



United Nations

Report 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 for 2021

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**Report 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 for 2021**



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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Letter of transmittal

Letter dated 15 July 2021 from the 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 addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report 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, in accordance with resolution [75/122](#). The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2021.

(Signed) Keisha Aniya **McGuire**
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

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history 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 are covered in detail in section II of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Committee ([A/AC.109/2021/L.1](#)).

2. At its seventy-fifth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee ([A/75/23](#)), the General Assembly adopted resolution [75/122](#), in which it approved the report of the Committee covering its work during 2020 and requested the Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requested the Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year. It also called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by-case basis. The Assembly also called upon all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution [75/122](#), the General Assembly adopted 21 other resolutions and one decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2020, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316^a	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	75/106	10 December 2020
Tokelau	75/118	10 December 2020
American Samoa	75/107	10 December 2020
Anguilla	75/108	10 December 2020
Bermuda	75/109	10 December 2020
British Virgin Islands	75/110	10 December 2020
Cayman Islands	75/111	10 December 2020

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Guam	75/113	10 December 2020
Montserrat	75/114	10 December 2020
Pitcairn	75/116	10 December 2020
Saint Helena	75/117	10 December 2020
Turks and Caicos Islands	75/119	10 December 2020
United States Virgin Islands	75/120	10 December 2020
New Caledonia	75/115	10 December 2020
French Polynesia	75/112	10 December 2020

^a In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution [58/316](#), the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decision

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Gibraltar	75/523	10 December 2020

2. Resolutions concerning other items

<i>Title</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	75/102	10 December 2020
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	75/103	10 December 2020
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	75/104	10 December 2020
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	75/105	10 December 2020
Dissemination of information on decolonization	75/121	10 December 2020
Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	75/123	10 December 2020

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and which it

took into account were listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Committee ([A/AC.109/2021/L.1](#)).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2021, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2021 and election of officers

6. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on behalf of the Secretary-General opened the 2021 session of the Special Committee on 18 February and made a statement (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.1](#)).

7. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February 2021 and 2nd meeting on 14 June 2021, the Special Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Keisha Aniya McGuire (Grenada)

Vice-Chairs:

Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba)

Mohammad Kurniadi Koba (Indonesia)

Alie Kabba (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:

Bassam Sabbagh (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February, the Special Committee had before it suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair and outlined in document [A/AC.109/2021/L.2](#). The Special Committee approved its tentative programme of work and timetable for 2021 contained in that document, with the understanding that it may be further revised, as necessary, closer to or during its resumed substantive session in June (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.1](#)). At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work of the Special Committee and on the status of the decolonization agenda of the Organization (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.1](#)). Subsequently, at its 2nd meeting on 14 June 2021, the Special Committee adopted the updated programme of work and timetable outlined in document [A/AC.109/2021/L.2/Rev.1](#) (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

9. Also at the 1st meeting on 18 February, the Special Committee acceded to the requests of Algeria, Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Morocco, Republic of Moldova and Spain to participate as observers in its 2021 session (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.1](#)). Subsequently, at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 14, 18 and 24 June, the Committee acceded to the requests of Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti,

Honduras, Jordan, Lesotho, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Zimbabwe to participate as observers (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#), [A/AC.109/2021/SR.3](#), [A/AC.109/2021/SR.5](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/SR.6](#)).

10. Also at the 1st meeting, on 18 February, the Special Committee considered preparations for the Caribbean regional seminar and accepted the offer by Dominica to host the seminar. The dates, guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar, including the theme and agenda of the seminar, as outlined in document [A/AC.109/2021/19](#), were approved by the Committee, with oral revisions (see [A/AC.109/2021/19/Corr.1](#)). Subsequently, the document was issued with a technical update as [A/AC.109/2021/19/Rev.1](#). The Committee decided to extend invitations to attend the seminar to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, other Member States, specialized agencies within the United Nations, and to select experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)). On 7 May 2021, the Special Committee decided by silence procedure to postpone the seminar to 25–27 August 2021, to be held in Dominica, due to the ongoing situation related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. At the 2nd meeting on 14 June, the Special Committee took note of the decision to postpone the seminar.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Dominica, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation.

Requests for hearing

12. At the 2nd meeting, held on 14 June, the Chair drew attention to communications containing requests for hearing, circulated in aides-memoires 01/21, 02/21, 03/21, 04/21, 05/21 and 06/21 regarding the Special Committee decision of 5 August 2020 concerning Puerto Rico and the questions of the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),¹ French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Western Sahara.

13. The requests for hearing contained in aides-memoires 01/21, 02/21, 03/21, 04/21, 05/21 and 06/21 were approved by the Special Committee at the same meeting.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

14. In keeping with its resolve to continue to take all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its Bureau were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, especially in view of the challenges relating to the ongoing pandemic, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive electronic consultations among the officers of the Committee by email. During the reporting period, the Committee held two informal consultations.

¹ 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).

1. Special Committee

15. Up to the end of its resumed session, on 24 June, the Special Committee held 7 plenary meetings, as follows:

(a) First part of the session (organizational meetings): 1st meeting, 18 February;

(b) Second part of the session: 2nd and 3rd meetings, 14 June; 4th meeting, 15 June; 5th meeting, 18 June; 6th and 7th meetings, 24 June.

16. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the questions set out below and adopted resolutions or decisions thereon. The Special Committee decided, for 2021, to first hear from the Territories and then adopt the draft resolutions on those Territories, to ensure that their views were taken into account in the negotiations on the related annual resolutions. The texts of the resolutions or decisions may be found in the present report, as follows:

<i>Question</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Resolution/Decision</i>
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	2nd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
American Samoa	3rd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
Anguilla	3rd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Bermuda	3rd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
British Virgin Islands	3rd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Cayman Islands	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
French Polynesia	3rd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX
Guam	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution X
Montserrat	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XI
New Caledonia	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XII
Pitcairn	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIII
Saint Helena	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIV
Tokelau	2nd and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XV
Turks and Caicos Islands	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVI
United States Virgin Islands	4th and 7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVII

<i>Question</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Resolution/Decision</i>
Dissemination of information on decolonization	2nd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX
Gibraltar	2nd	Chap. VIII, para. 94
Western Sahara	2nd and 3rd	Chap. VIII, para. 95
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	6th	Chap. XII, para. 72
Sending visiting and special missions to Territories	2nd	Chap. IV, para. 72
Decision of the Special Committee of 5 August 2020 concerning Puerto Rico	5th	Chap. I, para. 26

2. Subsidiary bodies

17. The Special Committee did not establish subsidiary bodies during its 2021 session. However, in keeping with the practice adopted in recent years, the Committee continued to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum through increased reliance on informal consultations, including by the Bureau, for the consideration of some of the issues before it. During the 2021 session, the Bureau held one meeting.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is applicable

18. The Special Committee maintained the practice of addressing the situation of Puerto Rico, as it had done in previous sessions.

Consideration of Puerto Rico

19. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing a wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. The Committee acceded to the requests for hearing on this item.

20. At its 5th meeting, on 18 June, the Chair drew attention to a report on the item prepared by the Rapporteur ([A/AC.109/2021/L.13](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2021/L.7](#)) (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.5](#)).

21. The Special Committee heard from the following speakers: Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party; Benjamin Ramos, the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Sonia Negron, Herminia Health; Edwin Ortiz, Call to Action on Puerto Rico; John Melendez Rivera, Frente Independentista Boricua; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriquenos Unidos en Acción; Manuel Natal Albelo, Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana; Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists; Alejandro Torres-Rivera, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano; Juan Dalmau, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Walter Alomar, Organization for Culture of Hispanic Origins; Esteli Capote, Frente Socialista; Michael Viera, El Grito; Gerardo Lugo Segarra, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico, Movimiento Libertador; Trilce Torres López, Gran

Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; Gabriela Malespin, New York Boricua Resistance; Myrna Pagán, Vidas Viequenses Valen; Mariana Nogales-Molinelli, Representative at Large, Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana; and Maria de Lourdes Guzmán, Movimiento Unión Soberanista.

22. Statements were made by the observers for Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement) and Mexico (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). Statements were also made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Cuba.

23. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.7](#), also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

24. The Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.7](#) without a vote² (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.5](#)).

25. The representative of Cuba made a statement.

26. The text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.7](#), adopted at the 5th meeting without a vote, reads as follows:

Decision of the Special Committee of 5 August 2020 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960,

Considering that the period 2021–2030 was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020, as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the 38 resolutions and decisions adopted since 1972 by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2020 marked the 122nd anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that, despite the rejection expressed by the majority of the Puerto Rican people on 6 November 2012 of their current status of political subordination, the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States have failed to set in motion a decolonization process that begins in Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico,

Noting that the consultation undertaken by the Government of Puerto Rico on 11 June 2017, in which, as reported by the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission, less than 23 per cent of voters participated, was not designed to promote decolonization in accordance with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

² For the text of the draft resolution, see paragraph 26 of the present report.

Noting with concern that the present political subordination of the Puerto Rican people impedes sovereign decision-making regarding the humanitarian crisis caused by the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which have aggravated the already serious economic and social problems, resulting in increased levels of poverty in Puerto Rico from 45 per cent to around 60 per cent of the population, which has caused mass migration and seriously affected efforts to achieve sustainable economic development,

Noting with concern also that the United States Congress, invoking thereby its doctrine on plenary powers under the Territorial Clause of the United States Constitution, imposed in June 2016 a Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (Fiscal Supervisory Board), appointed by the President of the United States to exercise plenary control powers over the elected executive and legislative officials of the Government of Puerto Rico in all issues relating to fiscal, economic and budgetary matters, as well as all that concerns the restructuring of the public debt of Puerto Rico, all of which aggravates the colonial situation in the country,

Noting that the Supreme Court of the United States, in conformity with the request made by the Department of Justice, decided in June 2016 in the case of *Puerto Rico v. Sánchez Valle* that the original and ultimate source of governmental power in Puerto Rico lies in the United States Congress, and that any limited concession of self-government to Puerto Rico may be unilaterally revoked by the United States Congress,

Stressing again the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting the declarations by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Council of the Socialist International, which reiterate the inalienable rights of the people of Puerto Rico in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and which also reiterate the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and their support for the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee,

Noting also the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would enable the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico to begin, and aware of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico, and of the fact that, to date, several sectors have expressed that they are in favour of convening a constitutional assembly on status in Puerto Rico,

Noting further the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, that have come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Aware that Vieques Island (Puerto Rico) was used for over 60 years by the United States Marine Corps and naval forces to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the need to clean up, decontaminate and return to the people of Puerto Rico all the lands previously used for military exercises and installations, and use them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, as well as on the slowness of the process thus far,

Noting also the constant complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning as a clean-up method, thereby exacerbating the existing health and pollution problems and endangering civilian lives,

Noting further that in the final document of the Seventeenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), on 17 and 18 September 2016, and other meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed under General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and accounts representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,¹

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico, and that the people of Puerto Rico constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own distinct national identity;
2. *Calls again upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to promote a process that will enable the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico, and to take decisions, in a sovereign manner, to address their urgent economic and social needs, including unemployment, marginalization, insolvency and poverty, and the problems related to education and health, which have been aggravated by the ravages of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the earthquakes affecting the south-western part of Puerto Rico and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
3. *Notes with concern* that, by virtue of the decision of the United States Congress, under the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) which creates the Financial Oversight and Management Board, the already weakened area in which the prevailing regime of political and economic subordination in Puerto Rico operates is reduced any further;
4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;
5. *Notes once again* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all sectors of Puerto Rican public opinion, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative seeking a solution to the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

¹ [A/AC.109/2021/L.13](#).

6. *Expresses serious concern* over the actions carried out against supporters of Puerto Rican independence, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively and in all its aspects, and to decide on this issue as soon as possible;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the legitimate right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of all lands occupied by its military forces in Puerto Rico territory, in particular installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba, to the people of Puerto Rico, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to worsen the serious consequences of its military activity in order to protect the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 5 August 2020;

10. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2022 on the implementation of the present resolution, including new developments relevant to a process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, in accordance with resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#);

11. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

27. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February and 2nd meeting on 14 June, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair and decided to include on its programme of work and timetable for 2021 items relating to the compliance of Member States with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other resolutions on decolonization (see [A/AC.109/2021/L.2/Rev.1](#)).

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

28. Having regard to its programme of work for 2021, the Special Committee remained committed to its mandate to hold meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [1654 \(XVI\)](#) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution [2621 \(XXV\)](#), by which the Assembly authorized the Committee to meet elsewhere than at Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions.

2. Pattern of conferences

29. In accordance with measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee continued to ensure the effective utilization of the conference-servicing resources allocated to it, and the further reduction of its documentation requirements by circulating communications and information material by, as much as possible, electronic means. A list of the documents of the Committee in 2021 is contained in annex I to the present report.

30. In the conduct of all its meetings during 2021, the Special Committee closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution [67/237](#). By effectively organizing its

programme of work and holding extensive informal consultations, the Committee was able to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

3. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

31. In accordance with the provisions of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of the administering Powers, France and New Zealand, participated in the work of the Special Committee in 2021, during its plenary meetings at Headquarters.

32. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories in which it called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see chap. IV).

4. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

33. During the year, the Special Committee continued to encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and at its regional seminars.

5. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

34. The importance of the Special Committee's observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as mandated in General Assembly resolution [75/122](#), was highlighted during the Caribbean regional seminar held in Dominica (see annex II).

6. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

35. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 18 February and 14 June, the Special Committee agreed to the Chair's recommendation, as outlined in the organization of work for 2021, that the Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (see [A/AC.109/2021/L.2/Rev.1](#)).

36. At its 7th meeting, on 24 June, and at the recommendation of the Chair, the Special Committee authorized the Rapporteur to prepare, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the report on the Committee's work at its 2021 session, incorporating all the resolutions and decisions adopted and the related proceedings of the Committee, and, once completed and approved by the Bureau, to submit it directly to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, in accordance with established practice (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations

37. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 21 of General Assembly resolution [75/104](#), the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Committee are requested to deepen cooperation and maintain close contact with regard to appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of

specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (see [E/2021/8](#)). An account of the Committee's consideration of the question is contained in chapter VII of the present report.

38. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII).

39. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain regular contact with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed their work.

40. The Special Committee also continued to monitor related developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, having regard to relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

H. Review of work

41. In ongoing efforts to find creative and innovative ways to enable better implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee, its Bureau maintained the practice of holding during the intersessional period informal consultations with the administering Powers and other stakeholders regarding the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Committee's agenda. Meetings were held with three administering Powers, namely France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during which the discussions in that regard were centred on the situation in the Territories for which they were each responsible and aimed at promoting cooperation and partnership with them in addressing the decolonization prospects of those Territories, on a case-by-case basis.

42. On 1 February 2021, the Bureau held a virtual meeting with the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/122](#), in which he was requested to meet with the Bureau informally at least once a year to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help advance the decolonization agenda, on a case-by-case basis. During the meeting, the Bureau shared with the Secretary-General recent initiatives and activities undertaken by the Special Committee, which were intended to galvanize the implementation of its mandate. The Bureau also briefed him on the Committee's ongoing dialogue with the administering Powers and other stakeholders on issues pertaining to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In response, the Secretary-General underlined his commitment to the decolonization agenda and reaffirmed the full support of the Secretariat for the work of the Committee.

43. The Special Committee also considered each of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda and adopted resolutions or decisions on 16 of them (see chaps VIII–XII). In addition, the Committee continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was applicable and, in that context, heard from the representatives of many concerned organizations regarding the situation of Puerto Rico (see paras. 20, 21 and 25).

44. Furthermore, the Special Committee considered and adopted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter; the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories; the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions

associated with the United Nations; and economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Territories (see chaps. IV–VII).

45. As noted in chapter II and in annex II to the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar in Dominica from 25 to 27 August, at which participants, while focusing on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, reflected on commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

46. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its seventy-sixth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII).

I. Future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2022³

47. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, as reaffirmed in resolution [75/122](#), and taking into account its draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.25](#), adopted at its 7th meeting, on 24 June, and contained in the present report (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX), the Special Committee intends to continue in 2022 to seek suitable means for the immediate, full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

48. The Special Committee will continue to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In particular, the Committee intends to formulate specific proposals, on a case-by-case basis, to bring about an end to colonialism, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

49. The Special Committee will maintain its efforts to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

50. The Special Committee will continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

51. In 2022, the Special Committee will aim at developing and finalizing, in cooperation with the administering Power and the Non-Self-Governing Territory in question, a constructive programme of work, on a case-by-case basis, for the Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

52. In addition, the Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable and in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

³ These activities, mentioned in paragraphs 46 to 55, are outlined in draft resolution XIX, contained in chapter XIII.

53. The Special Committee will also continue to conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on its work, and will endeavour to facilitate the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars.

54. In particular, the Special Committee plans to hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2022, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and in keeping with its practice of holding seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions in alternate years.

55. The Special Committee will take all steps necessary to elicit worldwide support from Governments and national and international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the implementation of related resolutions.

56. The Special Committee will maintain efforts to continue consultations on how best to observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with resolution [75/122](#).

57. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the resources at its disposal, in order to ensure that it has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its activities envisaged for 2022, as outlined in paragraphs 46 to 55 above.

J. Conclusion of the 2021 session

58. At the 7th meeting, on 24 June, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2021 substantive session of the Special Committee (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

Chapter II

Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

59. At its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 18 February, 14 and 24 June, the Special Committee considered issues relating to the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to assess the goals and expected accomplishments of the Fourth Decade.

60. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February, and 2nd meeting on 14 June, the Special Committee had before it its organization of work for 2021, submitted by the Chair, annexed to which was a list of pending matters for its consideration during the year, which included the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism ([A/AC.109/2021/L.2](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/L.2/Rev.1](#)).

61. At its 1st meeting, on 18 February, the Special Committee adopted the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar, which incorporated the agenda and theme of the seminar, with oral revisions (see [A/AC.109/2021/19/Corr.1](#)). Subsequently, the document was issued with a technical update as [A/AC.109/2021/19/Rev.1](#). It also agreed on the venue and dates for the seminar and approved the composition of its official delegation and the categories of participants to be invited to the seminar, especially those from the Non-Self-Governing Territories. On 7 May 2021, the Special Committee decided by silence procedure to postpone the seminar to 25–27 August 2021, due to the ongoing situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 June, the Special Committee took note of its decision on postponement of the seminar. (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.1](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

62. At its 7th meeting, on 24 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.25](#), submitted by the Chair and entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, in which there was extensive reflection on the implementation of the Fourth Decade (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

63. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX).

Chapter III

Dissemination of information on decolonization

64. The Special Committee considered the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

65. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [75/121](#) on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution [75/122](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

66. At its 2nd meeting, the Special Committee heard statements from representatives of the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

67. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2020 to March 2021 ([A/AC.109/2021/18](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair ([A/AC.109/2021/L.4](#)).

68. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.4](#) without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

69. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII).

Chapter IV

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

70. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June.

71. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [75/122](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions [75/106](#) to [75/120](#) relating to specific Territories, in addition to previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

72. At the same meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.5](#), submitted under the item, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

73. The text of the draft resolution reads as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Having considered the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,¹

Recalling paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [75/122](#) of 10 December 2020, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories and requested the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year,

Recalling with satisfaction the work of the Special Committee visiting mission to Montserrat that took place from 17 to 20 December 2019,²

¹ See General Assembly resolution [75/123](#).

² See [A/AC.109/2020/20](#).

Recalling with satisfaction also the work of the Special Committee visiting missions to New Caledonia that took place from 10 to 15 March 2014 and from 12 to 16 and on 19 March 2018,³

Recalling the two successful missions that were conducted to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,⁴

Recalling also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in having facilitated the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006 at the request of the territorial Government,⁵

Recalling further the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Guam for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples⁶ with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need for adequate allocation of resources in that regard;

2. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee, in collaboration with members of the Bureau, to develop, in a timely manner, for consideration and adoption by the Special Committee, a plan on a case-by-case basis for conducting visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;⁷

3. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate with the United Nations, if they have not yet done so, or to continue to cooperate by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

4. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

³ See [A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1](#) and [A/AC.109/2018/20](#).

⁴ See [A/AC.109/2006/20](#) and [A/AC.109/2007/19](#).

⁵ See [A/AC.109/2007/5](#).

⁶ General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

⁷ 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); a dispute also exists between the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Chapter V

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

74. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June.

75. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), by which the Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer aspects of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution [75/102](#), in paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), in accordance with established procedures. The Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution [75/122](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution [75/123](#) on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

76. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/76/63](#)), which contained the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter by the administering Powers with regard to Territories under their respective administration, and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2021/L.3](#)).

77. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Indonesia and Fiji.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.3](#) without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

79. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VI

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

80. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 7th meeting, on 24 June.

81. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [75/103](#) on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution [75/122](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Committee took into consideration relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies, to which reference was made in the final preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.6](#).

82. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.6](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

83. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VII

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

84. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 7th meeting, on 24 June.

85. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution [75/104](#) on the question, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. The Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution [75/123](#), by which the Assembly declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

86. The Special Committee also took into account relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies, to which reference was made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.9](#).

87. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/76/68](#)) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see [E/2021/8](#)), as well as to the draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2021/L.9](#)).

88. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.9](#) without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

89. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VIII

Gibraltar and Western Sahara

90. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 75/523 and resolution [75/106](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

91. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June.

92. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/8](#)).

93. At the 2nd meeting, David Guerrero Liston, representative of the Government of Gibraltar in the United States of America made a statement on behalf of the Chief Minister of the Territory.

94. At the same meeting, the observer for Spain made a statement.

95. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its 2022 session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its seventy-sixth session, and to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

B. Western Sahara

96. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 14 June (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/SR.3](#)).

97. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/17](#)).

98. At the 2nd meeting, the Committee agreed to the Chair's proposal to hear first from the petitioners who had requested the floor on the question of Western Sahara, followed by the members of the Committee and the observers, in view of the COVID-19 mitigation measures and given that the petitioners had limited time access to the building. Accordingly, statements were made by Ghalla Bahiya, Conseil Régional de Dakhala-Oued Eddahab; Mhamed Abba, Conseil Régional Laayoun Sakia Al Hamra; Sidi Mohamed Omar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO); Ahmed Mohamed Fall; Brahim Halil Azman Majjoub, Centro de Estudios Políticos del Sahara; Touria Hmyene, Association for the Freedom of Women Sequestered in the Tindouf Camps; Khalid Bendriss, Association for the Support of the Moroccan Autonomy Initiative; Mohamed Ali Arkoukou, Sahrawi Association in the United States; Agron Pali; Chris Sassi, SKC; Romina Perino; and Mohammed Elaissaoui, Organization for Ending Human Rights Violations in the Tindouf Camps (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#)).

99. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Papua New Guinea, Nicaragua, Timor-Leste, Ecuador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ethiopia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Grenada and the Islamic Republic of Iran (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.2](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/SR.3](#)).

100. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the observers for Morocco, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Jordan, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Burundi, Botswana, Angola, Algeria, Bahrain, Lesotho, Gabon, the United Arab Emirates, Senegal and Comoros (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.3](#)).

Chapter IX

New Caledonia and French Polynesia

101. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions [75/115](#) and [75/112](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. New Caledonia

102. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June. In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [75/115](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/11](#)).

103. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

104. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June, statements were made by Sonia Backès, Province Sud.

105. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of France and Papua New Guinea who introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.22](#), also on behalf of Fiji, made statements. Subsequently, the delegation of Indonesia also joined the cosponsors of the draft resolution.

106. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

107. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.22](#), as orally amended, without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

108. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XII).

B. French Polynesia

109. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June. In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [75/112](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/7](#)).

110. At the 3rd meeting, delegate for International Affairs of French Polynesia, Manuel Terai, made a statement.

111. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June, a statement was made by C.G. Corbin, Dependency Studies Project.

112. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.24](#) and the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

113. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX).

Chapter X

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

114. In its consideration of the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions [75/107](#) to [75/111](#), and [75/113](#), [75/114](#), [75/116](#), [75/117](#), [75/119](#) and [75/120](#).

A. American Samoa

115. The Special Committee considered the question of American Samoa at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June.

116. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/1](#)).

117. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.10](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

118. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IV).

B. Anguilla

119. The Special Committee considered the question of Anguilla at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June.

120. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/2](#)).

121. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2012/L.11](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2012/SR.7](#)).

122. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution V).

C. Bermuda

123. The Special Committee considered the question of Bermuda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June.

124. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/3](#)).

125. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.12](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2012/SR.7](#)).

126. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VI).

D. British Virgin Islands

127. The Special Committee considered the question of the British Virgin Islands at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June.

128. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/4](#)).

129. At the same meeting, the Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Natalio Wheatley, made a statement.

130. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

131. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 14 June, a statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley.

132. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.14](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

133. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VII).

E. Cayman Islands

134. The Special Committee considered the question of the Cayman Islands at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

135. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/5](#)).

136. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.15](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

137. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII).

F. Guam

138. The Special Committee considered the question of Guam at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

139. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/9](#)).

140. At the same meeting, Anthony Marion Babauta made a statement on behalf of the Governor of the Territory.

141. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.16](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

142. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution X).

G. Montserrat

143. The Special Committee considered the question of Montserrat at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

144. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/10](#)).

145. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.17](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.9](#)).

146. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XI).

H. Pitcairn

147. The Special Committee considered the question of Pitcairn at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

148. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/12](#)).

149. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.18](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

150. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIII).

I. Saint Helena

151. The Special Committee considered the question of Saint Helena at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

152. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/13](#)).

153. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.19](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.9](#)).

154. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIV).

J. Turks and Caicos Islands

155. The Special Committee considered the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

156. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/15](#)).

157. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.20](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

158. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVI).

K. United States Virgin Islands

159. The Special Committee considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 24 June.

160. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/16](#)).

161. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.21](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.9](#)).

162. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVII).

Chapter XI

Tokelau

163. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 14 and 24 June. In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [75/118](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/14](#)).

164. At the 2nd meeting, and with the consent of the Special Committee, Craig Hawke, representative of New Zealand, made a statement on behalf of the Ulu-o-Tokelau. A statement was also made by the observer for New Zealand.

165. At the 7th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea (also on behalf of Fiji) introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.23](#). Subsequently, the delegation of Indonesia also joined the cosponsors of the draft resolution.

166. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.23](#) without a vote (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

167. The text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XV).

Chapter XII

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

168. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 24 June. In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

169. Also in its consideration of the item, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2021/6](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2021/L.8](#)).

170. At the 6th meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 2nd meeting, statements were made by Mark Pollard and Leona Roberts of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and by Paula Vernet and Guillermo Clifton (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.6](#)).

171. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.8](#). Subsequently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina made a statement.

172. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Nicaragua, Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, the Russian Federation and Sierra Leone, as well as by the observers for Costa Rica (on behalf of the Central American Integration System, as well as in its national capacity), Paraguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR, as well as in its national capacity), Mexico (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Uruguay, Guatemala, Peru, El Salvador, Honduras and Colombia.

173. At the 6th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.8](#) without a vote, following which the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina made a further statement. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Dominican Republic, Brazil and Panama, followed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina (see [A/AC.109/2021/SR.6](#) and [A/AC.109/2021/SR.7](#)).

174. The text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2021/L.8](#) reads as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)¹

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [2065 \(XX\)](#) of 16 December 1965, [3160 \(XXVIII\)](#) of 14 December 1973, [31/49](#) of 1 December 1976, [37/9](#) of 4 November 1982, [38/12](#) of 16 November 1983, [39/6](#) of

¹ 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) (see [ST/CS/SER.A/42](#)).

1 November 1984, [40/21](#) of 27 November 1985, [41/40](#) of 25 November 1986, [42/19](#) of 17 November 1987 and [43/25](#) of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions [A/AC.109/756](#) of 1 September 1983, [A/AC.109/793](#) of 21 August 1984, [A/AC.109/842](#) of 9 August 1985, [A/AC.109/885](#) of 14 August 1986, [A/AC.109/930](#) of 14 August 1987, [A/AC.109/972](#) of 11 August 1988, [A/AC.109/1008](#) of 15 August 1989, [A/AC.109/1050](#) of 14 August 1990, [A/AC.109/1087](#) of 14 August 1991, [A/AC.109/1132](#) of 29 July 1992, [A/AC.109/1169](#) of 14 July 1993, [A/AC.109/2003](#) of 12 July 1994, [A/AC.109/2033](#) of 13 July 1995, [A/AC.109/2062](#) of 22 July 1996, [A/AC.109/2096](#) of 16 June 1997, [A/AC.109/2122](#) of 6 July 1998, [A/AC.109/1999/23](#) of 1 July 1999, [A/AC.109/2000/23](#) of 11 July 2000, [A/AC.109/2001/25](#) of 29 June 2001, [A/AC.109/2002/25](#) of 19 June 2002, [A/AC.109/2003/24](#) of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2009, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2010, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2011, the resolution adopted on 14 June 2012, the resolution adopted on 20 June 2013, the resolution adopted on 26 June 2014, the resolution adopted on 25 June 2015, the resolution adopted on 23 June 2016, the resolution adopted on 23 June 2017, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2018, the resolution adopted on 25 June 2019 and the resolution adopted on 5 August 2020, and Security Council resolutions [502 \(1982\)](#) of 3 April 1982 and [505 \(1982\)](#) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes

all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions [2065 \(XX\)](#), [3160 \(XXVIII\)](#), [31/49](#), [37/9](#), [38/12](#), [39/6](#), [40/21](#), [41/40](#), [42/19](#) and [43/25](#);

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XIII

Recommendations

175. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested 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 study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution [75/102](#) of 10 December 2020, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#),

Stressing the importance of the timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Mindful of the non-fulfilment of the obligation to transmit information on some Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Recalling its resolution [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020 on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and stressing in that regard the need to make real progress towards its full implementation,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,¹

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to respect their obligations under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with regard to each Territory on the agenda 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;

3. *Also requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned,

¹ [A/76/63](#).

including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled “Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories”,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Recalling its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions [46/181](#) of 19 December 1991, [55/146](#) of 8 December 2000, [65/119](#) of 10 December 2010 and [75/123](#) of 10 December 2020,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Taking into account its resolution [1803 \(XVII\)](#) of 14 December 1962 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,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and environmental degradation,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the number and scale of hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and their devastating impact in 2017 in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean Sea, resulting in the loss of life and negative economic, social and environmental consequences for their vulnerable societies and hampering the achievement of sustainable development in these Territories, in particular in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as in Puerto Rico, whose situation is addressed in the Special Committee,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and with respect to the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).

our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution [75/216](#) of 21 December 2020 on disaster risk reduction,

Conscious that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and with other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic or other activities, including the use of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military activity, that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in this regard reminds the administering Powers of their responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis any detriment to the interests of the peoples of those Territories, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [2621 \(XXV\)](#) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Once again urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to provide all the necessary assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events in order to alleviate the humanitarian needs in the affected communities, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction;

12. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this matter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter, General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and the other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

14. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

15. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, in particular the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

16. *Requests* 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 continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution III

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”,

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General¹ and the report of the Economic and Social Council² on the item,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,³

Recalling its resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960 and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolutions [2021/2 A](#) of 14 September 2020 and [2021/2 B](#) of 21 July 2021,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

¹ [A/76/68](#).

² [E/2021/8](#).

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23)*.

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective responsibilities, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance that they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [75/104](#) of 10 December 2020 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to COVID-19”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;
4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the

peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work 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 as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

- (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
- (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;
- (d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,⁴ calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee to deepen cooperation with the President of the Economic and Social Council on the identical agenda items of both bodies on assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, through regular consultations, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts through the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolutions on this question, and requests it to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21 (E/1998/41)*, sect. III.G.

with the Special Committee, with the aim of developing appropriate measures for the further coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report annually to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution IV Question of American Samoa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of American Samoa and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of American Samoa and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including American Samoa,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of American Samoa require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Acknowledging the outcome of the referendum held on 6 November 2018, in which the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto was rejected,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of American Samoa in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/1](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of American Samoa and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to American Samoa and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of American Samoa in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of American Samoa with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling the statement made by a representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2018 Pacific regional seminar,⁷

Recalling also the statement made by that representative in which he expressed his view that the people of American Samoa were happy with the relationship with the administering Power, which could be described as strong and healthy as well as beneficial to the people and the Government of the Territory, and that the most important benefit to American Samoa had been the protection of its indigenous rights to the land as provided for in the Deeds of Cession,

Recalling further the statement made by the representative that the political status of American Samoa as an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the administering Power limited its ability to self-government and exposed it to decisions made by the administering Power,

Recalling the statement by the representative that, while certain aspects of the form of government of the Territory and its relationship with the administering Power were challenging and in need of improvement, the solutions could be found within the confines of the political and judicial systems of the administering Power and that the territorial Government was pursuing legal actions to counteract the impact of unfavourable federal actions and sought the international community's tacit support,

Recalling also the information provided by the representative that the Government of American Samoa intended to pursue additional funding from the administering Power to maintain and expand the work of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee, as well as the holding in June 2010 of the Territory's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Recalling the decisions of the United States judiciary in which it dismissed a lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment that would have asserted that the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States extended to American Samoa, and taking note of the decision in which the petition for a writ of certiorari was denied,⁸

Noting another case before the United States judiciary regarding the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,⁹

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Noting the elections held in the Territory in November 2020 to elect the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, 20 members of the American Samoa House of Representatives and the delegate to the United States House of Representatives,¹⁰

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2018.

⁸ Decisions of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, issued on 5 June and 2 October 2015, affirming the judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and of the Supreme Court of the United States on 13 June 2016, in connection with *Tuaua v. United States*.

⁹ *Fitisemanu v. United States*.

¹⁰ See A/AC.109/2021/1, para. 7.

“International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of the decolonization of American Samoa, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of American Samoa to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Takes note* of the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress, and recalls the establishment in April 2016 of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations;

5. *Recalls* the indication by the territorial Government that American Samoa should remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, under the purview 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, until such time as its people have exercised their right to self-determination;

6. *Also recalls* the invitation extended in 2015 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of American Samoa and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between American Samoa and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee

on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in American Samoa, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹¹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

12. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of American Samoa and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

¹¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

Draft resolution V Question of Anguilla

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Anguilla and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Anguilla and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Anguilla,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Anguilla require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Anguilla in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Anguilla and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/2](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Anguilla and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Anguilla in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Anguilla with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling that the first regional seminar held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory was the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government with the cooperation of the administering Power,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Noting with serious concern that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2012,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Recalling the decisions taken in 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the recent efforts undertaken in that regard, including the establishment, in September 2015, of a new Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee to advance constitutional and electoral reform, draft proposals for electoral and constitutional reforms submitted as the draft constitution by the Committee in November 2016, as well as the revised draft Constitution issued in March 2017 and presented to the Executive Council in May 2017, and aware of the proposals made by the territorial Government to the administering Power on amendments to the Constitution of Anguilla and of the Anguilla Constitution (Amendment) Orders 2019 and 2020, which came into force in May 2019 and November 2020, respectively,

Noting the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling with concern the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Recalling the general elections that were held in June 2020,⁷

Recalling also its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Anguilla, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Anguilla to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system,

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2021/2](#), para. 3.

to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible, and notes the first stage of amendments to the Constitution, which came into force on 14 May 2019;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission 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, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

9. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Anguilla and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Anguilla and the administering Power;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Anguilla, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁸ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Anguilla and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VI Question of Bermuda

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Bermuda and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Bermuda and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Bermuda,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Bermuda require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Bermuda in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/3](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Bermuda and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Bermuda and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Bermuda in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Bermuda with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Recalling the statement made by the Deputy Premier, as a representative of the Government of Bermuda, at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar,⁷

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2019,

Recalling further the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Stressing the importance of good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory,

Stressing also the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Recalling the extension by the administering Power to Bermuda of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁸ in March 2017,

Noting the general elections that were held in October 2020,⁹

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Bermuda to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Bermuda, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Bermuda to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁹ See A/AC.109/2021/3, para. 4.

the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

5. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Bermuda and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Bermuda and the administering Power;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Bermuda, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

12. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

13. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Bermuda and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VII

Question of the British Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the British Virgin Islands and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the British Virgin Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the British Virgin Islands,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the British Virgin Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the British Virgin Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/4](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the British Virgin Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to the British Virgin Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the British Virgin Islands in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the British Virgin Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23)*.

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling the statement made by the Premier, as a representative of the Government of the British Virgin Islands, at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar,⁷

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2019,

Noting the renewed invitation extended by the Premier to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Cognizant of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

Recalling with concern the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

Recalling the general elections that were held in February 2019,⁸

Noting the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry by the Governor on 18 January 2021,

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic", 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled "United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19", 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the British Virgin Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the British Virgin Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the British Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019.

⁸ See A/AC.109/2019/4, para. 3.

4. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the British Virgin Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the British Virgin Islands and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the British Virgin Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

11. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

12. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

13. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

14. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the necessary assistance to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the British Virgin Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VIII

Question of the Cayman Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the Cayman Islands and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Cayman Islands,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the Cayman Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the Cayman Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* ([A/76/23](#)).

² [A/AC.109/2021/5](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Cayman Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to the Cayman Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Cayman Islands in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Cayman Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Recalling the statement made by the honorary representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,⁷

Noting with serious concern that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2010,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Aware also that the territorial Government proposed constitutional changes to the administering Power and that subsequently the Cayman Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020 came into force in December 2020,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Cognizant of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

Noting the general election that was held in April 2021,⁸

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic", 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled "United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19", 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the Cayman Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the Cayman Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the Cayman Islands to determine freely their future political status, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2010.

⁸ See A/AC.109/2021/5, "The Territory at a glance".

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Cayman Islands and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Cayman Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

12. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Cayman Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution IX Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on French Polynesia² and other relevant information,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960 and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution [67/265](#) of 17 May 2013, entitled “Self-determination of French Polynesia”, in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

Taking note of the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,³

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁴ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including French Polynesia,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#), [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of French Polynesia require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Reaffirming the inalienable rights of the people of French Polynesia to the ownership, control and disposal of their natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/7](#).

³ See [A/74/548](#), annex.

⁴ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution [75/91](#) of 10 December 2020, entitled “Effects of atomic radiation”,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia,⁵ prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [71/120](#) of 6 December 2016,

Noting that, in February 2017, the administering Power amended the Act concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests⁶ in order to allow for the compensation of a larger number of victims, and that further amendments have been adopted,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Recalling the admission of French Polynesia as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum at the forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum, convened in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016,

Recalling also the statement made by the President of French Polynesia in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, in October 2019,⁷

Recalling further the participation of a representative of the Government of the Territory in the regional seminar, which in 2019 was held in Grand Anse, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May,

Recalling the invitation extended by the President of French Polynesia to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, as reiterated by his representative at the 2019 session of the Special Committee,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Noting the municipal elections held in March and June 2020, and recalling the territorial elections that were held in April and May 2018,

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating

⁵ [A/72/74](#).

⁶ Act No. 2010-2 of 5 January 2010 concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests.

⁷ See [A/C.4/74/SR.3](#), paras. 15–18.

COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Takes note* of the statement made by the President of the Territory in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on 8 October 2019 reaffirming previous calls to delist French Polynesia from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also takes note of resolution No. 2013-3, adopted by the Assembly of French Polynesia on 30 May 2013, which repealed the resolution of the Assembly adopted in 2011 requesting the reinscription of French Polynesia on that list;

4. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, General Assembly resolution [67/265](#), which provided for the reinscription of French Polynesia on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and takes careful note of an independent self-governance assessment of the Territory, presented to the Fourth Committee on 4 October 2016,⁸ that the Territory did not meet the full measure of self-government;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work 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 in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

6. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

7. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under Article 73 *e* of the Charter since the reinscription of the Territory by the General Assembly in 2013;

8. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

9. *Urges* the administering Power to ensure the permanent sovereignty of the people of French Polynesia over their natural resources, including marine resources

⁸ See [A/C.4/71/SR.3](#), paras. 71–72.

and undersea minerals, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the administering Power concerning the recognition and compensation of victims of nuclear tests, and in that regard encourages the administering Power to take steps to this effect;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide continuous updates on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, in follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [71/120](#);

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution X Question of Guam

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Guam and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam,² which contained the information requested by the General Assembly in resolution 75/113 of 10 December 2020, and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Guam and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Guam,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Guam require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting the joint letter dated 29 January 2021 addressed to the administering Power from the Special Rapporteurs on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, on the rights of indigenous peoples and on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes,

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Guam in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/9](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Guam and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Guam and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Guam in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Guam with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Noting with concern that a plebiscite on self-determination has been brought to a halt, which followed the ruling⁷ of a federal court in the United States, the administering Power, holding that the plebiscite could not be limited to native inhabitants,

Recalling, in this regard, the statement made by a representative of the Governor of Guam at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar concerning the implications of the judicial case in the light of the nature and essence of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1514 (XV),⁸

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination and to advance its education campaign on each of the three political status options, and recalling that more than 11,000 native inhabitants had been registered in the Guam decolonization registry to vote in the plebiscite,

Recalling that the administering Power approved a grant to support the self-determination education campaign in the Territory in March 2016,

Recalling also that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the CHamoru people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible CHamoru voters,

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power's implementing its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting a call for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware that the federal lawsuit by the administering Power over the CHamoru Land Trust programme was filed in September 2017, and noting the ruling⁹ issued on 21 December 2018,

Noting the expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, as renewed during the 2021 session of the Special Committee,

Aware of the existing concerns of the Territory regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Recalling the concerns expressed by the Territory on this subject before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly,

⁷ District Court of Guam, *Davis v. Guam et al.*, decision of 8 March 2017, upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on 29 July 2019 and the Supreme Court of the United States on 4 May 2020.

⁸ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019.

⁹ District Court of Guam, *United States v. Guam et al.*, decision of 21 December 2018.

Recalling also the statement made by the Speaker of the thirty-third Guam legislature before the Fourth Committee at the seventieth session of the General Assembly that the most acute threat to the legitimate exercise of the decolonization of Guam was the incessant militarization of the island by its administering Power, and noting the concern expressed regarding the effect of the escalating military activities and installations of the administering Power on Guam,

Recalling further its resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, in which it reiterated that military activities and arrangements by administering Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration should not run counter to the rights and interests of the peoples of the Territories concerned, especially their right to self-determination, including independence, and called upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate the remaining military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980 and the territorial Government's concern that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorus becoming a minority in their homeland,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Noting the legislative elections in the Territory that were held in November 2020,¹⁰

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic", 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled "United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19", 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Guam to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Guam, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Guam to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

¹⁰ See A/AC.109/2021/9, paras. 3–4.

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

5. *Stresses* that the decolonization process in Guam should be compatible with the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;¹¹

6. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the CHamoru people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding CHamoru self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

7. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the CHamoru people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

8. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

9. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the CHamoru people in the development of Guam;

10. *Stresses* the importance 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 being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Guam and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Guam and the administering Power;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Guam, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

12. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

¹¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹² including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation and the impact of militarization on the environment, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report on the environmental impact of the military activities of the administering Power in the Territory, as relevant information becomes available;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

¹² Resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution XI Question of Montserrat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Montserrat and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Montserrat and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Montserrat,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Montserrat require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Montserrat in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/10](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Montserrat and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Montserrat and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Montserrat in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Montserrat with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Recalling the statements made by the Premier of Montserrat before the Special Committee in June 2018 and at the 2018 Pacific regional seminar, in which he expressed the view that the previous request made for the removal of Montserrat from the agenda of the Special Committee should be reversed,

Recalling also the information provided by the Premier that Montserrat could not achieve its development goals if its economic dependency continued, compounded by ongoing financial challenges, and that securing funding for rebuilding key infrastructure lost and helping evacuees from the 1995 volcanic crisis required an intervention from the Special Committee as a neutral partner,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Recalling the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Montserrat, as conveyed by the Premier of Montserrat to the Chair of the Special Committee in their meeting on 11 May 2015,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Cognizant of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

Recalling the elections in the Territory that were held in November 2019,⁷

Welcoming the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to Montserrat in December 2019,

Welcoming also the cooperation of the administering Power in facilitating the dispatching of the visiting mission,

Having examined the report of the visiting mission,⁸

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic", [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled "United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19", [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2020/10](#), para. 3.

⁸ [A/AC.109/2020/20](#).

Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Montserrat, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Montserrat to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Recalls* the 2010 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the participation of the Territory in the work of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Montserrat and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Montserrat and the administering Power;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Montserrat, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and to the Government and people of Montserrat for the cooperation and assistance extended to the United Nations visiting mission to Montserrat in December 2019;

12. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the report, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission;

13. *Commends* the conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, and to the Government of Montserrat for appropriate action;

14. *Requests* the administering Power to report to the Secretary-General on the steps taken and progress made with regard to the recommendations contained in the report of the visiting mission;

15. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

16. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

17. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

18. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Montserrat and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).

Draft resolution XII

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960 and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960, and stressing principle VI of the annex to resolution [1541 \(XV\)](#),

Recalling also the provisions of the Nouméa Accord,² which, inter alia, underscores the importance of the transfer of powers and skills in a timely manner from the administering Power to the people of New Caledonia,

Reaffirming that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Recalling the peaceful conduct of the first and second self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018 and 4 October 2020, respectively, in which the question “Do you want New Caledonia to accede to full sovereignty and become independent?” was asked, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord and the respective decisions of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord of March 2018 and November 2019,

Noting the meetings held in Paris from 26 May to 1 June 2021 between the administering Power and political parties in New Caledonia,

Taking note of the decision taken in June 2021 by the administering Power that the date of the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia would be held on 12 December 2021,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,³ following his visit to the Territory in February 2011, and stressing the importance of addressing concerns related to the human rights of indigenous Kanak people, including in eliminating the existing inequalities between the three provinces of the Territory,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2114](#), annex.

³ [A/HRC/18/35/Add.6](#), annex.

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

Recalling the conclusions of the nineteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, under the historic inaugural chairmanship of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste, held in Nouméa from 19 to 21 June 2013, including the Leaders Declaration of the Group reaffirming the strong commitment to and support, including technical assistance, for the self-determination of New Caledonia, in accordance with the Charter and the Nouméa Accord,

Recalling also the admission of New Caledonia as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum at the forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum, convened in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016,

Recalling further the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

Mindful that New Caledonia has entered the most seminal phase of the Nouméa Accord process, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁴

Recalling the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chiefs Councils, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia, and noting the concern of the Customary Senate that their interests should be adequately heard by the administering Power and territorial Government on matters of importance to the indigenous people of New Caledonia,

Recalling also the dispatch of two United Nations visiting missions to New Caledonia in 2014 and 2018, which included visits to Paris, as well as the release of the respective reports of the visiting missions of the Special Committee,⁵

Noting with gratitude the strengthened cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia, including its facilitation of the 2014 and 2018 visiting missions, as well as the conduct of self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018 and 4 October 2020, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord,

Acknowledging the successful conduct by New Caledonia of provincial elections on 12 May 2019,

Recalling the information presented to the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, and in Managua, from 19 to 21 May 2015, on the situation in the Territory, including on the issues related to the 2014 elections, and recalling also the recommendations of the Pacific regional

⁴ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁵ A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1 and A/AC.109/2018/20.

seminar held in Managua from 31 May to 2 June 2016, as annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2016,⁶

Taking note of the information provided by the administering Power at the Caribbean regional seminars held in Grand Anse, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May 2019, and in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017, as well as by New Caledonian parties at the latter seminar on developments in the Territory, including on the first referendum on self-determination, and the recommendations adopted by the seminar in 2017, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2017,⁷

Aware of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative commissions in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination, and taking note of the positive progress made since 2014 on the electoral process for the self-determination referendum,

Recalling the invitations from the administering Power to the Electoral Assistance Division of the former Department of Political Affairs and the current Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to dispatch electoral expert missions to New Caledonia in May 2016 and in subsequent years to observe the work of the special administrative commissions and the advisory committee of experts for the establishment and revision of the special electoral list, including, in particular, for the self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018 and 4 October 2020, consistent with the Nouméa Accord,

Recalling also the transmission by the administering Power to the Special Committee of the final report of the electoral expert mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2016, as well as of the list of measures implemented by the administering Power to follow up on the recommendations of the mission,

Noting the concerns of the people of New Caledonia regarding the importance of and need for clarity through an educational campaign by the administering Power concerning the potential referendum outcomes, and the relevant measures to this end taken since 2018 by the administering Power,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Territory in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/71/23).*

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/72/23).*

1. *Reaffirms its approval* of the report 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 for 2021;
2. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the reports, observations, conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations visiting missions to New Caledonia conducted in 2014 and 2018;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting missions;
4. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of New Caledonia to determine freely and fairly their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;
5. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and encourages efforts by the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable and peaceful manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;
6. *Recalls* the peaceful conduct of the self-determination referendums, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord, on 4 November 2018 and on 4 October 2020, resulting in 56.67 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 43.33 per cent in favour in the first referendum and 53.26 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 46.74 per cent in favour in the second referendum, and the provisions of the Nouméa Accord with regard to an additional referendum on self-determination;
7. *Takes note* of the decision taken by the administering Power that 12 December 2021 would be the date of the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia, and calls upon the administering Power and all relevant stakeholders in New Caledonia to ensure the peaceful, fair, just and transparent conduct of the self-determination referendum in New Caledonia, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord;
8. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultation on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair, credible and transparent electoral roll, as provided in the Nouméa Accord, are essential for the conduct of a free, fair and genuine act of self-determination consistent with the Charter and United Nations principles and practices;
9. *Welcomes*, in that respect, the continuous high-level political dialogue and commitment in good faith undertaken by the parties in the framework of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord to establish the parameters for the conduct of a conclusive act of self-determination, including the setting of an electoral roll, as provided in the Accord;

10. *Recalls* the outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Committee of Signatories, held on 3 October 2014, which, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the administering Power to enable the people of New Caledonia to decide their future status in a fair, credible, democratic and transparent self-determination process consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

11. *Notes with interest* the convening of the extraordinary meetings of the Committee of Signatories held in Paris on 5 June 2015, 2 November 2017, 27 March 2018, 14 December 2018 and 10 October 2019, regarding the New Caledonia self-determination process, including, in particular, the electoral roll for the referendum and related issues;

12. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting missions, to consider further strengthening the education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

13. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting missions to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the facilitation by the administering Power of visiting missions to the Territory before the 2018 self-determination referendum, and welcomes the willingness expressed by the administering Power to the Special Committee to facilitate a new visiting mission, in-person or virtual, to New Caledonia before the third self-determination referendum, while taking into account the situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Caledonia, and further encourages continued cooperation with the Committee with regard to the third referendum;

15. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the people of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

16. *Reaffirms* its resolutions [68/87](#) of 11 December 2013 and [69/97](#) of 5 December 2014, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

17. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, particularly the submission on 7 December 2020 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

18. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows, the impact of mining on the environment, and the relevance of taking into account the interests of local ownership and equity in natural resources development, and the importance of addressing them in a timely manner;

19. *Urges* the administering Power to maintain effective measures that safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of New Caledonia to their

natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the people of New Caledonia;

20. *Commends* the “Cadres for the future” programme, and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives in the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

21. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to New Caledonia and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after it exercises its right to self-determination;

23. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and communities of the Territory, especially for the well-being of the Kanak indigenous people;

24. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring the timely transfer of competencies from the administering Power to New Caledonia, provided under the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to maintain and enhance safeguards for and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

26. *Recalls* the provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

27. *Also recalls* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the Group, the successful completion of the chairmanship of the Group by the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste, in June 2015, and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

28. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

29. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

30. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism held since May 2014, including on measured progress made in the social, economic, political and

environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

31. *Acknowledges* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 12 May 2019, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

32. *Welcomes* the renewed decision of the administering Power to invite the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to conduct a mission in order to observe the work of the special administrative commissions and the advisory committee of experts for the establishment and revision of the special electoral list, and looks forward to examining its recommendations, and further encourages the administering Power to facilitate the work undertaken in this regard;

33. *Stresses* the importance of the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

34. *Notes* the socioeconomic, health and related challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to New Caledonia since 2020 and the commendable efforts by the Government of New Caledonia and the administering Power to prevent and stop the spread of the virus in the Territory, and encourages the international community, including the United Nations, to support the provision of timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for the people of New Caledonia;

35. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

36. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution XIII

Question of Pitcairn

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Pitcairn and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Pitcairn and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Pitcairn,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Pitcairn require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Pitcairn in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/12](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Pitcairn and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Pitcairn and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Pitcairn in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Pitcairn with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with serious concern that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2004,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory,

Noting that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan, covering the period from 2019 to

⁵ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).

⁶ See resolution 65/119.

2024, that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

Recalling with concern the findings contained in the final report on the survey commissioned by the Pitcairn Island Council to ascertain whether members of the diaspora had any interest in returning to the Territory and the factors conditioning a decision,⁷

Recalling that a marine protected area was established around Pitcairn in September 2016,⁸

Welcoming the measures taken by the administering Power to improve accessibility to the Territory with the introduction of enhanced transport and shipping services,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Recalling the general elections that were held in November 2019,⁹ and welcoming the election of the first female Mayor of the Territory,

Recalling also its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Pitcairn, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Pitcairn to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution [1541 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory,

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2015/5](#), para. 14.

⁸ See [A/AC.109/2017/12](#), para. 40.

⁹ See [A/AC.109/2020/12](#), “The Territory at a glance”.

with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through the training of local personnel;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including as regards demographic matters;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Pitcairn and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Pitcairn and the administering Power;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Pitcairn, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

11. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

12. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

13. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Pitcairn and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XIV Question of Saint Helena

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Saint Helena and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of Saint Helena and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Saint Helena,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of Saint Helena require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution 1514 (XV),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of Saint Helena in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Saint Helena and to fulfil its mandate

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/13](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to Saint Helena and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of Saint Helena in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of Saint Helena with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23)*.

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Recalling the statement made by a representative of the Legislative Council of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,⁷

Recalling also the extension by the administering Power to Saint Helena of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁸ in March 2017,

Noting with serious concern that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2015,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment, transport and communications infrastructure, and of the adoption of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2018–2028,

Aware also of the completion of the construction of the airport in the Territory and the commencement in October 2017 of commercial air service, and recalling the concerns expressed by a representative of the Legislative Council of Saint Helena about the potential impacts of the construction of the airport, such as the growing number of expatriate families settling in the Territory and the lack of a specific plan for the operation of an air route or sea link between Saint Helena and neighbouring islands,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Recalling the general election that was held in September 2019,⁹

Recalling also its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Saint Helena to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of Saint Helena, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Saint Helena to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2015.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁹ See A/AC.109/2020/13, para. 32.

with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance, including the ongoing governance reform process;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socioeconomic development challenges of the Territory;

7. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Saint Helena and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Saint Helena and the administering Power;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Saint Helena, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

12. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Saint Helena and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XV Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Taking note of the report 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 for 2021,¹

Recalling its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution [75/118](#) of 10 December 2020,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting with appreciation also the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and of the Pacific Islands Forum,

Acknowledging the World No Tobacco Day Award for the western Pacific region granted to Tokelau in 2017 by the World Health Organization for its policy entitled “Tobacco-Free Tokelau by 2020”, and expressing hope that this could contribute to the health and well-being of the Territory and its peoples,

Cognizant that New Zealand and Tokelau signed, on 21 November 2003, a document entitled “Joint statement of the principles of partnership”, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and bearing in mind also that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

Noting the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory on 23 January 2020, and noting also the most recent change of the Ulu-o-Tokelau during the General Fono, on 8 March 2021,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

Recalling the 2013 constitutional consultations, to be further considered by the Constitution Committee, which were driven by the people of Tokelau and which aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, along with the constitution, national anthem and national flag,

Cognizant of the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, and also of the written statement for the Pacific regional seminar held in Saint George's from 9 to 11 May 2018 that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change, the rise in sea level and the challenges to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² and bearing in mind the development aspirations of Tokelau as expressed in the National Strategic Plan 2016–2020, including a self-determination referendum,

Recalling the official launch in April 2017 of the climate change strategy of Tokelau, entitled “Living with change: an integrated national strategy for enhancing the resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030”, and the implementation plan for the first five years of the strategy, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022, and welcoming the launch of the Tokelau national greenhouse gas inventory report on 11 April 2019,

Recalling also the announcement of the administering Power that, as requested by the Government of Tokelau, it had submitted a formal declaration to the United Nations to extend the territorial application of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the Paris Agreement⁴ to Tokelau,

Recalling further the statements made by the representatives of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, on 17 June 2019, at a session of the Special Committee, and at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Grand Anse, Grenada, in May 2019, which underlined the shared vision with Tokelau of building a stronger partnership, including on the governance and more effective management of public services, finances and infrastructure assets, with emphasis on quality health care and education, gender empowerment, disaster risk mitigation and resilience-building, and enhancing inter-atoll connectivity, including the vessel to support search and rescue missions, medical evacuations and general transport between the atolls, which entered into service in April 2019,

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations in the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012, and the additional recent efforts in Tokelau in addressing a future governance model that accounts for, inter alia, the Territory's religious faith, culture and identity;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the democratic elections in Tokelau held on 23 January 2020 for the tenth General Fono and the subsequent swearing-in of the Ulu-o-Tokelau on 8 March 2021;

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing socioeconomic development challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to Tokelau and the close cooperation with the administering Power, New Zealand, and neighbouring countries, and commends Tokelau on its record of no transmission of the virus to its people, thus far;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements, including investment to connect Tokelau to an undersea fibre-optic cable for faster and more reliable Internet services, improved maritime transport infrastructure and services, quality health care and education and support for the fisheries sector;

6. *Recalls* the National Strategic Plan 2016–2020 of Tokelau, which prioritized good governance, human and infrastructure development, telecommunication, transportation, sustainability and climate change adaptation, as an important framework for the Territory's sustainable future;

7. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including through new shipping service assets and shipping infrastructure development, and budget support for the delivery of education services ranging from early childhood education to foundation courses for tertiary study, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

8. *Recalls* the completion by Tokelau in 2013 of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and the receipt by the Government of the Renewable Energy Award granted by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

9. *Also recalls* measures taken by Tokelau to safeguard the health of its peoples through its "Tobacco-Free Tokelau by 2020" policy, launched in 2017, and encourages the necessary support for its implementation from the administering Power, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, assistance towards the implementation of the climate change strategy of Tokelau, entitled "Living with change: an integrated national strategy for enhancing the resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030";

11. *Appreciates* the efforts of the administering Power to include in its national reporting to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the climate mitigation action taken by Tokelau, and also recalls the milestone achievement of Tokelau in the launch of its national greenhouse gas inventory report on 11 April 2019;
12. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;
13. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the Pacific region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs, including at the fiftieth Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, held in Tuvalu in August 2019, as an associate member, represented by the Ulu-o-Tokelau;
14. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;
15. *Recognizes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;
16. *Commends* the renewed strong commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continuing to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;
17. *Requests* 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 continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution XVI

Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Turks and Caicos Islands,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/15](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to the Turks and Caicos Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23).*

⁶ See resolution [65/119](#).

Recalling the statement made by a representative appointed by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,⁷

Noting with serious concern that the Territory last participated in the activities of the Special Committee in 2015,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community of the report of the Community's fact-finding mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2013, which called for, inter alia, a referendum on self-determination and a mechanism for amending the Constitution,

Recalling further that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

Recalling with concern the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Noting the general election that was held in February 2021,⁸

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, entitled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)", 74/274 of 20 April 2020, entitled "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", 74/306 of 11 September 2020, entitled "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic", 74/307 of 11 September 2020, entitled "United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19", 75/156 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", and 75/157 of 16 December 2020, entitled "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the Turks and Caicos Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2015.

⁸ See A/AC.109/2021/15, para. 18.

to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Takes note* of the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

5. *Notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

6. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

7. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

8. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

9. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities 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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

10. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Turks and Caicos Islands and the administering Power;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

13. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

14. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

15. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

16. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XVII

Question of the United States Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands and examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands² and other relevant information,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territory are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the United States Virgin Islands,

Conscious of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2030 and the plan of action for the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of the United States Virgin Islands require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Concerned by the use and exploitation of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers for their benefit, by the use of the Territories as international financial centres to the detriment of the world economy and by the consequences of any economic activities of the administering Powers that are contrary to the interests of the people of the Territories, as well as to resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#),

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of the Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the people of the United States Virgin Islands in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2021/16](#).

³ Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory,

Aware of the importance both to the United States Virgin Islands and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the United States Virgin Islands in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the people of the United States Virgin Islands with their inalienable right to self-determination and in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Recalling the Caribbean regional seminar on the theme “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures”, held by the Special Committee in Grand Anse, Grenada, and hosted by the Government of Grenada from 2 to 4 May 2019, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess progress made and address challenges faced in the decolonization process, review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its commitment to implementing its historic task,

Recalling also the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which were annexed to the report of the Special Committee for 2019⁵ and which outlined the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁶

Mindful that the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar, originally scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

Recalling the statement made by the Lieutenant Governor, as a representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, at the 2019 Caribbean regional seminar,⁷

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2019,

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/74/23)*.

⁶ See resolution 65/119.

⁷ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019.

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Aware of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

Expressing its concern about the extended time spent on the constitutional review process, and stressing the importance of the Special Committee receiving updated information in due time regarding the status of the drafting of the constitution,

Noting the referendum held on 3 November 2020 on convening a constitutional convention to consider adopting the Revised Organic Act of the United States Virgin Islands, or portions of it, as the Constitution of the Territory,

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Recalling with concern the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017,

Noting the election that was held in November 2020,⁸

Recalling its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020, entitled “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, entitled “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”, [75/156](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, and [75/157](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization of the United States Virgin Islands, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

⁸ See [A/AC.109/2021/16](#), para. 2.

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the United States Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed constitution and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory, and to regularly provide 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 relevant updates in this regard, including on the process for convening a constitutional convention following the referendum held in November 2020;

6. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Office of Self-Determination and Constitutional Development in the University of the Virgin Islands, with funding from the administering Power, to address the issue of self-determination, including political status and constitutional education;

8. *Recalls* the closing of the Hovensa plant in 2012, which had a negative economic impact on the Territory;

9. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

10. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. *Stresses* that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

12. *Also stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the United States Virgin Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the United States Virgin Islands and the administering Power;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts

to promote self-government in the United States Virgin Islands, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

14. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requests the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

15. *Takes into account* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, stresses the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urges the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

16. *Requests* the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

17. *Reiterates its call upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that impacted the Territory in 2017;

18. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the United States Virgin Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

Draft resolution XVIII

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Recalling its resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution [75/121](#) of 10 December 2020,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options for self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of the visiting missions of the Special Committee in contributing substantially to the dissemination of information on decolonization,

Recognizing that the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, must play a bigger role, in accordance with resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and encourages the continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, published in accordance with General Assembly resolution [61/129](#) of 14 December 2006, and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end requests the Department of Global

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 ([A/76/23](#)).

Communications, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports 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, and stresses that the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continue to be jointly responsible for maintaining and enhancing the United Nations decolonization website;

4. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television, the Internet and social media, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications to webcast the meetings of the Special Committee at its substantive sessions from within existing resources;

7. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XIX

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

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report 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 for 2021,¹

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 75/122 of 10 December 2020, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 75/123 of 10 December 2020, by which it declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways and means to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the Fourth International Decade,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2020, as called for in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of all administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee with regard to the relevant Territories under their administration in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that, given the extraordinary circumstances relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Pacific regional seminar, which was to be held in Indonesia, from 5 to 7 May 2020, could not be held and the Caribbean regional seminar, scheduled to be convened in Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021, has been rescheduled to be held from 25 to 27 August 2021,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 75/123, by which it declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/76/23).

exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence, on a case-by-case basis;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples² and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;³

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms its support once again* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power of each Territory on the agenda 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 to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions and seminars;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, 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 on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly, as appropriate, the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the

² Resolution 1514 (XV).

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, inter alia, to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

10. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, are an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requests the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year;

11. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁴ updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

12. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

14. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to terminate military activities and eliminate military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

⁴ A/56/61, annex.

16. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

19. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2021, in which the programme of work for 2022 is outlined, in particular the Pacific regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, especially, in paragraph 8 of the present resolution.

Annex I

List of documents of the Special Committee in 2021

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2021/1	American Samoa (working paper)	11 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/2	Anguilla (working paper)	22 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/3	Bermuda (working paper)	22 January 2021
A/AC.109/2021/4	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	24 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/5	Cayman Islands (working paper)	11 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/6	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^a (working paper)	1 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/7	French Polynesia (working paper)	8 January 2021
A/AC.109/2021/8	Gibraltar (working paper)	26 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/9	Guam (working paper)	18 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/10	Montserrat (working paper)	9 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/11	New Caledonia (working paper)	26 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/12	Pitcairn (working paper)	2 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/13	Saint Helena (working paper)	2 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/14	Tokelau (working paper)	18 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/15	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	15 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/16	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	10 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/17	Western Sahara (working paper)	26 January 2021
A/AC.109/2021/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2020 to March 2021: report of the Secretary-General	26 March 2021
A/AC.109/2021/19	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, to be held in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021: guidelines and rules of procedure	16 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/19/Corr.1	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	8 April 2021

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
	and in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, through commitment to mandate, collaboration, pragmatism and agility, to be held in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 19 to 21 May 2021: guidelines and rules of procedure	
A/AC.109/2021/19/Rev.1	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, to be held in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021: guidelines and rules of procedure	9 July 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	10 December 2020
A/AC.109/2021/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	10 December 2020
A/AC.109/2021/L.2/Rev.1	Organization of work: note by the Chair	19 May 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.3	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	8 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	8 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.5	Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	9 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.6	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.7	Decision of the Special Committee of 5 August 2020 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	16 June 2021

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2021/L.8	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	19 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	18 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.10	Question of American Samoa: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.11	Question of Anguilla: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.12	Question of Bermuda: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.13	Special Committee decision of 5 August 2020 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)	9 February 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.14	Question of the British Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.15	Question of the Cayman Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.16	Question of Guam: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.17	Question of Montserrat: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.18	Question of Pitcairn: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.19	Question of Saint Helena: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.20	Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.21	Question of the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.22	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea	18 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.23	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea	18 June 2021

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2021/L.24	Question of French Polynesia: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021
A/AC.109/2021/L.25	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	17 June 2021

^a 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).

Annex II

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 Saint 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 Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism 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 Saint John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021. Five meetings were held, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts, took part (see appendix 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 the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Keisha McGuire, with the participation of the following

members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). One administering Power, France, participated as observer. The following other Member States also participated as observers: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Qatar and Spain.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 25 August 2021, Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts (Dominica) and Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji (Indonesia) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while 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.
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.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 25 August 2021, Keisha McGuire (Grenada) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations of Dominica, Kenneth Darroux, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs read out a message from the Secretary-General.

B. Statements and discussions¹

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, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard a presentation by the Deputy Premier Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture of the British Virgin Islands, Natalio Wheatley, on the question of the British Virgin Islands. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil and Grenada.

15. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard a presentation by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs of French Polynesia, Engel Raygadas, on the question of French Polynesia. A presentation was also made by the expert Hervé Raimana Lallemand-Moe. A statement was made by the representative of France.

16. At the 3rd meeting, on 26 August, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the question of Gibraltar by Joseph John Bossano and on the question of Western Sahara by Sidi Mohammed Omar and 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 a statement by Mr. 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)² by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indonesia, the Russian Federation and Brazil.

19. At the same meeting, the seminar considered agenda item 2 (b) and (c).

20. At the 4th meeting, on 26 August, the Seminar considered agenda items 3 and 4. Under agenda item 3, a pre-recorded video presentation was made by Dale Alexander, from the 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 to under silence procedure prior to the meeting. At the same meeting, the seminar heard presentations on the question of Bermuda by Thomas Christopher Famous, Special Liaison to the Caribbean Community for the Government of Bermuda, and on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)² by the expert, Paula Vernet.

C. Closing of the seminar

22. Also at the 5th meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document (CRS/2021/CRP.24), which was adopted.

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

² 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).

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

24. Also, at the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations of Dominica, made closing statements, and the Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit made, made his 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 Assembly.

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

27. 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**

28. 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,² including those adopted by the Assembly and the Committee on special and particular colonial situations, and underscored the fact that the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960;

(f) While recognizing how much remained to be done in the area of decolonization, acknowledged the efforts made to revitalize the work of the Special Committee in line with its mandates;

(g) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Fourth Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic, financial and health crises, in particular the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people and the need for capacity-building for full self-governance;

(h) Took into account General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

(i) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's interconnected world, underlined the fact that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(j) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic, financial and health crises, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic, had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Recognized the important role played by United Nations agencies, regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges, and in that regard called upon them to accelerate their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee and through the regular session of the Committee under the relevant agenda items, and called upon the Special Committee to develop programmes of collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(l) Underlined the fact that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding the future

political status of their Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions and bearing in mind relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination;

(m) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(o) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(p) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(q) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(r) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [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

29. 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, in 2019, the administering Power attempted 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 on 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, the Territory was receiving support for several of those efforts 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 Islands be reviewed 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 from taking sovereign decisions to address its severe social and economic problems;

(b) Also noted the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 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

30. 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;³

³ Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European and Pacific Affairs of the Office of the

(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;

(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 future 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;

(e) 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;

President of French Polynesia.

(f) 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;

(g) 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

31. 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

32. 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), 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](#), 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 (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund, 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 the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Fourth Decade

33. 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 Saint John, Dominica (25 to 27 August 2021)

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Grenada (Chair)	Keisha Aniya McGuire ⁴
	Michael Mitchell
Antigua and Barbuda	Anthony Liverpool
Chile	Pablo Callis
Congo	Jean Didier Clovis Ngoulou
Côte d'Ivoire	Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo
	Yassi Maximin Brou
Dominica	Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts ⁴
Indonesia	Rayyanul Muniah Sangadji
Iraq	Yaarb Al-Tememy
Russian Federation	Stanislav Aleksaev ⁴
Saint Lucia	Aisha Jn. Baptiste
Sierra Leone	Victoria Mangay Sulimani ⁴
	Karen Jean Baimarro
Syrian Arab Republic	Aliaa Ali ⁴
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	José Moros Savelli

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Sofiane Mimouni
	Manel El Ayoubi
Argentina	Maximiliano Álvarez
Brazil	João Genésio de Almeida Filho
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Abderrahim Kadmiri
	Redouane Houssaini
	Mostafa Mouahhidi
	Khaddad El Moussaoui

⁴ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

	Omar Kadiri
	Said Ait Talebe-Ali
	Majdoline Mouflih
	Salma Arka
Qatar	Yasser Awad Al-Abdullah
Spain	Pablo Gutiérrez-Segú
Administering Powers	
France	Marine de Carne De Trécesson
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
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
Experts	
	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 in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021, 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 International Business and Diaspora Relations of Dominica, 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 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 Dominica.

