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

Cayman Islands

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. The Cayman Islands is a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The basis of the relationship between the Government of the United Kingdom and its Non-Self-Governing Territories is enshrined in the constitution of each Territory. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 grants the right of British citizenship to “British Overseas Territory citizens”.

2. The Territory is located some 180 miles west of Jamaica and about the same distance south of Cuba. It comprises three islands: Grand Cayman (76 square miles), Cayman Brac (15 square miles) and the adjacent and largely undeveloped Little Cayman (11 square miles). The capital, George Town, is located on Grand Cayman.

3. According to information provided by the administering Power, the population of the Territory fell an estimated 7.3 per cent, from approximately 57,000 in 2008 to 53,000 in 2009. The population is about 59 per cent Caymanian and 41 per cent non-Caymanian.¹

4. The currency of the Territory is the Cayman dollar, which is aligned with the United States dollar at approximately C\$ 1 to US\$ 1.2. The major trading partner of the Cayman Islands is the United States of America.

5. The Territory was sighted by Christopher Columbus and two centuries later by Francis Drake. The first recorded British settlements were established between 1661 and 1671. The first land grant by the British Governor of Jamaica, in 1734, was made with a view to developing an existing settlement and included the use of slaves. A tradition of self-government gradually grew in the Territory, with matters of public concern initially decided at meetings of all free men. A legislative assembly was established in 1831 and slavery was abolished in 1834. Women were given the right to vote in 1958. The constitutional relationship between the Territory and Jamaica remained ambiguous until 1863, when an act of the United Kingdom Parliament made the Cayman Islands a dependency of Jamaica. When Jamaica achieved independence in 1962, the Islands remained under the British crown.

II. Constitutional, legal and political issues

6. The Constitution of the Cayman Islands entered into force on 6 November 2009, following years of public discussion, negotiations between the territorial Government and the United Kingdom and a referendum held in May of that year. Out of 11,244 voters, 62.7 per cent voted in favour of the draft Constitution.

7. The most significant changes brought about by the 2009 Constitution included an enforceable Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities; the establishment of the offices of Premier and Deputy Governor and an increase in the number of

Note: The information contained in the present paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government; and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Further details are contained in previous working papers available from www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization/docs.

¹ Information received from the administering Power on 7 January 2011. Other sources: The Economist Intelligence Unit, Cayman Islands and the Caribbean Report, December 2010.

elected members of the Legislative Assembly from 15 to 18. The Constitution also provides for the establishment of a number of new entities, including a National Security Council vested with the authority to make recommendations to the Governor on matters relating to the internal security of the Islands, which began its work on 3 March 2010, and for the appointment of a Judicial and Legal Services Commission, which had been formally established and had convened a number of times. The Commission advises the Governor on appointments to and removal from office and on disciplinary action in relation to the holders of certain judicial and legal offices, including the Chief Justice, Grand Court judges and magistrates, the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions (who has responsibility for the conduct of all criminal prosecutions, a function previously exercised by the Attorney General). Further, the 2009 Constitution created an Electoral Boundary Commission, which commenced its work in 2010, including through public consultations, on options for changes to electoral boundaries such as increasing the number of single-member constituencies. Freedom of information is enshrined in the Constitution and the independence and neutrality of the Complaints Commissioner are secured. Provision is also made for a Constitutional Commission, a Human Rights Commission and a Commission for Standards in Public Life, all three of which had been formally established and were operational.

8. Under the Constitution, the Governor, who is appointed for four years by the British crown, continues to be responsible for external affairs, defence, internal security and the civil service. The Governor, Duncan Taylor, was sworn in on 15 January 2010.

9. The Territory's Cabinet is headed by a Premier. The Governor appoints as Premier the elected member of the Territory's 15-member Legislative Assembly recommended by a majority of the elected members who are members of the party with the majority of seats. The Cabinet is chaired by the Governor and consists of five ministers elected by and from within the elected membership of the Legislative Assembly, and two appointed civil servants.

10. Until 2000, there were no formal political parties in the Territory and groupings known as the National Team, the Democratic Alliance and Team Cayman acted as political organizations. Following the defeat of the National Team in the 2000 general elections, a majority of the Legislative Assembly members formed the United Democratic Party (UDP) on 5 November 2001. In 2002, the opposition formed the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) and, in February 2005, the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) was formed but is no longer active.

11. A general election was held on 20 May 2009. UDP won over the incumbent PPM, winning 9 of the 15 seats in the Legislative Assembly. PPM won five seats and an independent candidate secured one seat. As a result, McKeeva Bush, leader of the UDP, replaced Kurt Tibbetts of PPM as the Leader of Government Business (now called the Premier). A general election is due to be held in 2013.

12. Justice in the Cayman Islands is administered at three levels: the Summary Court (including the Youth Court), the Grand Court and the Court of Appeal. The Summary Court has civil and criminal jurisdiction. Appeals from the Summary Court lie to the Grand Court. The Grand Court is a superior court of record and administers the common law, the law of equity of England and locally enacted laws and applied laws. Appeals from the Grand Court lie to the Court of Appeal, composed of a president and not less than two judges of appeal. A judge of the

Grand Court may exercise any of the powers of a single judge of the Court of Appeal. Further appeal lies, in certain circumstances, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

13. Speaking at the Pacific Regional Seminar, held in Nouméa from 18 to 20 May 2010 under the auspices of the Special Committee on Decolonization, Steve A. McField, the representative of the Cayman Islands, said that the Government of the Cayman Islands wished to inform the Committee that the 2009 Constitution had been approved by a large majority of its voters in a special referendum. He reaffirmed that the Government of the Cayman Islands had no mandate from its people to pursue full political independence.

III. Budget

14. According to the administering Power, unaudited financial results indicated that during the 2009/10 financial year ending on 30 June 2010, the Cayman Islands Government registered a net deficit of CI\$ 14.9 million compared to a net deficit of CI\$ 81 million for the previous financial year.

15. In the 2010/11 budget document, the Government forecasted total operating revenues of CI\$ 510.3 million, with total operating expenses of CI\$ 542.2 million, resulting in a forecasted net operating deficit of CI\$ 31.9 million as at 30 June 2011. In terms of capital expenditure, the Government expected to spend some CI\$ 128.3 million. The capital expenditure programme included investment in education, transport infrastructure, new Government offices and financial support in the form of capital investments in statutory authorities and Government-owned companies.

16. Under the Territory's public management reform process, a new Public Service Management Law came into effect in 2007. The law constituted the second stage of reform efforts, after the Public Management and Finance Law of 2005. All of the approximately 3,600 civil servants were affected by the reform process, which allowed for decentralized personnel management decisions, performance-based assessments and related incentives.

17. The principal sources of Government revenue are import duties, financial services, fees and stamp duties. In 2010, the Cayman Islands endeavoured to find new revenue sources and to diversify its economy after the Territory ruled out direct taxation in accordance with the findings of an independent economic commission appointed by the territorial Government.

18. As outlined in the territorial Government's 2010 budget address, the Territory's five key deficit-reduction strategies constituted the major pillars of the Government's short-term policy for the financial year 2010/11. These strategies were: (a) public sector reform; (b) limits on new public sector borrowing; (c) broadening of the Government's revenue base; (d) Government expenditure reduction; and (e) private/public financing initiatives.

19. The Office of the Auditor General described in 2010 the state of financial accountability as a "national crisis" that needed to be addressed on an urgent basis. According to media reports, the territorial Government was considering how better to implement the Territory's Public Management and Finance Law. For instance, in 2010, the Information Commissioner's Office published a comprehensive list of

Government offices, with information on their policies and records and the procedures that govern them. Also, in February 2011, the Governor announced that the Public Management and Finance Law and the systems underpinning Government personnel and financial management would be reviewed by an official from the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as it was clear that the financial system was not operating properly and ways to improve the situation needed to be found.

IV. Economic conditions

A. General

20. The Cayman Islands has one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean. The economy is based on financial services, the dominant sector in the local economy, and tourism. According to the Cayman Islands annual economic report for 2009, published by the territorial Government's Economic and Statistics Office in May 2010, the Territory's financial services industry and tourism declined in 2009 owing to weak economic activity in the major source markets.

21. According to information provided by the administering Power, for 2009, the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at approximately CI\$ 46,278. Indicators for the first nine months of 2010 suggested that the Cayman Islands economy was declining, with an estimated fall in GDP of between 3.5 and 4.5 per cent compared with 2009.

22. Total imports decreased from CI\$ 735.9 million in 2009 to CI\$ 496.9 million in 2010. Although imports continued to far outstrip exports, the trade gap is customarily offset by earnings from the tourism and financial services sectors. Exports in 2009 amounted to CI\$ 16.0 million. The trade deficit was therefore CI\$ 719.9 million, a decline from CI\$ 867.0 million in 2008. In its budget policy address of November 2010, the territorial Government expressed confidence that, in spite of the economic crisis, the Territory's financial services and tourism industries would help sustain a strong economy.

23. The territorial Government's Department of Commerce and Investment, which had been tasked in 2010 with renewing its focus on investment facilitation, is responsible for stimulating and facilitating appropriate long-term, inward and local investment in the Cayman Islands. It is also charged with providing technical assistance to local entrepreneurs and small businesses and linking investors with potential customers, suppliers and other business partners.

B. Agriculture and fisheries

24. The Territory's Department of Agriculture continued to seek to develop sustainable agricultural production in order to promote self-sufficiency and food security for the Cayman Islands and to preserve and protect the health of the Islands' plants and animals. According to information provided by the administering Power, in 2009 the sector contributed 0.4 per cent to total GDP, or CI\$ 8.9 million, up from CI\$ 8.1 million in 2008. Most of this gain came from increases in the production of

domestic crops, such as bananas, plantains, pears, cassavas and neese berries, which rose from CI\$ 4.6 million in 2008 to CI\$ 5.3 million in 2009.

25. In 2010, the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture joined others in the region working in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida to launch a Caribbean pest diagnostic network that allows technical staff to share digital images of pests and to access experts worldwide.

26. In the area of production, the Department continued to place emphasis on expanding the adoption of protected agriculture systems as the major mechanism for increasing domestic production of fresh vegetables, particularly for the winter market. Orchard development was another area of focus both through the establishment of a demonstration orchard in Cayman Brac and the use of the Department's orchard in Grand Cayman. The territorial Government owns a turtle farm that continued to supply meat to restaurants and the public with a view to protecting the species.

C. Tourism

27. According to the 2010 budget address, tourism and tourism-related services accounted for 30 to 40 per cent of the Territory's GDP. According to information provided by the administering Power, in 2009 there were a total of 1,520,400 arrivals, of which 271,958 came by air, a decline of 10 per cent compared with 2008. Improvements in arrivals during 2010 were possible in spite of the ongoing global economic crisis thanks to close cooperation and collaboration among the Cayman Islands Government Ministry and the Department of Tourism, the Sister Islands Tourism Association and the private sector. According to the territorial Government, the emergence of medical and sports tourism, two new areas of focus in the tourism industry, was expected to stimulate growth of the local economy.

28. According to the 2010 budget address, a multi-destination tourism partnership with Cuba was expected to prove important to the future of the Territory's tourism industry. Further information provided by the administering Power indicated that, in conjunction with Cayman Airways, the territorial Government was examining the feasibility of increased visits from possible new tourist markets such as South America.

D. Financial services

29. The financial sector is one of the main pillars of the Cayman Islands economy. According to information provided by the administering Power and published estimates, the financial services sector accounted for approximately 60 per cent of employment, 43 per cent of GDP and 40 per cent of Government revenue. The Territory remained among the top international financial centres in the world.

30. As reflected in the Cayman Islands annual economic report for 2009, the sector continued to exhibit the adverse effects of the global economic crisis, as all performance indicators weakened. Insurance licences continued to grow, but at a lower pace compared with the previous year. Downturns were recorded in mutual funds registration (-3.5 per cent), stock exchange listings (-16.9 per cent) and new company registrations (-33.7 per cent), while banks and trusts continued to fall by

4.3 per cent. According to media reports, in late 2010, 9,623 funds were registered in the Caymans, 577 fewer than the record number of 10,200, reached in 2008. The formation of new funds had increased by 5 per cent a month since 2009, with an average of 105 funds opening every month and terminations falling by 40 per cent, or some 45 a month.

31. According to the 2010 budget address, the Ministry of Finance was pursuing a number of strategic priorities to further modernize and enhance regulation and supervision to ensure that the Territory kept on par with the evolving international regulatory standards and best practices that were relevant to the financial services business.

E. Infrastructure, transport and construction

32. According to the Territory's annual economic report, construction declined in 2009, as indicated by the value of building permits, which reached CI\$ 355.0 million (29.3 per cent lower than in 2008). The value of planning approvals also fell by 14.6 per cent to CI\$ 434.2 million. In contrast to this general trend, in 2009 the territorial Government issued 540 certificates of occupancy on Grand Cayman valued at CI\$ 279.6 million, 25.6 per cent higher than in 2008.

33. According to the 2010 budget address, several major construction projects were under way in the Territory, such as a new sewerage system and a waste-to-energy facility, each valued at CI\$ 150 million. The territorial Government's housing development, which involved building affordable homes, was ongoing in 2010.

34. The road network of the Cayman Islands comprised approximately 785 kilometres of roadways, the majority of which were in Grand Cayman (485 kilometres). In 2010, the Territory's National Roads Authority resurfaced approximately 19 kilometres of the north coast road in Cayman Brac and 90 district roads.

35. The port of George Town is the main gateway for cruise ships. The Cayman Islands is served by scheduled passenger liners and a number of locally owned or registered vessels that provide cargo services. According to the Governor's 2010 Throne Speech, the territorial Government initiated an infrastructural development plan that encompassed a new cargo facility in East End, the improvement of the North Sound Channel to accommodate mega-yachts and the development of new cruise berthing facilities.

36. International air services are provided between Grand Cayman and Canada, Cuba, Europe, Honduras, Jamaica and the United States. Domestic airline services and charters operate between the three islands.

F. Telecommunications and utilities

37. As a leading international business centre, the Territory is dependent on telecommunications and utility services. There are currently four telephone companies providing fixed and/or mobile voice and data services, 16 FM radio broadcasting stations and one television broadcaster. According to statistics for 2009 published by the Territory's Information and Communications Technology

Authority, the total number of lines at the end of the year was 144,850, representing an 8 per cent increase over the 2008 figure, or 2.74 telephone lines per resident. There were also 34 broadband connections per 100 residents.

38. During 2009, the consumption of utility services increased as follows: water consumption by 5.3 per cent to 1,741.9 million gallons and electricity by 6 per cent to 539.56 million kilowatt-hours in 2009.

V. Social conditions

A. Labour and immigration

39. According to information provided by the administering Power, a census of population and housing was conducted in the Cayman Islands from 10 October to 14 December 2010. A preliminary census count was expected to be released at the end of March 2011, while the final census report was expected by December 2011.

40. Based on information contained in the Cayman Islands annual economic report for 2009, the labour force was estimated at 36,100, approximately 7.4 per cent lower than in 2008. The unemployment rate rose to 6 per cent compared to 4 per cent in 2008. The number of unemployed persons rose by approximately 630. The labour force declined by approximately 3,000.

41. According to the territorial Government, the labour supply in the financial, construction, retail and office sectors is essentially demand-driven, with some 50 per cent of the demand being met through expatriate workers. A total of 21,429 work permits were in effect in 2009. The number dropped to 21,037 in December 2010, a fall of 13 per cent. The reduction was attributed to the global economic downturn and the number of work permit holders who became permanent residents.

42. A graduated system of rights enables foreign workers to have work permits for a period of seven years. Workers with particular skills that are in demand may be designated as “key employees” and granted work permits for a further two years. During that additional period, they would become eligible to apply for permanent residence in the eighth year. Workers who are not selected as key employees must leave the Territory after their seventh year, but may return and work again after an absence of one year. Persons who obtain permanent residence will become eligible for naturalization as a British Overseas Territories citizen after one year, after which they may apply for the status of a native-born resident, or “belongership”. According to the territorial Government, under a pilot accreditation system developed in 2010, corporations that promote the Caymanian workforce were given preferential treatment by the work permit system. Further, under a new annual certificate policy, special caregivers are allowed to remain in the Territory on a year-to-year basis beyond the normal seven years.

43. In that connection, the territorial Government issued a directive in 2010 that certain business activities were reserved for Caymanians, such as trucking, commercial fishing, painting, auto repair, radio broadcasting, electrical and plumbing trades, air conditioning, water sports, office supplies, beauty salons, real estate agencies, security companies and transportation. At the same time, the territorial Government piloted a “Passport2Success” programme to assist

unemployed youth aged 16 to 19 to develop the skills necessary to find and maintain gainful employment. Twenty-two participants completed the programme in 2010.

B. Education and cultural affairs

44. Education is compulsory for all resident children between 4 years and 9 months, and 16 years of age. The public education system caters to about two thirds of Caymanian children, with the remainder attending fee-paying schools. Tuition is free for Caymanians at the public primary and high schools. Private schools also provide primary and/or secondary education and are monitored by the territorial Government.

45. Two public and two private institutions provide tertiary education. The University College of the Cayman Islands, until 2004 known as the Community College, is owned by the territorial Government and administered independently. The Cayman Islands Law School, affiliated with the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, is also Government-owned, whereas the International College of the Cayman Islands and the St. Matthew's University are private.

46. In 2009, a comprehensive restructuring of secondary education in Grand Cayman was initiated and completed for the start of the 2010 school year, with the creation of two high schools for students aged 7 to 11 and the discontinuation of middle school. A further education programme was also launched in 2010 to provide a bridge between high school and employment and/or higher education. The territorial Government began a programme at George Town Primary School to pilot an early childhood education programme. Technical and vocational training was a priority in 2010, particularly targeting unemployed youth aged 16 to 25. New programmes were designed and existing programmes modified to make externally accredited vocational, career and technical education subjects available at high school. Among the subjects were leisure and tourism development, catering, music technology, health and social care. At the same time, work on the construction of two new high school campuses continued during 2010/11, with a view to completing work in a cost-effective and timely manner.

47. According to media reports, the territorial Government embarked in 2010 on a Young Nation-Building Programme, supporting various arts, history and culture programmes that were expected to help the Territory's children become nation builders.

C. Public health

48. The Territory's Health Services Authority is responsible for the provision of all public health care. In addition to general medical care, a wide range of specialist services is available locally. Health Practice Councils are responsible for the registration of all health practitioners. There is one 124-bed Government-run hospital, which includes an emergency room, and a private 18-bed hospital, both in George Town. There is also an 18-bed Government-run hospital on Cayman Brac and several district health centres and clinics throughout the Territory. On average, 90 per cent of children are immunized every year.

49. Health insurance is compulsory in the Cayman Islands. According to information provided by the administering Power, the current minimum insurance does not provide adequate coverage and is under review. The Territory's health-care system faces particular financial challenges, including an outdated standard health insurance fee structure, the aforementioned inadequate minimum insurance and high cost of overseas care. The strategic plan for 2010 to 2015 recognized the continued need to improve revenues in the Territory's health sector.

D. Crime and public safety

50. The almost 400-strong Royal Cayman Islands Police Service is headed by a Commissioner. Under the 2009 Constitution, the Police Commissioner continues to report to the Governor, who periodically updates the Territory's new National Security Council and Premier on matters relating to internal security and criminal activity. The Governor, in his 2010 Throne Speech, reported that the Council had begun its work in several meetings and would agree on a crime reduction strategy. In particular, the Council had explored how the public and business community could assist in the effort. According to the 2010 budget address, the territorial Government called upon the community to continue to do its part in providing information to the authorities, as it installed security camera systems and other measures to strengthen safety and security in the Territory. Media reports quoting police sources point to the presence of some 30 criminal gangs in the Territory.

51. According to the Governor's 2010 Throne Speech, the Police Service would continue to strengthen its crime-fighting capabilities by hiring suitably qualified staff and giving them the equipment they needed to carry out their functions, complementing existing resources, which include a helicopter and marine assets. The Police Service would also develop its intelligence capabilities in order to better secure the Territory's borders against the illegal entry of persons, guns and drugs.

52. For its part, the Immigration Department would also work to reduce immigration-related crime. A passenger information system would identify undesirable persons prior to their arrival in the Territory and speed up processing for legitimate passengers. Fingerprinting of all work permit holders began in 2010.

53. In November 2010, a Police Bill became law that, inter alia, codifies the treatment of persons in detention and their rights to due process and legal representation. According to the administering Power, the Prison Service was guided to encourage educational and literacy courses for inmates and to expand rehabilitative opportunities for drug and alcohol abusers in order to address recidivism.

54. The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with international financial standards in the Territory and reporting findings to the territorial Government on a regular basis. According to media reports, in accordance with the Territory's Anti-Corruption Law, an Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2010 to receive, consider and investigate any report of corruption, including any attempted offences or conspiracies to commit corruption, and to assist overseas anti-corruption authorities with corruption investigations. Under the law and with the assistance of the Grand Court, the Anti-Corruption Commission has the power to order a freeze on a person's bank account or property for up to 21 days if there is reasonable cause to

believe that the person is involved in corruption. Commission members can also request banks and other entities to release information needed in corruption investigations.

E. Human rights

55. The Territory is subject to several major human rights conventions to which the administering Power has acceded, including the European Convention on Human Rights. The Treaties and Conventions Unit within the Attorney General's Chambers oversees the extension of the international human rights instruments to the Cayman Islands. According to the administering Power, in 2010 Cayman Islands representatives attended a workshop hosted by Anguilla that looked at ways to accelerate the process of extending the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to a territory. The Commonwealth Foundation, together with other stakeholders, including the Attorney General's Chambers, conducted a human rights workshop for public officers in the Cayman Islands, focusing primarily on the new Bill of Rights provisions of the 2009 Constitution.

56. The right of freedom of information is also enshrined in the Constitution. In 2010, media reports indicated that the territorial Government had some misgivings about the implementation of the relevant constitutional provisions on freedom of information, especially related to the cost of answering queries.

57. In compliance with the provisions of the 2009 Constitution, the Territory set up a Human Rights Commission to replace the Human Rights Committee, with responsibilities such as receiving and investigating complaints of breaches or infringement of any right or freedom contained in any human rights treaty in force in the Islands. The Commission is also empowered to issue independent reports relating to human rights and promote the understanding and awareness of human rights. However, the Commission does not have the authority to represent or provide representation to parties to litigation in which human rights issues may arise nor can it act in a judicial capacity or make binding determinations upon any matter.

VI. Environment and disaster preparedness

58. In 2010, the Department of Environment completed the first draft of a national climate change adaptation and mitigation policy aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities and opportunities of global climate change. The territorial Government had also embarked on the process of formulating policies and incentives to encourage businesses in the tourism sector to adopt more environmentally friendly practices. The Cayman Islands Environmental Project and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park for the Tourism Sector, launched in 2010, and two diving resorts had been Green Globe certified. The Environmental Project team was also reviewing the requirements for attaining Green Globe certification for the entire Island of Little Cayman.

59. In 2010, the territorial Government considered proposals to convert waste material into energy and concluded contracts for the removal of over 6,000 tons of baled scrap metal from the George Town landfill and tenders for all remaining scrap in the three Islands, cleaning up 15 acres at the landfill.

60. The Planning Department and a newly established National Scientific Research Council work alongside other agencies to ensure that the Territory's natural resources are preserved and protected.

61. The Hazard Management Cayman Islands agency has overall responsibility for the Territory's hazard management programme, including preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery. The agency deals with all hazards (man-made and natural) and is permanently staffed and ready to be deployed at all times. It is responsible for the National Emergency Operations Centre located at the Fire Station in George Town. The Centre is activated to direct and coordinate the response to national threats. In addition, the Meteorological Office, the Lands and Survey Department and the National Hurricane Committee have in place various systems for crisis information management. An annual hurricane exercise is conducted prior to the start of the hurricane season, which runs from 1 June to 30 November.

62. On 17 January 2010, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake provoked a strong interest in earthquake awareness. Seminars and drills were organized by both Government and business sectors. A programme had already been established in the schools. Four seismic stations, which had been installed in the Cayman Islands, would become part of the Caribbean Tsunami Network. They would also form part of the regional earthquake monitoring and reporting network.

VII. Relations with international organizations and partners

63. The Cayman Islands is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Territory is an associate member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and a member of the Universal Postal Union.

64. The Cayman Islands is an associate member of the Caribbean Community and a member of the Caribbean Development Bank and the International Olympic Committee.

65. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, the Cayman Islands is associated with, but not a part of, the European Union.

VIII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

66. Information on the position of the territorial Government regarding the future status of the Cayman Islands is contained in section II above.

B. Position of the administering Power

67. Information on the general position of the United Kingdom was included in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" (A/65/330, annex). On 4 October 2010, the United Kingdom made a statement before the Special Political and Decolonization

Committee (Fourth Committee) during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

68. According to the record of the Fourth Committee meeting (A/C.4/65/SR.2), the representative of the United Kingdom, inter alia, reiterated the British Government's established position that its relationship with its Overseas Territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine whether it wishes to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. Although the situation in each Territory was different and some Territories were at a more advanced stage of development than others, the United Kingdom would continue to work with all the Territories, as appropriate, in areas such as good governance, political and economic development and transparency, enhanced security and reduced vulnerability to natural and non-natural disasters.

69. The speaker went on to say that the relationship between an Overseas Territory and the United Kingdom was enshrined in the constitution of each Territory. A recent constitutional review process with a number of the Territories had resulted in updated provisions of existing constitutions, such as those relating to human rights, good governance, and the respective roles of the Governor and locally elected politicians.

70. Furthermore, good governance had been the central theme in all constitutional talks with the Territories. The British Government had no wish to micromanage its relationship with its Overseas Territories and was committed to allowing each Territory to run its own affairs to the greatest degree possible. That, however, brought with it responsibilities on the part of each Territory. Where the United Kingdom was of the view that a Territory was failing to fulfil the international obligations that extended to it or that developments in a Territory gave rise to other concerns, the British Government would not hesitate to raise it with the Territory's Government and to intervene where necessary.

C. Action taken by the General Assembly

71. On 10 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolutions 65/115 A and B, based on the report of the Special Committee transmitted to the General Assembly (A/65/23) and its subsequent consideration by the Fourth Committee. Section V of resolution 65/115 B concerns the Cayman Islands. Under that section's operative paragraphs, the General Assembly:

1. *Welcomes* the promulgation of a new Constitution in November 2009, and the appointment of Commissioners of the new Constitutional Commission by the Governor, in consultation with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition;

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

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to address sectoral management policies and cost-of-living issues in various economic sectors.