

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges, held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 9 to 11 May 2018

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 [72/111](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2018, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific 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 2018, 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 Grenada from 9 to 11 May 2018. Five meetings were held, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as experts, took part (see appendix I). 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 Antigua and Barbuda 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, Walton Alfonso Webson, with the participation of the representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the

Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The following participated as observers: Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain. In addition, seven Non-Self-Governing Territories and five experts participated in the seminar.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 9 May, the Chair appointed Keisha Aniya McGuire (Grenada) and Yassi Maximin Brou (Côte d'Ivoire) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, together with Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) as Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar.

8. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions with regard to leaving no one behind: strategies and challenges.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, territorial Governments, concerned Member States and other stakeholders on the decolonization process:
 - (a) Political developments and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
 - (i) In the Pacific region;
 - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
 - (iii) In other regions;
 - (b) Financing for development: measures to address social, economic and environmental challenges, and the impact of natural disasters within the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. Role of the United Nations system in helping the Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Short- and medium-term objectives for advancing decolonization: strategies and actions for the Special Committee.
5. Recommendations.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

9. On 10 May, the Chair of the Special Committee opened the seminar. He expressed his thanks to the Government of Grenada for hosting the seminar, stating that Grenada was a country well known for its unswerving commitment to the cause of decolonization and had hosted seminars of the Special Committee twice before, in 1992 and 2007. He stated that the conviction of the need to advance the decolonization agenda, as continuously reiterated by the General Assembly, highlighted the importance of redoubling efforts in favour of the complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, he stated that the 2018 seminar also provided a good opportunity to reflect on the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, marked every year beginning on 25 May, in accordance with Assembly resolution [54/91](#).

10. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, Peter David, also addressed the opening ceremony of the seminar. He stated that the seminar could influence the future course of the decolonization process. He added that Grenada placed great significance on the work of the Special Committee, pointing out that the country had itself travelled along the path of decolonization. He stated that there were still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, most of which were sister countries in the Caribbean. He also stated that Non-Self-Governing Territories remained vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes and cyclones, recalling the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017.

11. The Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat read out a message from the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General stated that the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda were a blueprint for a common future of peace and prosperity, and stressed that the implementation of the Agenda was particularly important for the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories facing the challenges of climate change, access to healthcare, economic diversification, conservation of marine resources and scarcity of drinking water (see appendix II).

B. Statements and discussions¹

12. At the 1st meeting, on 9 May 2018, statements relating to the programme of work were made by the representatives of Morocco, Grenada, Dominica, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Algeria and Sierra Leone.² The Chair suspended the meeting. After resuming the meeting, he made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic and Cuba. The Chair suspended the meeting. After resuming the meeting, he made another statement and the seminar adopted its programme of work (PRS/2018/CRP.2/Rev.1), as orally revised.³

13. At the same meeting, the Chair called the attention of the Special Committee to theme for 2018. He recalled that following General Assembly resolution 70/1, whereby the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Special Committee had engaged in fruitful discussions, stressing the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territories. In its resolution 72/92 on the economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Assembly stressed the importance of inclusiveness. He went on to recall that, in the concluding observations of the seminar, held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2017, the Special Committee had identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, which included the impact of climate change, especially in the Territories and had also acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability.

14. Also at the same meeting, an expert, Peter Clegg, gave a presentation. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone, as well as by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar).

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 May, participants addressed the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and other regions and heard related presentations on the questions of Montserrat, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands

¹ Statements and discussion papers are available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml.

² Details of the statements made are summarized in the press release for the meeting, which is available on the Committee's website.

³ The documents of the seminar are available from the Committee's website.

(Malvinas)⁴ and Western Sahara. Participants also heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reveron Collazo, regarding the situation in Puerto Rico. The Chair made a statement, and other statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Morocco, Nicaragua, Chile, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Côte d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste, Dominica, Grenada, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Sierra Leone, Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Papua New Guinea. A statement was also made by an expert, Luis Vernet.

16. At the same meeting, participants heard presentations via videoconference by Stephen O'Malley, at the regional office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Barbados; and Dale Alexander, at the subregional office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Trinidad and Tobago. Participants also heard a presentation by an expert, Carlyle Corbin.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 May, participants heard a presentation by an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky. Related comments and statements were made by Indonesia, Cuba, Algeria and the Syrian Arab Republic. Comments were also made by other participants.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 10 May, participants heard from three representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region and heard related presentations by Eleasalo Vaalele Ale, on the question of American Samoa; Amanda Blass, on the question of Guam; and Engel Raygadas, on the question of French Polynesia. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Antigua and Barbuda and Argentina. Statements were also made by Engel Raygadas (French Polynesia), Roger Anthony Edwards (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)), Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar) and Ilan Anama Kiloe (Melanesian Spearhead Group).

19. After the 4th meeting, members of the Special Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

20. At the 5th meeting, on 11 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2018/CRP.19/Rev.1, 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 Grenada (see appendix III).

22. Also at the same meeting, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada made closing remarks. Thereafter, the Chair made a closing statement.

IV. 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 Special

⁴ 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).

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 the previous seminars.

25. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2018/19](#), 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 2018.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories — social, economic and environmental challenges

26. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Recalled that the period 2011–2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 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,⁴ 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;

(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 them to accelerate their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee and through the regular session of the Committee under the relevant agenda items, and called upon the Special Committee to develop programmes of collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(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 and bearing in mind relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination;

(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 72/111 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection regretted the lack of representation of the administering Powers, which were not at the 2018 seminar, and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage with the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future;

(s) 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;

(t) Stressed the importance of full and meaningful participation in the regional seminars by those invited, in accordance with the guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminars, and, in this regard expressed deep concern over bureaucratic obstacles to this participation and urged all the stakeholders to exercise all their duties in a timely and responsible manner to that end;

(u) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of other States Members of the United Nations that 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: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2017 Caribbean seminar

27. In 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;⁵

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative, who expressed his view that the people of American Samoa were happy with the relationship of American Samoa with the United States, which could be described as strong and healthy as well as beneficial to the people and the Government of the Territory and that the most

⁵ The Attorney General.

important benefit to American Samoa has been the protection of its indigenous rights to the land, as provided for by the Deed of Cession;

(c) Also noted the information provided by the representative that the political status of American Samoa as an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the United States limited its ability with regard to self-government and exposed it to decisions made by the administering Power;

(d) Further noted the statement by the representative that, while certain aspects of the form of government of the Territory and its relationship with the administering Power were challenging and in need of improvement, the solutions could be found within the confines of the political and judicial systems of the administering Power, and that the territorial Government was pursuing legal actions to counteract the impact of unfavourable federal actions and sought the international community's tacit support;

(e) Recalled the establishment in 2016 of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations in American Samoa and noted the information provided by the representative that the Government of American Samoa intended to pursue additional funding from the administering Power to maintain and expand the work of the Office;

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;⁶

(b) Recalled the concern expressed in 2017 about the ruling by the federal court of the United States, currently being appealed by the territorial Government, that a self-determination plebiscite on Guam could not be limited to native inhabitants and therefore was unconstitutional, and also recalled 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;

(c) Noted the statement made by the representative, who provided an update on the situation in Guam since the 2017 seminar, including the financial challenges faced by the Territory and the ongoing appeals litigation process in the administering Power concerning Guam's self-determination plebiscite;

(d) Welcomed the active engagement of the Government and the people of Guam in the activities of the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee in 2017;

(e) Noted the request made by the Governor of Guam in 2017 to dispatch a visiting mission to the Territory, which was outstanding and which the representative referred to as a way to shed light on the island's pursuit of self-determination and to acknowledge the new challenges Guam faced in decolonization;

(f) Noted with satisfaction the activities of the Commission on Decolonization of Guam, the task forces charged with educating the public on each political option on Guam and the University of Guam to advance self-determination;

(g) Welcomed the determination of the Territory to move forward in pursuing its self-determination and to take its next steps in decolonization;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

⁶ Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination.

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by a representative of the Government of the Territory;⁷

(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 of the United Nations;

(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 stated that French Polynesia had a large degree of autonomy and was not subject to colonial domination or persecution, pointed out that beyond the three options for self-determination the Territory had chosen a status of broad autonomy, and stressed that following its accession to the Pacific Islands Forum in September 2016 the Territory was working towards stronger regional integration, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and participation for the first time in the Eighth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting held in Japan on 18 and 19 May 2018;

(e) Also noted the information provided by the representative that the Territory had recently held legislative elections where the majority had supported pro-autonomy parties, and further noted the request by the representative for the Special Committee to provide thoughts on delisting and status options;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Noted with regret that there were no participants from New Caledonia at the seminar;

(b) Also noted the information provided by the representative of the Secretariat of the Melanesian Spearhead Group on the engagement of the Group in New Caledonia and its commitment to assisting the Kanak people by providing tertiary education scholarships and work opportunities in member States of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in order to enhance the capacities needed in the Territory;

(c) Agreed, in that context, on the importance of education and capacity-building for the people of New Caledonia, particularly the youth;

(d) Welcomed the dispatch of the 2018 visiting mission to the Territory as a follow-up to the 2014 visiting mission in advance of the referendum on self-determination, which would be held on 4 November 2018;

(e) Noted the ministerial-level visit by the Melanesian Spearhead Group to New Caledonia from 3 to 5 May 2018 and its meeting with the President of France, in which discussions had focused on addressing issues including biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

Expressed their appreciation for the written statement submitted by the Ulu-o-Tokelau for the seminar.

⁷ Director, Office of International Affairs, International, European and Pacific Affairs Delegation, Office of the President.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories — social, economic and environmental challenges in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2017 Caribbean regional seminar

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

With regard to the situation in Montserrat:

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

(b) Noted the statement of the Premier in which he underlined that Montserrat was a Territory to be decolonized and that the previous request made for the removal of Montserrat from the agenda of the Special Committee should be reversed;

(c) Also noted the information provided to the effect that Montserrat could not achieve its development goals if its economic dependency continued, compounded by ongoing financial challenges, and that securing funding for rebuilding key infrastructure lost and helping evacuees from the 1995 volcanic crisis required an intervention from the Special Committee as a neutral partner;

(d) Noted the request made by the Premier of Montserrat for a visiting mission of the Special Committee to the Territory that could also include meetings with evacuees in the United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda, and the United States and also noted Montserrat's intention to participate in the substantive session of the Special Committee in June 2018.

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

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

(b) Noted the presentation given by the expert from Puerto Rico, who explained the limitations and challenges faced by Puerto Rico following its devastation by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in September 2017 and who stated that the lack of sovereign powers impeded the people of Puerto Rico from requesting or receiving lifesaving aid from the various countries and United Nations agencies and programmes that had offered assistance;

(c) Also noted that in her presentation, the expert indicated that the devastation of Puerto Rico caused by the hurricanes was further aggravated by the austerity measures being imposed by a financial oversight and management board appointed by the President of the United States, which had targeted the public-school system, the state-owned University of Puerto Rico, labour rights and the reduction of public services and benefits;

(d) Further noted that in her presentation, the expert stressed the importance for small island Non-Self-Governing Territories of understanding, educating about, planning for, mitigating and effectively addressing the adverse impacts of climate change while taking into consideration the particular reality and geographical environment, and how the administering Powers were an obstacle to adopting much-needed public policies.

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories — social, economic and environmental challenges in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2017 Caribbean regional seminar

29. In 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 had ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation, in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development, in which the competent Gibraltarian local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that the 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 upon the parties, made at previous regional seminars, 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. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed the participation by videoconference of the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), noted the information provided, and expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 72/111, 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 (UN-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 upon the invitation of the Committee in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, 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 strengthened role of regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and ESCAP, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(d) Noted the presentation of the expert on the role of the wider United Nations in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in which he highlighted that the advancement of economic and social development of the Territories could not be addressed in isolation from the decolonization process and made reference to a 2017 study for ECLAC on the integration of the Territories in United Nations programmes and activities and on key challenges faced by the Territories in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

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

(a) Reaffirmed, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international law, 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, and strengthened implementation of its mandate, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list and the need for the Committee 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 their 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 speeding up 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, to engage actively in 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 reached 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 that might subsequently be broadcast in syndicated form to local radio stations collaborating with the Department of Public Information in disseminating United Nations material;
- (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 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 that, as a first step in that direction, it 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 was 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 that had 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 and on a case-by-case basis, with a view to making progress in decolonization during the Third Decade;

(s) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of increasing current efforts to enhance relations between the Special Committee and other concerned Member States, 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 and that the administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in accordance 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 by 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 mechanisms, 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 [72/111](#) and other relevant United Nations resolutions, and in that regard noted the interest expressed at the seminar in such visiting and special missions;

(z) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until such time as 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;

(bb) Encouraged the administering Powers to provide to the Special Committee, under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Appendix I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Antigua and Barbuda (Chair)	Walton Alfonso Webson ¹
	Claxton Jessie Curtis Duberry ¹
	Chantal Phillip
	Asha Challenger
Chile	Pablo Ignacio Callis Giragossian
China	Sun Sen
	Wang Nan
Côte d'Ivoire	Yassi Maximin Brou ¹
Cuba	Humberto Rivero Rosario ¹
Dominica	Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts
Grenada	Peter David
	Alva Browne
	Keisha Aniya McGuire
	Michael Mitchell
	Nerissa Williams
	T. Adrian Joseph
Indonesia	Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi
	Indah Nuria Savitri ¹
Iraq	Mohammed Qasim Kareem
Nicaragua	Wendy Palma Gomez
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufal
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sam Terence Condor ¹
Saint Lucia	Shauna Charles
	Nancy Charles
Sierra Leone	Amadu Koroma ¹
	Victor Abdulai Sheriff
Syrian Arab Republic	Ammar Awad ¹
Timor-Leste	Leoneto Mantilo
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Naidely Alvarez Fajardo

¹ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Sabri Boukadoum Mohammed Bessedik Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gonzalo S. Mazzeo Federico Horak
Morocco	Omar Hilale Abderrahim Kadmiri Redouane Houssaini Khaddad El Moussaoui Omar Kadiri Mohammed Khamlichi Majdoline Mouflih Adil Lyamani Zhor Saidi Zineb Tanga Hamza Chbihi
Spain	Francisca Pedrós Carretero

Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Eleasalo Vaalele Ale John Fiu Saelua
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ²	Roger Anthony Edwards
French Polynesia	Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Ronald Coram
Guam	Amanda Francel Blas
Montserrat	Donaldson Romeo
Western Sahara	Mansor Sidi Mohamed (Frente Polisario) Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente Polisario) Sueilima Tieb Ahmed Salem (Frente Polisario) Mhamed Abba Ghalla Bahiya

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 Development Programme Stephen O'Malley

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America Dale Alexander
and the Caribbean

Regional organizations

Melanesian Spearhead Group Ilan Anama Kiloe

Experts

Sergei Cherniavsky

Peter Clegg

Carlyle Corbin

Wilma Reverón-Collazo

Luis Vernet

Appendix II

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar

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

It is a pleasure to greet the Pacific regional seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization. I thank the people and Government of Grenada for hosting a regional seminar for the third time, following similar gatherings in 1992 and 2007.

This regional seminar is an opportunity to examine the situations in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories from the political perspective and to consider socioeconomic, environmental and cultural challenges that are relevant for the completion of the respective decolonization processes.

This year's focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Non-Self-Governing Territories is especially timely. The Sustainable Development Goals, set out in the 2030 Agenda, are a blueprint for a common future of peace and prosperity. For the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories facing the challenges of climate change, access to health care, diversification of economies, conservation of marine resources and scarcity of drinking water, implementing the Agenda is of particular importance.

The Special Committee, in fulfilling its decolonization mandate, can assist the Territories to take actions towards a more sustainable world. But the Special Committee cannot act alone. All parties should be involved in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing the decolonization agenda.

Decolonization is still incomplete. What we need today to accomplish this monumental task is political will, creative thinking and action in partnership. Please accept my best wishes for productive discussions that contribute to this essential work.

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met in Saint George's from 9 to 11 May 2018 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 Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour,

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 Grenada 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 Grenada.

