



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2022

Original: English

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

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
The Territory at a glance	3
I. Constitutional, legal and political issues	4
II. Budget	4
III. Economic conditions	5
A. General	5
B. Financial services	5
C. Tourism	7
D. Agriculture	7
E. Infrastructure	7
F. Telecommunications and utilities	7
IV. Social conditions	8
A. General	8
B. Labour and immigration	9
C. Education	9
D. Public health	10
E. Crime and public safety	10

Note: The information contained in the present working 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. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 3 December 2021. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available at www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/workingpapers.



F.	Human rights	11
V.	Environment and disaster preparedness.	11
VI.	Relations with international organizations and partners.	13
VII.	Future status of the Territory	13
A.	Position of the territorial Government.	13
B.	Position of the administering Power	13
VIII.	Action taken by the General Assembly	14
Annex		
	Map of the Cayman Islands	17

The Territory at a glance

Territory: The Cayman Islands is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter of the United Nations administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administrative Power: Governor Martyn Keith Roper (since October 2018)

Geography: Located some 290 km west of Jamaica and about the same distance south of Cuba, the Territory comprises three islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and the adjacent Little Cayman.

Land area: 264 km²

Exclusive economic zone: 119,137 km²

Population: 65,786 (men: 32,842; and women: 32,944 (2020 estimate))

Life expectancy at birth: 82.3 years (men: 79.8 years; women: 84.7 years, based on the 2010 population and housing census)

Ethnic composition: Afro-European (40 per cent), African (20 per cent), European (20 per cent), other (20 per cent)

Language: English

Capital: George Town

Head of the territorial Government: Premier G. Wayne Panton (since April 2021)

Main political parties: Cayman Islands People's Party and Peoples Progressive Movement

Elections: The most recent elections were held on 14 April 2021.

Legislature: Parliament (19 elected and 2 ex officio members)

Gross domestic product per capita: CI\$ 68,674 (2020 estimate)

Economy: International financial services and tourism

Main trading partners: United States of America

Unemployment rate: 5.2 per cent (2020)

Monetary unit: Cayman dollar, pegged to the United States dollar (CI\$ 1 = US\$ 1.20)

Brief history: The Territory, reportedly sighted by Christopher Columbus in the late fifteenth century, was first settled by the British between 1661 and 1671. A tradition of self-government gradually grew in the Territory beginning in 1734 and a legislative assembly was established in 1831 and was known as the Assembly of Justices and Vestry. Slavery was abolished in 1834. In 1863, the Cayman Islands became a dependency of Jamaica and, when the latter achieved independence 99 years later, the Islands remained under the British Crown.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. The current Constitution entered into force on 6 November 2009 and was amended in November 2020. Under the Constitution, the Governor, appointed by the British Crown, is responsible for external affairs, defence, internal security and the appointment of persons to the civil service.
2. In accordance with the 2020 constitutional amendment, the Parliament of the Cayman Islands consists of the Speaker, 19 elected members and 2 ex officio members, the Deputy Governor and the Attorney General. The Speaker can be either an elected member of Parliament who is not a minister or a person qualified to be an elected member of Parliament.
3. The Territory's Cabinet, chaired by the Governor, is composed of the Premier, six other ministers and two ex officio members, namely, the Deputy Governor and the Attorney General. The Premier is a member of Parliament who is recommended by the party with the majority of seats and appointed by the Governor. The six other ministers are appointed by the Governor upon the advice of the Premier from within the elected membership of Parliament. The last general election took place in April 2021, resulting in a Government of 12 independent members of Parliament led by G. Wayne Panton.
4. The Judiciary is comprised of the following jurisdictions in ascending order within the hierarchy of the courts: the Summary Court (including Family, Youth and Coroner's Courts); the Grand Court; Court of Appeal; and Her Majesty's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Summary Court has civil and criminal jurisdiction. The Grand Court is a superior court of record, having unlimited jurisdiction in both criminal and civil matters. The Court of Appeal does not exercise inherent jurisdiction but is a creature of statute and of the Constitution. The Privy Council is the final appellate court.
5. According to the then Premier, the Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020, which was approved by the Privy Council on 11 November 2020, lay before Parliament on 18 November 2020 and came into effect on 4 December 2020, brought the Territory "a step forward to greater self-determination". The amendment was introduced following the constitutional review by the Cayman Islands Review Committee and the meetings between the territorial Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 7 and 10 December 2018, during which they discussed the proposed constitutional changes and confirmed that the territorial Government had autonomous capacity in respect of domestic affairs and that the United Kingdom would not seek to legislate, directly or indirectly, for the Cayman Islands without, at a minimum, consulting with the territorial Government.

II. Budget

6. For 2021, the budget address for 2022–2023 forecast an operating revenue of CI\$ 932.3 million, 10 per cent higher than the original budget estimate and CI\$ 70.0 million more than 2019, before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It also forecast an operating and financing expenditure of CI\$ 962.0 million, CI\$ 188.0 million or 24 per cent more than the original budget. The response and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the Government's finances. COVID-19 related expenses, which were not budgeted for in 2019, represent 12 per cent of the operating and financing expenses forecast for 2021.
7. The unaudited financial results of the core Government for the nine-month period which ended on 30 September 2021, showed a surplus of CI\$ 117.4 million

(CI\$ 102.9 million for the entire public sector) and bank account balances of CI\$ 468.3 million in cash and deposits.

8. Since 2012, the United Kingdom and the Cayman Islands have been working together under a framework for fiscal responsibility that commits the Territory to prudent and transparent fiscal management through effective medium-term planning. According to the administering Power, the Territory complies with the required debt and cash reserve ratios specified in the framework.

9. The Cayman Islands is a jurisdiction with no direct individual or corporate income tax. The principal sources of government revenue are import duties, financial services, licence fees, work permit fees and stamp duties. There is also an environmental tax on visitors.

III. Economic conditions

A. General

10. The economy of the Cayman Islands is based on the provision of financial services – the dominant sector in the economy – and tourism. There are no commercial fisheries.

11. The 2020 real gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at CI\$ 4.22 billion, compared with CI\$ 4.52 billion in 2019. The GDP at constant prices in 2020 was estimated to have contracted by 6.7 per cent, compared with a 3.8 per cent growth in 2019. Most sectors of the economy declined in 2020. The services sector, which accounted for 89.4 per cent of GDP, led the reduction with a fall of 6.4 per cent. The financial service sector remains the largest contributor to GDP.

B. Financial services

12. The financing and insurance services sector accounted for approximately 32.7 per cent of the Territory's GDP in 2020 and is estimated to have expanded by 0.3 per cent. Meanwhile, the domestic banking sector contracted despite a rise in credit.

13. Compared with 2019, according to the Cayman Islands annual economic report for 2020, the Cayman Islands lost ground in the international financial space, falling from fourteenth to sixteenth in terms of assets while remaining stable in terms of liabilities. Bank and trust licences maintained a downward trend, declining from 125 to 110. The total number of insurers increased from 672 to 679 as licensing activities improved. The total number of company registrations increased from 109,556 to a record 111,568. In contrast, new company registrations declined from 12,822 to 11,731.

14. Following the conclusion of the bilateral arrangement with the United Kingdom on the exchange of beneficial ownership information, the Cayman Islands beneficial ownership regime came into force on 1 July 2017. Under the law, companies incorporated or registered in the Cayman Islands are required to maintain a register of information about their beneficial owners or to file with the local competent authority the reason for which they are not required to maintain a beneficial ownership register. The centralized platform allows law enforcement and the local competent authorities to conduct instantaneous searches of the beneficial ownership registers of all companies incorporated or registered in the Cayman Islands, which in turn facilitates the swift sharing of information on beneficial owners with international law enforcement or the competent authorities.

15. In May 2018, the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act, pursuant to which the Secretary of State is required to provide all reasonable assistance to the Governments of overseas territories to enable each of those Governments to establish a publicly accessible register of the beneficial ownership of companies registered in its jurisdiction and to prepare, no later than 31 December 2020, a draft Order in Council requiring any overseas territory that has not introduced such a register to do so. On 14 December 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom published a draft Order in Council setting out a framework for the registers. By that date, the Governments of the permanently inhabited overseas territories had already committed themselves to introducing publicly accessible registers; the Government of the United Kingdom is assisting the overseas territories in order to meet the commitments, where required.

16. In September 2021, the territorial Government issued a consultation paper which outlined the measures being considered in order to improve the legislative framework and create a more effective beneficial ownership regime.

17. The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with international financial standards in the Territory and for reporting findings to the territorial Government on a regular basis. An anti-corruption commission was established under the Territory's Anti-Corruption Law (2008).

18. The territorial Government continues to make progress on its comprehensive action plan to address the recommendations identified in a report by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force of March 2019, in order to avoid the Territory being placed on a Task Force grey list. In September 2019, the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Strategy 2019–2022 was published, laying out a comprehensive action plan under six strategic themes: enhancing the jurisdiction's legal and regulatory framework; implementing a comprehensive risk-based supervisory framework; strengthening of sanctions, intelligence, investigation, enforcement and recovery of proceeds; enhancing domestic cooperation and coordination; ensuring an efficient and effective system for international cooperation; and raising awareness among all stakeholders and the general public. Targeted and industry-specific outreach has also been ongoing since 2019, and a public education campaign is in place. In 2020, the Cayman Islands Bureau of Financial Investigations was officially formed as part of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. The unit offers enhanced law enforcement in the investigation of complex, cross-border, financial crimes. Furthermore, Customs and Border Control strengthened resources focused on seizing the proceeds of crime. In October 2020, the European Union delisted the Territory from its list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, after it adopted new reforms to its framework on collective investment funds in September 2020. The European Union had added the Territory to its list in February 2020 in relation to investment funds supervision. In response, the Territory expanded the scope of its funds regime to ensure that the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, its financial services regulator, has the legal mandate to supervise all Cayman-based investment funds.

19. The Cayman Islands is a party to the Council of Europe–Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters. The Cayman Islands is also a party to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information. The first exchanges under the OECD Common Reporting Standard were completed in September 2017. The Cayman Islands is also a party to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the exchange of Country-by-Country Reports under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Action 13. According to the administering Power, the Cayman Islands will spontaneously exchange information with relevant jurisdictions for the purposes of the substantial activities requirements

for non-tax jurisdictions or only nominal tax jurisdictions under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Action 13.

C. Tourism

20. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cayman Airways, along with other airlines, operated international service from various cities in Canada, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The borders officially reopened for tourism on 20 November 2021 and commercial flights have begun to resume. Throughout the pandemic, a domestic airline service continued to operate between the three islands in the Territory.

21. In 2020, the number of overall tourist arrivals was approximately 659,900, a decrease of 71.7 per cent from 2019. This could be attributed to a 75.8 percent and 70.6 percent decrease in air and cruise ship arrivals, respectively. The number of stay-over arrivals in the Territory had been on the rise since 2009, reaching a milestone of some 502,739 in 2019 (approximately 22 per cent of overall arrivals), but fell by 75.8 per cent to 121,819 in 2020, due to travel restrictions.

D. Agriculture

22. In 2019, the agriculture and fishing industries contributed 0.4 per cent of the total GDP of the Territory, maintaining the same level since 2010.

23. The Department of Agriculture seeks to develop sustainable agricultural production in order to promote measures of self-sufficiency and food security for the Territory.

E. Infrastructure

24. In 2019, the construction sector contributed to 4.0 per cent of the total GDP of the Territory, an increase from 3.7 per cent in 2018. The number of building permits granted in Grand Cayman decreased from 1,249 in 2019, worth CI\$ 490.3 million, to 741 in 2020, worth CI\$ 457.7 million. A total of 837 proposed projects worth CI\$ 883.2 million were approved in Grand Cayman in 2020, compared with 748 projects worth CI\$ 890.4 million in 2019.

25. According to the administering Power, the Grand Cayman road network consists of approximately 518 travel lane km with approximately 43 km of primary arterial roads and 113 km of secondary arterial roads.

26. The Owen Roberts International Airport redevelopment project was completed in March 2019, and the airport was officially opened by Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. As part of the Airport Master Plan, the Airfield Upgrades Project commenced in November 2019. Among six subprojects, apron expansion work began in late 2019, the relocation of pond wildlife in January 2020 and runway rehabilitation, parallel taxiway and runway extension in February 2020. In August 2020, construction began and was completed on a new blast deflector.

F. Telecommunications and utilities

27. The Information and Communication sector contributed 2.8 per cent of total GDP in 2019, increasing from 2.7 in 2018. Currently, four telecommunications companies provide fixed and/or mobile voice and data services, and three companies provide

subscription television services. According to the Cayman Islands Utility Regulation and Competition Office, there are 17 FM radio broadcasting stations in the Territory. The total number of fixed and mobile phone lines increased from 120,353 in 2019 to 123,509 in 2020. The number of internet connections increased from 24,989 in 2019 to 25,001 in 2020. An upgrade of the national public safety radio system of the Territory, aimed at supporting public safety communications among emergency and first responders, including those activated in a disaster, was completed in April 2019.

28. On Grand Cayman, where the Caribbean Utilities Company has a non-exclusive licence for electricity generation and an exclusive licence for its transmission and distribution, almost all power generation relies on imported diesel. Since 2011, Grand Cayman has had a consumer-owned renewable energy generation programme, which allows consumers to generate energy from renewable sources and to be compensated through stable, long-term rates, with a current capacity limit of 9 MW, increased from 4 MW in 2016. Since 2018, Grand Cayman has had a distributed energy resources programme of 3 MW that was approved by the Cayman Islands Utility Regulation and Competition Office. In December 2021, the Office approved the allocation of an additional capacity of 3 MW to the consumer-owned renewable energy generation and distributed energy resources programmes. According to the administering Power, the total capacity of intermitted renewable energy that can be safely and reliably connected to the grid in Grand Cayman is currently 17 MW.

29. Official statistics indicate that net electricity production in Grand Cayman decreased from 678,800 MWh in 2019 to 651,500 MWh in 2020 and electricity consumption fell from 667,639 MWh in 2019 to 644,317 MWh in 2020, by 3.5 per cent.

30. According to official data in 2020, water consumption in the Cayman Islands declined by 5.2 per cent from 2,058.9 million gallons in 2019 to 1,952 million gallons in 2020, and water production fell by 5.1 per cent from 2,518.8 million gallons in 2019 to 2,390.9 million gallons in 2020.

IV. Social conditions

A. General

31. The Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development is responsible for reimagining social development, creating meaningful, measurable and effective reform to Government policies and social assistance programmes for those on the Cayman Islands who are least fortunate, and ensuring that the fruits of innovation and investment raise and improve the lives of all members of society. The Needs Assessment Unit provides financial assistance for basic living expenses, such as food, clothing, rent, utilities and medical expenses, as well as funeral costs. In addition, the Department of Children and Family Services provides social work interventions required to address child protection, delinquency, and family issues and residential care for children and the indigent elderly. Since March 2017, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has continued to develop its procedural and policy framework to guide best practices in assessing and investigating child abuse matters.

32. According to statistics released by the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, the number of domestic violence referrals decreased by 20 per cent in 2020 (2,291 referrals) compared to 2019 (2,846 referrals), against the steady increase seen in recent years. In 2020, 55 per cent of violent offences involved an element of domestic violence, down from 57 per cent in 2019. The offender or suspect profile for domestic violence-related incidents and crimes is mainly male (74 per cent of cases), while victims are more likely to be women (71 per cent of cases). Since 2015, the number of child safeguarding referrals have steadily increased, with a 9 per cent increase from

1,046 in 2019 to 1,142 in 2020. Still, according to statistics released by the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, even with COVID-19 restrictions in place, it would appear that reporting of domestic violence crime and early intervention remained effective in stopping levels of violence escalating into the more serious categories.

33. According to the administering Power, the Counselling Centre continued to enhance its services to address more effectively a broader range of emerging needs in society through, for example, community-based therapy, counselling services that were restructured to provide more effective responses to the growing number of persons in need, a music therapy programme, parent coaching, skills-building workshops and other programmes.

B. Labour and immigration

34. In 2020, the labour force, numbering 43,922 persons (22,732 men and 21,190 women), contracted by 10.5 per cent compared with 2019, comprising 21,249 Caymanians (48.4 per cent of the total labour force), 19,134 non-Caymanians (43.6 per cent) and 3,540 permanent residents with the rights to work (8.1 per cent). The labour force of Caymanians decreased by 0.1 per cent, compared to 16.6 per cent for non-Caymanians and 27.3 for permanent residents. In 2020, the unemployment rate among Caymanians was 8.3 per cent and 2.2 per cent among non-Caymanians (compared with 5.6 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively, in 2019). The overall unemployment rate in 2020 was 5.2 per cent, an increase from 3.5 per cent in 2019. Government statistics indicate that the number of work permits for non-Caymanian workers decreased from 27,514 in 2019 to 25,085 in 2020.

35. The Customs and Border Control Law 2018 came into effect in 2019, and the Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control was established on 1 February 2019, merging the Customs Department and the border control functions of the Department of Immigration. In addition, regarding the processes for persons seeking work permits, residency and the right to be Caymanian, the Immigration (Transition) Law 2019 facilitated the transfer of power and authority from the Department of Immigration to a Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman, which was established in May 2018.

36. The minimum basic wage in the Territory remains CI\$ 6 (gross) per hour for most employees, and the gross hourly minimum wage rate for service employees of an employer that has a registered gratuities scheme is CI\$ 4.50. There are also special calculations for live-in household domestics, as well as for employees who work on a commission basis.

C. Education

37. Education is compulsory for all resident children between 5 and 17 years of age. In the 2019–2020 school year, 8,045 students (50.4 per cent male and 49.6 per cent female) were enrolled in compulsory education. According to the administering Power, the Government education system caters to about two thirds of Caymanian children, with the remainder attending fee-paying schools. Non-Caymanian children can access the public system only in exceptional circumstances. Two public and two private institutions provide tertiary education.

38. Students from overseas territories benefit from the home student rate for tuition fees at British universities, provided that they have lived in a British overseas territory, the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first academic year of their course of study. Students will be eligible for tuition fee

loans in England provided that they have settled status upon arrival in the United Kingdom and are starting full-time or part-time undergraduate courses in the 2022/23 academic year.

D. Public health

39. The Territory's Health Services Authority is responsible for the provision of all public health care. According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Authority is the sole provider of public health-care services at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of service. Health insurance is compulsory on the Cayman Islands. In July 2021, the territorial Government committed itself to implementing public education programmes on the negative impacts of overutilization of health-care services on the quality of service and its affordability and to revamp and expand the services of the Cayman Islands National Insurance Company to extend access to health care to more Caymanians, provide free health care for children and the elderly, and reform existing criteria to access free health care.

40. On 21 December 2020, the territorial Government signed a partnership agreement with a private health-care group to develop a new medical facility. According to the administering Power, the territorial Government also partners with various agencies, including the United Kingdom Health Security Agency and the Caribbean Public Health Agency, as well as PAHO.

41. As at 12 January 2022, approximately 81 per cent of the total population had received two doses of the vaccine.

42. The Government of the United Kingdom has been supporting the overseas territories throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The support has included the funding and supply of testing kits, laboratory consumables, medical equipment, medical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines, including booster doses, and the provision of public health expertise. According to the administering Power, its support is in line with its enduring commitment to the peoples of its overseas territories.

E. Crime and public safety

43. The 458-strong Royal Cayman Islands Police Service is headed by a commissioner, who reports to the Governor. The Islands Police Service reported that, in 2020, the overall levels of violent crime in the Cayman Islands decreased by 12 per cent, attributed to COVID-19 restrictions. Overall reported crime decreased by 12.8 per cent, from 4,146 incidents in 2019 to 3,604 in 2020. The number of serious crimes decreased by 18.2 per cent. There were 2,166 traffic accidents in 2020, a 22.8 per cent decrease from the 2,806 accidents reported in 2019. In 2020, the number of fatalities remained at nine.

44. In 2020, the average daily population in prison was 203 (13 women and 190 men), which represents a decrease from 237 (16 women and 221 men) in 2019. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cayman Islands Prison Service implemented a robust strategic plan in March 2020 to prevent in-custody transmission of COVID-19 in the prisons. According to the administering Power, this has been highly effective, as to date only two positive cases have been detected.

45. The Government of the United Kingdom has indicated its commitment to providing assistance to the overseas territories to deal with major storms and other disasters. In 2021, HMS *Medway* and RFA *Wave Knight* were stationed in the Caribbean as part of the North Atlantic patrol tasking of the Royal Navy, ensuring a year-round maritime presence of the United Kingdom to support the overseas

territories to prepare for and respond to the threat of hurricanes and other disasters and to provide humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and crisis communications support in the region.

F. Human rights

46. The Human Rights Commission was established under section 116 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 and appointments were first made in January 2010. The Commission's primary responsibility is to promote understanding and observance of human rights in the Cayman Islands. In addition, the Commission has powers to accept and investigate public complaints regarding potential breaches of human rights, to provide a forum for mediation or conciliation, to give advice and guidance and to publish reports of its own initiative on human rights issues. It is an independent body that is not subject to the direction or control of a person or an authority.

47. Part I of Schedule 2 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 setting out the Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities came into effect on 6 November 2012, with the exception of the provisions relating to the segregation of prisoners (not convicted from convicted prisoners and juvenile from adult prisoners), which came into effect on 6 November 2013.

48. The Territory is subject to several major human rights conventions and instruments to which the administering Power has acceded, including the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Gender Affairs Unit is the focal point within the Cayman Islands Government for addressing the issue of gender mainstreaming and through which it provides sector-specific gender training, public education efforts, and gender-awareness training.

49. Further to the Legislative Assembly passing the Disabilities (Solomon Webster) Law on 24 October 2016 to implement parts of the Cayman Islands Disability Policy (2014–2033), a National Council for Persons with Disabilities was established with oversight of policy implementation and the creation of a voluntary disabilities register to improve the quantity and quality of available data on persons with disabilities in order to inform policy, legislation and services.

50. According to the administering Power, the Council of Older Persons was established pursuant to the Older Persons Law, 2017. The Council of Older Persons convened its first meeting in November 2017 and meets in order to oversee the implementation of the Cayman Islands Older Persons Policy (2016–2035) and to promote, protect and advance the well-being of older persons.

V. Environment and disaster preparedness

51. The Cayman Islands are included in the United Kingdom ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity. According to a report submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention, the Department of Environment continues to promote the values of biodiversity through active public outreach campaigns using different media, including television, newsletters and websites. Furthermore, there is a growing awareness of the values of sustainability, with initiatives including the Cayman

Islands environment project for the tourism sector and the establishment of a Sustainable Development Unit.

52. The Department of Environment works, together with other agencies, to ensure that the Territory's natural resources are preserved and protected. Hazard Management Cayman Islands, a government agency, has overall responsibility for the Territory's disaster management programme, including preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery.

53. In November 2021, the Ministry for Sustainability and Climate Change Resiliency stated that it would be signing an agreement for a climate change risk assessment as a first step in the process to review and update the 2011 draft National Climate Change Policy and Strategy, with a final report to be produced in September 2022 by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom.

54. An annual hurricane exercise is conducted prior to the hurricane season, which runs from 1 June to 30 November, in addition to exercises related to other hazards. According to the administering Power, the Territory has also engaged in several initiatives sponsored by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to enhance resilience.

55. The Cayman Islands joined the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency on 1 September 2020. According to the administering Power, the Territory gained access to training and resources that further expand its capacity to respond to disasters.

56. Increasing recreational and artisanal fishing in the shallow waters around the Cayman Islands continues to represent a threat to the Territory's marine environment. The National Conservation Law (2013) aims to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic plants and their habitats, as well as the variety of wildlife in the Cayman Islands. The National Conservation Council was established in 2014 by the Law to facilitate its goals. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture collaborates with the Council to protect the agricultural sector from the introduction of invasive alien species that could have a negative impact on crop and livestock production, as well as public health and national flora and fauna, such as the Cayman blue iguana.

57. In July 2021, the territorial Government obtained £484,227 in funding from Darwin Plus, also known as the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund, for safeguarding Cayman's sister islands from invasive species, as feral cat predation has resulted in catastrophic native species declines, while invasive green iguanas are spreading from Grand Cayman.

58. In September 2021, the territorial Government committed seed capital in the amount of \$ 25 million for a 10-year period to establish the Commonwealth Climate Growth Fund, focused on businesses and technologies that deliver climate mitigation and adaptation throughout the 54 member countries of the Commonwealth. The fund has committed to investing \$50 million in blue or green private sector enterprises and projects in the Cayman Islands.

59. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, the territorial Government initiated a review of its draft national energy policy of 2013 and draft climate change policy of 2011, which were aimed at facilitating the transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy. In 2017, the National Energy Policy 2017–2037 was introduced. The policy focuses on exploiting renewable energy, promotes energy efficiency and conservation measures and supports energy security by reducing reliance on imported fossil-based fuels.

60. The Territory has one utility-scale solar power plant, which was completed in June 2017. Consistent with the National Energy Policy goal to have 70 per cent of total electricity power generated from renewable energy by 2037, the project has successfully commissioned 5 MW of renewable solar power, delivered actual energy production of 9.4 GWh of clean electricity annually and avoided over 4.2 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. In August 2020, then Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure launched a public education campaign to promote energy efficiency and conservation methods in the Territory, encouraging a sustainable lifestyle through responsible and innovative energy supply and consumption and addressing goal 1 of the National Energy Policy: knowledge and education. According to the administering Power, the Territory also receives support and policy advice from the United Nations Environment Programme.

61. The Cayman Islands Regiment is the Territory's first formal military formation, with the role to provide disaster relief and security within the Territory and the wider Caribbean region. In 2020, Royal Marines trained recruits, equipping them to react in the event of a natural disaster. In 2021, basic training was delivered by soldiers from the United Kingdom, who followed extensive testing and quarantining, in order to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VI. Relations with international organizations and partners

62. The Cayman Islands is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and a member of the Universal Postal Union. The Territory also participates in the work of the Caribbean Community as an associate member and is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank and the International Olympic Committee.

VII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

63. Information on the position of the territorial Government regarding the future status of the Cayman Islands is reflected in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

64. The 2021 meeting of the United Kingdom-Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council was held in London on 16 and 17 November 2021, when the administering Power hosted the representatives of the Governments of its overseas territories. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom gave the opening address and participants held wide-ranging discussions on such topics as climate change and the environment, economic resilience and health care, including the response to the pandemic. According to the administering Power, the statement made by the Duke of Cambridge at the meeting, following discussions at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted in 2021 by the United Kingdom, showed the importance placed by the United Kingdom on the need to tackle climate change, its relationship with the overseas territories and its recognition of their significant contribution to its biodiversity.

65. In the communiqué adopted at the meeting, the Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories indicated that the principle of

equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, applied to the peoples of the overseas territories. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting the right of those peoples to self-determination, a collective responsibility of all parts of the Government of the United Kingdom.

66. The Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories committed themselves to continuing to explore ways in which the overseas territories could maintain international support in countering hostile sovereignty claims. It was also stated that for those Territories with permanent populations that wished so, the United Kingdom would continue to support their requests for removal of the Territory from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

67. At the 11th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 25 October 2021, during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of his Government with its overseas territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to choose to remain British.

68. He stated that his Government's responsibility was to ensure the security and good governance of the overseas territories and their peoples and that, during the pandemic, the United Kingdom had ensured that none of its overseas territories ran short of personal protective equipment, testing supplies or medical equipment and had delivered vaccines to all of them, including Pitcairn and Tristan da Cunha, which were among the most remote island communities on Earth. He also stated that territorial Governments were expected to meet the same high standards as the Government of the United Kingdom in maintaining the rule of law, respect for human rights and integrity in public life, delivering efficient public services and building strong and successful communities.

69. He added that, while the United Kingdom would carry out all the responsibilities of the sovereign Power, the Governments of the United Kingdom and its overseas territories were in agreement that the overseas territories were internally self-governing, subject only to the United Kingdom retaining powers to enable it to carry out its obligations under international law. He also added that the Joint Ministerial Council met annually to monitor and drive forward collective priorities.

VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly

70. On 9 December 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution [76/94](#) on the question of the Cayman Islands without a vote, on the basis 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 ([A/76/23](#)) and the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In that resolution, the Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed 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;

(b) Also reaffirmed that, in the process of decolonization of the Cayman Islands, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which was also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

(c) Further reaffirmed that it was 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 called 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;

(d) Recalled the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stressed the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

(e) Requested 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 called upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

(f) Welcomed the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(g) Stressed 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;

(h) Also stressed the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Cayman Islands and the administering Power;

(i) Called 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 encouraged the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

(j) Reaffirmed 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 requested 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;

(k) Took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, stressed 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 supported, 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 urged 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 were not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

(l) Requested 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 requested 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;

(m) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Cayman Islands and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

Map of the Cayman Islands

