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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/56/50.



I. Introduction

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47, entitled “International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”, which read in part as follows:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling that the year 1990 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

“Bearing in mind the related recommendation contained in the Final Document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries,¹ held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,

...

“1. Declares the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

“2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.”

2. On 8 December 2000, at the conclusion of the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146, entitled “Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”, which read as follows:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling that 2000 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,²

“Recalling also its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which the General Assembly declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and recalling further resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, by which it adopted a plan of action for the Decade,³

“Bearing in mind the related recommendations of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000,⁴ which proposed, inter alia, the declaration of a new decade for the elimination of colonialism, and which supported the effective implementation of the related plan of action,

“Bearing in mind also the endorsement of the proposed declaration of a new decade for the eradication of colonialism by the participants in the Pacific regional seminar organized by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to review the political,

¹ A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, para. 239.

² Resolution 1514 (XV).

³ See A/46/634/Rev.1, annex.

⁴ A/54/917-S/2000/580, annex.

economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held in Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 16 to 18 May 2000,⁵

“Taking into account its resolution 54/90 A of 6 December 1999, in which it noted with concern that the plan of action for the International Decade could not be concluded by the year 2000,

“Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁷

“Having examined the relevant reports of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the plan of action for the International Decade,

“Taking into account the important contribution of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, in particular through the Special Committee,

“1. *Declares* the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

“2. *Calls upon* Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General,⁵ updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade;

“3. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully 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 to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

“4. *Invites* Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, actively to support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action during the Second International Decade;

“5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources for the successful implementation of the plan of action;

“6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.”

II. Action taken by the Secretary-General

3. In accordance with paragraph 28 of the plan of action for the Decade,³ which states that “the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its

⁵ See A/55/23 (Part I), chap. II, annex. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23*.

⁶ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

fifty-fifth session a final report on the achievements of the Decade”, the Secretary-General issued a report⁸ describing the actions of the United Nations organizations and agencies in fulfilment of the goals of the Decade, and reproduced statements by Member States describing their actions in that regard.

4. The views and suggestions submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General, which were summarized in the plan of action for the first Decade, remain largely relevant to the Second Decade. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/146, the plan of action has been updated as necessary and is included as an annex to the present report.

⁸ A/55/497.

Annex

Plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

I. Introduction

1. The ultimate goal of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and with the principles contained in the Declaration.

II. Action at the international level

2. The international community, Member States, the United Nations system as a whole and other governmental and non-governmental organizations should unite their efforts to assist effectively the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their progress towards self-determination and should actively participate in the implementation of the plan of action.

3. The international community and the United Nations system as a whole should continue to support the holding of consultations, as well as negotiations that are under way, among Member States concerned with a view to resolving certain colonial situations clearly identified in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

4. The international community should seek to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the improvement of educational systems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the protection and enhancement of the human rights of the populations.

5. The international community should ensure that all political exercises relating to self-determination are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and allow for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories irrespective of such factors as size, geographical location, size of population or availability of economic resources, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role.

III. Areas in which the United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should take action as a matter of priority

6. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories are kept fully aware of the

political status options available to them through increased direct contacts with the elected leaders and with the peoples themselves.

7. The United Nations, in cooperation with the administering Powers, should ensure that all acts of self-determination are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.

8. The appropriate United Nations organs, in consultation with the administering Powers, should undertake comprehensive reviews of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to arrange for the holding of self-determination referendums as soon as possible, in accordance with the principles contained in the Declaration and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

9. The Secretary-General, or his Special Representative, should endeavour to visit each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as appropriate during the Second Decade and report thereon to the General Assembly.

IV. Areas in which action is requested of the administering Powers as a matter of priority

10. Administering Powers should take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational advancement of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, thereby facilitating their exercise of the right to self-determination, and should continue to provide the United Nations with information in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

11. Administering Powers should ensure that any exercises of the right to self-determination are not affected by changes in the demographic composition of the Territories under their administration as a result of immigration or the displacement of the peoples of the Territories.

12. Administering Powers should implement measures aimed at conserving the natural resources, preserving the environment and assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving the maximum possible level of economic self-reliance, environmental protection, and social and educational development.

13. Administering Powers should continue to cooperate, or resume cooperation, 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, and actively involve themselves in its work.

14. Administering Powers should facilitate, in accordance with all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and taking into account Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, the participation of Territories under their administration in the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations within the United Nations system, and United Nations bodies on decolonization, including in particular the Special Committee, as well as regional and international organizations.

15. Administering Powers should facilitate the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to each of the Territories at regular intervals.

V. Measures at the international level

16. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should take all necessary measures to protect the Non-Self-Governing Territories against environmental degradation and ecological damage; ensure timely assistance in the monitoring of both natural and man-made environmental threats; and provide the relief assistance necessary in cases of environmental emergencies.

17. Member States should be invited to consider adopting at the national level such measures, including legislation, that would (a) discourage all actions and activities, commercial or otherwise, that could be prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories; and (b) promote full respect for the human rights of peoples living under foreign domination and facilitate their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution.

18. Member States, in particular administering Powers, should refrain from the use of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories for military bases and installations.

VI. Role of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations

19. Concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be worked out, especially in terms of economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment, in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this area, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international financial institutions should play a major role and therefore should be called upon to prepare adequate programmes.

20. The relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should be entrusted with intensifying the dissemination of information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as on the Second Decade itself through special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo exhibits and seminars. Depending on the availability of resources, the Department should be encouraged to establish the appropriate correspondent network in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

21. Non-governmental organizations and individuals with expertise in the field of decolonization should be requested to intensify their activities in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations.

VII. Action by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Second Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

VIII. Coordination, review, appraisal and reporting

25. The Special Committee and the Secretary-General should coordinate the programme of activities relating to the Second Decade.

26. The Special Committee should submit annually to the General Assembly an analytical report containing:

(a) A review and appraisal of the activities undertaken in connection with the Second Decade;

(b) Suggestions and recommendations.

27. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at the mid-point of the Second Decade a report on action taken, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerge from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on implementation of the plan of action.

28. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the achievements of the Second Decade.