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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 6 November 2020, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Kelapile ..... (Botswana)

### Contents

Agenda item 57: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 58: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: 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 (*continued*)

Agenda item 60: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*)

Agenda item 126: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Completion of the Committee's work

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 57: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/75/23 (chap. V))

**Agenda item 58: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/75/23 (chap. V))

**Agenda item 59: 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** (*continued*) (A/75/23 (chap. V))

**Agenda item 60: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/C.4/75/L.2)

**Agenda item 61: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples** (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*) (A/75/23 (chap. V); A/C.4/75/L.3 and A/C.4/75/L.8)

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolutions before it under agenda items 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61, none of which had any programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Faruqi** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, and also in explanation of position, said that the United States proudly supported the right to self-determination and would continue to fully uphold Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. His delegation reiterated its concern that the draft resolutions placed too much weight on independence as a one-size-fits-all status option for Territories in pursuit of self-determination. As stated in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the people of a Non-Self-Governing Territory could validly opt for free association as an alternative to independence or any other political status, including integration with the administering State, provided that status was freely determined by the people. The General Assembly should not therefore press for any particular option, but should respect the free will of the people.

4. His delegation expressed dismay at the outdated call to terminate all military activities and eliminate all military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories

contained in paragraph 14 of draft resolution XIX. The United States had a sovereign right to carry out military activities in accordance with its national security interests and it was facile to assume that such activities were harmful or incompatible with the wishes of the people.

5. With regard to agenda item 57, his delegation underscored that it was for an administering State to determine if self-governance had been achieved in one of its Territories under the terms of the Charter, and consequently whether to transmit information concerning that Territory under Article 73 e.

6. His delegation disagreed with the criticism contained in draft resolution X on the question of Guam of a ruling of a United States federal court that had enjoined a planned plebiscite on self-determination. The federal court had found that the Guam law establishing the plebiscite violated United States constitutional guarantees against race-based restrictions on the exercise of voting rights. The United States had long supported the right to self-determination of the people of Guam, but that right was to be exercised by the whole people, not by just one portion of the population. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the Assembly's acknowledgement in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution that self-determination decisions should be conducted in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which included commitments relating to non-discrimination and universal and equal suffrage.

7. His delegation stressed that the statements made in the current and previous resolutions were non-binding and did not necessarily reflect international law. Any reaffirmation of prior documents contained in the resolutions applied only to those States that had affirmed them initially.

*Draft resolution I: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 57* (A/75/23 (chap. V))

8. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt,

El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 163 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

10. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom) said that, as in previous years, the United Kingdom had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. His Government did not take issue with its main objective, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its own obligations fully in that regard in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. It believed, however, that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter ultimately fell to the Government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

*Draft resolution II: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

11. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

12. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 164 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

13. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution just adopted must be considered within the framework of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), according to which the right to self-determination presupposed the existence of a people subject to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation. Consequently, self-determination was in no way applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, because the United Kingdom, in its illegal occupation of the Islands, had expelled the local population and replaced it with its own population. All General Assembly resolutions subsequent to resolution 2065 (XX) and all subsequent resolutions of the Special Committee on decolonization on the issue had expressly established that the way to put an end to that special and particular colonial situation, in which sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands was disputed, was not through self-determination but rather through a negotiated settlement of the sovereignty dispute between the two parties involved: Argentina and the United Kingdom.

14. The General Assembly itself had expressly ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination to the question of the Malvinas Islands in 1985, when it had rejected by a large majority two proposals by the United Kingdom seeking to incorporate that principle into a draft resolution on that specific question. The draft resolution just adopted by the Committee was therefore not applicable to the question. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in resolution 31/49, had called upon Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation pending the completion of such negotiations. The unilateral exploration and exploitation by the United Kingdom of the natural resources in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were contrary to that resolution and prejudged the outcome of the sovereignty dispute.

*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, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

15. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 118 votes to 2, with 50 abstentions.*

17. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom) said that although his Government supported the specialized agencies and their efforts to provide assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the humanitarian, educational and technical fields in particular, the statutes of those agencies should be carefully respected. For that reason, his delegation had abstained during the voting.

18. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution must be implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.2: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 60*

19. **Ms. Gross** (Assistant Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Algeria and Singapore.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.2 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.3: Question of Western Sahara, submitted under agenda item 61*

21. **Mr. Pilz** (Germany), speaking in explanation of position before the decision on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova, said that the European Union and its member States looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. They welcomed the commitment of the Secretary-General to relaunch the negotiating process with a renewed dynamic and new spirit leading to the resumption of the political process with the aim of 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. They encouraged the parties to work within the United Nations framework and supported the meaningful participation of women and young people in the political process.

22. The European Union and its member States expressed gratitude for the efforts of the former Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and welcomed the holding, at his invitation, of two round-table meetings between Morocco, Frente POLISARIO, Algeria and Mauritania. They looked forward to the appointment of a new Personal Envoy to pursue the United Nations-led political process.

23. The parties should continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere conducive to dialogue in order to advance towards a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, taking note of efforts and developments since 2006, as advocated by the many Security Council resolutions.

24. The parties should also work more closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on confidence-building measures which would help improve the political climate. UNHCR should also, at the urging of the Security Council, continue to consider the registration of refugees in the Tindouf camps. The living conditions in those camps were deeply concerning and it was imperative that the international community should provide new and additional voluntary contributions.

25. Lastly, the consequences of the Western Sahara conflict on security and cooperation in the region continued to be of concern.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.3 was adopted.*

27. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of position before the decisions, said that his Government would join the consensus on the draft resolutions concerning the eight British Overseas Territories in order to demonstrate its full support for the right to self-determination. However, the Special Committee should recognize that the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories had been modernized in a manner that was acceptable to both parties and that reflected the particular circumstances of the small island territories. As the United Kingdom was always prepared to discuss any proposals for change from any of its territories, the existing relationships might evolve. Nevertheless, the Overseas Territories on the Committee's list enjoyed a large measure of internal self-government and had all freely chosen to maintain their links to the United Kingdom for a modern partnership based on shared values and the right to self-determination.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.8: Question of Gibraltar, submitted under agenda item 61*

28. *Draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.8 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution IV: Question of American Samoa, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

29. *Draft resolution IV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution V: Question of Anguilla, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

30. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*



*Draft resolution VI: Question of Bermuda, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

31. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VII: Question of the British Virgin Islands, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

32. *Draft resolution VII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VIII: Question of the Cayman Islands, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

33. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution IX: Question of French Polynesia, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

34. *Draft resolution IX was adopted.*

*Draft resolution X: Question of Guam, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

35. *Draft resolution X was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XI: Question of Montserrat, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

36. *Draft resolution XI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XII: Question of New Caledonia, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

37. *Draft resolution XII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XIII: Question of Pitcairn, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

38. *Draft resolution XIII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XIV: Question of Saint Helena, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

39. *Draft resolution XIV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XV: Question of Tokelau, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

40. *Draft resolution XV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVI: Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

41. *Draft resolution XVI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVII: Question of the United States Virgin Islands, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

42. *Draft resolution XVII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVIII: Dissemination of information on decolonization, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

43. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France.

44. *Draft resolution XVIII was adopted by 168 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

45. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution. The obligation it placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represented an unwarranted drain on the scarce resources of the United Nations and was therefore unacceptable.

46. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution should be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization, which expressly recognized that the question of the Malvinas Islands was a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina, as the only two parties, over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. It had been established that the way to resolve that dispute was through the resumption of bilateral negotiations with a view to achieving, as soon as possible, a just, peaceful and lasting settlement that took into account the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands.

*Draft resolution XIX: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

47. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati,

Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

48. *Draft resolution XIX was adopted by 126 votes to 3, with 42 abstentions.*

49. **Ms. Henderson** (Australia) said that Australia had abstained from the draft resolution owing to the inclusion of paragraph 14 calling upon the administering Powers to terminate military activities and eliminate military bases. In abstaining, her delegation affirmed its objection to that paragraph but also acknowledged its support for other elements of the draft resolution, as well as for the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination. Australia recognized the sovereign rights of nations to defend the Territories that they administered, which did not necessarily run counter to the interests of the peoples of those Territories. Her delegation reiterated its call for the unacceptable language of paragraph 14 to be removed from future resolutions.

50. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation continued to find some elements of the draft

resolution unacceptable and had therefore voted against it once more. It nonetheless remained committed to modernizing its relationship with its Overseas Territories while fully taking into account the views of the people of those Territories.

51. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that visiting missions could be sent only to Territories to which the right to self-determination applied, meaning Territories where there was no dispute over sovereignty. That requirement was fully in line with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), which had also established the requirement that any visiting mission must be approved by the General Assembly. It was also in line with the doctrine of the Special Committee, as evidenced in its regional seminars and declarations that visiting missions must be sent on a case-by-case basis and carried out in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

*Draft resolution XX: Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, submitted under agenda item 61 (A/75/23 (chap. V))*

52. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and

Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Palau, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden.

53. *Draft resolution XX was adopted by 147 votes to 3, with 22 abstentions.*

54. **Mr. Grigoryan** (Armenia) said that paragraphs 662 and 663 of the Final Document of the eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries contained biased and one-sided formulations distorting the root causes, essence and principles underlying the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The references ran counter to the international community's long-standing position on the conflict, as reflected in the statements of the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group, the only internationally mandated format for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. His delegation rejected those paragraphs, in which the Heads of State and Government failed to uphold the principles at the heart of the Movement, particularly the right of peoples to self-determination. It was regrettable that the Movement appeared to condone the abusive, manipulative tactics of the current holder of its chairmanship. Armenia therefore disassociated itself from the paragraphs of Committee resolutions that contained references to the Summit.

55. **Mr. Rogers** (United Kingdom) said that the proposal to declare a fourth international decade for the eradication of colonialism was unacceptable. Moreover, the draft resolution failed to recognize progress in his country's relationship with its Overseas Territories. That relationship was now a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each territory to determine whether it wished to retain the link to the United Kingdom. His Government would support moves towards independence where it was an option, provided



that it was the clearly and constitutionally expressed wish of the majority of the people in the territory concerned. The Special Committee on decolonization and the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories were outdated, and none of the Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom should remain on the list. The resolution contained provisions that could necessitate the use of the Organization's scarce resources, which should be devoted to more urgent issues.

56. **Mr. Gutiérrez Segú Berdullas** (Spain) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because the decolonization process was not yet complete, hence the need for the Organization to remain seized of the matter. He hoped that the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would culminate in the settlement of all pending decolonization questions in a manner that all parties found satisfactory, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States. The right to self-determination must be upheld in cases where a population had been colonized. For its part, Spain would continue to collaborate fully with the United Nations, including the Special Committee on decolonization and the Fourth Committee. It underscored the central role of the General Assembly as the only entity with the authority to decide when the remaining decolonization cases had been concluded.

57. **Mr. Alizada** (Azerbaijan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the comments made by the representative of Armenia with regard to certain paragraphs of the Final Document adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku in 2019 were illustrative of that delegation's unconstructive, disordered reasoning as it habitually resorted to confrontation and attempts to mislead the international community. In the Final Document of the Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Movement had underlined the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, reaffirmed that no State should recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan nor render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation, and encouraged the parties to continue to seek a negotiated settlement of the conflict within the territorial integrity, sovereignty and the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. His Government thanked the members of the Movement for their principled position.

## **Agenda item 126: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/C.4/75/L.7)**

*Draft decision A/C.4/75/L.7: Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly*

58. **The Chair** said that the programme of work would be revisited by the Bureau of the seventy-sixth session and changes would be made if necessary.

59. **Ms. Gross** (Assistant Secretary of the Committee) said that pursuant to draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.13, which the Committee had adopted at its 9th meeting on 4 November 2020, the title of the agenda item on Israeli practices had been revised to "Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories". Accordingly, the title of the agenda item, as featured in the proposed programme of work and timetable of the Committee at its seventy-sixth session, contained in draft resolution A/C.4/75/L.7, should be revised in line with the new wording. The revision would be reflected in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 126.

60. *Draft decision A/C.4/75/L.7, as orally revised, was adopted.*

## **Completion of the Committee's work**

61. **The Chair** said that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee had adapted its working arrangements and programme of work in innovative ways in order to ensure business continuity and to conduct its work as efficiently and effectively as possible during an unprecedented session.

62. After presenting an overview of the activities of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), he declared that the Committee had completed its work for the main part of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*