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**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

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

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges**

**Saint George's, Grenada**  
**9 to 11 May 2018**

**DRAFT REPORT**

## **Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

### **I. Organization of the seminar**

1. The seminar was held in Grenada from 9 to 11 May 2018. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, 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.

2. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of the Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Walton Alfonso Webson, with the participation of the representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain. In addition, seven Non-Self-Governing Territories and 5 experts participated in the seminar.

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

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions with regard to leaving no one behind: strategies and challenges.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, territorial Governments, concerned Member States and other stakeholders on the decolonization process:
  - (a) Political developments and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
    - (i) In the Pacific region;
    - (ii) In the Caribbean region;

- (iii) In other regions;
  - (b) Financing for development: measures to address social, economic and environmental challenges, and the impact of natural disasters within the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. Role of the United Nations system in helping the Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
  4. Short- and medium-term objectives for advancing decolonization: strategies and actions for the Special Committee.
  5. Recommendations.

## **II. Proceedings of the seminar**

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

5. On 10 May, the Chair of the Special Committee opened the seminar. He expressed thanks to the Government of Grenada for hosting the seminar and stated that Grenada is a country well known for its unswerving commitment to the cause of decolonization and had hosted seminars of the Special Committee twice before in 1992 and 2007. The Chair stated that the conviction of the need to advance the decolonization agenda, as continuously reiterated by the General Assembly, reminded the importance of redoubling the efforts for the complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

He mentioned that the 2018 Seminar also provided a good opportunity to reflect on the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, marked on 25 May every year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999.

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

7. The Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat read out a message from the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General in his message stated that the Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda were a blueprint for a common future of peace and prosperity, and stressed that implementation of the agenda 2030 was particularly important for the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories facing the challenges of climate

change, access to healthcare, diversification of economies, conservation of marine resources and scarcity of drinking water. (see appendix I).

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

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

10. At the same meeting, the Chair called attention of the Special Committee to this year's theme. He recalled that following General Assembly resolution 70/1, whereby the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Special Committee had engaged in fruitful discussions stressing the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territories. By its resolution 72/92 on the economic and other activities that affected the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Assembly further stressed the importance of inclusivity and inclusion. He went on to recall that in the concluding observations from last year's Seminar held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Special Committee noted "a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, which included the impact of climate change" especially in the Territories and also acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Territories "to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability".

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

12. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the participants addressed the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and other regions and heard related presentations on the questions of Montserrat, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),<sup>4</sup> and Western Sahara. Participants also heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reveron Collazo, regarding the situation in Puerto Rico. The Chair made a statement and statements were made by representatives of Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Morocco, Nicaragua, Chile, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Côte d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste, Dominica, Grenada, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Sierra Leone, Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian

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<sup>1</sup> Statements and discussion papers are available from [www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml).

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

<sup>3</sup> The documents of the seminar are available from the Committee's website.

<sup>4</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).

Republic of) and Papua New Guinea. A statement was also made by Luis Vernet, expert.

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

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

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

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

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

17. At the 5th meeting, on 11 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2018/CRP, which was adopted.

18. At the same meeting, participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution in which they expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Grenada (see appendix III).

19. Also at the 5th meeting, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada made closing remarks. Thereafter, the Chair made a closing statement.

## **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

20. 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 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.

21. Participating members of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

22. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2018/19, annex), participating members of the Special Committee will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the Committee at its substantive session, in June 2018.

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## **Appendix I**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Appendix II

### List of participants

#### Members of the Special Committee

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

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<sup>1</sup> Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.



## States Members of the United Nations

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

## Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Eleasalo Vaalele Ale John Fiu Saelua
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) <sup>2</sup>	Roger Anthony Edwards
French Polynesia	Engel Raygadas
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Ronald Coram
Guam	Amanda Francel Blas
Montserrat	Donaldson Romeo
Western Sahara	Mansor Sidi Mohamed (Frente Polisario) Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente Polisario)

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

Sueilima Tieb Ahmed Salem (Frente  
Polisario)

Mhamed Abba

Ghalla Bahiya

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

United Nations Development Programme      Stephen O'Malley

**Organizations of the United Nations system**

Economic Commission for Latin America      Dale Alexander  
and the Caribbean

**Regional organizations**

Melanesian Spearhead Group      Ilan Anama Kiloe

**Experts**

Sergei Cherniavsky

Peter Clegg

Carlyle Corbin

Wilma Reveron-Collazo

Luis Vernet

### Appendix III

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

*The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,*

*Having met* in Grenada from 9 to 11 May 2018 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

*Having heard* an important statement at the opening of the seminar by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour,

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

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