

A/AC.109/2017/CRP.2

TRANSMITTAL NOTE

The Secretariat wishes to make available to members of the Special Committee the attached draft procedural report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar which was held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 16 to 18 May 2017.

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: The Future for Decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories – What are the prospects?, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 16 to 18 May 2017

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism^a and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.
2. In its resolution 71/122, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2017, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the 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 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, to be held in New York in June 2017, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

5. The seminar was held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 16 to 18 May, 2017. It held five meetings, 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

^a A/56/61, annex.

appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

6. The seminar was conducted by H.E. Rafael Darío Ramirez Carreño, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). One administering power, France, participated as an observer. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco, Spain and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 16 May 2017, Stanislav Aleksaev (Russian Federation) and Nedra Miguel (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

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

- (ii) In the Pacific region;
 - (iii) In other regions.
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories taking into account the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.
 4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

9. On 16 May 2017, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño (Venezuela) opened the seminar in his capacity as the Chairman of the Special Committee.
10. At the same meeting, the Honourable Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, addressed the seminar.
11. Also at the same meeting, the Officer in Charge of the Decolonization Unit, Department for Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

B. Statements and discussions^b

12. At the 1st meeting, on 16 May, the Chair made a statement. A point of order was made by the representative of Indonesia. Comments were made by the representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Grenada and Ecuador as well as by Ahmed Boukhari, (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara). Under agenda item 1 (a), the Chairman made a statement. The seminar heard a presentation by Sergei Cherniavsky (expert) and the representatives of the Ecuador, Cuba and Dominica made statements.
13. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 1 (a). Statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela, Algeria and the Russian Federation, as well as by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar), Michael Victor Summers (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))^c, Ahmed Boukhari, (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara).

^bAll statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization>.

^cA dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

14. At the same meeting, the Seminar considered agenda item 1 (b). A presentation was made by Carlyle Corbin (expert) and the seminar heard statements from the representatives of Cuba, Venezuela, Dominica, and Timor Leste as well as by Ahmed Boukhari, (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara)) and Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar). Further statements were made by two experts: Mickael Forrest and Wilma Reveron-Collazo.

15. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) and heard presentations by Dan Aga Tapaau, on the question of American Samoa, Manuel Terai on the question of French Polynesia and Amanda Francel Blas on the question of Guam.

16. At the 3rd meeting, on 17 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) and heard further presentations by Michael Victor Summers, on the question of Falkland Islands (Malvinas)^d, Joseph Bossano on the question of Gibraltar, Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario) on the question of Western Sahara. Presentations were also made by six experts, Carlyle Corbin, Jessica Byron, Michael Lujan Bevacqua, Judith Bourne, Mickael Forrest and Stephanie Graff (on behalf of RochWamytan.

17. At the same meeting, the seminar heard further statements by the representatives of Spain and Argentina. A statement was also made by Wilma Reveron-Collazo.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 17 May, the seminar first heard presentations under agenda items 2 (b) and 3 and then heard a discussion on items 2 (a), 2 (b), 3 and 4 jointly. Under agenda item 2 (b), the seminar heard presentations by Douglas Arcia Vivas on behalf of the Chair of the C24, and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (expert). Under agenda item 3, presentations were made by Stephen O'Malley, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Barbados and the OECS, Ms. Muriel Mafico, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office and Dale Alexander, Focal Point for the Associate Member Territories of ECLAC as well as the representative of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Statements under agenda items 2 (a), 2 (b), 3 and 4 were made by the representatives of Cuba, France, Cote d'Ivoire, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Ecuador, Chile, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Timor-Leste, Dominica, Grenada, Argentina, Algeria, Morocco as well as by Manuel Terai, (French Polynesia), Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar), and Ahmed Boukhari, (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara)). Further statements were made by the following experts: Alejandro Betts and Judith Bourne. The representative of UNDP also made a statement.

19. At the 5th meeting, on 18 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultation on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

^d A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

20. Also at the 5th meeting, on 18 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

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

22. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Ms. Nedra Miguel, made closing remarks. The Chairman of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

23. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special 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.

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

25. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2017/19, annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee.

Appendix I

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON DECOLONIZATION Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 16 May 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix II

Caribbean Regional Seminar, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (16 to 18 May 2017)

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Chair)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño ⁵ Douglas Nicomedes Arcia Vivas ⁵ Yumaira Rodríguez Martha Finol Lorena Maitchoukow
Antigua and Barbuda	Chantal Phillip
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño Diego Araya
Côte d'Ivoire	François Xavier Zabavy
Cuba	Ana Silvia Rodríguez Abascal ⁵
Dominica	Hubert Charles
Ecuador	Horacio Sevilla Borja ⁵
Grenada	Alva J. Browne Michael Mitchell
Indonesia	Dian Triansyah Djani Indah Nuria Savitri ⁵
Papua New Guinea	Peter Bonny
Russian Federation	Stanislav Aleksaev ⁵
Saint Lucia	Fercinta Louisy
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ghislaine Williams
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Nedra Miguel Oslyn Porter
Sierra Leone	Felix Alie Koroma ⁵

⁵ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

	Franklyn Brima Fawundu
Timor-Leste	Maria Helena Lopes de Jesus Pires ⁵
States Members of the United Nations	
Algeria	Mohammed Haneche Sofiane Mimouni Mohammed Belaoura Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gonzalo S. Mazzeo Federico Horak
Morocco	Omar Hilale Abderrahim Kadmiri Redouane Houssaini Khaddad El Moussaoui Mostafa Mouahhidi Omar Kadiri Zhor Saidi Adil Lyamani Hamza Chbihi Mohammed Ali Khamlich
Spain	Javier Carbajosa Sánchez
Zimbabwe	Darlington Kadyautumbe
Administering Powers	
France	Sandra Lalie
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
American Samoa	Tapaau Daniel Aga
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ⁶	Michael Victor Summers
French Polynesia	Manuel Terai Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Amanda Francel Blas
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

⁶ 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).

United Nations Funds and Programmes

United Nations Children's Fund

Muriel Mafico

United Nations Development Programme

Stephen O'Malley

Organizations of the United Nations systemEconomic Commission for Latin
America and the Caribbean

Dale Alexander

Regional Organizations

Melanesian Spearhead Group

Fe'iloakitu Kaho Tevi

Experts

Mr. Alejandro Betts

Mr. Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Ms. Judith Bourne

Ms. Jessica Byron

Mr. Sergei Cherniavsky

Mr. Carlyle Corbin

Mr. Mickael Forrest

Ms. Stéphanie Graff

Ms. Wilma Reveron-Collazo

Appendix III

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

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

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

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

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