

## Annex II

### **Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond, held in Castries, from 11 to 13 May 2022**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/123](#), declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth 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 Fourth International Decade.
2. In its resolution [76/105](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2022, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific 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 would assist the Special 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, held in New York in June 2022, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

#### **II. Organization of the seminar**

5. The seminar was held in Castries, from 11 to 13 May 2022. 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, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab

Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Three administering Powers, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, the Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia and Spain.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May 2022, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) and Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (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 (PRS/2022/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee:
  - (a) Defining challenges and opportunities in the Fourth International Decade;
  - (b) Promoting action conducive to sustainable development in the Territories.
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 Pacific region;
    - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
    - (iii) In other regions;
  - (b) Harnessing lessons learned in response to the pandemic towards recovery;
  - (c) Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with particular emphasis on health (Goal 3).
3. Role of the United Nations system in efforts to assist the Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Recommendations to achieve decolonization in the Fourth International Decade: concrete proposals for the Special Committee.

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

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

10. On 11 May 2022, Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Development and Youth Economy of Saint Lucia, Philip Joseph Pierre, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the seminar via a pre-recorded video.

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

13. At the 1st meeting, on 11 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) and (b). The Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Cuba, Dominica, Chile, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Papua New Guinea.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs of French Polynesia, Engel Raygadas, on the question of French Polynesia, Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja on Guam, and Mickael Forrest on New Caledonia. Presentations were made by the following experts: Michael Lujan Bevacqua and John Connell. Statements were made by the representatives of France and Papua New Guinea. Statements were also made by two experts Naïa Wateou and Dimitri Quenegei.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i). The representative of France made an additional statement. A statement was also made by one expert: Robert Kapeori. Two experts, Naïa Wateou and Dimitri Quenegei, made additional statements. A statement was also made by John Joseph Bossano. Additional statements were also made by Engel Raygadas and Mickael Forrest.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Kenneth Hodge on Anguilla, Eliezer Benito Wheatley on the British Virgin Islands and John J. Malcolm on the Turks and Caicos Islands. Presentations were also made by two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Wilma Reverón-Collazo. Statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Statements were also made by Joseph John Bossano, Engel Raygadas, Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 May, the seminar decided to reopen agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard statements by three experts, Roch Wamytan, Julien Boanemoui and Naïa Wateou. The representative of France made an additional statement. A statement was also made by Mickael Forrest.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of Falkland Islands (Malvinas)<sup>2</sup> by Gavin Short, of Gibraltar by Joseph John Bossano, and of Western Sahara by Sidi Mohammed Omar and Bahiya Ghalla. A statement was made by an expert, Paula Vernet. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Argentina, Saint Lucia, Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, Grenada, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Dominica, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, the Gambia, Mexico, Namibia and Morocco. A statement was made by an expert, Wilma Reverón-Collazo. Additional statements were made by Cuba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Algeria and Morocco. Additional statements were also made by Sidi Mohammed Omar.

19. At the 4th meeting, on 12 May, the seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c).

<sup>1</sup> All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

<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).

20. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard presentations via a pre-recorded video by the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, Simona Marinescu, and the Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Alexander. A statement was made by an expert, Carlyle Corbin. Statements were also made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest.

21. At the same meeting, the seminar considered agenda item 4. Statements were made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest. A statement was also made by an expert, Carlyle Corbin.

22. At the 5th meeting, on 13 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar agreed on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which were approved under silence procedure prior to the meeting, as orally revised.

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

23. At the 5th meeting, on 13 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2022/CRP.29, as orally revised, which was adopted.

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

25. Also at the same meeting, the Special Envoy of the President of the General Assembly and Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations, Thilmeeza Hussain, read out a message from the President of the General Assembly. The Senior Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saint Lucia and former Chair of the Special Committee, Earl Huntley, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

26. 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 General Assembly.

27. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2022/19](#), annex), participating members would present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee, in June 2022.

28. Participating members welcomed the offer by the Government of Indonesia to host the 2023 regional seminar of the Special Committee, as announced by the representative of Indonesia at the seminar.

## **A. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond**

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

(a) Recalled that the period 2021–2030 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Fourth 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 Fourth International Decade that had begun in 2021, 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 Fourth Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/123](#), 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>3</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 Fourth Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic, financial and health crises, in particular the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the

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<sup>3</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).

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, financial and health crises, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 76/105 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France and the United Kingdom, 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;

(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, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, the Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia and Spain in the seminar.

## **B. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond in the Pacific**

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

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of French Polynesia and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>4</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 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;

<sup>4</sup> Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs of the Office of the President of French Polynesia.

(e) Also noted the statement made that the main concerns of the population were economic development and the improvement of their well-being, and that the majority of French Polynesians did not think their Territory needed to be decolonized.

(f) Further noted the statement providing information on the situation related to the pandemic, its impact on the economy and the recovery measures taken;

(g) Noted the information regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Territory being integrated into its public policies, the first Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021 and the request by the territorial President to refer to the commitment of French Polynesia to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the resolution on the Territory;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of Guam and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>5</sup>

(b) Noted the statement about efforts made by the Territory towards their pursuit of self-determination, including having conducted a self-determination study regarding its dependency governance and status options, which would serve as the foundation of its community education campaign;

(c) Also noted the information provided about the challenges in its relationship with the administering Power in the context of the exercise of the inherent right to self-determination by the people of Guam, on which several United Nations Special Rapporteurs have reported, the desire of the Territory to refer its case to the International Court of Justice and its petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

(d) Took note of the statement made by the representative about the long-standing and ongoing issues in Guam, including on the plebiscite, representation in the governance structure of the administering Power, and the impacts of militarization;

(e) Noted the request made by the representative for a visiting mission to the Territory to assess the recent findings of the Special Rapporteurs and the grievances of the people of Guam.

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of New Caledonia and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>6</sup>

(b) Noted the statement by the representative that the territorial Government participated in the regional seminar in order to find, together with the administering Power and all stakeholders of the Nouméa Accord, a true political perspective in accordance with the principles of the Charter;

(c) Also noted the statement by the representative regarding the third referendum that the pro-independence movement and customary representatives had called for non-participation in the third referendum held on 12 December 2021, stating that it had been deprived of a “broad legitimacy”;

(d) Further noted the information provided on the various economic recovery initiatives and programmes undertaken by the territorial Government which took into

<sup>5</sup> Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination.

<sup>6</sup> Member of the 17th Government, in charge of sectors including culture, youth, sports, promotion of solidarity, and tourism.



account the preservation of the environment and biodiversity and the fight against climate change;

(e) Noted the willingness of the territorial Government to further cooperate with the Special Committee and the United Nations specialized agencies;

(f) Also noted the statement made by the representative of the administering Power that the third referendum had affirmed the same choice made during the previous two to remain with France,

(g) Further noted the made by the representative of the administering Power that the pandemic had not affected the proper conduct of the referendum, as validated by the report of the panel of experts of the United Nations;

(h) Noted the willingness of France to cooperate with the United Nations in regard to providing data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Territory;

(i) Took note of the invitation reiterated by France for a third visiting mission and welcomed the willingness of the administering Power to resume discussions with the interlocutors in the Territory;

(j) Noted the information provided by participants regarding the impacts of the pandemic and related restrictions in the Territory, including on the indigenous Kanak population, the measures put in place by the territorial Government and local authorities and the support of the administering Power in response to the pandemic;

(k) Took note of the statement made by the representative of Papua New Guinea emphasizing the importance of an accountable and inclusive process in view of the turnout rate of 44 per cent in the third referendum and welcoming the efforts underway in New Caledonia to strategize for the road ahead on its future status;

(l) Noted the statement by the representative of the President of the Assembly of the South Province that New Caledonia had decided freely to remain with France in the third referendum held on 12 December, a decision which must be respected, and expressing disagreement with the political instrumentalization of customs to postpone the referendum, as well as the exclusion of some residents in the electoral list for the referendums;

(m) Took note of the information provided by representatives of the Assembly of the Loyalty Islands Province about the difficulties, linked to the pandemic, experienced by the Kanak people to go to the polls, their concern over France's decision to conduct the third referendum and the Nouméa Accord;

(n) Also took note of the statement by the President of the Congress that the third referendum had taken place without the Kanaks, who were angered at not having been understood and heard;

(o) Noted the statement by the President of the Congress that the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste had decided to wait for the end of the French presidential and legislative elections in June, before negotiating the future status in order to consider the situation thus created as specified in the Nouméa Accord;

(p) Further noted his statement to request for the assistance of the Special Committee to overcome a political impasse.

**C. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond in the Caribbean**

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

With regard to the situation in Anguilla,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of Anguilla and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>7</sup>

(b) Took note of the information by the representative with regard to the negotiation of a new constitution between the Territory and the administering Power, wherein meetings had taken place in November 2019, without conclusion, and had been thereafter discontinued until after the general elections in 2020;

(c) Noted the statement by the representative that the territorial Government was committed to continuing with the constitutional reform process in order to improve the level of democratic representation and to have adequate safeguards and protections to ensure good governance and promote high standards of integrity in public life;

(d) Also noted the information regarding the proposed way forward for a Constitutional Reform Committee and the desire to receive technical assistance with redrafting the Constitution.<sup>8</sup>

With regard to the situation in the British Virgin Islands,

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of the British Virgin Islands in the seminar and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>9</sup>

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative that the publication of the report of the Commission of Inquiry after the arrest of the former Premier had thrown an already reeling society into a tailspin and strengthened calls for direct rule to be imposed as recommended in the report and that the sentiment against direct rule had been shared by people in the Territory and by the Governments of the States across the Caribbean;

(c) Also noted the statement made by the representative regarding the frank, open and cordial constructive discussions between the ruling and opposition parties and stakeholders with the Minister for the Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom on the findings and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and also his statement that, while there were areas of governance to be improved, the territorial interlocutors had opposed direct rule and had proposed, as an alternative, to implement the recommendations and other reforms under continued democratic governance, with modifications to certain existing arrangements;

(d) Further noted the information provided that a new national unity Government had been formed and had committed to undertaking reforms, including implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, albeit under continued democratic governance and in partnership with the administering Power;

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour, Information and Broadcasting, Physical Planning.

<sup>8</sup> Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

<sup>9</sup> Special Envoy of the Premier.

(e) Noted the statement that, following the advice of the Minister that the decision on whether direct rule would be imposed would await a proposal for an alternative, the Premier had submitted such proposal setting out the territorial Government's approach to reform and presenting a framework for implementation of the recommendations under continued democratic governance;

(f) Also noted the statement expressing hope that the administering Power would accept the proposal and be willing to partner with the territorial Government to help the Territory become the model democracy wanted by its people;

(g) Reiterated General Assembly resolution 76/93, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the British Virgin Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and that it was ultimately for the people of the British Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

(h) Noted with concern the ongoing constitutional situation in the Territory, following the publication of the report of the Commission of Inquiry recommending, among others, the partial suspension of the Constitution;

(i) Emphasized the communiqués by the Caribbean Community dated 3 May 2022 and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States dated 2 May 2022 on current matters affecting the Territory, echoed by Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada in their respective statements and the former also echoed by Belize in its statement;

(j) Called for full respect for the constitutional arrangement and called upon all parties involved to maintain dialogue in the interest of the people of the Territory;

(k) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the Special Committee of the situation in the Territory, including the dispatch of a visiting mission, in close consultation with the administering Power and the territorial Government;

With regard to the Turks and Caicos Islands,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>10</sup>

(b) Noted the statement by the representative that the people of the Territory had sought to attain full internal self-government in 1980 which, due to a change in government, had been relegated to the distant future;

(c) Noted also the information provided that despite the expressed discontent by successive governments regarding the 2011 Constitution, changes recommended by a constitutional commission to the administering Power in 2017 had not been acknowledged;

(d) Further noted the statement by the representative that while the Territory was no longer on grant-in-aid status, its finances remained subject to the control of the administering Power;

(e) Noted the statement by the representative regarding the political maturity and the improvement in the quality of the public sector work force in the Territory;

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<sup>10</sup> Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.

(f) Took note of the statement by the representative about the hesitation of the people towards self-determination due to misconception and lack of information, and to that end, the request for a comprehensive education programme;

(g) Noted the statement by the representative expressing solidarity with the British Virgin Islands which might face the suspension of some parts of its Constitution which the Turks and Caicos Islands had experienced in 1986 and 2009.

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 statement made by the expert regarding the severe impacts of COVID-19 on the Territories which had delayed the self-determination agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and its particular impacts on women in Puerto Rico;

(c) Also noted her statement that for Puerto Rico, the management of the pandemic had been a challenge given the lack of sovereignty to make decisions on strategic issues such as control of air and maritime space, and in acquiring much needed medical supplies.

(d) Further noted the views expressed by the expert that recovery from the effects of COVID-19 required strong and aggressive economic development policies and transparent and inclusive governance and that the Territories must be able to make sovereign decisions to promote sustainable development to prepare for full political and economic sovereignty and needed greater multilateral support, access to international financing, public debt relief and strengthening of regional integration.

#### **D. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond in the other regions**

32. 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 Saint Helena:

Expressed their appreciation for the presence of a representative of the Territory.<sup>11</sup>

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**

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

(a) Welcomed the participation by pre-recorded video message of the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Samoa, 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 [76/105](#), to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 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 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 (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization;

<sup>11</sup> Member of the Legislative Council.

(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 Fourth Decade**

34. 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/2019/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 Fourth 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 [76/105](#) 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 Fourth 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 Fourth 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	Anthony Liverpool
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Marcelo Zambrana-Torrelío
Chile	Andres Alejandro Borlone Diaz
Côte d'Ivoire	Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo
	Yassi Maximin Brou
Cuba	Yumirka Fernández Palacios <sup>a</sup>
Dominica	Kelver Dwight Darroux
Grenada (Chair)	Keisha Aniya McGuire <sup>a</sup>
	Nerissa Williams <sup>a</sup>
	Michael Mitchell
Indonesia	Arrmanatha C. Nasir
	Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji <sup>a</sup>
	Ardina Desnita Tinaor
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa <sup>a</sup>
Russian Federation	Gloria Agaronova <sup>a</sup>
Saint Lucia	Guillaume Simon
	Menissa Marcelle Rambally <sup>a</sup>
	Earl Huntley
	Nancy Nicholas
	Carlton Henry
	Michelle Joseph
	Shantelle Polius
	Rovin Fevrier
Sierra Leone	Alhaji Fanday Turay <sup>a</sup>
	Victoria M. Sulimani
	Karen Jean Baimarro
Syrian Arab Republic	Aliaa Ali <sup>a</sup>
Timor-Leste	Karlito Nunes
	Joaquim José Costa Chaves

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Tunisia	Nasreddine Naouali <sup>a</sup>
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Leiff Escalona Jorge Arturo Reyes Hernández Juan Echeverría

**States Members of the United Nations**

Algeria	Ennadir Larbaoui Toufik Koudri Rafik Kessai Abdelkarim Hamiane Farida Azzi
Angola	João Iambeno Gimolieca
Argentina	Gonzalo Sebastián Mazzeo Maximiliano Javier Alvarez
Belize	Carlos Fuller
Botswana	Miliko Laba
Brazil	Ánuar Nahes Humberto Costa
Gambia	Lang Yabou
Ghana	Felix Nyarku
Haiti	Christopher Pierre
Maldives	Thilmeeza Hussain
Mexico	Carlos Iván Gonzalez
Morocco	Omar Hilale Abderrahim Kadmiri Redouane Houssaini Mostafa Mouahhidi Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat Omar Kadiri Said Ait Talebe-Ali Majdoline Mouflih Salma Arka

Namibia	Eusebius Kashindi
	Nekwaya Iileka
Spain	Pablo Gutiérrez-Segú
<b>Administering Powers</b>	
France	Marine de Carne De Trécesson
United Kingdom	Lesley Saunderson
	Ayodele Hippolyte
<b>Non-Self-Governing Territories</b>	
Anguilla	Kenneth Hodge
Bermuda	Kathy Lynn Simmons
	Thomas Christopher Famous
	Gina Hurst-Maybury
British Virgin Islands	Eliezer Benito Wheatley
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) <sup>b</sup>	Gavin Short
French Polynesia	Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph John Bossano
	Albert Poggio
Guam	Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja
New Caledonia	Mickael Forrest
Saint Helena	Karl Thrower
Turks and Caicos	John J. Malcolm
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO)
	Mohamed Salec Abdesamad (Frente POLISARIO)
	M'hamed Abba
	Ghalla Bahiya
<b>Intergovernmental organizations</b>	
African Union	Fatima Kyari Mohammed
<b>United Nations system</b>	
United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean)	Lorraine Nicholas

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

United Nations Population Fund

Aurora Noguera-Ramkissoon

**Experts**

Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Julien Boanemoui

John Connell

Carlyle Corbin

Robert Kapoeri

Dimitri Qenegei

Wilma Reverón-Collazo

Victor Tutugoro

Bastien Vandendyck

Paula Vernet

Roch Wamytan

Naïa Wateou

Charles Wea

<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

### Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar

#### Delivered via pre-recorded video

I send my greetings to the Regional Seminar of the C-24 — the Special Committee on Decolonization.

I thank the Government and people of Saint Lucia for hosting it.

Coming from a former colonial power, I sadly know that a straight line can be drawn from yesterday's conquests and today's challenges faced by Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Those diverse challenges – which are unique to each Territory – are compounded by COVID-19.

These Territories are particularly vulnerable because of persistent challenges that pre-date the pandemic.

Stretched health systems.

Economic woes.

And, of course, the real-time devastation of climate change, especially rising sea levels.

As a global community, we must build avenues of support for these Territories to invest in sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic – this year's theme.

We need concrete ideas to help them move forward.

This includes efforts to strengthen health systems and response capacities in the face of future pandemics.

It also includes continuing to support all economic recovery efforts as these Territories emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

And it includes real, tangible support to help them transition to green economies.

This year's seminar is a critical step in making progress on the decolonization agenda, and preparing for C-24's substantive session next month.

I wish you a productive seminar.

### **Appendix III**

## **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Lucia**

*The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,*

*Having met* in Castries from 11 to 13 May 2022 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

*Having heard* an important statement at the opening of the seminar by the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Philip Joseph Pierre,

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

*Express their profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Saint Lucia for providing the Special Committee with the facilities necessary for this seminar, for the outstanding contribution that they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Saint Lucia.

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