



# General Assembly

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

### Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 18 March 2024, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Rambally. . . . . (Saint Lucia)

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Adoption of the agenda

Organization of the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

1. *The agenda was adopted.*
2. **The Chair** said that the delegations of Angola, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa had indicated their wish to participate in the work of the Committee as observers.

### **Organization of the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2024/19)**

3. **The Chair** recalled that, at its previous meeting on 15 February 2024 (A/AC.109/2024/SR.1), the Committee had accepted the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar in Caracas from 14 to 16 May 2024.

#### *Guidelines, rules of procedure, theme and agenda of the seminar*

4. **The Chair** drew attention to the guidelines, rules of procedure, theme and agenda of the seminar (A/AC.109/2024/19). Minimal revisions, consisting mainly of technical updates, had been made to the agenda from previous years. The working languages would be English, French and Spanish. She intended to preside over deliberations in English. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the guidelines and rules of procedure of the seminar.

5. *It was so decided.*

#### *Composition of the official delegation*

6. **The Chair** recalled that the Committee's official delegation to the seminar would comprise the Chair, her adviser, members of the Bureau and the representatives of the four regional groups represented on the Committee, for a total of 10 Committee members. The four regional groups were the Group of African States, the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The nomination of the regional group representatives would be coordinated by the Bureau members from the respective groups. The United Nations would bear the travel costs and daily subsistence allowances of the delegation.

#### *Extension of invitations to experts and organizations*

7. **The Chair** said that the Bureau would be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss preparations for the seminar, including the Committee's practice of extending seminar invitations to selected experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations. She

took it that the Committee wished to authorize the Chair and the Bureau to finalize the list of experts and organizations invited to the seminar.

8. *It was so decided.*

#### *Extension of invitations to representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories*

9. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with the established practice of the Committee, invitations to the seminar would be extended to all elected and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The United Nations would bear the travel costs of the officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Invitations would also be extended to the administering Powers and other Member States, specialized agencies within the United Nations system and some regional organizations. However, their travel and accommodation costs would not be borne by the United Nations.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chair** recalled that, in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure for the seminar, participation would be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations had been addressed, or to their proven representatives if any of those persons were unable to attend.

12. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his country was honoured to be hosting the 2024 Caribbean regional seminar. Since 2019, under so-called sanctions imposed in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the United States of America had prohibited all direct flights between the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. His delegation had therefore come up with a list of alternative routes for seminar participants travelling from New York. A significant number of the participants would not need a visa to enter the country, since the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had signed agreements with over 76 countries abolishing the need for visas for diplomatic, official and service passport holders. In all other cases, digital courtesy visas would be issued. An information note for participants would be circulated in the coming weeks, in which further details on the arrangements would be provided.

*The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.*