

**Distr. RESTRICTED**  
**CRS/2021/CRP.24**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
COLONIALISM**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth  
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a  
dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth  
International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-  
19) pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration,  
pragmatism and agility**

**Parish of St. John, Dominica**  
**25 to 27 August 2021**

**DRAFT REPORT**

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility, held in the Parish of St. John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021**

## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 75/123, the General Assembly 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<sup>1</sup> 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 75/122, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2021, 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 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 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 the Parish of St. John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021. 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 appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

---

<sup>1</sup> A/56/61, annex.

6. The seminar was conducted by H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee:

Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). France as administering Power participated as observer. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Spain and Qatar.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 25 August 2021, H.E. Ms Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts (Dominica) and Mr. Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji (Indonesia) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while H.E. Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Côte d'Ivoire) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (CRS/2021/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in devising new strategies and setting new objectives for the advancement of the decolonization agenda:
  - (a) Assessment and review of the actions taken during the Third International Decade;
  - (b) Intensifying 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) Identifying attainable goals;
  - (c) Ensuring the well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their political, economic, social and educational advancement, particularly in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.<sup>2</sup>
3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Concrete proposals for the advancement of the decolonization agenda.

---

<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 Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

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

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

10. On 25 May 2021, H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.
11. At the same meeting, the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations of the Commonwealth of Dominica, of Dominica, H.E. Mr. Kenneth Darroux , addressed the seminar.
12. Also at the same meeting, representative of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs read out a message from the Secretary-General.

#### **B. Statements and discussions<sup>3</sup>**

13. At the 1st meeting, on 25 August, under agenda item 1, the Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Chile, Syrian Arab Republic and Argentina.
14. At the same meeting, on 25 August, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by Mr. Natalio Wheatley, Deputy Premier, on the question of the British Virgin Islands. Statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Grenada and Brazil.
15. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Mr. - Engel Raygadas on the question of French Polynesia. A presentation was also made by the expert Mr. Hervé Raimana Lallemand-Moe. Statement was made by the representative of France.
16. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 26 August, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentation on the questions of Gibraltar by Mr. Joseph John Bossano and Western Sahara by Mr. Sidi Mohammed Omar and Ms. Ghalla Bahiya.
17. At the same meeting, the seminar heard further statements by the representatives of Chile, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Algeria and Morocco as well as Mr. Sidi Mohamed Omar. Additional statements were made by Algeria and Morocco.
18. At the same meeting, the seminar heard statements on the question of Falkland Islands (Malvinas)<sup>4</sup> by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Indonesia, the Russian Federation and Brazil.
19. At the same meeting, the Seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c).

---

<sup>3</sup>All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

20. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 26 August, the Seminar considered agenda items 3 and 4. Under agenda item 3, a pre-recorded video presentation was made by Mr. Dale Alexander, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

21. At the 5th meeting, on 27 August, the members of the Committee present at the seminar formally adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar which were agreed under silence procedure prior to the meeting.

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

22. Also at the 5th meeting, on 27 August, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document (CRS/2021/CRP.13), which was adopted.

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

24. Also at the same meeting, the Honourable Prime Minister of Dominica, H.E. Roosevelt Skerrit made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

25. 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.

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

27. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2021/19, annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the Special Committee for its consideration.

28. 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.

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

30. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2021/19/Rev.1](#), annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar for consideration and adoption subsequent to the holding of the seminar.

**A. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility**

31. 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>5</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 crisis, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of regional cooperation, education

---

<sup>5</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).

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, financial and health crisis, 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 [75/122](#) and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France , 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, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Qatar, and Spain in the seminar.

**B. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility in the Caribbean**

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

With regard to the situation in Bermuda,

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of Bermuda in the seminar, and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided;

(b) Noted the statement by the representative, in which he underscored how climate change can render Territories inoperable;

(c) Also noted the statement by the representative in which he stated that the administering Power attempted in 2019 to make recommendations that would adversely affect the peoples of the Territories economically, socially, and politically;



(d) Further noted that, while these plans were paused following rejection from the Territories, the same suggestions have consistently surfaced in subsequent meetings;

(e) Noted the statement by the representative that it is incumbent for Territories to stand together and tell their own individual and collective stories;

(f) Shared the wish expressed by the representative to see more Territories at subsequent events of the Special Committee;

(g) Noted the statement by the representative on receiving any possible assistance from the United Nations.

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 statement made and the information provided by the Deputy Premier;

(b) Noted the statement by the Deputy Premier, in which he stated that the last vestiges of colonialism must be brought to a decisive and orderly end by the close of the Fourth Decade and renewed attention was needed by the Special Committee on the challenges faced by the Territories in the Caribbean;

(c) Also noted the information provided that the Territory was simultaneously rebuilding from hurricanes Irma and Maria, strengthening climate resilience, pursuing sustainable development, building internal capacity, improving the governance framework, and raising public awareness about self-determination to prepare for a constitutional review, several of which the Territory was receiving support from the United Nations system as well as engaging with United Nations partners;

(d) Further noted the updates provided regarding the Commission of Inquiry, which had been extended by six months without consultation with the territorial Government, and the concerns regarding the possibility of self-government being rolled back in the Territory. There was not sufficient transparency on how decisions were being made by the Commission and the decision to extend it was particularly concerning, given that the inquiry was taking up considerable time, energy and resources from the public service and hampering its ability to perform critical functions such as COVID-19 response;

(e) Noted the information provided that the resumption of the inquiry was also happening even though its legal team of lawyers seconded from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office had not yet been admitted to the British Virgin Islands Bar;

(f) Also noted the concerns expressed about the Governor's failure to provide assurances to the public that it was not the intention of the United Kingdom to suspend the territorial Constitution;

(g) Further noted the statement made that the territorial Government continued to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and that the process should not be used as a pretext to take away its autonomy. The territorial Government should be allowed to exercise the maximum degree of self-governance permitted under the territorial Constitution.

(h) Noted the statement made that plans for a constitutional review should not be impeded by the administering Power on the basis that it should await the

commission's report. The aspirations of the Government and people of the Territory should be the basis for any constitutional changes, which should proceed without delay;

(i) Further noted the statement made reiterating the request for a visiting mission before the end of 2021 as well as the request that the resolution on the British Virgin Island be reviewed about financial services to reflect its financial compliance.

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Noted the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressing concern over the situation in Puerto Rico and that the pandemic has only exacerbated such problems as poverty, debt and migration. The political subordination was preventing Puerto Rico to take sovereign decisions to address its severe social and economic problems;

(b) Also noted the statement made by the representative expressing support for the right to self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico and calling on the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects bearing in mind all resolutions adopted by the Special Committee since 1972.

**C. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility in the Pacific**

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

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>6</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, providing an update on the situation in the Territory linked to the COVID-19 pandemic including on measures taken, vaccination status, efforts to preserve the tourism industry, support received from the administering Power and the regional integration and solidarity of the Territory with neighbouring countries during the pandemic;

---

<sup>6</sup> . Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs of the Office of the President of French Polynesia

(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 the statement made that work on the nuclear issues continued, and the announcements made by the French President such as the opening of the archives, compensations of patients as well as a better follow-up of compensation claims, especially in the islands;

(g) Noted the suggestion made that for next sessions of the Committee, access should be limited to petitioners from the Territories in question and also noted the reiterated request to remove paragraph 4 of the resolution on French Polynesia;

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

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the representative of France, who updated the seminar participants on the situation in New Caledonia, in particular with regard to the upcoming referendum on self-determination to be held on 12 December 2021, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord;

(b) Noted the information provided that following a meeting in Paris with a delegation of political forces from New Caledonia, a document had been submitted on the consequences of the yes and no, which was now disseminated in New Caledonia to shed light on the elements of choice and the electoral campaign;

(c) Also noted the statement made that France was striving to prepare the final referendum in the best possible conditions, with the support of the United Nations through the contribution to the revision of the electoral lists, the request for a new mission of experts during the referendum and the support from the Special Committee;

(d) Further noted the statement made that the upcoming referendum will be followed by an 18-month transition period regardless of the outcome, that France will not request the removal of New Caledonia from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories during this period and that a new consultation will take place in June 2023;

(d) Welcomed the reiterated invitation made by the representative for a visiting mission to the Territory in advance of the third referendum, taking into consideration local health conditions and organization deadlines;

(e) Commended the cooperation between New Caledonia, France as administering Power, the United Nations and the Special Committee in preparation for the 2018, 2020 and 2021 referendums;

(f) 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.

**D. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: charting a dynamic course for decolonization in commencing the Fourth International Decade and in the light of the coronavirus disease pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility in the other regions**

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

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

Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which requested the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including Assembly resolution [31/49](#), in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the Assembly, and reiterated the request to the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in fulfilling his mission of good offices in compliance with Assembly and Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Agreement of 27 November 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution to the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, noted that, given that the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar had ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation, in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development, in which the competent Gibraltarian local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that the mechanism could start work soon;

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, reaffirmed all resolutions of the General Assembly and supported all resolutions of the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara, underscored the need for renewed efforts to reinvigorate the search for a lasting political solution to the issue, called upon the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations, and reiterated the call upon the parties, made at previous regional

seminars, to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

35. 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 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 [75/122](#), to 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 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 Fourth Decade**

36. 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 [75/122](#) 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

### Caribbean Regional Seminar, Parish of St. John, Dominica (25 to 27 August 2021)

#### List of participants

##### Members of the Special Committee

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Grenada (Chair)                    | Keisha Aniya McGuire <sup>7</sup><br>Michael Mitchell      |
| Antigua and Barbuda                | Anthony Liverpool  |
| Chile                              | Pablo Callis   |
| Congo                              | Jean Didier Clovis Ngoulou                                 |
| Côte d'Ivoire                      | Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo<br>Maximin Brou                  |
| Dominica                           | Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts <sup>1</sup>                    |
| Indonesia                          | Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji                                   |
| Iraq                               | Yaarb Al-Tememy  |
| Russian Federation                 | Stanislav Aleksaev <sup>1</sup>                            |
| Saint Lucia                        | Aisha Jn. Baptiste   |
| Sierra Leone                       | Victoria Mangay Sulimani <sup>1</sup><br>Karen J. Baimarro |
| Syrian Arab Republic               | Aliaa Mahfouz Ali <sup>1</sup>                             |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Guillermo Barreto Esnal                                    |

##### States Members of the United Nations

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Algeria   | Sofiane Mimouni<br>Manel El Ayoubi                      |
| Argentina | Maximiliano Álvarez                                     |
| Brazil    | João Genésio de Almeida Filho                           |
| Morocco   | Omar Hilale<br>Abderrahim Kadmiri<br>Redouane Houssaini |

---

<sup>7</sup> Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                       | Mostafa Mouahhidi                    |
|                                       | Khaddad El Moussaoui                 |
|                                       | Omar Kadiri                          |
|                                       | Said Ait Talebe-Ali                  |
|                                       | Majdoline Mouflih                    |
|                                       | Salma Arka                           |
| Qatar                                 | Yasser Awad Al-Abdullah              |
| Spain                                 | Pablo Gutiérrez-Segú                 |
| <b>Administering Powers</b>           |                                      |
| France                                | Marine de Carne De Trécesson         |
| <b>Non-Self-Governing Territories</b> |                                      |
| Bermuda                               | Thomas Christopher Famous            |
| British Virgin Islands                | Natalio D. Wheatley                  |
|                                       | Eliezer Benito Wheatley              |
| French Polynesia                      | Engel Raygadas                       |
| Gibraltar                             | Joseph John Bossano                  |
|                                       | Albert Poggio                        |
| Western Sahara                        | Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente Polisario) |
|                                       | Ghalla Bahiya                        |
| <b>Experts</b>                        |                                      |
| Herve Raimana Lallemant-Moe           |                                      |
| Paula Vernet                          |                                      |

## Appendix II

### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of the Commonwealth of Dominica**

*The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,*

*Having met* from 25 to 27 August 2021, in the Parish of St. John, the Commonwealth of Dominica, 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 Minister for Foreign Affairs International Business and Diaspora Relations of the Commonwealth of Dominica, H.E. Mr. Kenneth Darroux.

*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 the Commonwealth of Dominica 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 the Commonwealth of Dominica.

---