consider proposing to the General Assembly the possibility of launching a Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, reaffirming that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues were resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(s) Within the context of calls for a Third International Decade, the Special Committee should vigorously undertake a stocktaking of current challenges for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade, which could in turn be evaluated within the framework of the Decade itself.

## Appendix I

### Statement by the Chair

When the United Nations was founded in 1945, some 750 million people, nearly a third of the world's population, lived in territories that were dependent on colonial powers. Today, fewer than 2 million people live under colonial rule in the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The wave of decolonization, which changed the face of the planet, was born with the United Nations and represents the world body's first great success.

Affirming the principle of self-determination, the Charter describes the responsibility of States for the territories under their administration as "a sacred trust" in which the interests of their inhabitants are paramount. As the process of decolonization continued to advance, the General Assembly, in 1960, adopted its landmark Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Declaration affirmed the right of all people to self-determination and proclaimed that colonialism should be brought to a speedy and unconditional end. Soon after, a Special Committee on decolonization was established to monitor its implementation. Since the creation of the United Nations, 80 former colonies have gained their independence. This includes all 11 Trust Territories, which have achieved self-determination through independence or free association with an independent State.

In 1990, the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000), which included a specific plan of action. In 2001, it was followed by a Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Today, the Special Committee continues to monitor the situation in the remaining 16 Territories, working to facilitate their advance towards self-determination.

In 2010, the challenge for everyone is to think within the context of present realities and a sustainable future. It is not for the United Nations to determine the best outcomes — the General Assembly is primarily concerned with whether choices are made freely by the people, based on appropriate information and understanding. So the Committee wants to listen closely to what the peoples concerned have to say, in the hope of offering proposals to the Assembly, on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the requirement of free consent.

The value of seminars like this one is to provide a venue for various views and opinions by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization to be expressed in an open and constructive manner. The Committee attaches great importance to hearing the voices of the people from the Territories, whom it supports in the search for the appropriate ways of self-determination.

Each Non-Self-Governing Territory still on the United Nations decolonization list has a unique mix of circumstances, often involving quite complex political issues. It is essential that "creative thinking" that is sensitive to the circumstances is used by all concerned in addressing these issues, as there is no "one size fits all" solution. For instance, the wishes of small island States need to reflect their unique vulnerabilities in terms of survival in the modern world. Sixty years down the track from General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV), the world has changed — today,

major issues of sustainability (in economic, environmental and social terms) confront everyone, but especially smaller, more vulnerable societies.

The challenges of climate change will require significant international cooperation, often relying more closely on neighbours and long-established relationships. There are wrongs that need to be corrected. This is extremely important — it applies to all peoples, even in the biggest of the States.

Hence it is important for the United Nations to hear the views of Non-Self-Governing Territories on how they see their own future in an interconnected world. The choices of current generations require thinking ahead and considering the interests of future generations as best as possible.

Regional and subregional organizations such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum today play a far more important role than they did in the past. The growing importance of such organizations can provide a significant focal point for participation and interaction of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and “creative discussions” of decolonization options.

The fact that 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including some in the Pacific, remain on the list, suggests the need for “creative solutions”, provided such solutions always reflect the core principle of free choice, and that it is primarily up to the people and the relevant administering Powers to come up with proposals and ideas about what future political status they would like to have. But the United Nations has a mandate, within the framework of the Charter and the key General Assembly resolutions, to assist. That is the point of this discussion in New Caledonia.

At this seminar we are going to assess the socio-economic and political developments in the Territories with a view to working out, in cooperation with the administering Powers and representatives of the Territories, a realistic, action-oriented programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the way forward in advancing the decolonization process. To this end, we need to look again at the merits of comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as provided for in the plan of action for the Second Decade.

The implementation of the plan as a whole requires thorough consideration. Within its framework, we are going to assess the progress of decolonization actions at the international level, measures undertaken by the United Nations in cooperation with the administering Powers, as well as the impact of developmental activities and programmes carried out by the United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in the Territories.

But first and foremost, we are going to review the actions of the Special Committee in analysing the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory. We also need to evaluate the Committee’s role in following the impact of the economic and social developments on the constitutional and political advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as its efforts aimed at ensuring the full cooperation of the administering Powers in this matter.

I trust that after these deliberations we can come up with a plan for the way forward, as neither the work of the Special Committee nor the process of decolonization end with this seminar or with the end of the Second Decade.

## Appendix II

### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of France and New Caledonia**

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

*Having met* from 18 to 20 May 2010 in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to assess the decolonization process in today's world,

*Having heard* an important statement by the President of the Government of New Caledonia,

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

*Express their profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of France and New Caledonia for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its 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 New Caledonia.

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