

Annex II

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories — what are the prospects?, held in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.

2. In its resolution 71/122, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2017, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. Discussions at the seminar will assist the Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

4. The respective contributions of the participants would be further considered by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2017, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

5. The seminar was held in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017. Five meetings were held, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

6. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, with the participation of the representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

One administering Power, France, participated as an observer. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco, Spain and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 16 May 2017, the Chair appointed Stanislav Aleksaev (Russian Federation) and Nedra Miguel (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, together with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) as Rapporteur.

8. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis:
 - (a) Review and assessment of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, with a view towards strengthening the work of the Committee;
 - (b) What are the prospects for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the remaining years of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism?
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 Caribbean region;
 - (ii) In the Pacific region;
 - (iii) In other regions;
 - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories, concerned Member States and other stakeholders, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, according to the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, especially its economic dimension, taking into account the indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals:
 - (i) In the Caribbean region;
 - (ii) In the Pacific region;
 - (iii) In other regions.
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, taking into account the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and 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.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

9. On 16 May, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) opened the seminar in his capacity as Chair of the Special Committee.
10. At the same meeting, the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, addressed the seminar.
11. Also at the same meeting, the officer-in-charge of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).
12. A point of order was made by the representative of Indonesia.

B. Statements and discussions¹

13. The seminar held five meetings.

C. Closing of the seminar

14. At the 5th meeting, on 18 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, which was not concluded, but was transmitted to the Special Committee for a final decision at its substantive session, in June 2017.
15. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see appendix III).
16. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Nedra Miguel, made closing remarks. The Chairman of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

17. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in, and extent of, the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the Assembly.
18. Participating members of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.
19. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2017/19, 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 2017.

¹ Statements and discussion papers are available from www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?

20. 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) Recognized that the eradication of colonialism was one of the priorities of the United Nations and continued to be one of its priorities for the Third International Decade that had begun in 2011, and stressed the need to allocate adequate financial support to the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat in order to fully implement the mandates entrusted to it by Member States;

(c) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for expediting the implementation of the plan of action to move towards achieving the goals of the Third Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [65/119](#), as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(d) Reiterated that the United Nations should continue to lead the political process towards decolonization with the resolute support of the Secretary-General and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and stressed that support by the United Nations should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues were resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(e) Noted that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, was not complete so long as there remained Non-Self-Governing Territories that had yet to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant resolutions with regard to all Territories considered under the agenda of the Special Committee,² including those adopted by the Assembly and the Committee on special and particular colonial situations, and underscored the fact that the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960;

(f) While recognizing how much remained to be done in the area of decolonization, acknowledged the efforts made to revitalize the work of the Special Committee in line with its mandates;

(g) 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;

² A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

(h) 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;

(i) 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 the fact 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;

(j) 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;

(k) 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;

(l) Underlined the fact 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;

(m) 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;

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

(o) 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;

(p) 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;

(q) 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;

(r) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in

accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/122 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;

(s) 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, Spain and Zimbabwe in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects in the Caribbean?, including follow-up to the 2016 Pacific regional seminar

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

(a) Expressed concern that there was no representation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean at the 2017 seminar;

(b) Regretted the lack of representation of the administering Powers, which were not at the 2017 seminar, and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage with the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future;

(c) Reiterated that progress could only be achieved with the active cooperation of the administering Powers, and in this regard, underlined the fact that it was considered useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General's good offices in this process;

(d) 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 on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Noted the presentation made by the expert from Puerto Rico on the legislation adopted by the Congress of the United States of America (Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) of June 2016 (Public Law No. 114-187)), imposing a Fiscal Oversight and Management Board whose members had been appointed by the former President of the United States, Barack Obama, with plenary powers over the Government of Puerto Rico, and which had adopted austerity measures that deepened the grave fiscal crisis of the economic and social situation of Puerto Rico, and expressed regret that the current status of political subordination prevented the peoples of Puerto Rico from making sovereign decisions and taking actions to address the need for a sustainable economic development programme and to participate in the activities of the United Nations relating to Agenda 2030, thus aggravating the serious economic and social problems, including unemployment, marginalization, insolvency and poverty;

(b) Also noted the recommendations made by the expert of Puerto Rico that the Special Committee compile data and prepare an updated report on the economic conditions of the Territories; apply the objectives of Agenda 2030 to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and Puerto Rico; request the intervention of the Special Rapporteur on Sustainable Economic Development in Puerto Rico and in any other Non-Self-Governing Territory that so requested his intervention; and adopt a resolution recommending that the General Assembly examine and adopt measures

for the compensation and the payment of reparations for damages caused by the administering Powers as a consequence of their colonial practices;

(c) Welcomed 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.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects in the Pacific?, including follow-up to the 2016 Pacific seminar

22. 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 and the information provided by a representative of the Governor of American Samoa;³

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative, who expressed his view that the people of American Samoa did not consider themselves as colonized people and that there was not widespread yearning for political independence;

(c) Also noted the information provided by the representative that: constitutional rights of the United States that were not extended to American Samoa included citizenship of the United States, the right to vote for the President of the United States and the right for its delegate to vote in Congress; elected leaders of the Territory had opposed the granting of birthright citizenship to the people of American Samoa on the basis that a constitutional interpretation that would allow outsiders an equal right to own land might undermine and eventually destroy Samoan culture; and the people of American Samoa preferred the compromise that limited enforcement of the equal protection clause as long as it limited risk to Samoan lands;

(d) Further noted the view expressed by the representative that without a flexible and innovative approach, prospects for decolonization in American Samoa were limited;

(e) Noted the establishment in 2016 of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations in American Samoa for the first time, which had developed a set of principles pursuant to the right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination; and the provision of the technical assistance grant to American Samoa by the Office of Insular Affairs of the Department of the Interior of the administering Power;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by a representative of the Governor of Guam;⁴

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative, in which she presented an update on the financial and non-financial challenges faced by the Territory, and efforts made towards achieving self-determination, including by the Commission on Decolonization of Guam through the education campaign to help the native

³ Director, Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations.

⁴ Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination.

inhabitants better understand the decolonization process, the plebiscite on self-determination and the political status options to be voted on;

(c) Also noted that more than 11,000 native inhabitants had been registered in the decolonization registry to vote in the plebiscite;

(d) Noted with concern a recent ruling by the federal court of the United States that a self-determination plebiscite on Guam could not be limited to native inhabitants and therefore was unconstitutional and the information that, as a consequence, the plebiscite had been brought to a halt and that the decolonization registry could not be populated, as required by local law;

(e) Noted with satisfaction the decision taken by the Commission to move forward with its education campaign;

(f) Noted the request made by the representative that the Special Committee should urge the administering Power to assume its responsibility in allowing Guam to fully exercise its inalienable right to self-determination and help Guam develop ideas about how to overcome its current challenges hindering its ability to reach self-governance;

(g) Also noted the concerns expressed by the representative regarding a potential lawsuit over the Chamorro Land Trust Programme, which had been put in place to facilitate the transfer of land to the original landowners;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by a representative of the Government of the Territory;⁵

(b) 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;

(c) 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;

(d) Noted the statement by the representative, who underlined the first participation of his Government in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly in October 2016 and in the regional seminar this year, expressed the commitment of the Territory to inform the Special Committee of the reality on the ground, highlighted the recognition and compensation of victims of nuclear tests by the Government of France, emphasized that French Polynesia had full control over the exploration and exploitation of its own natural resources, and stated that French Polynesia was not a colony which required to be decolonized;

(e) Also noted the request made by the representative to remove French Polynesia from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as to make a reference in the General Assembly resolution on French Polynesia, to be adopted in 2017, to resolution No. 2013-3, adopted by the Assembly of French Polynesia on 30 May 2013, which repealed the resolution of the Assembly in 2011 requesting the inscription of French Polynesia on that list;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Noted again the constructive cooperation and engagement of the Government of France with regard to the self-determination process in New

⁵ Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs, Office of the President.

Caledonia, in particular for permitting the first visiting mission of the Special Committee in 2014;

(b) Noted the statement by the representative of the administering Power that her Government was examining the proposal of the Special Committee to dispatch a visiting mission to New Caledonia in 2017, also noted the view expressed by the representative, who said that there was no objection in principle to such a mission, and expressed the hope that New Caledonia would not be the only Territory to be visited by the Committee and that the visit could be useful for the ongoing process of self-determination in New Caledonia for the preparation of the referendum;

(c) Also noted the information provided by the experts that over 20,000 Kanak people were not yet registered in the electoral list for the referendum, which undermined its credibility and transparency, that the access to truth and justice regarding the case of pro-independence leaders who had been killed in the past was limited and that the marginalized and manipulated youth was a source of insecurity in New Caledonia;

(d) Further noted the information provided by the representative of the Melanesian Spearhead Group that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group had conducted a mission to New Caledonia from 24 to 28 April 2017 to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nouméa Accord, during which the Foreign Ministers had raised concerns regarding the registration of eligible voters among all Kanaks, and called upon the United Nations to conduct a mission to the Territory before the referendum in 2018;

(e) Reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 71/119, in which the Assembly reaffirmed 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;

(f) 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;

(g) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory, including follow-up to the recommendations made by the visiting mission, and noted the request made by 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;

(h) Also stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory, including follow-up to the recommendations made by the visiting mission, and noted the request made by the Kanak and Socialist Liberation Front for the new visiting mission of the Special Committee for the self-determination process, in the final phase.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects in the other regions?, including follow-up to the 2016 Pacific regional seminar

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

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

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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including 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 Assembly and Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

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 to 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:

Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, reaffirmed all resolutions of the General Assembly and supported all resolutions of the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara 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 upon 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 upon 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

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

(a) Noted the attendance of the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 71/122, to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), ECLAC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNICEF, 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, UNDP, 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;

(b) Encouraged all the 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 ECLAC, and ESCAP, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

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

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been

resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization 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) Reiterated its support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in the speeding up of the decolonization process;

(g) 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;

(h) 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;

(i) Learning lessons from the practice of holding annual regional seminars, stressed the necessity for the Special Committee to consider updating the rules of procedure for the seminars in order to allow equal and appropriate attention to each Territory on the agenda;

(j) 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;

(k) 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 marks its forty-fifth anniversary, in 2017;

(l) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, 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;

(m) 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 of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat 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/2016/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;

(n) 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;

(o) 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;

(p) 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;

(q) 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;

(r) 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;

(s) 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;

(t) 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;

(u) 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 note the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) In that connection, underscored the fact 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;

(w) 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 in that regard, a proposal was made that the Committee should request the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to encourage active interaction between international organizations established in the United Nations system and the Committee, and underlined the fact that the Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies, including improving communication and promoting their participation in the regional

seminars to interact with the Committee and providing reports on the work in the Territories;

(x) 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 Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal in this regard;

(y) 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 [71/122](#) 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;

(z) 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;

(aa) 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 Caribbean regional seminar

Delivered the officer-in-charge of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs

It is a pleasure to greet the 2017 Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization, organized on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Since its establishment by the General Assembly, the Special Committee has played an important role in advancing the decolonization agenda.

The work ahead is a reminder that we all have contributions to make. Upholding the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and all relevant resolutions is our collective responsibility.

Cooperation is essential to bringing about the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration as we approach the end of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

In that spirit, I wish to again reaffirm my commitment to the decolonization agenda.

I thank the Government and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for hosting this event for the third time since the establishment of the Special Committee. Please accept my best wishes for a successful seminar.

Appendix II

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Chair)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño ¹ Douglas Nicomedes Arcia Vivas ¹ Yumaira Rodríguez Martha Finol Lorena Maitchoukow
Antigua and Barbuda	Chantal Phillip
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño Diego Araya
Côte d'Ivoire	François Xavier Zabavy
Cuba	Ana Silvia Rodríguez Abascal ¹
Dominica	Hubert Charles
Ecuador	Horacio Sevilla Borja ¹
Grenada	Alva J. Browne Michael Mitchell
Indonesia	Dian Triansyah Djani Indah Nuria Savitri ¹
Papua New Guinea	Peter Bonny
Russian Federation	Stanislav Aleksaev ¹
Saint Lucia	Fercinta Louisy
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ghislaine Williams
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Nedra Miguel Oslyn Porter
Sierra Leone	Felix Alie Koroma ¹ Franklyn Brima Fawundu
Timor-Leste	Maria Helena Lopes de Jesus Pires ¹

¹ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mohammed Haneche Sofiane Mimouni Mohammed Belaoura Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gonzalo S. Mazzeo Federico Horak
Morocco	Omar Hilale Abderrahim Kadmiri Redouane Houssaini Khaddad El Moussaoui Mostafa Mouahhidi Omar Kadiri Zhor Saidi Adil Lyamani Hamza Chbihi Mohammed Ali Khamlich
Spain	Javier Carbajosa Sánchez
Zimbabwe	Darlington Kadyautumbe

Administering Powers

France	Sandra Lalie
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Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Tapaau Daniel Aga
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ²	Michael Victor Summers
French Polynesia	Manuel Terai Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Amanda Francel Blas
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

² 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).

Funds and programmes of the United Nations system

United Nations Children's Fund	Muriel Mafico
United Nations Development Programme	Stephen O'Malley

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Dale Alexander
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Regional organizations

Melanesian Spearhead Group	Fe'iloaitau Kaho Tevi
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Experts

Alejandro Betts
Michael Lujan Bevacqua
Judith Bourne
Jessica Byron
Sergei Cherniavsky
Carlyle Corbin
Mikaël Forrest
Stéphanie Graff
Wilma Reveron-Collazo

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017 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 Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph E. Gonsalves,

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

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

