

Annex II

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda, held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015

I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, two 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.

2. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza, with the participation of representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Two administering Powers, France and the United Kingdom, participated as observers. Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco and Spain. Also represented at the seminar were the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

3. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May 2015, the Chair appointed Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) and Alexander Volgarev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) appointed as 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.

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. The role of the Special Committee, the administering Powers, territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders in the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
 - (a) Principles established by the General Assembly for the conduct of free and genuine decolonization processes, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with United Nations principles and practices;
 - (b) How to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, to decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence;

- (c) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all political exercises relating to decolonization processes are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and that allows for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (d) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all decolonization processes are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.
- 2. 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 Caribbean region;
 - (b) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region;
 - (c) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of other regions.
 - 3. The role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions: presentation by the United Nations.
 - 4. The United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

II. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

5. On 19 May 2015, the Chair of the Special Committee, Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador), opened the seminar and acknowledged the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. Also at the opening ceremony, the former President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Miguel D'Escoto, and the Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, delivered a welcome address applauding the work of the Special Committee and urging it to redouble its efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating colonialism, which he observed had stagnated.

7. The Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I), underlining the remarkable progress made in the past 70 years in efforts to advance the decolonization agenda, and highlighting in particular that more than 80 nations that were once colonized are currently sovereign Member States of the United Nations. He encouraged the Special Committee and seminar participants to build on that track record towards the complete eradication of colonialism by the year 2020, the end date of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared in General Assembly resolution 65/119.

8. The Chair made a further statement highlighting the task ahead for the Special Committee.

B. Statements and discussions^a

9. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May, an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), made a presentation on the role of the Special Committee and other stakeholders, within the context of the broad theme of the seminar.

10. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Algeria and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Statements were also made by one expert and the representatives of Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara, and New Caledonia.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 19 May, the seminar reviewed the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region, from the perspective of their representatives and within the context of the seminar theme. A related statement was made by Conrad Howell (Turks and Caicos).

12. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Argentina, Cuba and Chile. Four experts also made statements.

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, the seminar considered the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, from the perspective of their representatives and within the context of the seminar theme. Statements were made by Talauega Eleasalo Ale (American Samoa), Edward A. Alvarez (Guam) and Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes (New Caledonia), following which comments and statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, France, Indonesia and Cuba. A further statement was made by the representative of Guam, and by one expert.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar heard the views of independent experts regarding the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. Related presentations were made by three experts, namely, Peter Klegg (United Kingdom), Daniel Manfred Malcolm (Turks and Caicos) and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico).

15. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 May, the seminar heard statements and comments on the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Cuba, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Argentina, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and China. Statements were also made by the representatives of Saint Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and by two experts.

16. Also at the 3rd meeting, the seminar addressed the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, from the viewpoint of independent experts and heard presentations from four such experts in attendance, namely, Michael Lujan Bevacqua (Guam), Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia), Roch Wamytan (New Caledonia) and Mikaël Forrest (New Caledonia). Related statements and comments were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Nicaragua and China.

^a Statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml>.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 20 May, statements were made by five experts on the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, following which the status of other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions was addressed, beginning with a presentation by Phyllis Rendell (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)).^b

18. The seminar then heard statements by El Salvador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Argentina. Statements were also made by Ms. Rendell and one expert.

19. At the 4th meeting, the seminar heard presentations on three other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions, delivered by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar), Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara) and Pamela Ward Pearce (Saint Helena).

20. Related statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Guatemala, Ethiopia, China, Papua New Guinea and Argentina. Further statements were made by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar) and Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara).

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

22. Upon resumption of the seminar, a presentation on the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories was delivered by the representative of the Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean of ECLAC in Trinidad and Tobago, Dale Alexander.

23. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation by an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), on recommendations, within the context of the seminar theme.

C. Closing of the seminar

24. At the 5th meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, which was then adopted.

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

26. Also at the same meeting, closing remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, María Rubiales de Chamorro, and by the former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Miguel D'Escoto, currently the Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

27. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

^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) (see [ST/CS/SER.A/42](#)).

III. 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 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 of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

30. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2015/17, annex), participating members of the Special Committee will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the Committee at its substantive session in June 2015.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda

31. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(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 need for capacity-building 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 United Nations agencies, 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 remains 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 69/107 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France in the seminar and encouraged other administering Powers to participate in future regional seminars on decolonization;

(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 Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Spain and Uruguay in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

32. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed and encouraged the participation of the representative of the territorial Government and the expert of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the information they provided to the seminar, as well as the participation of the expert and civil society representative from Puerto Rico, 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) Welcomed 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 Committee keep the question under continuous review and make specific recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly, and took note of the presentation made by an expert from Puerto Rico on the impact of the debt on the economic situation in the territory;

(c) Demanded the release of political prisoners convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including Oscar López Rivera, who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for thirty-four years;

With regard to the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands:

(d) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government and noted the information provided with regard to the presence of the Special Committee in the Territory;

(e) Took note of the proposals to introduce an internal system of checks and balances into the territorial Government and to consider adopting a resolution dedicated to the Territory.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

33. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

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) Noted that while the Territory's relationship with its administering Power had been mostly beneficial, there were several economic and political shortcomings;

(c) Noted the concern expressed by the representative of the Governor, that American Samoa continued to get its authority from the President and the Department of the Interior of the United States, that the Territory had no representation in the federal Congress and that its Constitution needed to be approved by the administering Power's Government;

(d) 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;

(e) Took note of the outcome of the referendum held in November 2014, which rejected the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto, and welcomed the discussion opened in the Territory on the way forward;

(f) Welcomed the invitation extended to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

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 availability of a significant budget for a self-determination education campaign;

(h) Noted with appreciation the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in reinforcing public awareness, including through public programming to air on television stations focused on three themes: the decolonization process, the status options and their effects on labour, trade and commerce on Guam and "who we are";

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

(j) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory, especially in relation to ambiguities in the law regarding the decolonization registry and the need for public awareness, including an education programme on options for self-determination;

(k) Took note of the concern expressed over the announcement that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had issued an opinion reinstating a lawsuit challenging the voting restrictions for Guam's plebiscite on political status;

(l) Expressed their view that the decolonization plebiscite in Guam should be compatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(m) Shared the continuing concern of the Special Committee over the failure by the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

(n) 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;

(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 69/107, 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 again 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 said that since 1 April 2015 a Government had been established and was ready to deal with the major issues before it and that New Caledonia had seen unprecedented development over the past decade;

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

(s) 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;

(t) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 69/107, in which 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;

(u) Reiterated the call to all 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;

(v) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory, including follow-up to the visiting mission's recommendations, and noted the request from the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front for electoral assistance from the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat for the self-determination process, in the final phase of implementation of the Nouméa Accord;

(w) Took note of the information on the convening of the upcoming special extraordinary meeting of the signatory parties to the Nouméa Accord, to be held in Paris on 5 June 2015, to discuss the continuing concerns related to the electoral lists and related issues.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2014 Pacific regional seminar

34. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

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

(a) Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which requested 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 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 Assembly, recalled also that 2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) on the Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) by the Assembly, renewed to date by the Assembly and its Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in fulfilling his mission of good offices in compliance with General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

(b) 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 Agreement 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, 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 Gibraltar local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that this mechanism could start work soon;

With regard to the situation in Saint Helena:

(c) Expressed their appreciation for the participation of a representative of the Government of Saint Helena, who travelled numerous days from the Territory to arrive in Nicaragua, and the information that she provided;

(d) Noted the views expressed by the representative of the Territory that Saint Helena had no aspiration to independence and had been able to have a formal form of government;

(e) Took note of the concerns expressed by the representative of Saint Helena about the potential negative impacts of the construction of the airport, including a growing number of expatriate families settling in the Territory, and the lack of a definite plan to operate an air route or sea link between Saint Helena and neighbouring islands;

(f) Took note of the information provided by the representative of Saint Helena that although the new constitution of 2009 enshrined human rights provisions, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other major international agreements had not yet been extended to the territory;

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

(g) 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 69/101, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014) and 2218 (2015) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara, underscored the need for renewed efforts to reinvigorate the search for a lasting political solution to the issue, 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, and 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, 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.

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

35. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representative of the Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean of ECLAC at the seminar and the information he provided;

(b) 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, as well as 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 Committee;

(c) 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 and Cooperation Committee of ECLAC 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 of the Special Committee:

(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) Reaffirmed also 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 and 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 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 the work of the 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 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 curricula 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 in the work of the Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of intensifying current efforts to enhance communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Committee to continue to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a view to making progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of increasing current efforts to enhance 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 that regard continued to take 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 that 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, and that in that regard the 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 made and things to be done and, in that connection, invited the Special Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal in this regard;

(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 the 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 Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda

Delivered by the Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to all the participants gathered in Managua for the Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua for their generous hospitality in hosting this important event to take stock of the decolonization agenda on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In celebrating this milestone, we also mark 70 years in advancing the decolonization agenda. Since the founding of the Organization in 1945, more than 80 nations that had been under colonial rule, with 750 million inhabitants, have joined the United Nations as sovereign States. In 1946, there were 72 Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by 8 Member States. Today, 17 Territories, with a total population of 1.6 million people, and administered by four administering Powers, remain on the list. Much has been achieved, yet we have not completed the task of decolonization or reached the goal of eradicating colonialism.

The fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is a common endeavour for all concerned — the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers and other stakeholders in the decolonization process. This requires their constructive engagement, sustained efforts and political will, with the support of the Special Committee on decolonization. The international community has an obligation to ensure that a full measure of self-government is achieved in the remaining Territories, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions.

In recent years, it has been encouraging to witness the signs of rejuvenation in the work of the Special Committee. Partnership between the administering Powers and the Committee is increasing. I thank the current Chair of the Committee for his dedicated efforts in this regard.

This seminar provides opportunities for the Special Committee to engage with all involved, along with experts and members of civil society, on the situation of the individual Territories and issues of concern to the Territories. This is also an occasion for all participants to present their recommendations to the Committee so as to assist this body in considering its way forward in completing the decolonization processes for each Territory as mandated by the General Assembly.

In addition to the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, this year also marks the midpoint of the Third International Decade. At this juncture, I urge all participants in this seminar to identify concrete and implementable steps that could help us reach the noble goal of the eradication of colonialism before the end of the International Decade in 2020. As Secretary-General, I stand ready to assist you in the remaining part of this journey. In that spirit of partnership, I wish you a productive and successful seminar.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Ecuador (Chair)	Xavier Lasso Mendoza ^a Diego Morejón José Eduardo Proaño ^a
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Wei Zonglei
Cuba	Oscar León González ^a
Ethiopia	Dawit Yirga Woldegerima ^a
Indonesia	Indah Nuria Savitri ^a
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Hossein Maleki ^a
Nicaragua	Miguel D'Escoto María Rubiales de Chamorro Jaime Hermida Castillo Rubén Berrios Juan Damau Patricia Bajana
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa
Russian Federation	Alexander A. Volgarev ^a
Syrian Arab Republic	Bashar Ja'afari ^a
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño Zael Alexis Fernández Rivera José Arrue Ansonith Alvano

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Sofiane Mimouni Hadj Ali Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Gonzalo S. Mazzeo
Australia	Peta McDougall
Costa Rica	Rebeca Díaz Calderón
El Salvador	Morena Iris Bustamante

^a Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Guatemala	Diego Israel Girón Rodas
Mexico	Miguel Díaz Reynoso Gilberto Velarde Meixueiro
Morocco	Abderrahman Leibek Omar Kadiri Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Rafael Garranzo García Carlos Blasco Bernáldez José Miguel Bello Villarino

Administering Powers

France	Antoine Joly
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Chris Campbell

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Talauega Eleasalo Ale Mauga Tasi
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^b	Phyllis Rendell
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
New Caledonia	Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes François Bockel Marjorie Ehnyimane
Saint Helena	Pamela Ward Pearce
Turks and Caicos Islands	Conrad Howell
Western Sahara	Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich Sueliman Tieb Mayra Luisa Sandoval

United Nations funds and programmes

United Nations Development Programme	Silvia Rucks Tamara Delgado Glomara Iglesias
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^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) (see [ST/CS/SER.A/42](#)).

Organization of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Dale Alexander

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Sergei Cherniavsky

Peter Clegg

Mikaël Forrest

Daniel Manfred Malcolm

Wilma Reveron-Collazo

Roch Wamytan

Edward Paul Wolfers

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua

The participants at the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement at the opening of the seminar by the former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-third session, Father Miguel D'Escoto, and the Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra,

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

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