

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories

I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua from 31 May to 2 June 2016. It held six meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, an administering Power 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 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, with the participation of the representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). An administering Power, France, participated as an observer. Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain. In addition, six Non-Self-Governing Territories and 11 experts participated in the seminar.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, the Chair appointed Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and Stanislav Aleksaev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, together with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) as Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar.

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in advancing the decolonization agenda in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis:
 - (a) Strategies to ensure the acceleration of the decolonization process;
 - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories, concerned Member States and other stakeholders.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, territorial Governments, concerned Member States and other stakeholders, as well as views of experts on the decolonization process:
 - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
 - (i) In the Pacific region;
 - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
 - (iii) In other regions;

- (b) Effects of socioeconomic conditions, environmental issues and climate change on the decolonization process, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals:
 - (i) In the Pacific region;
 - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
 - (iii) In other regions.
- 3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.
- 4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

II. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

5. On 31 May, the Chair of the Special Committee opened the seminar, drew attention to the day's sad news of the passing of the former Secretary-General of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), Mohamed Abdelaziz, and called for a minute's silence in his honour.

6. He expressed thanks to the Government of Nicaragua for hosting the seminar for the second consecutive year, noting that it was the sixth annual seminar to be held within the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The seminar, he stressed, would enable the Special Committee to redouble its efforts to fulfil its mandate, most recently reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/231. The seminar should be an instrument of change in favour of decolonization, he added, stating that it was a matter of "now or never". He emphasized that the commitment was to promote the decolonization process and to put an end to the shame of colonialism around the world. Underlining the importance of the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, he announced his intention to explore specific ways of marking the week with activities at Headquarters. He said that there would be no rest until all of those deprived of their sovereign and territorial integrity had been liberated.

7. Also at the opening ceremony, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, María Rubiales de Chamorro, [[woman]] delivered a welcoming address in which she lauded the work of the Special Committee and urged it to redouble its efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating colonialism.

8. A staff member of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat read out a message from the Secretary-General in which he welcomed the theme of the seminar and urged the participants to seize the opportunity to identify specific action to advance the decolonization agenda (see appendix I).

B. Statements and discussions^a

9. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, statements relating to the status of invitations and representation at the seminar were made by the representatives of Morocco, Saint Lucia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Grenada, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.^b A statement was also made by a staff member of the Office for Legal Affairs, serving as the Legal Officer for the seminar. Following those statements, the seminar adopted its programme of work (PRS/2016/CRP.2).^c

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 31 May, the Chair made a statement on the core theme of the seminar in which he emphasized the importance of carrying out the Special Committee's work in accordance with its mandate and rules of procedure. Underlining General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) as the basis of the Committee's legitimacy, he underscored the value of transparency and non-selectivity as the pillars of its working methods, adding that it could not be influenced by groups attempting to impose their own agendas. The Committee's mandate was to execute relevant resolutions on a case-by-case basis, in particular with regard to sovereignty disputes, he said, emphasizing that the Committee was not prepared to accept the perpetuation of colonial rule. While he was Chair, the Committee would maintain efforts to secure adequate means of implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the ongoing Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Those means included both negotiation and diplomacy.

11. At the same meeting, two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Sergei Cherniavsky, made presentations on the role of the Special Committee and other stakeholders within the context of the broad theme of the seminar. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Indonesia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Algeria, the Russian Federation, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Statements were also made by an expert, Wilma Reverón Collazo, and Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)

12. Also at the 2nd meeting, participants heard from two representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region: Edward Alvarez (question of Guam) and Jean-Louis d'Anglebermes (question of New Caledonia). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of France, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Nicaragua. Statements were also made by three experts: Wilma Reverón Collazo, Julien Boanemoui and Roch Wamytan.

13. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 June, participants heard the views of the following independent experts regarding the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region: Michael Bevacua, Richard Ariihau Tuheiava and Jimmy Naouna. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and China. Statements were also made by Edward Alvarez (Guam) and Mr. Bevacua.

^a Statements and discussion papers are available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml.

^b Details of the statements made are summarized in the press release on the meeting, which is available on the Committee's website.

^c The documents of the seminar are available from the Committee's website.

14. At the same meeting, participants addressed the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region and heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reverón Collazo, regarding the situation in Puerto Rico. Related statements and comments were made by the representatives of Cuba, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. A statement was also made by an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky.

15. Also at the 3rd meeting, the participants addressed the status of other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions and heard related presentations by Joseph Bossano, on the question of Gibraltar, Krysteen Ormond, on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),^d and Ahmed Boukhari, on the question of Western Sahara. Participants also heard a presentation by an expert, Macharia Munene, who also addressed the question of Western Sahara. Statements were made by an expert, Alejandro Betts, and by the representatives of Spain and Argentina.

16. At the 4th meeting, on 1 June, participants heard further presentations and statements on the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions, by an expert, Ernesto Moreau, and by the representatives of Ecuador, Sierra Leone, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Chile, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Grenada, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The representative of Cuba made a further statement, following which statements were made by the representatives of Saint Lucia, Iraq and Algeria. Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara) and an expert, Macharia Munene, clarified earlier comments, and further statements were by Krysteen Ormond (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)) and Mr. Moreau.

17. At the 5th meeting, on 2 June, a further statement on the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions was made by Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara). Statements were also made by the representatives of Morocco, Algeria and the Russian Federation, as well as by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar).

18. Also at the 5th meeting, participants held a general discussion on the role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, and on recommendations for advancing decolonization. Statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua and Morocco. Statements were also made by the following eight experts: Wilma Reverón Collazo, Carlyle Corbin, Sergei Cherniavsky, Richard Ariihau Tuheiava, Julien Boanemoui, Ernesto Moreau, Jimmy Naouna and Macharia Munene. A statement was also made by Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara).

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

^d 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).

C. Closing of the seminar

20. At the 6th meeting, on 2 June, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2016/CRP.5, which was adopted.

21. At the same meeting, participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution in which they expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua (see appendix III).

22. Also at the 6th meeting, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations made closing remarks. Thereafter, the Chair made a closing statement.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

23. 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 Assembly.

24. Participating members of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

25. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2016/19](#), 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 2016.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories

26. 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) Took into account General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources, in accordance

with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

(d) 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;

(e) 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;

(f) 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, and in that regard called upon those instances to continue to engage with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee;

(g) 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;

(h) 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;

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

(j) 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;

(k) 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;

(l) 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;

(m) 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 70/231 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;

(n) 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, Morocco and Spain in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2015 Caribbean seminar

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

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Took note of the statement made by the representative of the Governor, presenting an update on the planned plebiscite on self-determination, and the collaborative work between the Governor and the Commission on Decolonization, including the Commission's endorsement of the Governor's educational plan on options for self-determination, and the creation, editing and approval of educational materials to be used in brochures and social media outreach to help to jump-start the educational process;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the information provided about the announcement of funds being made available by the United States Department of the Interior to support the decolonization educational campaign in Guam;

(c) 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:

(d) 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;

(e) 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;

(f) Noted the request made to make specific reference in the resolution on French Polynesia to the inalienable rights of the people of the Territory to their

natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals, pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(g) 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;

(h) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who said that his Government had cooperated with the Special Committee since the signing of the Nouméa Accord and accepted a group of international experts into the work of the special administrative commissions responsible for updating the electoral rolls in New Caledonia, emphasized the commitment of France to the Territory's democratic process and noted that the Congress of New Caledonia was yet to set a date for the transfer of certain powers from France to the Territory, with the exception of defence, security and justice;

(i) Noted the statement by the representative of the Government of New Caledonia, who said that his Government was committed to continuing to participate in all meetings of the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee, as well as all regional seminars, in order to objectively and collectively present the work undertaken by the Government to ensure the successful emancipation and decolonization of New Caledonia, stated that the current electoral dispute had been addressed at the past two meetings of the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord and that, following a quantitative assessment conducted by an expert, the signatories had declared the dispute closed, subject to compliance with the provisions of the 1999 organic law, and emphasized the collegial nature of the territorial Government and the importance of seeking the common values that would become the foundation of the common destiny of New Caledonia;

(j) Took note of the information provided by the representative of the Union calédonienne-Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste group that the Kanak people had become a minority on their own land following the colonization of the Territory by France and that such colonization could not be considered a closed political matter, with the decision taken in 2016 by the Committee of Signatories declaring the electoral dispute closed having been imposed upon the Kanak minority and not having been taken on the basis of consensus;

(k) Also took note of the request made for United Nations visits to New Caledonia to continue;

(l) Further took note of the proposals made by the representative of the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat, including the possibility of the next regional Pacific seminar being hosted by a member of the Group, and for the dispatch of a combined Special Committee and Group visiting mission to New Caledonia before the next Pacific regional seminar;

(m) Took note of the concerns expressed by the representative of the Fédération des groupements de droit particulier local over problems relating to the traditional land tenure system in New Caledonia, noting that thousands of families had not yet regained their land rights and that there was a need for a thorough study on the status of land reform;

(n) 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;

(o) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 70/99, 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;

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

(q) 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.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar

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

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert from Puerto Rico, who shared views on the process of decolonization, in particular on the application of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

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;

(c) Took note of the presentation made by the expert from Puerto Rico on the impact of the grave fiscal crisis on the economic and social situation of Puerto Rico, and regretted that the current status of political subordination prevented the peoples of Puerto Rico from making sovereign decisions and taking action to address the serious economic and social problems, including unemployment, marginalization, insolvency and poverty;

(d) Demanded the release of the political prisoner convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, Oscar López Rivera, imprisoned under inhumane conditions for 35 years.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar

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

With regard to the situation in the 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, and reiterated the request to 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 Western Sahara:

(c) 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 70/98, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015) and 2285 (2016) 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

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

(a) Took note of the attendance of the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the opening ceremony of the seminar; expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 70/231, to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Health Organization; expressed regret that those organizations invited had not attended the seminar, except for FAO; and expressed disappointment at those absences, considering that the situation did not contribute to effective channels of communication between the Special Committee and the agencies and restricted the access of the Committee to information on the activities of the agencies in the Territories;

(b) Encouraged all the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee, taking into account the responsibility of the agencies to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(c) Expressed their support for the role of 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 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

31. 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) To maintain the global focus of the decolonization agenda, also advised that the Special Committee might hold activities in observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the following:

(i) Holding a special meeting of the Special Committee specifically devoted to the Week of Solidarity, with invitations extended to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Trusteeship Council;

(ii) Organizing an exhibit of documentaries at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on the history of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(iii) Organizing, at Headquarters, a photo exhibit devoted to the history of the Special Committee, which should feature photographs and other audiovisual material from the archives of the Department of Public Information;

(iv) Organizing, at Headquarters, a screening of documentaries and an exhibition of audiovisual material on liberation movements in the Territories;

(v) Organizing a talk show with the Chair of the Special Committee on United Nations Radio, which might subsequently be broadcast in syndicated form to those local radio stations collaborating with the Department of Public Information in disseminating United Nations material;

(vi) Exploring the possibility of issuing a commemorative United Nations stamp devoted to the Week of Solidarity, which would mark its forty-fifth anniversary, in 2017;

(j) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs, should compile a press kit on decolonization, containing the essential information on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other relevant information to ensure that the journalists adequately covered the issue of decolonization; suggested that such a kit might be distributed, in both printed and electronic form, to the local media in the country hosting the annual regional seminar; and affirmed that all publications that might form a kit were already available;

(k) Recommended that the Special Committee should forge a close working relationship with non-governmental organizations concerned with decolonization, primarily in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and, as a first step in that direction, might request the Decolonization Unit to compile a list of such organizations with expertise in that area, using as the basis for such an exercise the current list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social

Council (E/2014/INF/5) and, in vetting other non-governmental organizations that did not yet have such status, being mindful of the need to ensure that non-governmental organizations chosen as partners would abide by the ideals of the United Nations and not engage in activities against certain Member States;

(l) Also recommended that the Special Committee should request, by means of a timely request addressed to the Committee on Conferences, a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate its fifty-fifth anniversary, in November 2016, during the main part of the regular session of the Assembly, and should this not be possible, the Special Committee, through the same channel, should request permission to hold its own commemorative meeting during that period, with invitations extended to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Trusteeship Council, in addition to the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(m) Affirmed the understanding that all those proposed activities would be adequately covered in the United Nations media and receive global exposure through the network of United Nations information centres;

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

(o) 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;

(p) 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;

(q) 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;

(r) 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;

(s) 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;

(t) 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;

(u) In that connection, underscored that 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;

(v) 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 fully 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, to provide assistance to the Territories, and that in that regard the Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies, including improvements in communication and promoting their participation in the regional seminars to interact with the Committee and providing reports on the work in the Territories;

(w) 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;

(x) 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 General Assembly resolution 70/231 and other 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;

(y) 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;

(z) Stressed that 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 Pacific regional seminar

Delivered by a staff member of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs

I am pleased to send my greetings to all who have gathered in Managua for the 2016 Pacific regional seminar on decolonization, in the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I thank the Government and the people of Nicaragua for their generous hospitality in hosting this important seminar for the second time in two years.

This seminar also marks the twenty-fifth regional seminar of the Special Committee since 1990. I welcome this year's focus on the Pacific region under the theme of "Commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories", within the framework of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

According to the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, a full measure of self-government can be achieved through independence, integration or free association with another State. The choice should be the result of the freely expressed will and desire of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee on Decolonization supports this decolonization process. I also count on the administering Powers to continue to fulfil the obligation to promote the well-being of the peoples under their administration.

This annual regional seminar provides a key opportunity for the Special Committee to hear directly from representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories about their unique situations and problems.

It also facilitates informal exchanges between administering Powers, other stakeholders, Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee, experts, civil society organizations, regional organizations and others.

Let us seize this opportunity to identify concrete actions to advance the decolonization agenda.

I wish you success in your deliberations. Thank you.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Chair)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño ^a
	Douglas Nicomedes Arcia Vivas ^a
	Yumaira Coromoto Rodríguez Silva ^a
	Martha Gabriela Finol de Olivero
Antigua and Barbuda	Claxton Duberry
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz ^a
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Wei Zonglei ^a
	Liu Song
Côte d'Ivoire	François Xavier Zabavy ^a
Cuba	Ana Silvia Rodríguez Abascal ^a
Ecuador	Aminta Buenaño
Grenada	Michael Mitchell
Indonesia	Achsanul Habib ^a
Iraq	Mohsin A. Rajab
Nicaragua	María Rubiales de Chamorro ^a
	Jaime Hermida Castillo ^a
	Patricia Bajaña
Papua New Guinea	Peter Bonny ^a
Russian Federation	Stanislav Aleksaev ^a
Saint Lucia	Dana Lewis Non
Sierra Leone	Vandi Chidi Minah ^a
Syrian Arab Republic	Ihab Hamed ^a

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

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Smail Benamara Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gonzalo S. Mazzeo Francisco J. de Antueno
Morocco	Omar Hilale Mahmoud Rmiki Azzeddine Farhane Abderrahim Kadmiri Khaddad El Moussaoui Mostafa Mouahhidi Omar Kadiri
Spain	Francisca María Pedrós Carretero

Administering Powers

France	Frédéric Basaguren Sylvie Decroix
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ^b	Ross Denny

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Daniel Aga
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^c	Krysteen Ormond
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
New Caledonia	Jean-Louis d'Anglebermes François Bockel
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari Suliman Tieb Mayra Sandoval de Tieb

^b Present at venue but did not engage.

^c 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).

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Michael Bevacqua

Julien Boanemoui

Sergei Cherniavsky

Carlyle Corbin

Ernesto Moreau

Macharia Munene

Jimmy Naouna

Wilma Reverón Collazo

Richard Ariihau Tuheiava

Roch Wamyta

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua

The participants at the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met in Managua from 31 May to 2 June 2016 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 Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, María Rubiales de Chamorro,

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

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Nicaragua for providing the Special Committee with the facilities necessary for this seminar, for the outstanding contribution that 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.
