

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action, held in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014

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 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 Third Decade.

2. In its resolution 68/97, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2014, 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 of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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 could assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that could be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The 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 contributions of the participants would serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2014, 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 Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May, 2014. 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.

6. The seminar was conducted by the Chair of the Special Committee and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, Xavier Lasso Mendoza, with the participation of representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea,

Russian Federation and Sierra Leone. Three administering powers, France, New Zealand and the United States of America, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Argentina, Australia, Morocco and Spain. Also represented at the seminar were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and two regional organizations, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, The Chair appointed Esala Nayasi (Fiji) and Alexander Volgarev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile) appointed Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar. The Chair also established an informal drafting group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

8. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders in accelerating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
 - (a) Building comprehensive and sustained initiatives to achieve effective actions on specific cases;
 - (b) Promoting the constructive involvement of all concerned to accelerate the full implementation of the decolonization process;
 - (c) Devising fresh and creative approaches for promoting priorities in the decolonization process on a case-by-case basis.
2. Accelerating action: perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, Territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders, as well as the views of experts and civil society:
 - (a) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region;
 - (b) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region;
 - (c) In Non-Self-Governing Territories of other regions.
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and regional commissions.
4. Accelerating action: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

9. On 21 May 2014, the Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador), opened the seminar during a traditional ceremony organized by the host

country, at which the Prime Minister of Fiji delivered a welcoming address. The Chair made some welcoming remarks, acknowledging the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

10. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Fiji Multi-Country Office read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

11. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement highlighting the task ahead for the Special Committee.

B. Statements and discussions^a

12. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Mali, the Russian Federation, Cuba and Sierra Leone made statements. Statements were also made by the representatives of Gibraltar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) and by the representative of Morocco. Statements were made by two experts.

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 21 May, statements were made by Kuresa Nasau (Tokelau), Edward Alvarez (Guam), Savali Talavou Ale (American Samoa) and by the representatives of New Zealand and France. The seminar also heard statements from the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cuba and Fiji, and from two experts.

14. At the same meeting, presentations were made by three experts: Mathias Chauchat (New Caledonia), Anne Gras (New Caledonia) and Mikael Forrest (New Caledonia). The seminar heard statements by the representatives of France and Sierra Leone, as well as by the representatives of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, in addition to one expert.

15. At the 3rd meeting, on 22 May, the representative of France made a statement and the seminar heard further presentations by two experts: Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia) and Richard Tuheiaiva (French Polynesia). Statements were made by two other experts.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), a statement by the representative of Cuba and a statement by one other expert.

17. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by Roger Edwards (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)),^b Joe Bossano (Gibraltar) and Fadel Kamel Mohamed (Frente Polisario). The seminar heard a statement by the representative of Argentina and a presentation by an expert, Alejandro Betts (Argentina). The representative of Morocco also made a statement.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 22 May, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Spain, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, Chile and Indonesia. The representatives of Morocco and Cuba made statements in exercise of

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

^b 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).

the right of reply. Statements were also made by the representative of Frente Polisario, and by one expert.

19. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation from an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), a statement by the representative of Morocco and a statement by the representative of Frente Polisario.

20. Also at the same meeting, further statements were made by the representatives of Gibraltar, Chile, Morocco and Ecuador, as well as by Frente Polisario and one expert.

21. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

22. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

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

24. Also at the same meeting, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Fiji, Amena Yauvoli, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee made a statement before declaring the seminar closed.

IV. Outcome

25. 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 and make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in, and extent of, the implementation of the Declaration, and report thereon to the General Assembly.

26. Participating members reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

27. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2014/17, annex), participating members of the Special Committee finalized the present report and the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar (see sect. IV below), which will be presented to the Special Committee at its substantive session in June 2014.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

28. 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.

29. Participating members reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

30. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar, participating members present the conclusions and recommendations set out below to the Special Committee for consideration at its substantive session.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

31. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Noted that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task;

(b) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, 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 many of the challenges faced by some 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) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Recognized the important role played by regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges;

(f) Underlined 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 the future political status of their Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(g) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

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

(i) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(j) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and 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;

(k) Underlined 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 towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(l) Reiterated 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, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/97 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France, New Zealand and the United States of America in the seminar;

(m) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of 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 Argentina, Australia, Morocco and Spain in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating actions in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

32. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

With regard to the situation in American Samoa:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the Governor and the information provided;

(b) Took note of the information provided that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was viewed as an anachronism exposing it to situations beyond its control and which needed to be remedied;

(c) Noted the concern expressed over certain United States federal laws that continue to have a debilitating impact on the Territory's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth;

(d) Took note of the constitutional amendment approved by the Fono, the Territory's legislature, in 2014 with regard to the veto override process, and which will be put to the vote at the end of 2014;

(e) Welcomed in that regard the announcement of a voter education process ahead of the constitutional amendment poll at the end of 2014;

(f) Welcomed the announcement of dialogue among the people of American Samoa to engage in serious discussions about the Territory's future political status, which will commence in 2015;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(g) Took note of the statement made by the representative of the Governor presenting an update on the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization towards decolonization over the past year, namely, the progress made in securing territorial funding for a self-determination education campaign;

(h) Took note also of the request that the Special Committee assist the Commission on Decolonization in its efforts to obtain federal funds for the self-determination education campaign, and resolved to draw the attention of the administering Power to this matter;

(i) Noted with appreciation the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in reinforcing public awareness and reaching out to public and private high schools as well as civic and cultural organizations in order to explain and clarify misunderstandings concerning decolonization;

(j) Took note of the proposals made to expedite the decolonization process, inter alia, that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs begin to supply information on the political status options and that a work programme for the decolonization of each Territory be considered by the General Assembly;

(k) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory, especially in relation to the funding needs of the public education programme on options for self-determination;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(l) Noted the concern expressed over the failure by the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

(m) In this connection, underlined the importance of securing substantive and reliable information about the situation in the Territory as a means of complementing the informational working paper prepared by the Secretariat;

(n) Noted the importance attached to the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General compiling the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts as a consequence of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in the Territory, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/93;

(o) Noted also the concerns expressed about the access, ownership and rights of the Ma'ohi people in regard to the resources of the exclusive economic zone, and recalled General Assembly resolution 68/97, in which the Assembly urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the 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 requested the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(p) Noted the constructive cooperation and engagement of the Government of France with regard to the self-determination process in New Caledonia, in particular for permitting the first visiting mission of the Special Committee;

(q) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who provided information regarding the support provided by the administering Power to the process of decolonization of New Caledonia over the past 25 years, *inter alia*, in the areas of realignment between various provinces, investment in social housing and training for the people;

(r) Noted the efforts of Roch Wamytan and the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste in proposing the idea of the first visiting mission to the Territory ahead of the 2014 provincial elections;

(s) Noted with satisfaction the upcoming submission of the report of the visiting mission during the annual session of the Special Committee in June 2014;

(t) Noted the concerns expressed over the problems encountered in the provincial elections process with regard to the persistent divergent interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions, the voter registration appeal process and the need to better prepare the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, as provided for by the Nouméa Accord;

(u) Noted the concerns expressed over migration into New Caledonia and drew the attention of the administering Power attention to ensuring that the Kanak indigenous people are not undermined, in accordance with United Nations provisions;

(v) Noted the economic and social rebalancing efforts undertaken by the administering Power and that more efforts are required to ensure the timeliness of the transfer of powers under the Nouméa Accord and for adequate capacity-building of the Kanak indigenous people;

(w) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 68/92, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly stated that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

(x) Reiterated the call to all of the parties involved, in the interest of all of the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

(y) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in the final phase of implementation of the Nouméa Accord;

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

(z) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the positive cooperation with the administering Power;

(aa) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who reiterated its commitment to continue to work very closely with the leadership and people of Tokelau to advance their self-determination, and underlined its important role in the government of Tokelau and the delivery of services to its people, especially regarding the provision of education, health care and shipping needs;

(bb) Noted the substantial degree of autonomy of Tokelau in the management of its own affairs and the view expressed by the Ulu on its resolve that, for the time being, self-determination considerations must take second place to pressing infrastructure and development needs;

(cc) Noted the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and sea-level rise;

(dd) Encouraged the Territory and the administering Power to continue their close cooperation based on the Joint Commitment for Development plan 2011-2015, which would focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, human resources capacity and the strengthening of governance;

(ee) Noted the desire of Tokelau to be able to gain more support from Member States and the United Nations system to enable it to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impact of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

33. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert and civil society representative, who shared views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region, in particular on the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(b) Took note of the statement made, in which it was recommended that, in line with the resolutions and decisions concerning Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee since 1972 reaffirming the inalienable right of its people to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico, the Special Committee keep the question under continuous review and make specific recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar

34. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

(a) 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 67/129, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013) and 2152 (2014) 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;

With regard to the situation in Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

(b) 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly, and requested the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices in compliance with General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

(c) Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Declaration of 27 November 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution of the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles, and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. They noted that, given that the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar has ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation in the interest of social well-

being and regional economic development in which the competent Gibraltarian local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate. They expressed the hope that this mechanism could start work soon.

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

35. As their concluding observations, the participating members:

(a) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 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 in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(b) Expressed their support of 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.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

36. As their concluding observations, the 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 and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(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 in a spirit of openness, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation 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 governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change 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 of the United Nations Secretariat, actively to 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) 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;

(k) 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, including informal, working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Special Committee to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a

view to make progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing relations between the Special Committee, other concerned Member States and stakeholders as well as experts and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) 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;

(o) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their territories, and in this regard took note of the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) In this connection, the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation of its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(q) 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 to 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;

(r) 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 continue to develop a specific project proposal, such as the holding of an informal, working-level dialogue with the administering Powers and other concerned Member States and stakeholders;

(s) 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;

(t) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) Within the context of calls for a Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar on implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at this regional seminar convened under the auspices of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. I thank the Government and people of Fiji for hosting the event.

You meet as we near the mid-point of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Special Committee has undertaken important work in recent months, including through the visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014 with the full cooperation of the administering Power, France.

Other initiatives include the consultations of the Bureau with each of the four administering Powers — France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — and with various other stakeholders. The Special Committee has also improved its methods of work by expanding its Bureau to include one member from the region of Asia and the Pacific.

I welcome these innovative measures, which make the Special Committee more visible and, more importantly, more active. Our aim is to give greater priority to the decolonization agenda and to spur accelerated action.

I trust that political will, applied on a case-by-case basis, can evolve on all sides to make progress on the decolonization of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories still under the purview of the Special Committee. Good intentions will have to be translated into credible action to make the Third International Decade a success.

The current regional seminar on decolonization is a notable effort to facilitate interaction and problem-solving while generating new ideas on the way forward.

I wish you great success.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Ecuador (Chair)	Xavier Lasso Mendoza ^a José Eduardo Proaño ^a
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño ^a
China	Cao Xinyang
Cuba	Oscar León González ^a
Fiji	Esala Nayasi
Indonesia	Gary RM Jusuf Elleonora Tambunan ^a Ira Rachmawati
Mali	Dianguina dit Yaya Doucouré ^a
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa ^a
Russian Federation	Alexander A. Volgarev ^a
Sierra Leone	Amadu Koroma ^a

States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Martin Dieser
Australia	Solstice Middleby
Morocco	Mohamed Mael-Ainin Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Javier Gutiérrez Blanco-Navarrete

Administering Powers

France	Gilles Montagnier Caroline Gravelat Marie-Paule Tourte-Trolue
New Zealand	Nicola Ngawati
United States	Vukidonu Qionibaravi

United Nations funds and programmes

United Nations Development Programme	Akiko Fujii
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^a Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Savali Talavou Ale Fiu Johnny Saelua
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^b	Roger Edwards
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
Tokelau	Kuresa Nasau Jovilisi V. Suveinakama
Western Sahara	Fadel Kamel Mohamed

Non-governmental organizations

Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Wilma E. Reveron-Collazo
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Regional Groups

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Alfred (Alifeleti) Soakai Angela Thomas
Melanesian Spearhead Group	Jimmy Naouna

Experts

Alejandro Betts
Mathias Maurice Marcel Chauchat
Sergei Cherniavsky
Mickael Forrest
Anne Nicole Marie Perrier Gras
Richard Ariihau Tuheiava
Edward Paul Wolfers

^b 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 III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Fiji

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met in Denarau, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama,

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 Fiji for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to its success and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Fiji.