



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2023

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

Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 June 2023, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Rambally (Saint Lucia)

Contents

Question of American Samoa (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Anguilla (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Bermuda (<i>continued</i>)
Question of the British Virgin Islands (<i>continued</i>)
Question of the Cayman Islands (<i>continued</i>)
Question of French Polynesia (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Guam (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Montserrat (<i>continued</i>)
Question of New Caledonia (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Pitcairn (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Saint Helena (<i>continued</i>)
Question of Tokelau (<i>continued</i>)
Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (<i>continued</i>)
Question of the United States Virgin Islands (<i>continued</i>)
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

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).



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

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples

Report of the Pacific regional seminar

Closure of the session

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Question of American Samoa (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/1; A/AC.109/2023/L.10)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.10: Question of American Samoa

1. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.10 was adopted.*

Question of Anguilla (continued) (A/AC.109/2023/2; A/AC.109/2023/L.11)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.11: Question of Anguilla

2. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.11 was adopted.*

Question of Bermuda (continued) (A/AC.109/2023/3; A/AC.109/2023/L.12)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.12: Question of Bermuda

3. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.12 was adopted.*

Question of the British Virgin Islands (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/4; A/AC.109/2023/L.14)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.14: Question of the British Virgin Islands

4. **The Chair** said that, at the request of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, the twenty-first preambular paragraph should be revised to read as follows: "Cognizant of the Territory's associate membership in the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Association of Caribbean States".

5. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.14, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Question of the Cayman Islands (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/5; A/AC.109/2023/L.15)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.15: Question of the Cayman Islands

6. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.15 was adopted.*

Question of French Polynesia (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/7; A/AC.109/2023/L.24)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.24: Question of French Polynesia

7. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.24 was adopted.*

Question of Guam (continued) (A/AC.109/2023/9; A/AC.109/2023/L.16)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.16: Question of Guam

8. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.16 was adopted.*

Question of Montserrat (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/10; A/AC.109/2023/L.17)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.17: Question of Montserrat

9. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.17 was adopted.*

Question of New Caledonia (continued)
(A/AC.109/2023/11; A/AC.109/2023/L.22)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.22: Question of New Caledonia

10. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea), speaking also on behalf of Fiji and introducing the draft resolution, said that, following the third self-determination referendum held on 12 December 2021, New Caledonia was at a critical juncture. It was therefore incumbent on the administering Power, the Territorial Government and the people of New Caledonia to engage in peaceful dialogue with a view to resolving the concerns surrounding the self-determination process and making efforts to ensure a full measure of self-government. Accordingly, the draft resolution recognized the ongoing efforts and commitment of the administering Power, the Territorial Government and the signatories to the Nouméa Accord, and encouraged cooperation to seek a way forward.

11. Although the salient elements of the previous year's resolution remained relevant to the draft resolution under consideration, references to recent developments had been included further to informal consultations. The administering Power had subsequently raised concerns about several parts of the draft resolution; the ensuing amendments were reflected in the text before the Committee.

12. The eleventh preambular paragraph of the amended draft resolution addressed the outcome and consequences of the third self-determination referendum. In the previous draft, references to the concerns of the administering Power had been included in four paragraphs, namely in the eleventh (previously tenth), eighteenth (previously sixteenth) and thirty-first (previously twenty-seventh) preambular paragraphs and in paragraph 6. However, the administering Power had considered that those references were not balanced and should be streamlined. After bilateral consultations, Papua New Guinea and Fiji had decided to limit references to those concerns to the eleventh preambular

paragraph, and to delete them elsewhere. Furthermore, paragraph 6 had been amended to mention the officially recorded 43.87 per cent of voters who had taken part in the referendum.

13. In its original form, paragraph 8 had noted the importance of the electoral process in moving towards self-determination. The administering Power had considered that the original wording did not adequately reflect the situation in the wake of the third referendum. Accordingly, paragraph 8 had been amended to underscore that future dialogue among the stakeholders should address the need for adequate measures leading to the attainment of a full measure of self-government.

14. Paragraph 9 concerned the issue of self-determination following the third referendum. The administering Power had considered that the issue should be framed in a positive light by including a reference to a full measure of self-government, as opposed to dwelling on self-determination under the Nouméa Accord. Similarly, in paragraph 15, a reference had been included to the attainment of a full-measure of self-government.

15. Paragraph 33 on the decolonization process audit report was a new addition to the draft resolution, following the work done by a private independent consultancy firm engaged by the administering Power. Although the administering Power viewed it as ambiguous, no changes had been made to the wording of that paragraph. The amended draft resolution was balanced, fair and representative of all stakeholders, and it underpinned the aspirations of the people of New Caledonia.

16. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.22 was adopted.*

Question of Pitcairn (*continued*) (A/AC.109/2023/12; A/AC.109/2023/L.18)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.18: Question of Pitcairn

17. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.18 was adopted.*

Question of Saint Helena (*continued*) (A/AC.109/2023/13; A/AC.109/2023/L.19)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.19: Question of Saint Helena

18. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.19 was adopted.*

Question of Tokelau (*continued*) (A/AC.109/2023/14; A/AC.109/2023/L.23)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.23: Question of Tokelau

19. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea), speaking also on behalf of Fiji and introducing the draft resolution, said that it was based on that of the previous year, except for references to recent events and a number of minor technical amendments.

20. **Ms. Gross** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Indonesia had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

21. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.23 was adopted.*

22. **Ms. Dhanutirto** (Indonesia) said that her delegation supported the factual updates to the draft resolution, which reflected the spirit of trust and cooperation within the Special Committee.

Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (*continued*) (A/AC.109/2023/15; A/AC.109/2023/L.20)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.20: Question of the Turks and Caicos Island

23. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.20 was adopted.*

Question of the United States Virgin Islands (*continued*) (A/AC.109/2023/16; A/AC.109/2023/L.21)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.21: Question of the United States Virgin Islands

24. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.21 was adopted.*

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 (A/78/65; E/2023/68; A/AC.109/2023/L.9)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.9: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

25. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.9 was adopted.*

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2023/L.6)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.6: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

26. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.6 was adopted.*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/2023/L.25)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.25: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

27. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2023/L.25 was adopted.*

Report of the Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2023/CRP.1; A/AC.109/2023/CRP.2)

28. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Pacific regional seminar held from 24 to 26 May 2023 in Bali, Indonesia (A/AC.109/2023/CRP.1) and to the draft procedural report of the seminar (A/AC.109/2023/CRP.2).

29. She took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar and the procedural report, and to include them in the report of the Special Committee to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.

30. *It was so decided.*

31. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Venezuela) said that his delegation had previously circulated to the members of the Special Committee its offer to host the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar. A similar offer had been made by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda. However, following subsequent bilateral exchanges and in the spirit of solidarity, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda had decided to withdraw its offer. Accordingly, his delegation hoped that the Bureau and membership of the Committee could consider the matter promptly in order to reach, if not a formal decision, then at least an understanding that the forthcoming regional seminar would be held in Venezuela. Such an understanding would make it possible to begin consultations on a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Secretariat, as well as administrative and logistical preparations. The allocation of resources was a challenge owing to the negative impact of the commercial, economic and financial blockade imposed on his country, which was part of a set of unilateral coercive measures that were illegally applied by the Government of the United States of America.

32. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea) said that his delegation was pleased to have acted as Rapporteur of the regional seminar on four occasions since 2018. The most recent seminar had been the first in nine years to be held in the Pacific region. The onus was on other Pacific States, including his own, to consider hosting the seminar in 2025.

33. **Ms. Dhanutirto** (Indonesia) said that the draft procedural report and conclusions reflected the spirit of dialogue and collaboration shown by all participants during the seminar. The results achieved in Bali should pave the way for further progress in advancing the decolonization agenda.

34. **Ms. Pichardo Urbina** (Nicaragua) said that, given the vast experience demonstrated by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it would be able to meet expectations and host the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar successfully. In light of the logistical considerations raised, it would be important to endorse that offer as soon as possible.

35. **The Chair** said that she welcomed the offer made by the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Since the Committee would meet in February 2024 to decide on organizational matters, a final decision on the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar would be made on that occasion, in keeping with established practice.

Closure of the session

36. **The Chair** suggested that the Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to prepare the report of the Special Committee to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly. Once the report had been completed and approved by the Bureau, the Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to submit it directly to the Assembly in accordance with established practice.

37. *It was so decided.*

38. **The Chair**, after the customary expression of thanks to the Committee members and Secretariat staff, declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.