

## Annex II

### **Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures, held in Saint George's from 2 to 4 May 2019**

#### **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 [73/123](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2019, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region.

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 Special 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 2019, 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 Saint George's from 2 to 4 May 2019. 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 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 Grenada 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, Keisha McGuire, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Three

administering Powers, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, participated as observers. The following other Member States also participated as observers: Algeria, Argentina, Honduras, Morocco, Spain and Uganda.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 2 May 2019, Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts (Dominica) and Yassi Maximin Brou (Côte d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its programme of work (CRS/2019/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in making viable advancements in the Non-Self-Governing Territories through cooperation, collaboration and consensus:
  - (a) Strategies to ensure the advancement of the decolonization process;
  - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders:
  - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
    - (i) In the Caribbean region;
    - (ii) In the Pacific region;
    - (iii) In other regions;
  - (b) Strategies to overcome the challenges in decolonization;
  - (c) Ensuring the well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their political, economic, social and educational advancement.
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.
4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

### **III. Proceedings of the seminar**

#### **A. Opening of the seminar**

10. On 2 May 2019, Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, Peter David, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General gave a message to the seminar through a video.

## B. Statements and discussions<sup>1</sup>

13. At the 1st meeting, on 2 May, the representative of Cuba made a statement concerning the representative accredited to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations in New York who had planned to participate in the seminar but was unable to do so owing to the non-issuance of a visa by the authorities of the United States of America, and noted that it was important that the issue be further addressed by the Committee. The Chair made a statement. The representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Grenada and the observer for Algeria made statements in support of Cuba.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement expressing concern over the question of non-funding by the United Nations for the participation of a representative of Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) in the seminar. Statements were made on the same issue by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba, Timor-Leste and Nicaragua and the observer for Algeria in favour of previous practice. The Chair made a statement clarifying the decision in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure for the conduct of the Caribbean regional seminar adopted by the Committee, as reflected in the annex to document [A/AC.109/2019/19](#). The representatives of Sierra Leone, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire, Chile, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Congo, Papua New Guinea, Grenada, Indonesia and Fiji and the observer for Morocco made statements in support of the Chair.

15. At the same meeting, under agenda item 1, the Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, China, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Timor-Leste and by the observers for Argentina, Spain, France and Uganda, as well as by Joseph John Bossano. Further statements were made by the following experts: Wilma Reverón-Collazo and Peter Clegg.

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 2 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Andrew Fahie, the Deputy Premier of Bermuda, Walter Roban, and the Lieutenant Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, Tregenza Roach, on the questions pertaining to each of those Territories. Presentations were also made by three experts, Mr. Clegg, Judith Bourne and Ms. Reverón-Collazo.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement. A statement was also made by Mr. Bossano and Sidi Mohamed Omar. A statement was also made by Mr. Clegg.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Manuel Terai on the question of French Polynesia, and Melvin Won Pat-Borja on the question of Guam. A presentation was also made by the expert, Michael Lujan Bevacqua. Statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Chile and the observers for New Zealand and France.

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 3 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of the Falkland Islands

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<sup>1</sup> Statements and discussion papers for the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, at [www.un.org/en/decolonization/](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/).

(Malvinas),<sup>2</sup> by Roger Anthony Edwards, of Gibraltar, by Mr. Bossano, and of Western Sahara, by Mr. Omar and Mhamed Abba.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar heard further statements by the representatives of Cuba, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Chile, China, Papua New Guinea, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the observers for Spain, Argentina, Algeria, Honduras and Morocco, as well as by Mr. Bossano, Mr. Omar and Mr. Edwards. Additional statements were made by the observers for Algeria and Morocco. A statement was also made by Luis Gustavo Vernet.

21. At the 4th meeting, on 3 May, the Seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c), as well as agenda items 3 and 4. Under agenda item 3, a presentation was made by the representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Denise Blackstock. The seminar heard statements by the representatives of Sierra Leone and Fiji. Statements were also made by Ms. Reverón-Collazo and Ms. Bourne.

22. At the 5th meeting, on 4 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

### **C. Closing of the seminar**

23. Also at the 5th meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document CRS/2019/CRP.13, which was adopted by the participants.

24. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement in explanation of position after the adoption of the report.

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

26. Also, at the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada, Peter David, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

27. 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.

28. Participating members reaffirmed the continued relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

29. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2019/19](#), annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee, in June 2019.

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<sup>2</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

## **A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures**

30. 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 and Peacebuilding 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,<sup>2</sup> 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 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 73/123 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of three administering Powers, which had not been represented 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, Honduras, Morocco, Spain and Uganda in the seminar.

## **B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific regional seminar**

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

With regard to the situation in Bermuda,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of Bermuda in the seminar, for the first time since 2012, and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Deputy Premier;

(b) Noted the statement by the representative, in which he underscored, in the context of the public beneficial ownership register, that the constitutional arrangement of Bermuda did not allow the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to legislate the Territory;

(c) Also noted the statement by the representative that if Bermuda, at some point in the future, sought full sovereignty, it should follow a proper process of public engagement through an exhaustive public education campaign to ascertain the will of the people in that regard, with the assistance and advice of the Special Committee.

With regard to the situation in the British Virgin Islands,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of the British Virgin Islands in the seminar, for the first time since 2013, and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Premier;

(b) Noted the statement by the Premier, in which he stated that the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power required the international accountability provided for by the decolonization framework of the United Nations;

(c) Also noted the information provided that, despite constitutional advances, contradictions in the Territory's internal self-government arrangement remained, including the appointment of an unelected Governor who retained reserve powers to intervene in the affairs of the Territory;

(d) Further noted the statements made that, in recent years, the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power had become increasingly strained, as the United Kingdom had become more intrusive in areas of governance constitutionally delegated to the territorial Government, including the adoption of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2018, which imposed public registers of beneficial ownership on the Territories, and that the economic damage caused by that legislation to the Territory's financial services industry would be irreparable;

(e) Noted the information provided that a report of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, published in February 2019, contained such recommendations as calling on the overseas Territories to legalize same-sex marriage, to abolish "belonger" status and to permit legally resident British citizens and citizens of overseas Territories currently ineligible to vote and run for office to be able to do so. While the report had no legal force, such recommendations completely disregarded the Constitution of the British Virgin Islands and other Territories;

(f) Also noted the information provided that the Territory was due for a constitutional review;

(g) Further noted the update provided on conditions in the Territory following the passage of two hurricanes in 2017, including on assistance provided and on the recovery process, the goal being to rebuild society with greater resilience and diversify the economy to support long-term growth, with the territorial Government as the primary body steering the recovery process;

(h) Welcomed the statement made that the Territory wished to deepen its relationship with the United Nations in support of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(i) Noted the information provided that the British Virgin Islands was unable to access international funds under United Nations programmes such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund and that the Territory would welcome associate membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(j) Welcomed the statement of the representative that the Special Committee had a meaningful role to play and the proposals put forward to the Committee to facilitate a self-governing assessment of the Territory, evaluating any democratic deficiencies in the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power; dispatch a visiting mission to the Territory; facilitate an education campaign on self-determination to raise awareness on the range of options besides independence; and sit in as an official observer on public deliberations during the Territory's next constitutional review.

With regard to the situation in Montserrat:

Expressed their appreciation for the presence of a representative of the territorial Government.<sup>3</sup>

With regard to the situation in the United States Virgin Islands:

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<sup>3</sup> Director of External Affairs.



(a) Welcomed the first participation by the United States Virgin Islands in the seminar since 2006 and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Lieutenant Governor;

(b) Noted the statement made that the United States Virgin Islands required separate treatment in the decolonization process;

(c) Also noted the information provided that the Congress of the United States of America had passed legislation authorizing a locally drafted constitution, but that such a constitution would require the approval of the Congress. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), however, the United Nations would not endorse the adoption of a constitution by a Non-Self-Governing Territory that must be approved by the administering Power;

(d) Further noted the statement made that the current territorial Government recognized the need for the Territory to embark on a new and meaningful conversation regarding its status, which should culminate in a status referendum within the four-year term. There were challenges related to the issue of identity, and the native inhabitants should be entitled to special recognition. The Territory would welcome the presence of the United Nations as an objective and credible voice with regard to the decolonization process, as well as financial support and other resources that could serve to advance the dialogue. The administering Power should also provide financial support in that regard.

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert from Puerto Rico and the information provided;

(b) Noted the presentation given by the expert, who explained the aggravation of the already serious social and economic problems in Puerto Rico after being devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, referred to the high level of inequalities in Puerto Rico, noting that poverty had risen from 45 to 60 per cent after being hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and also referred to the increase in military presence by the United States, noting that such military build-up was in violation of General Assembly resolution 57/140;

(c) Also noted that, in her presentation, the expert indicated that the United States had ignored the 37 decisions adopted by the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, and her assertion that the United States was in violation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(d) Further noted the expert's recommendations that the United States should provide assistance to Puerto Rico to aid in its recovery from the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, allow the aid of international agencies and of those countries that were willing to help and comply with its obligation under resolution 1514 (XV) by accelerating a process that would allow the people of Puerto Rico to freely exercise their right to self-determination.

### **C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific regional seminar**

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

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;<sup>4</sup>
- (b) Noted the latest information on the judicial cases relating the decolonization plebiscite and the CHamoru Land Trust Commission;
- (c) Welcomed the fact that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Government of Guam were all led by women for the first time in the history of Guam;
- (d) Noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination, such as a self-determination study to assess the current political status of Guam and analyse the options for political status and a media education campaign;
- (e) Also noted the request made by the representative at the seminar to dispatch a visiting mission to the Territory;
- (f) Welcomed the determination of the Territory to building a strong relationship with both the United Nations and the administering Power.

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;<sup>5</sup>
- (b) Shared the continuing concern of the Special Committee over the failure of the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) In that 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 importance of considering whether some Territories, including French Polynesia, should be kept on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and recalled the request made at the 2017 regional seminar, as reflected in General Assembly resolution [73/112](#) of 2018, to remove French Polynesia from that list;
- (e) Also noted the information provided by the representative that, over the past 40 years, pro-autonomy parties had won all elections, except for the one in 2004, giving a good indication of the state of opinion in the Territory;
- (f) Further noted that, upon request by the territorial Government, the autonomy statute was being revised in order to strengthen the partnership with France and included the recognition by the French State of the role played by the Territory in the development of the nuclear deterrence policy of France;
- (g) Noted the information regarding the economic and social situation in the Territory and the invitation extended by the territorial President in October 2018 to visit the Territory.

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

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<sup>4</sup> Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination.

<sup>5</sup> Director, Delegation for International, European and Pacific Affairs of the Office of the President of French Polynesia.

(a) Expressed appreciation to the representatives of France, who updated the seminar participants on the situation in New Caledonia, in particular with regard to the referendum on self-determination held in the Territory on 4 November 2018, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord;

(b) Noted that, in that referendum, which had a turnout of over 80 per cent of eligible voters, more than 56 per cent had voted to remain in France, while 43 per cent had wished to pursue full sovereignty;

(c) Commended the cooperation between New Caledonia, France as administering Power, the United Nations and the Special Committee in preparation for the 2018 referendum;

(d) Reaffirmed the usefulness of visiting missions to the Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations, as was the case for the 2018 visiting mission to New Caledonia;

(e) Noted the holding of two additional referendums in 2020 and 2022, if the territorial Congress so request them.

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the administering Power;

(b) Noted the statement made that the Government of New Zealand remained committed to its relationship with Tokelau, which was based on the decisions of the people of the Territory;

(c) Also noted the information provided, which summarized the support given to Tokelau, and further noted that New Zealand would provide resources over the next four years to support public services and infrastructure and to support the climate change adaptation projects of Tokelau, that New Zealand had decided to scale up the position of Administrator and that a new Ulu had taken up the position in March 2019.

#### **D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific regional seminar**

33. 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 Gibraltar 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**

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

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), noted the information she had provided and expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution [73/123](#), to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNFPA, the World Bank, the World Food Programme 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.

## **F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade**

35. 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 Global Communications 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 Global Communications;

(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 Global Communications in disseminating United Nations material;

(l) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding 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 and Peacebuilding 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/2018/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 that 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 [73/123](#) 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

Grenada (Chair)	Peter David
	Alva Browne
	T. Adrian Joseph
	Keisha Aniya McGuire <sup>a</sup>
	Nerissa Williams <sup>a</sup>
	Michael Mitchell
Antigua and Barbuda	Asha Cecily Challenger <sup>a</sup>
	Claxton Duberry
	Chantal Phillip
Chile	Ricardo Bosnic
	Leyla Vásquez
China	Han Xu
Côte d'Ivoire	Yassi Maximin Brou
Congo	Fernand Eugène Ondako
Cuba	Iraida Guerrero Zúñiga
Dominica	Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts
Ethiopia	Lila Desta Asgedom <sup>a</sup>
Fiji	Gene Waqanivalu Bai
Indonesia	Mohammad Kurniadi Koba
	Aloysius Selwas Taborat
Iraq	Mohammed Qasim Karem Karem
Nicaragua	Michael René Campbell Hooker
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa
Russian Federation	Stanislav S. Aleksaev <sup>a</sup>
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sam Terence Condor
Saint Lucia	Bynta Ernest
	Shauna Charles
Sierra Leone	Francis Mustapha Kai-Kai <sup>a</sup>
	Victor Abdulai Sheriff

Syrian Arab Republic	Ammar Awad <sup>a</sup>
Timor-Leste	Julio Da Costa Freitas
	Leoneto Spinhola Ley de Araujo Mantilo
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Jorge Guerrero Veloz
	Gustavo Díaz Aular
	Naidely Álvarez

#### **States Members of the United Nations**

Algeria	Abdallah Baali
	Larbi El Hadj Ali
	Manel Elayoubi
Argentina	Gonzalo Sebastián Mazzeo
Honduras	Tulio Mariano Gonzales García
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Abderrahim Kadmiri
	Redouane Houssaini
	Khaddad El Moussaoui
	Omar Kadiri
	Majdoline Mouflih
	Adil Lyamani
	Zhor Saidi
	Karim Bouhamidi
	Rachid Sabri
	Hamza Chbihi
Spain	David Izquierdo Ortiz de Zárate
Uganda	Philip Ochen Andrew Odida

#### **Administering Powers**

France	Philippe Ardanaz
	Sandra Lalié
New Zealand	Anton Ojala
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Steve McCready

**Non-Self-Governing Territories**

Bermuda	Walter H. Roban
British Virgin Islands	Andrew A. Fahie Claude Skelton-Cline Najan Christopher Eliezer "Benito" Wheatley Hamlet Mark
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) <sup>b</sup>	Roger Anthony Edwards
French Polynesia	Manuel Terai
Gibraltar	Joseph John Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Melvin Won Pat-Borja
Montserrat	Debra Lewis
United States Virgin Islands	Tregenza A. Roach
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO) Sueilima Tieb Ahmed Salem (Frente POLISARIO) Mhamed Abba Ghalla Bahiya

**Funds and programmes of the United Nations system**

United Nations Population Fund	Denise Blackstock
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**Regional organizations**

Melanesian Spearhead Group	Ilan Anama Kilo
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**Experts**

Michael Bevacqua  
Peter Clegg  
Judith Bourne  
Wilma Reverón-Collazo  
Luis Gustavo Vernet

<sup>a</sup> Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

<sup>b</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

## Appendix II

### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada**

*The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,*

*Having met* in Saint George's, from 2 to 4 May 2019, 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 of Grenada, Peter David,

*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.

