



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 2023**

**General Assembly
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Situation with regard to the Implementation
of the Declaration on the Granting of
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Peoples for 2023**



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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.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Letter of transmittal	6
I. Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee	7
A. Establishment of the Special Committee	7
B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2023 and election of officers	9
C. Organization of work	9
D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	10
E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is applicable	12
F. Consideration of other matters	17
G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations	18
H. Review of work	19
I. Future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2024	20
J. Conclusion of the 2023 session	21
II. Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	22
III. Dissemination of information on decolonization	23
IV. Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories	24
V. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	26
VI. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	27
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	28
VIII. Gibraltar and Western Sahara	29
A. Gibraltar	29
B. Western Sahara	29
IX. New Caledonia and French Polynesia	31
A. New Caledonia	31
B. French Polynesia	31

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	33
	A. American Samoa	33
	B. Anguilla	33
	C. Bermuda	33
	D. British Virgin Islands	34
	E. Cayman Islands	34
	F. Guam	34
	G. Montserrat	35
	H. Pitcairn	35
	I. Saint Helena	35
	J. Turks and Caicos Islands	36
	K. United States Virgin Islands	36
XI.	Tokelau	37
XII.	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	38
XIII.	Recommendations	41
	Draft resolution I. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	41
	Draft resolution II. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	43
	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	46
	Draft resolution IV. Question of American Samoa	51
	Draft resolution V. Question of Anguilla	56
	Draft resolution VI. Question of Bermuda	61
	Draft resolution VII. Question of the British Virgin Islands	65
	Draft resolution VIII. Question of the Cayman Islands	70
	Draft resolution IX. Question of French Polynesia	74
	Draft resolution X. Question of Guam	78
	Draft resolution XI. Question of Montserrat	84
	Draft resolution XII. Question of New Caledonia	89
	Draft resolution XIII. Question of Pitcairn	96
	Draft resolution XIV. Question of Saint Helena	101
	Draft resolution XV. Question of Tokelau	105
	Draft resolution XVI. Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands	109
	Draft resolution XVII. Question of the United States Virgin Islands	114

Draft resolution XVIII. Dissemination of information on decolonization	119
Draft resolution XIX. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	121
Annexes	
I. List of documents of the Special Committee in 2023	125
II. Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023	128

Letter of transmittal

Letter dated 10 July 2023 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 [77/149](#). The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2023.

(Signed) Menissa **Rambally**
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.109/2023/L.1).

2. At its seventy-seventh session, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/77/23), the General Assembly adopted resolution 77/149, in which it approved the report of the Committee covering its work during 2022 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 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 77/149, the General Assembly adopted 21 other resolutions and one decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2022, 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	77/133	12 December 2022
Tokelau	77/145	12 December 2022
American Samoa	77/134	12 December 2022
Anguilla	77/135	12 December 2022
Bermuda	77/136	12 December 2022
British Virgin Islands	77/137	12 December 2022
Cayman Islands	77/138	12 December 2022

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
French Polynesia	77/139	12 December 2022
Guam	77/140	12 December 2022
Montserrat	77/141	12 December 2022
New Caledonia	77/142	12 December 2022
Pitcairn	77/143	12 December 2022
Saint Helena	77/144	12 December 2022
Turks and Caicos Islands	77/146	12 December 2022
United States Virgin Islands	77/147	12 December 2022

^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	77/533	12 December 2022

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	77/129	12 December 2022
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	77/130	12 December 2022
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	77/131	12 December 2022
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	77/132	12 December 2022
Dissemination of information on decolonization	77/148	12 December 2022

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

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at seventy-seventh 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.109/2023/L.1](#)).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2023, 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 2023 and election of officers

6. The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, on behalf of the Secretary-General, opened the 2023 session of the Special Committee on 16 February and made a statement (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.1](#)).

7. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February 2023, the Special Committee elected its officers as set out below. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management conducted the election of the Chair by secret ballot. On the first round of balloting, having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) was elected Chair of the Committee. The Committee elected the Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur of the Committee by acclamation.

Chair:

Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia)

Vice-Chairs:

Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba)
Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia)
Alhaji Fanday Turay (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:

Bassam Sabbagh (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee had before it suggestions relating to the organization of its work and outlined in document [A/AC.109/2023/L.2](#). The Special Committee approved its tentative programme of work and timetable for 2023 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.109/2023/SR.1](#)).

9. 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.109/2023/SR.1](#)).

10. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee acceded to the requests of Algeria, Argentina, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Spain and Togo to participate as observers in its 2023 session (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.1](#)). Subsequently, at its 2nd to 8th meetings, on 20 March and on 12, 13, 20 and 22 June, the Committee acceded to the requests of Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe to participate as observers (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.2-8](#)).

11. Also at the first meeting, the Special Committee considered preparations for the Pacific regional seminar and approved the offer made by Indonesia to host the seminar in Bali, as well as the dates of the seminar. Statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 20 March, the Special Committee further considered preparations for the Pacific regional seminar and approved the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar, including the theme and agenda of the seminar, as outlined in document [A/AC.109/2023/19](#). 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.109/2023/SR.2](#)).

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Requests for hearing

14. At the 3rd meeting, held on 12 June, the Chair drew attention to communications containing requests for hearing, circulated in aides-memoires 01/23, 02/23, 03/23, 04/23, 05/23, 06/23/Rev.1, 07/23, 08/23 and 09/23/Rev.1 regarding the Special Committee decision of 20 June 2022 concerning Puerto Rico and the questions of the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Island (Malvinas),¹ French Polynesia, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.3](#)).

15. The requests for hearings contained in the above-mentioned aides-memoires were approved by the Special Committee at the same meeting.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

16. 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, 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

17. Up to the end of its resumed session, on 23 June, the Special Committee held 10 plenary meetings, as follows:

(a) First part of the session (organizational meetings): 1st meeting, 16 February; 2nd meeting, 20 March;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd and 4th meetings, 12 June; 5th and 6th meeting, 13 June; 7th meeting, 20 June; 8th and 9th meeting, 22 June; and 10th meeting, 23 June.

18. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the questions set out below and adopted resolutions or decisions thereon. 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	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	10th	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	10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
American Samoa	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
Anguilla	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Bermuda	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
British Virgin Islands	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Cayman Islands	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
French Polynesia	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX
Guam	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution X
Montserrat	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XI
New Caledonia	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XII

<i>Question</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Resolution/Decision</i>
Pitcairn	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIII
Saint Helena	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIV
Tokelau	3rd and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XV
Turks and Caicos Islands	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVI
United States Virgin Islands	4th and 10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVII
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	10th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX
Gibraltar	3rd	Chap. VIII, para. 96
Western Sahara	5th and 6th	Chap. VIII, para. 102
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	7th	Chap. XII, para. 181
Sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 79
Decision of the Special Committee of 20 June 2022 concerning Puerto Rico	8th and 9th	Chap. I, para. 29

2. Subsidiary bodies

19. The Special Committee did not establish subsidiary bodies during its 2023 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 2023 session, the Bureau held two meetings.

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

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

Consideration of Puerto Rico

21. At the 3rd and 8th meetings, on 12 and 22 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.

22. At its 8th meeting, the Special Committee heard from the following speakers: Ramón Nenadich, Estado Nacional Soberano de Borinken; Ana M. Lopez, Frente Independentista Boricua; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriquenos Unidos En Acción; Ángel Rodríguez León, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano de Puerto Rico; Yadira O’Farrill, Extended Congressional Delegation Pro Statehood Puerto Rico in Georgia; Adrián González Costa, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Jose Melendez-Ortiz, LULAC Puerto Rico; Iván Elías Rodríguez, Instituto Hostosiano del Norte; Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party; Sara Torres, Equality for Puerto Rico; Carlos Rafael Alicea Negrón, Movimiento Ñin Negrón del Movimiento de Liberación Nacional; Edwin Ortiz, Call to Action on Puerto Rico; Gerardo Rubén Lugo Segarra, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico; Rafael Olivera-Cintrón, Boricuas Unidos en la Diaspora; Manuel E. Melendez, Comites de la Resistencia Boricua; Ignacio Ros, GA for Statehood for Puerto Rico; Ismael Muller Vasquez, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists (Asociación Americana de Juristas); Jocelyn Velazquez, Jornada Se Acabaron Las Promesas; Antonio Camacho, La Asociación de Abogados Puertorriqueños Soberanistas en Washington, D.C.; Omar Marrero, Department of State of Puerto Rico; Roberto Lefranc-Fortuño, Government of Puerto Rico; Angel Javier Serrano, Congressional Extended Delegation Florida Chapter Tampa Area; Walter Alomar, Organization for Culture of Hispanic Origins; Ramón Vazquez-Escudero, Coalition for Statehood for Puerto Rico, New Jersey Chapter; Vivian Rivera Moreno, Puerto Rico Bilingue, Rhode Island Extended Delegates for Statehood for Puerto Rico; Zoraida Velez Beniquez, Statehoodprnow Inc.; Vanessa Maria Graber, Philly Boricuas; Fermin Morales, Ruta de la Verdad/Route of Truth; Myrna Pagán, Vidas Viequenses Valen; Christina Mojica, The Puerto Rican Alliance; Mario Solano, Delegación Congresional Extendida, Texas chapter; Raphael Agosto-Miranda, Puerto Rico Not For Sale Campaign; Rev Carmen Hernandez, Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation; Mariana Nogales-Molinelli, House of Representatives of Puerto Rico; Eugenio Matias, Comité amigos de Eugenio Matias Perez; Manuel Natal Albelo, Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana and Nicole Alvarez Espada, Abolish Act 60 (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.8](#)).

23. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba took the floor for points of order.

24. At its 9th meeting, on 22 June, the Special Committee heard from the following speakers: Maria de Lourdes Guzman, Movimiento Union Soberanista de Puerto Rico; Daniel Vila, Sovereign National State of Borinken; Miguel Ángel Reyes De Jesús, Alianza Nacional Contra el Desplazamiento Poblacional (ANCODEPO); Edwin Pagan, Generacion 51; Juan Martinez-Cruzado, Convergencia Nacional Boricua; Gabriela Malespin, New York Boricua Resistance; Luis Toro-Goyco, Movimiento Diálogo Soberanista; Xiomara Torres, Party for Socialism and Liberation; Edison Diaz, Barrio Boricua Resistance/New York Boricua Resistance; Maria Fernandez, Caribbean Studies Association; Rachelle Fernandez Rivera, The Point CDC; Jose Rossello, U.S. House Representative (Shadow) - Ricardo Rosselló; and Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, CASA ([A/AC.109/2023/SR.9](#)).

25. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to a report on the item prepared by the Rapporteur ([A/AC.109/2023/L.13](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2023/L.7](#)) (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.9](#)).

26. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Statements were also made by the observer for Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement).

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.7](#), also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
28. The Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.7](#) without a vote. The representative of Cuba made a statement.
29. The text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.7](#), adopted at the 9th meeting without a vote, reads as follows:

Decision of the Special Committee of 20 June 2022 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 40 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 2023 will mark the 125th 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 with concern also 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 further 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 with concern that the Fiscal Supervisory Board pursues the collection of the accumulated public debt of more than 70 billion dollars, which has resulted in the

adoption of austerity measures that have further aggravated the already frail social and economic conditions of the people of Puerto Rico,

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 – Peoples' Trade Treaty, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, 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 Eighteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,¹ and other meetings of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, 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

¹ A/74/548, annex.

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,²

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, and the impact of the austerity measures that are causing the social and economic conditions of the people of Puerto Rico to seriously deteriorate and essential services, such as the electric power, to be privatized, which has caused the rise of the cost of living in an already precarious economy;

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;

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;

² [A/AC.109/2023/L.13](#).

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 20 June 2022;

10. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2024 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

30. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work and decided to include on its programme of work and timetable for 2023 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.109/2023/L.2](#)).

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

31. Having regard to its programme of work for 2023, 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

32. 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 2023 is contained in annex I to the present report.

33. In the conduct of all its meetings during 2023, 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

34. 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 2023, during its plenary meetings at Headquarters.

35. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 12 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

36. 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

37. 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 [77/149](#), was highlighted during the Pacific regional seminar held in Indonesia (see annex II).

6. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

38. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee agreed to the Chair's recommendation, as outlined in the organization of work for 2023, that the Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (see [A/AC.109/2023/L.2](#)).

39. At its 10th meeting, on 23 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 2023 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-eighth session, in accordance with established practice (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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

40. 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 [77/131](#), 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/2023/68](#)). An account of the Committee's consideration of the question is contained in chapter VII of the present report.

41. 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).

42. 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.

43. 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

44. 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 four administering Powers, namely France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, 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.

45. On 3 April 2023, the Bureau met with the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/149](#), 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 and informed him of its plans to hold its annual seminar in the Pacific region, after a seven-year absence from the region, and to dispatch visiting missions in 2023. The Bureau also stressed the importance of adequate financial support for the implementation of its mandate. 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.

46. The Special Committee also considered each of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda (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 para. 22).

47. 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).

48. As noted in chapter II and in annex II to the present report, the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar in Indonesia from 24 to 26 May, at which participants, while focusing on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of

Colonialism, reflected on innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

49. 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-eighth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII).

I. Future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2024²

50. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, as reaffirmed in resolution [77/149](#), and taking into account its draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.25](#), adopted at its 10th meeting, on 23 June, and contained in the present report (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX), the Special Committee intends to continue in 2024 to seek suitable means for the immediate, full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

51. 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.

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

53. 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.

54. In 2024, 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.

55. 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.

56. 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.

² The activities mentioned in paragraphs 50 to 60 are also outlined in draft resolution XIX, contained in chapter XIII.

57. In that regard, the Chair noted the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the regional seminar in May 2024 and in keeping with past practice would finalize the details of the 2024 seminar following the organizational meeting in February 2024 ([A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

58. 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.

59. 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 [77/149](#).

60. 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 2024, as outlined in paragraphs 50 to 59 above.

J. Conclusion of the 2023 session

61. At the 10th meeting, on 23 June, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2023 session of the Special Committee (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

Chapter II

Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

62. At its 1st, 2nd and 10th meetings, on 16 February, 20 March and 23 June, respectively, the Special Committee considered issues relating to the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Pacific regional seminar held in Indonesia from 24 to 26 May to assess the goals and expected accomplishments of the Fourth Decade.

63. At its 1st meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee had before it its organization of work for 2023, 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.109/2023/L.2](#)).

64. At its 2nd meeting, on 20 March, the Special Committee adopted the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar contained in document [A/AC.109/2023/19](#), which incorporated the agenda and theme of the seminar. It also 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 (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.2](#)).

65. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/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.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

66. 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).

67. Also at the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar, containing the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which had been negotiated in advance of the meeting by members of the Special Committee present at the seminar, as well as the procedural part of the report of the seminar, which had been adopted at the final meeting of the seminar.

68. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which are set out in annex II to the present report. In keeping with the established practice of the Committee, annex II also includes the procedural report of the seminar also adopted by the Committee at its 10th meeting (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

Chapter III

Dissemination of information on decolonization

69. The Special Committee considered the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.3](#)).

70. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [77/148](#) on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution [77/149](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

71. At its 3rd 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.

72. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (also on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations), Cuba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Nicaragua.

73. 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 2022 to March 2023 ([A/AC.109/2023/18](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair ([A/AC.109/2023/L.4](#)).

74. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.4](#) without a vote.

75. 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

76. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.3](#)).

77. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [77/149](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions [77/133](#) to [77/147](#) relating to specific Territories, in addition to previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

78. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.5](#), submitted under the item, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

79. The text of the draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.5](#) 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 [77/149](#) of 12 December 2022, 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, French Polynesia 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

80. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.3](#)).

81. 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 [77/129](#), 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 resolutions [77/149](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and [75/123](#) on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

82. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/78/63](#)), 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.109/2023/L.3](#)).

83. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba and the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.3](#) without a vote.

84. 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

85. 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 10th meeting, on 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

86. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [77/130](#) on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution [77/149](#) 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.109/2023/L.6](#).

87. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.6](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

88. 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

89. 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 10th meeting, on 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

90. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution [77/131](#) 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-eighth 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.

91. 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.109/2023/L.9](#).

92. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/78/65](#)) 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/2023/68](#)), as well as to the draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2023/L.9](#)).

93. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.9](#) without a vote.

94. 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

95. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 77/533 and resolution 77/133, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

96. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/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.109/2023/8](#)).

98. At the 3rd meeting, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, made a statement.

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

100. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with a request for hearing granted by the Special Committee at the outset of the meeting, a statement was made by Richard Buttigieg, Self Determination for Gibraltar Group.

101. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its 2024 session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its seventy-eighth 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).

B. Western Sahara

102. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.5](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.6](#)).

103. 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.109/2023/17](#)).

104. At the 5th 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, given that the petitioners had limited time access to the building. Accordingly, statements were made by Sidi Mohamed Omar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO); Ghalla Bahiya, Conseil Régional de Dakhla-Oued Eddahab; M'hamed Abba, Conseil Régional de Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra; Dahi Ahl El Khattat, Rotary Club de Dakhla; Moulay Brahim Chrif, Association "Laâyoune Initiatives"; Boullah Taleb Aomar; Mohamed Ali Arkoukou, Sahrawi Association in USA; Wynd Kaufmyn, Karama Sahara; Taleb Ali Salem; Chris Sassi, SKC; Kathleen Thomas, Global Directives LLC; Claudia Urey, American Association of Jurists; Touria Hmyene, l'Association pour la liberté des femmes séquestrées dans les camps de Tindouf; Ahmed Fanan; Adrienne Kinne, Veterans For Peace; Mohammed Elaisaoui, Organization for Ending Human Rights Violations in the Tindouf Camps; Saad Bennani; David Mladjenovic; Michael Holeyka, Global Media Defence Fund;

Jaclyn Cerisano; Naama Sghayer; Resnya Hughes and Chejuna Tualumru. The observer for Morocco made a statement.

105. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Nicaragua, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Saint Lucia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Papua New Guinea and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Statements were also made by the observers for Oman (also on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council) and Guatemala.

106. At the 6th meeting, on 13 June, statements were made by Indonesia and the observers for Peru, the Dominican Republic, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Comoros, Gabon, Togo, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Guinea, Jordan, Botswana, Kuwait, Mexico, Qatar, South Africa, Liberia, the Gambia, the Central African Republic, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Morocco.

107. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the observers for Algeria and Morocco.

Chapter IX

New Caledonia and French Polynesia

108. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions [77/142](#) and [77/139](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. New Caledonia

109. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [77/142](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2023/11](#)).

110. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observer for France and the representative of Papua New Guinea (also speaking on behalf of Fiji).

111. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June, statements were made by Philippe Gomes, Calédonie-Ensemble; Magalie Tingal, the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front; Laura Vendegou, Elue non indépendantiste de la province Sud (Rassemblement-Les Républicains); and Gil Brial, Elu non-indépendentiste, Mouvement Populaire Calédonien, Les Loyalistes.

112. At the 10th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.22](#).

113. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.22](#) without a vote.

114. 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

115. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [77/139](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2023/7](#)).

116. At the 4th meeting, the Delegate for International, European and Pacific Affairs, French Polynesia, Mareva Lechat-Kitalong made a statement.

117. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June, a statement was made by Carlyle G. Corbin, the Dependency Studies Project.

118. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.24](#) and the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

119. 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

120. 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 [77/134](#) to [77/138](#), [77/140](#), [77/141](#), [77/143](#), [77/144](#), [77/146](#) and [77/147](#).

A. American Samoa

121. The Special Committee considered the question of American Samoa at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

122. 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.109/2023/1](#)).

123. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.10](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

124. 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

125. The Special Committee considered the question of Anguilla at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

126. 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.109/2023/2](#)).

127. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.11](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

128. 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

129. The Special Committee considered the question of Bermuda at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

130. 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.109/2023/3](#)).

131. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.12](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

132. 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

133. The Special Committee considered the question of the British Virgin Islands at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

134. 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.109/2023/4](#)).

135. At the same meeting, the Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands, Natalio Wheatley, made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

136. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June, a statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley, University of Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy.

137. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.14](#) and introduced oral revisions, and the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote.

138. 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

139. The Special Committee considered the question of the Cayman Islands at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

140. 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.109/2023/5](#)).

141. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.15](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

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 VIII).

F. Guam

143. The Special Committee considered the question of Guam at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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.109/2023/9](#)).

145. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.16](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

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 X).

G. Montserrat

147. The Special Committee considered the question of Montserrat at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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.109/2023/10](#)).

149. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.17](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

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 XI).

H. Pitcairn

151. The Special Committee considered the question of Pitcairn at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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.109/2023/12](#)).

153. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.18](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

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 XIII).

I. Saint Helena

155. The Special Committee considered the question of Saint Helena at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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.109/2023/13](#)).

157. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.19](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

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 XIV).

J. Turks and Caicos Islands

159. The Special Committee considered the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

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.109/2023/15](#)).

161. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 4th meeting, on 12 June, statements were made by Benjamin Roberts, Turks and Caicos Forum; and Alpha Gibbs, Turks and Caicos Heritage Foundation.

162. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.20](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

163. 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

164. The Special Committee considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands at its 4th and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)).

165. 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.109/2023/16](#)).

166. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 4th meeting, on 12 June, a statement was made by Christopher Russel, OWA.

167. At the 10th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.21](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

168. 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

169. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 3rd and 10th meetings, on 12 and 23 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2023/SR.10](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [77/145](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2023/14](#)).

170. At the 3rd meeting, and with the consent of the Special Committee, Kelihiano Kalolo, Ulu-o-Tokelau made a statement. The Administrator of Tokelau, Donald Higgins, also made a statement on behalf of the administering Power.

171. At the 10th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.23](#). Subsequently, the delegation of Indonesia also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

172. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.23](#) without a vote.

173. 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)

174. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 7th meeting, on 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2023/SR.7](#)). 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.

175. 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.109/2023/6](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2023/L.8](#)).

176. At the 7th meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 12 June, statements were made by Gavin Short and John Birmingham of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and by María Clara Vernet and María Mercedes Moyano Walker.

177. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.8](#). Subsequently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement.

178. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Cuba (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and in its national capacity), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and in its national capacity), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, the Russian Federation, Ecuador, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, Antigua and Barbuda, China, the Syrian Arab Republic and Indonesia. Statements were also made by the observers for Uruguay (on behalf of Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and in its national capacity), Brazil (on behalf of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone (ZPCAS) and in its national capacity),

179. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/L.8](#) without a vote, following which the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a further statement.

180. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Guatemala, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, Colombia, Paraguay, Serbia, Angola, Mozambique, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

181. The text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2023/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),

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](#)).

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 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, the resolution adopted on 5 August 2020, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2021 and the resolution adopted on 23 June 2022, 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-seventh 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

182. 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 [77/129](#) of 12 December 2022, 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/78/63](#).

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 2023,¹

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

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution [77/164](#) of 14 December 2022 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-ninth 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 2023,³

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 resolution [2022/21](#) of 22 July 2022,

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/78/65](#).

² [E/2023/68](#).

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23)*.

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 [77/131](#) of 12 December 2022 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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

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

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 resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation 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-ninth 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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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,

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,

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/1](#).

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 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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by a representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2018 Pacific regional seminar,⁶

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

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2018.

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,

Recalling further 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,⁷

Noting another case before the United States judiciary regarding the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,⁸ and the decisions taken on the matter,

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

Recalling the creation in February 2022 of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee,

Noting the holding of the 2022 Constitutional Convention, from 29 August to 2 September 2022, at which 11 amendments were approved by delegates to the Convention,

Noting also the holding of the constitutional referendum in November 2022,

Acknowledging the outcome of the referendum held on 8 November 2022, in which the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto was rejected,

Noting the elections held in the Territory in November 2022 to elect 20 members of the American Samoa House of Representatives and the delegate to the United States House of Representatives,⁹

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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

⁷ 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*.

⁸ *Fitisemanu v. United States*.

⁹ See [A/AC.109/2023/1](#), paras. 4 and 7.

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 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. *Also takes note* of the outcomes of the referendum on proposed amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa held on 8 November 2022, in which voters approved five amendments, and the transmittal of these amendments to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America on 14 December 2022;

6. *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;

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *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;

10. *Also 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;

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 American Samoa, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

12. *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;

13. *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;

14. *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;

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

¹⁰ 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 2023,¹

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,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/2](#).

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 Anguilla 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 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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

Recalling also the statement made by a representative of the Government of Anguilla at the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,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,

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 See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022.

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

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,

Recalling also the recommencement of public consultations on the constitutional amendments in 2021,

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 relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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, 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 See [A/AC.109/2021/2](#), para. 3.

4. *Urges* that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;
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. *Calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate 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, 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 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

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/3](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by a representative of the Government of Bermuda at the 2021 Caribbean regional seminar,⁶

Recalling also 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

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2021.

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 Women⁷ in March 2017,

Recalling also the general elections that were held in October 2020,⁸

Recalling further relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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 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

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁸ See A/AC.109/2021/3, para. 4.

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,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 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-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/4](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by a representative of the Government of the British Virgin Islands at the 2023 Pacific regional seminar,⁶

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023.

Noting also the renewed invitation extended by the Premier to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory in 2023,

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

Cognizant of the Territory's associate membership in the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Association of Caribbean States,

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

Noting the general elections that were held in April 2023,⁷

Recalling the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry by the Governor on 18 January 2021, and aware of the publication in April 2022 of the report of the Commission of Inquiry,

Taking note of the agreement of the administering Power to the proposal by the territorial Government of National Unity on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry without the need for a temporary partial suspension of the Constitution,

Expressing concern that the administering Power put an Order in Council on hold to partially suspend the Constitution if the Government of the United Kingdom assesses that the implementation of the recommendations does not proceed satisfactorily,

Noting that the Constitutional Review Commission was established in 2022 to conduct a full review of the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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;
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. *Calls for* full respect of the Constitution and the mutual agreement with respect to the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry, and calls

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2023/4](#), "The Territory at a glance".

upon all parties involved to maintain dialogue and work in partnership in the interest of the people of the Territory;

6. *Stresses* the need for continued close monitoring 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 of the situation in the Territory, including the dispatch of a visiting mission, in close consultation with the administering Power and the territorial Government;

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, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

10. *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;

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 the British Virgin Islands, 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;

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 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;

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

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 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;

17. *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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/5](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by the honorary representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,⁶

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

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/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,

Recalling the general election that was held in April 2021,⁷

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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;

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

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2021/5](#), "The Territory at a glance".

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,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 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-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁸ 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 2023,¹

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,

Recalling also 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 people of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/7](#).

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 77/119 of 12 December 2022, 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,

Recalling also 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 people 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,

Taking note of the statement made by the representative of the President of French Polynesia in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 2022,⁷ and of the statement made by the representative of the new President of French Polynesia in 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 June 2023,

Recalling the invitation extended by the President of French Polynesia to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, as reiterated in the Fourth Committee at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly,⁸

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

Noting the legislative elections held in June 2022, and the territorial elections that were held in April 2023,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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

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.4/77/SR.3, paras. 2–6.

⁸ See A/C.4/76/SR.3, para. 15.

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. *Recalls* the previously made calls for the delisting of the Territory, and takes note of the statement made by the representative of the President of the Territory in June 2023 that the Territorial government fully supports a proper decolonization process and self-determination process under the scrutiny of the United Nations;

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 2016,⁹ 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 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

⁹ See [A/C.4/71/SR.3](#), paras. 71 and 72.

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 initiate a dialogue with the new Government of 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-ninth 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 2023,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam,² which contained the information requested by the General Assembly in resolution 77/140 of 12 December 2022, 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),

Recalling 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

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/9](#).

³ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁴ [A/56/61](#), annex.

of the people of Guam 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 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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 See resolution [75/123](#).

Noting with concern that a plebiscite on self-determination has been brought to a halt, which followed the ruling⁶ 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),⁷

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 ruling⁸ issued on 21 December 2018,

Recalling the expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, as renewed during the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,

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,

Noting the concerns most recently expressed by the Territory on this subject before the Special Committee at its 2022 session and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly,

⁶ 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.

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

⁸ District Court of Guam, *United States v. Guam et al.*, decision of 21 December 2018.

Recalling 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 also 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 further 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 general elections in the Territory that were held in November 2022,⁹

Expressing its concern at the devastating damage and impact caused in the Territory by Typhoon Mawar in 2023,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination, 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;¹⁰

⁹ See [A/AC.109/2023/9](#), paras. 2–4.

¹⁰ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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. *Also 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. *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;

13. *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;

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,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

¹¹ Resolution 70/1.

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 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;

17. *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;

18. *Calls 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 Typhoon Mawar that impacted the Territory in 2023;

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

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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/10](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

Recalling also 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 further 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,

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 See resolution [75/123](#).

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 2019,⁶

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

Reiterating its appreciation to the administering Power and to the Government and people of Montserrat for the cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission,

Reiterating its endorsement of the report, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission,⁷

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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 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

⁶ See A/AC.109/2020/10, para. 3.

⁷ A/AC.109/2020/20.

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. *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;

12. *Requests* the administering Power to continue 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;

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 all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

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

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 2023,¹

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,

Recalling also 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 holding on 12 December 2021 of the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia subsequent to the decision taken in June 2021 by the administering Power and the challenges involved and the concerns expressed over the results,

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

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 critical phase of its political development, following the holding of the third self-determination referendum on 12 December 2021, 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, including attainment of a full measure of self-government in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁴

Taking note of the commitment of all stakeholders in New Caledonia and the administering Power, going forward, to transparent and inclusive dialogue on the future status of the Territory, and noting in this regard the meetings convened in Paris on 28 October 2022 and from 11 to 14 April 2023, as well as the ministerial visits to New Caledonia from 12 to 15 September and 28 November to 4 December 2022 and 2 to 8 March and 1 to 5 June 2023,

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 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, and the agreement for the next visiting mission, as well as the conduct of self-determination referendums in New Caledonia on 4 November 2018, 4 October 2020 and 12 December 2021, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord,

⁴ Resolution 1514 (XV).

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

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

Recalling also the information presented to the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third and Fourth International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism since 2014, including the Pacific regional seminar held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023, and the relevant recommendations adopted by the Special Committee,

Taking note of the information provided by the administering Power at the Pacific regional seminars in 2022 and 2023 and at the Caribbean regional seminars held in the Parish of Saint John, Dominica, from 25 to 27 August 2021, in Grand Anse, Grenada, from 2 to 4 May 2019, and in Kingstown from 16 to 18 May 2017, respectively, as well as by New Caledonian parties at the seminars in 2017, 2022 and 2023, 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 2017,⁶

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, 4 October 2020 and 12 December 2021, 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,

Noting also the request of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord for an audit of the decolonization process and the outcome of the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia,

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,

Taking note of the welcome engagement of the administering Power, at the ministerial level, for consultations with the Bureau of the Special Committee in New

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/72/23)*.

York on 7 February 2022 and 19 May 2023 on the evolving developments in New Caledonia,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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 2023;

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. *Reiterates 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 recalls the holding of the third self-determination referendum on 12 December 2021 amid challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the boycott of the referendum by sectors of New Caledonia's eligible referendum voters, resulting in 96.50 per cent against full sovereignty and independence and 3.50 per cent in favour, with a voter turnout of 43.87 per cent;

7. *Also recalls* the decision taken by the administering Power to hold the third self-determination referendum in New Caledonia on 12 December 2021, and reiterates the call upon the administering Power and all relevant stakeholders in New Caledonia to ensure the peaceful, fair, just and transparent conduct of the next steps of the self-determination process, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord;

8. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures are important for the attainment of a full measure of self-government during the upcoming consultations between all stakeholders in the Territory;

9. *Welcomes*, in that respect, the continuous high-level political dialogue and commitment in good faith undertaken by the parties to the Nouméa Accord to find a pathway forward for the attainment of a full measure of self-government, post-Nouméa Accord, as provided in the Accord;

10. *Recalls* the outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord, 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. *Recalls 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. *Welcomes with appreciation* the willingness reiterated by the administering Power to the Special Committee to facilitate a new visiting mission to New Caledonia;

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, including attaining a full measure of self-government in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) and [1541 \(XV\)](#), 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 2 December 2022 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 continue to provide economic, social and other assistance to New Caledonia subsequent to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Territory;

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 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

and Fourth International Decades 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. *Reiterates* 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, and in this regard notes the 1 June 2023 report by the administering Power on its efforts related to the audit of the decolonization process and the outcome of the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia, as requested by the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord;

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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/12](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 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,

⁵ See resolution [75/123](#).

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 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,⁶

Noting the main challenges to socioeconomic development in the Territory, including the legacy of the child sexual abuse history and the continuing need to maintain stringent child protection procedures, the ageing population and its declining economic activity, with little or no migration to the island, and limited access to and from the island,

Recalling that a marine protected area was established around Pitcairn in September 2016, and noting the Pitcairn Islands marine protected area management plan for the period 2021–2026,⁷

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,

Noting the elections that were held in November 2022,⁸

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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,

⁶ See A/AC.109/2015/5, para. 14.

⁷ See A/AC.109/2022/12, para. 41.

⁸ See A/AC.109/2023/12, “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. *Notes* the development of a new strategy for repopulation and the creation of a child safeguarding framework in place in Pitcairn;

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,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 degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to monitor

⁹ 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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/13](#).

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 Saint Helena 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 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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by a representative of the Legislative Council of Saint Helena at the Pacific regional seminar held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023,⁶

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2023.

Recalling the extension by the administering Power to Saint Helena of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁷ in March 2017,

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

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,

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

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

Recalling the introduction of a ministerial system of government on the basis of the Constitutional Amendment Order that came into effect in October 2021,

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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

⁸ See [A/AC.109/2023/13](#), “The Territory at a glance”.

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,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 Saint Helena and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁹ Resolution 70/1.

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 2023,¹

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 77/145 of 12 December 2022,

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, including in relation to the question of self-determination for Tokelau,

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,

Recalling the decision of the General Fono on 23 May 2022 to revive dialogue on self-determination for Tokelau in the lead-up to the centenary of New Zealand

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

administration of Tokelau in February 2026, which was supported by New Zealand, as the administering Power,

Recalling also the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory on 23 January 2020, and noting also the change of the Ulu-o-Tokelau during the General Fono, on 19 May 2022, and further noting the democratic election of the General Fono on 26 January 2023,

Recalling further 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, as well as the statement made on 12 June 2023 to the resumed session of the Special Committee, 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 its revised National Strategic Plan 2021–2026, with a shared vision of “Thriving communities with opportunities for all”, including an ambition to confidently declare that Tokelau has made significant progress in its development journey and that it is ready and capable of proceeding to be a self-governing nation,

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 recalling 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, as well as at the 9th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 14 October 2022, and on 12 June 2023 at the resumed session of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

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.

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, where it further reaffirmed the strengthened partnership between New Zealand and Tokelau, including in combating the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and commitment to work in trilateral cooperation with the United Nations to deliver on the self-determination outcome as desired by the people of Tokelau,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recalling also the landmark first-ever international submarine fibre-optic cable connecting to Tokelau on 20 September 2021 for strengthening information and communications technology for the sustainable development of Tokelau,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the General Fono on 23 May 2022 to revisit the views of the people of Tokelau and revive the dialogue on the question of self-determination for Tokelau in the lead-up to the centenary of New Zealand administration of Tokelau in February 2026;

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. *Recalls 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, and notes the subsequent change of the Ulu-o-Tokelau on 19 May 2022 at the General Fono, and the most recent election of the General Fono on 26 January 2023 and the subsequent instalment of the Ulu-o-Tokelau in March 2023;

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing socioeconomic development challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to Tokelau, including the first recorded cases of community transmission in May 2023, and the close cooperation with the administering Power, New Zealand, neighbouring countries and the World Health Organization in successfully addressing the pandemic in Tokelau;

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 that has enabled Tokelau to be directly connected by an undersea fibre-optic cable on 20 September 2021 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. *Takes note* of the National Strategic Plan 2021–2026 of Tokelau, which further prioritizes good governance, human and infrastructure development, telecommunication, transportation, sustainability and climate change adaptation, as an important framework for the Territory's sustainable future, with a shared vision of "Thriving communities with opportunities for all";

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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/15](#).

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 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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

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 the statement made by a representative of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2022 Pacific regional seminar,⁶

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2022.

Recalling also the re-engagement of the Territory with the Special Committee in 2022,

Recalling further 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 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 also 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,

Recalling the general election that was held in February 2021,⁷

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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 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;

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2023/15](#), para. 18.

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,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 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

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/16](#).

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,

Welcoming the Pacific regional seminar on the theme “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”, held by the Special Committee in Bali, Indonesia, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia from 24 to 26 May 2023, 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 the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline 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 2021–2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,⁵

Recalling also 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,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

⁵ See resolution 75/123.

⁶ Available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars/2019.

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,

Recalling 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 2022,⁷

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

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;

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

⁷ See [A/AC.109/2023/16](#), para. 2.

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. *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;

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 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;

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 United States Virgin 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,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 all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

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 United States Virgin Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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 2023,¹

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 77/148 of 12 December 2022,

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-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).

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 formal meetings of the Special Committee;

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-ninth 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 2023,¹

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 77/149 of 12 December 2022, 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 the Pacific regional seminar was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023,

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 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

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).

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-ninth 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 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;

² Resolution 1514 (XV).

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

(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;

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

⁴ A/56/61, annex.

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 2023, in which the programme of work for 2024 is outlined, in particular the Caribbean 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 2023

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2023/1	American Samoa (working paper)	28 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/2	Anguilla (working paper)	27 January 2023
A/AC.109/2023/3	Bermuda (working paper)	27 January 2023
A/AC.109/2023/4	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	8 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/5	Cayman Islands (working paper)	7 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/6	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	20 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/7	French Polynesia (working paper)	5 January 2023
A/AC.109/2023/8	Gibraltar (working paper)	9 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/9	Guam (working paper)	9 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/10	Montserrat (working paper)	24 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/11	New Caledonia (working paper)	28 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/12	Pitcairn (working paper)	17 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/13	Saint Helena (working paper)	9 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/14	Tokelau (working paper)	17 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/15	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	20 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/16	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	15 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/17	Western Sahara (working paper)	19 January 2023
A/AC.109/2023/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2022 to March 2023	23 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/19	Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023	10 March 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	7 December 2022
A/AC.109/2023/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Secretariat	7 December 2022
A/AC.109/2023/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	6 June 2023

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2023/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	6 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.5	Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	6 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/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	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.7	Special Committee decision of 20 June 2022 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	19 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/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).	12 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration of 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	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.10	Question of American Samoa: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.11	Question of Anguilla: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.12	Question of Bermuda: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.13	Special Committee decision of 20 June 2022 concerning Puerto Rico Report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Bassam Sabbagh (Syrian Arab Republic)	23 February 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.14	Question of the British Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.15	Question of the Cayman Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.16	Question of Guam: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
A/AC.109/2023/L.17	Question of Montserrat: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.18	Question of Pitcairn: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.19	Question of Saint Helena: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.20	Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.21	Question of the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.22	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	20 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.23	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	19 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.24	Question of French Polynesia: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023
A/AC.109/2023/L.25	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	16 June 2023

^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

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023

I. Introduction

1. At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution [75/123](#), declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism ([A/56/61](#), annex) 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 [77/149](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2023, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific 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 would 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 will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2023, 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 Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 May 2023. 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 I). 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 Saint Lucia 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, Menissa Rambally, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste

and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Two administering Powers, France and the United States of America, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Gabon, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May 2023, Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia) and Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Côte d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (PRS/2023/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee:
 - (a) Strengthening cooperation and engagement with the administering Powers and relevant stakeholders;
 - (b) Exploring innovative steps in moving the decolonization agenda forward, on a case-by-case basis.
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 Pacific region;
 - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
 - (iii) In other regions;
 - (b) Addressing challenges posed by the pandemic undermining progress towards the implementation of sustainable development goals;
 - (c) Building resilience in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: key lessons and recommendations.
3. Role of the United Nations system in supporting the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Proposals to building transformative pathways to advance the Fourth International Decade.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 24 May 2023, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Tri Tharyat, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, addressed the seminar via a pre-recorded video.

B. Statements and discussions¹

13. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) and (b). The Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Russian Federation, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, the Congo and Argentina.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by Mickael Forrest on the question of New Caledonia and by one expert, John Connell. Statements were made by the representatives of France, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Nicaragua and Indonesia. A statement was also made by the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (b) and (c) and heard a presentation by one expert, Vivi Yulaswati. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Chile and Saint Lucia. A statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley. A statement was also made by the expert, Carlyle Corbin.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar resumed its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i). Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Statements were also made by four experts, Naïa Wateou, Roch Wamytan, Magalie Tingal and Julien Boanemoui.

17. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard a presentation by Eliezer Benito Wheatley on the question of the British Virgin Islands. Presentations were also made by two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Martha Quiñones Domínguez. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua, Belize and Fiji. An additional statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley.

18. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)² by John Birmingham, of Gibraltar by Joseph John Bossano, of Saint Helena by Karl Thrower and of Western Sahara by Sidi Mohamed Omar and Ghalla Bahiya. A statement was made by an expert, Facundo Rodríguez. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Argentina, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Nicaragua, Chile, the Congo, Dominica, Saint Lucia, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

19. At the fourth meeting, on 25 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii). Statements were made by the representatives of Belize, Gabon, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Senegal, Morocco and Fiji. An additional statement was made by John Birmingham. A statement was also made by an expert, Martha Quiñones Domínguez. Additional statements were made by the representatives of Algeria and Morocco. Additional statements were also made by Sidi Mohamed Omar. An additional statement was also made by an expert, Facundo Rodríguez.

¹ 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 Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

20. At the same meeting, the seminar resumed its consideration of agenda item 2 (b) and (c). Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon. A statement was also made by Sidi Mohamed Omar and Eliezer Benito Wheatley. A statement was also made by an expert, Martha Quiñones Domínguez.

21. Also at the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard presentations via a pre-recorded video by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris, and the Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Alexander. A statement was made by the representative of India. A statement was also made by Sidi Mohamed Omar. A statement was also made by an expert, Carlyle Corbin. Statements were also made Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Mickael Forrest.

22. At the same meeting, the seminar considered agenda item 4. Statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Cuba and France. Statements were also made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Joseph John Bossano. Four experts made statements, Carlyle Corbin, Martha Quiñones Domínguez, Magalie Tingal and Roch Wamytan. An additional statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley. An additional statement was also made by an expert, Magalie Tingal. An additional statement was also made by the representatives of France and Papua New Guinea.

23. At the 5th meeting, on 26 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar agreed on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

24. At the 5th meeting, on 26 May, the Rapporteur presented a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Indonesia (see appendix III), which the seminar participants adopted.

25. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2023/CRP.4 as orally revised, which the seminar adopted.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Tri Tharyat, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

27. 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.

28. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2023/19](#), annex), participating members would present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee, in June 2023.

29. Participating members welcomed the offer by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the 2024 regional seminar of the Special Committee, as announced by the representatives

of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Antigua and Barbuda at the seminar, respectively, and noted the support received in the seminar.³ The Chair noted that she had been previously informed of additional expressions of interest to host the 2024 Caribbean Regional Seminar and that the decision on the venue and timing would be made by the Special Committee.

A. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond

30. 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,⁴ 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;

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

⁴ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

(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 and its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 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 making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, 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 77/149 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France and the United States of America, 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 that 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, and the importance that the relevant working papers prepared by the Secretariat include further information on the efforts of the Secretary-General in that regard;

(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, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Gabon, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine and Zimbabwe in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non Self Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond in the Pacific

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

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Expressed solidarity with the people of Guam, affected by Typhoon Mawar;

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela underlining the responsibility of the administering Power in providing the necessary assistance to the Territory in line with Article 73 of the Charter of the

United Nations, and expressing support for the dispatch of a visiting mission to the Territory;

(c) Also noted the statement made by the representative of the United States of America giving thanks for the expressions of concern and solidarity with the people of Guam, affirming the importance of building resilience in the Territories, and stating that, in response to typhoon Mawar, the President of the United States had declared a state of emergency and ordered federal assistance and the coordination of relief efforts.

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of New Caledonia and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;⁵

(b) Noted the statement by the representative that New Caledonia was entering a transition period in which it welcomed the support of its administering Power in involving the United Nations to continue the process of decolonization;

(c) Also noted the statement by the representative regarding policies and plans towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as measures towards the protection of its resources, including through a forum to determine their sustainable and responsible use and a draft law establishing a 10-year moratorium on their exploration;

(d) Further noted the statement by the representative on the fundamental role of the territorial Government in the discussions regarding the institutional future of the Territory;

(e) Noted the statement by the representative of the administering Power regarding its commitment and cooperation in the decolonization process of New Caledonia, including through the continued efforts of the Minister of the Interior in engaging with all parties;

(f) Also noted the statement by the representative that the conditions and validity of the third referendum had been recognized by various bodies and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had not impeded its conduct, and that security had been deployed to allow Caledonians to vote and for protection against protest and pressure;

(g) Further noted the statement by the representative that the reports requested by the pro-independence parties would be submitted and an audit of the Nouméa Accord would be shared during the substantive session of the Special Committee;

(h) Took note of the invitation reiterated by the administering Power for a third visiting mission;

(i) Noted the statement by the representative of the President of the Assembly of the South Province that the people of New Caledonia had rejected independence in the three referendums and, while political partners were to discuss the way forward, pro-independence groups had not participated, in particular in the trilateral meetings held in Paris;

(j) Also noted the statement by the representative regarding the exclusion of people from the electoral body and the inability of New Caledonians to acquire citizenship and to vote;

(k) Further noted the statement by the President of the Congress of New Caledonia recognizing the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in

⁵ Member of the 17th Government, in charge of sectors including culture, youth, sports, promotion of solidarity and tourism.

building an equitable future for all, of technologies to overcome challenges and of civil participation and international cooperation;

(l) Noted of the statement by the President to ensure full sovereignty and social cohesion, with the well-being of the people as the key indicator;

(m) Also noted the request of the President to the Special Committee for support before the International Court of Justice regarding the right of New Caledonia to choose its own future in the light of the 2021 referendum and for assistance as mediator between pro-independence parties and the administering Power, as well as to the United Nations for support in guaranteeing fair and transparent negotiations;

(n) Further noted the statement by the representative of the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste regarding the dispute between the administering Power and the people who did not recognize the outcome of the 2021 referendum, which jeopardizes sustainable development in the Territory;

(o) Noted the statement by the representative that the call for non-participation in the 2021 referendum had been due to COVID-19, which had affected the Kanaks and led them to decide that the referendum could not be held under normal conditions;

(p) Also noted the statement by the representative that the Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste would be taking the case to the International Court of Justice as a last resort after having been on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories for 37 years and still continuing to suffer, and asking for the support of the Special Committee in those efforts;

(q) Further noted the statement by the representative expressing commitment to work constructively to find a fair and equitable solution for the people in New Caledonia and their belief in a consensus that respected the right to self-determination;

(r) Noted of the statement by an indigenous leader that, 30 years after the Nouméa Agreement, France had not fulfilled its obligations as an administering Power, had refused to accept the rules of Kanaks and had decided unilaterally to hold the third referendum;

(s) Also noted the statement regarding subsequent social and cultural challenges, and the risk of backtracking and the call on the international community to engage in the decolonization process of the Territory;

(t) Further noted the statement by the representative of Papua New Guinea recalling the statement by the Melanesian Spearhead Group to the Fourth Committee in 2022, in which the group had expressed concerns over the manner the 12 December 2021 self-determination referendum had been conducted and that the assertion by the administering Power that there had been no problems was incorrect, and for the consequences of the referendum and the need to work with the people of New Caledonia and the administering Power to be taken into account to ensure a future that people want;

(u) Noted the statement by the representative of the Melanesian Spearhead Group referring to the spirit and intent of the Nouméa Accord, as well as the circumstances and manner in which the third referendum had been conducted in December 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the call to postpone it, and calling into question the credibility and legitimacy of the results when 56.13 per cent of the registered voters did not participate.

C. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non Self Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond in the Caribbean

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

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 information provided;⁶

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative that the United Nations decolonization framework continued to be applicable to the British Virgin Islands and that, for the Territory, which had been financially and economically self-sufficient since 1978 and did not receive grant aid or any budgetary support from the administering Power, decolonization was primarily a question of changing political status;

(c) Also noted the statement recalling the crisis caused by the 2022 report of the Commission of Inquiry, the decisions of the administering Power not to pursue direct rule and to put on hold an Order in Council that could suspend the Constitution at its discretion, despite the government of national unity having developed a reform programme; the position of the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States had been consistent that the Order should be removed and the right to self-determination of the people of the Territory should be respected;

(d) Further noted the statement that the territorial Government, as well as parliamentarians of the United Kingdom, considered that the Order should be removed given the commitment to reform and good governance demonstrated by the territorial Government and the wish expressed that United Kingdom would move swiftly to remove the order before May 2024;

(e) Noted the statement that, over the past year, the territorial Government had heeded the wishes of its people who wanted their government to put in place stronger checks and balances, increase transparency, improve the delivery of public services and uphold integrity in public life;

(f) Also noted the information provided that the new territorial Government elected in April 2023 had a fresh mandate to continue the reform process and to transition the Territory to a more diversified, tourism-led, investment-driven, low-carbon economy, with a strong focus on implementing the national sustainable development plan launched in February 2023;

(g) Further noted the statement that, at the 2023 Joint Ministerial Council, the Territory had expressed a desire for a new modern partnership with the administering Power based on mutual respect, responsibility and respect for international law; however, the Order in Council in reserve remained an impediment to normalized relations;

(h) Noted the statement providing updates regarding the work of the Constitutional Review Commission launched in 2022, which among other things was considering a mechanism for permanently transferring to the territorial Government the powers reserved to the Governor;

⁶ Special Envoy of the Premier.

(i) Also noted the statement that complete decolonization of the Territory should be made in partnership with the administering Power, the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations;

(j) Further noted the statement making specific requests, namely, that: (i) the Special Committee dispatch a visiting mission in 2023; (ii) relevant United Nations departments provide assistance with a local education campaign on the self-determination options; (iii) the United Nations system provide assistance with resource mobilization efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; (iv) the United Nations system redouble its efforts to implement the annual General Assembly resolution adopted on the question of the British Virgin Islands; and (v) the self-governance assessment be referenced in the resolution and shared with members of the Committee.

With regard to the situation in Montserrat:

Expressed their appreciation for the presence of a representative of the Territory⁷ and the statement made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda,

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert from Puerto Rico and the information provided;

(b) Noted the statement by the expert that most of the Territories, as well as Puerto Rico, are small islands that face the challenges of climate change, with a particular impact on the tourism sector, and that while all Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected, such challenges are particularly linked to Goals 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 7 (affordable and clean energy);

(c) Also noted the statement made by the expert regarding innovative measures needed for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the Territories, including the provision of grants for infrastructure by the administering Powers, aimed at strengthening the territorial economies in the process of adapting to climate change, within an endogenous planning model, avoiding falling into a debt trap and without exogenous political control;

(d) Further noted the statement made by the expert regarding climate-resilient development paths that can help the Territories to be prepared to deal with exceptional situations, make progress in the road towards sovereignty and ensure the achievement of the three Goals mentioned, in particular through the development of risk management plans, and building energy and environmental sovereignty.

D. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond in the other regions

33. 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

⁷ Director of External Affairs.

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 Gibraltar 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 Saint Helena:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of the Territory and expressed appreciation for the information provided;⁸

(b) Noted the statement that, in the period 2018-2019, the previous territorial Government had decided, with the support of the administering Power, to move towards closer ties with the United Nations by declaring Saint Helena a small island developing State and joining one of the regional commissions; however, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Territory, the political focus had shifted;

(c) Also noted the statement that, in April 2023, the elected members of the Legislative Council had unanimously decided that the primary remit of the Special Committee continued to have significant meaning for the people of Saint Helena;

(d) Further noted the statement that a constitutional amendment order that had come into effect on 25 October 2021 had made a provision for the introduction of a ministerial system of government to replace the previous committee system;

(e) Noted the statement regarding the general election held in October 2021, and that the community had placed social responsibility high on its list of priorities for the Government and other elected members;

(f) Also noted the statement about the long-term reliance on the financial support from the administering Power, mainly owing to the complex challenges associated with developing the economy of Saint Helena, including factors such as geographical isolation leading to higher travel and transportation costs, a small shrinking tax base and large-scale emigration, which has increased the age dependency ratio;

(g) Further noted the statement that it was time for Saint Helena to engage with the Special Committee and other specialized entities of the United Nations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the Special Committee

⁸ Member of the Legislative Council.

could help Saint Helena gain access to the full range of institutions of the United Nations in order to achieve the final goal of ensuring that the people of the Saint Helena can hold a referendum on self-determination free from any external pressures and influences in an informed way.

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

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

(a) Welcomed the participation by pre-recorded video message of the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 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 77/149, as well as to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 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, OHCHR, 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 ESCAP, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Fourth Decade

35. 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/2022/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 [77/149](#) 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

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Antigua and Barbuda	Claxton Duberry
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Carmen Rosa Rios
Chile	Andres Alejandro Borlone Diaz
Congo	Jean Claude Manzeri Ngondo ^a
Côte d'Ivoire	Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo
	Yassi Maximin Brou
Cuba	Yusnier Romero Puentes ^a
Dominica	Sheldon Peter Anthony
Fiji	Amenatave Vakasavuwaqa Yauvoli
	Bulou Keleni Gutugutuwai Tikomaisuva
India	Prakash Gupta
	Neeharika Singh
	Saurabh
Indonesia	Tri Tharyat
	Arrmanatha C. Nasir
	Caka A. Awal
	Agung. C. Sumirat
	Simon D. I. Soekarno
	Danang Waskito
	Arianto Surojo
	Mariska D. Dhanutirto
	Suprianto Suwito
	Dwi Wisnu Budi Prabowo
Iraq	Ammar Hameed Saadallah Al-Khalidy
Nicaragua	Compañero Gadiel Arce Mairena
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa ^a
Russian Federation	Rodion Grudinsky ^a
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ghislaine Vivienne Anne-Marie Williams
Saint Lucia	Menissa Marcelle Rambally ^a

	Carlton Henry
	Michelle Joseph ^a
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Inga Rhonda King ^a
Sierra Leone	Alhaji Fanday Turay ^a
	Idriss Samaguty Tejan
Syrian Arab Republic	Bassam Sabbagh ^a
Timor-Leste	Karlito Nunes
	Joaquim José Costa Chaves
	Aurelio Barros
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Joaquín Alberto Pérez Ayestarán
	Radamés J. Gómes Azuaje
States Members of the United Nations	
Algeria	Amar Bendjama
	Lahcene Kaid Slimane
	Toufik Koudri
	Nazim Khaldi
	Abderrazak Tas
Angola	João Iambeno Gimolieca
Argentina	Gonzalo Sebastián Mazzeo
	Maximiliano Javier Alvarez
Belize	Carlos Fuller
Gabon	Lilly Stella Ngyema Ndong
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Ouadie Benabdellah
	Redouane Houssaini
	Omar Kadiri
	Abdelaziz Haouaria
	Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat
	Majdoline Mouflih
	Mouna Ouazzani Chahdi
	Zouhair Kenfaoui
	Walid Hasbi

Namibia	Helena Ndapewa Kuzee
Senegal	Diamane Diome
South Africa	Murray Duncan Marshall Sterley
Spain	Pablo Gutiérrez-Segú
Ukraine	Vasyl Hamyanin
Zimbabwe	Tirivavi Mawire

Administering Powers

France	Marine de Carne De Trécesson
United Kingdom	Winda Listiyani
United States	Anthony Cartelli

Non-Self-Governing Territories

British Virgin Islands	Eliezer Benito Wheatley Ricardo Wheatley Siobhan Flax
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^b	John Birmingham
Gibraltar	Joseph John Bossano Nicholas Passano
Montserrat	Debra Lewis
New Caledonia	Mickael Forrest
Saint Helena	Karl Thrower
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO) M'hamed Abba Ghalla Bahiya

Regional organizations

Melanesian Spearhead Group	Leonard Louma Christopher Waiwori
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Experts

Julien Boanemoui
Renaldo Bourgeois
John Connell
Carlyle Corbin
Martha Quiñones Domínguez

Facundo Rodríguez

Magalie Tingal

Roch Wamytan

Naïa Wateou

Vivi Yulaswati

^a Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

^b 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).

Appendix II

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar

Delivered via pre-recorded video

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to greet all participants of the 2023 regional seminar of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization.

I thank the Government and people of Indonesia for hosting this important event.

And I commend your focus this year on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, we are leaving more than half the world behind.

Progress has stalled – and in some cases even reversed.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the path to peace and prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

No country can afford to see them fail.

But for many Non-Self-Governing Territories that are small islands on the frontlines of the climate emergency, the stakes are existential.

As a global community, we must ensure the Territories have the resources and support they need to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, build resilience, and invest in their future.

Today, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain under the purview of the Special Committee.

Our shared goal is to give greater priority to the decolonization agenda and spur accelerated action.

This process must be guided by the aspirations and needs of the Territories on a case-by-case basis.

I am grateful to the Committee for your unwavering commitment to the complete elimination of colonialism.

And I count on you to generate new ideas and open new pathways for stronger cooperation between the Territories, administering Powers and other stakeholders, in accordance with relevant resolutions.

Together, we can turn the tide and kickstart a new drive for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Territories and beyond.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you.

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Indonesia

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met in Bali from 24 to 26 May 2023 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard important statements at the opening of the seminar by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, and the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Tri Tharyat,

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

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

