



# General Assembly

Seventy-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
5 December 2018

Original: English

## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Kemayah, Sr. . . . . (Liberia)

### Contents

Agenda item 59: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 60: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 61: 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 62: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 63: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*)\*

\* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section ([dms@un.org](mailto:dms@un.org)), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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



*The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.*

**Agenda item 59: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/73/64 and A/73/23)

**Agenda item 60: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/73/23)

**Agenda item 61: 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/73/23 and A/73/70)

**Agenda item 62: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/73/73)

**Agenda item 63: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples** (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*) (A/73/23, A/73/70 and A/73/219)

1. **The Chair** said that he had received a request from the United States of America to postpone action on draft resolution X pertaining to the question of Guam, contained in document A/73/23 (chapter XIII), to allow for further informal consultations. He had also received a request from the United Kingdom and Spain to postpone action on the draft decision pertaining to the question of Gibraltar. He took it that the Committee wished to postpone action on those documents.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Mr. Misra** (India) said that, since gaining independence, India had always been at the forefront of the struggle against colonialism, having been one of the initiators of the historic Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, a sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on decolonization, and the first Chair 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 (Special Committee on decolonization). Although the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was reaching an end, the process of decolonization had not yet been completed. Despite the forceful deliberations and serious approach of the Special Committee to its mandate, some two million people still lived in the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. A pragmatic approach to decolonization would surely allow the legitimate wishes of the peoples of the Territories to be fulfilled. To

overcome the complex challenges of the modern world, a coordinated response was required, in particular by channelling the resources of international agencies and actors, with a view to building the capacities of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that colonialism in all its forms was contrary to the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it was an anachronism. By commodifying the labour, land and natural resources of a Territory, colonialism impeded the political and socioeconomic development of the people living there and must not, as a matter of urgency, be allowed to continue. In that connection, Pakistan congratulated New Caledonia on its scheduled referendum on self-determination.

5. All peoples living under colonial administration or foreign occupation, and not just those in Non-Self-Governing Territories, should be allowed to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. The decolonization agenda of the United Nations could not be considered complete until the Jammu and Kashmir dispute — one of the oldest items on its agenda — had been resolved. Although the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people had been recognized by India and Pakistan and in successive Security Council resolutions, the United Nations had failed to fulfil its commitment to hold a supervised plebiscite, and India had employed military strength and brutal tactics to deprive the Kashmiris of that right and perpetuate its unlawful occupation. The future of Jammu and Kashmir should be determined in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

6. Given the increasingly tragic situation of Palestine, moreover, peace would continue to elude the Middle East until the Palestinian people were provided with the means to exercise their right to self-determination.

7. The General Assembly and the Security Council both needed to show political will if their resolutions on decolonization, which offered the necessary plan of action for decolonization, were to be implemented. The selective application of United Nations resolutions eroded the confidence of the international community, undermined the credibility of the United Nations system and encouraged a culture of impunity. Member States needed to work together and in earnest to eliminate the scourge of colonialism.

8. **Ms. Al Hammadi** (United Arab Emirates) said that it was of paramount importance for the international community to support mediation and diplomacy to resolve conflicts peacefully and achieve international

peace and security, especially given that terrorist groups were exploiting existing conflicts to spread chaos and terror. The United Arab Emirates endorsed the efforts being made to reach a suitable political solution to the Moroccan Sahara issue under the exclusive auspices of the Secretary-General, in particular the forthcoming round-table talks organized by the his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. The prompt and positive response of Morocco to that initiative demonstrated its commitment to finding a just and lasting political solution. The United Arab Emirates firmly supported the territorial integrity of Morocco, and the Moroccan autonomy proposal as a compromise solution, and highlighted the fact that the Security Council had repeatedly described the efforts of Morocco to move towards a solution as serious and credible.

9. Turning to an issue that did not fall under the cluster of decolonization items but which nonetheless related to illegal territorial occupation, she reiterated that the United Arab Emirates had a legitimate right to sovereignty over three Iranian-occupied islands: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. The United Arab Emirates called upon Iran to return the islands to their rightful owners, either voluntarily, through direct negotiations, or by referring the matter for arbitration or to the International Court of Justice.

10. The international community must also still find a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question that would put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and enable it to exercise its inalienable and legitimate rights.

11. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Colombia) said that his Government reiterated its firm support for the rights of the Argentine Republic in the recognized sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. It was vital that a peaceful, negotiated solution to that special and particular colonial situation be found. His delegation urged both parties to resume negotiations to that end, as soon as possible, through a process of dialogue and cooperation in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Although Colombia welcomed the good offices of the Secretary-General to assist the parties in finding a peaceful solution to the dispute, it deplored the lack of progress made despite the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee since 1965. In the meantime, the provision of resolution 31/49 cautioning against the introduction of any unilateral modifications in the situation must be respected. His Government recognized the readiness and commitment of the Argentine Government to

engage in dialogue to resolve the dispute in accordance with United Nations resolutions, and called on both parties to maintain a constructive attitude in order to reach a lasting, peaceful solution.

12. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country affirmed its full support for the inalienable right to self-determination of peoples living under foreign or colonial occupation. It urged the United Nations to intensify its efforts to end all forms of colonialism and called on States involved in territorial disputes to comply with their responsibilities under all relevant international resolutions and to participate in dialogue with all parties with a view to reaching practical, constructive solutions.

13. Saudi Arabia reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent State in line with the relevant international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative for a two-State solution, based on the 1967 borders and with Jerusalem as its capital. The United Nations had a responsibility to compel Israel to implement the international resolutions calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and its withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan and the Lebanese territories.

14. On the question of the Moroccan Sahara, Saudi Arabia welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to hold resumed political negotiations between the parties in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. It commended the Moroccan Government for its work to promote socioeconomic development and human rights in the Saharan region, in particular through positive cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and for its serious and well-intentioned efforts to find a solution to the dispute. Saudi Arabia supported the Moroccan proposal for autonomy for the Saharan region, as it provided a constructive, equitable solution that satisfied the right to self-determination and complied with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Rejecting all proposals that would compromise the interests, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Morocco, Saudi Arabia reiterated that a solution would be reached only if all parties participated in dialogue in an atmosphere of calm and cooperation.

15. Saudi Arabia denounced the Iranian occupation of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which posed a threat to regional and international stability and security and ran counter to international law and the

provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. He reaffirmed the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the islands and expressed support for all peaceful efforts to re-establish that sovereignty.

16. **Mr. Cheng Lie** (China) said that the issue of decolonization and Non-Self-Governing Territories was the historical legacy of Western colonial rule. Helping colonies and their people exercise their right to self-determination and attain independence was in line with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The burdensome legacy of colonialism had given rise to complicated issues and conflicts, and many peoples now wished to become independent. In resolving decolonization-related disputes, the international community must relinquish the dated colonial mentality.

17. Much remained to be done for the cause of decolonization. China had always supported the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their fight for self-determination. It urged all administering Powers to take effective measures to promote the social, economic, cultural and educational development of the Territories and protect their natural resources and environment. Militarization should be halted, and investigations should be conducted in all Territories that had suffered as a result of nuclear tests. China called on all parties in disputes over Non-Self-Governing Territories to engage in peaceful dialogue and negotiation with a view to reaching lasting, mutually acceptable political solutions, in accordance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

18. China would continue to participate actively in the work of the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee. It stood ready to work closely with the other Member States to promote the positive results of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in order to fully realize the historic mission of decolonization.

19. **Ms. Motsumi** (Botswana) said that her country unwaveringly supported the right to self-determination and independence of all peoples living under colonial rule. Botswana implored the United Nations to expedite the process of decolonization, in the belief that peace, development and respect for human rights could not be achieved as long as some peoples continued to live under colonial or foreign occupation.

20. Botswana supported the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and its legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. Similarly, it supported the people of Western Sahara in its pursuit of self-determination and independence. It was therefore

concerned by the continued stalemate in the dispute over Western Sahara and the reports of human rights abuses and exploitation of resources in the occupied Territory. It urged the parties to show flexibility and restraint for the benefit of the civilian population and to engage in the talks promoted by the African Union and led by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara with a view to reaching a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution. It also called on the international community to endorse, without preconditions, all efforts to conduct the referendum on self-determination to which the Sahrawi people was entitled.

21. **Mr. Hoeseb** (Namibia) said that the denial of the right to self-determination undermined basic human rights, fundamental freedoms and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. States needed to work together in solidarity in order to achieve decolonization, which was the only way of ensuring peace, security and development for all peoples, with no one left behind.

22. Drawing attention to the recent ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union that the current situation in Western Sahara denied the Sahrawi people its right to sovereignty over the resources of the Territory, Namibia expressed concern that a referendum on self-determination had not yet been held and that Security Council resolution 658 (1990) had not yet been implemented. Namibia welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to relaunch talks between the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) and Morocco and encouraged both parties to participate in them with a view to implementing all relevant Security Council resolutions. Namibia also called for the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

23. Namibia echoed the concern expressed by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, of which it was a member, that the international community had failed to make progress towards securing peace in Palestine. Urging the Israeli Government to implement all outstanding resolutions on the issue, Namibia called for renewed efforts to launch a credible process of negotiations on all final-status issues and for intra-Palestinian reconciliation under the legitimate Palestinian Government. Namibia fully supported all political, democratic and non-violent efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve self-determination, justice, freedom and independence.

24. **Mr. Biang** (Gabon) said that, given the significant number of Non-Self-Governing Territories that remained on the Committee's agenda, efforts needed to

be made to re-examine the methods used thus far and develop a new strategy capable of addressing modern priorities and challenges. Gabon supported the efforts of the Special Committee, in collaboration with the administering Powers and Non-Self-Governing Territories, to draw up a programme of work to address the situation in each Non-Self-Governing Territory on a case-by-case basis. All interested parties in each case needed to work together and engage in dialogue in order to implement the Declaration on decolonization.

25. On the question of Western Sahara, Gabon supported the efforts to ensure a lasting, mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute under the aegis of the Secretary-General, and especially the facilitation mission of his Personal Envoy. Given the security threats faced by the Sahel region, it was important that a political solution to the dispute be found and that States in the region, in particular member States of the Arab Maghreb Union, strengthen their cooperation. Gabon welcomed the Moroccan autonomy plan, as it represented an encouraging and credible approach to breaking the stalemate and achieving a settlement. Neighbouring States should make important contributions to the political process and increase their engagement in the negotiating process, in line with Security Council resolution 2414 (2018).

26. Gabon commended the Moroccan Government for its programme to promote socioeconomic development in the Saharan region and for the progress made in the area of human rights, in particular by strengthening the Laayoune and Dakhla regional commissions of the National Council on Human Rights, and by cooperating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and interacting with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The recent visit to the Sahara region made by the Secretary General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara and the agreement of the Moroccan Government to participate in the round-table talks he had proposed holding in Geneva in December 2018 demonstrated the willingness of the Moroccan authorities to cooperate fully in efforts to reach a political solution. Gabon called on all neighbouring States to work together to help make those negotiations successful with a view to ensuring the stability and security of the larger region and paving the way for its socioeconomic development.

27. **Mr. Allen** (United Kingdom) said that his Government's relationship with its Overseas Territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory's people to choose to remain British. His Government and its Territories recognized that their relationship brought mutual benefits and responsibilities. The Joint Ministerial

Council was the primary forum for annual high-level political dialogue between the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories and had a mandate to monitor and advance collective priorities in the spirit of partnership. In a communiqué from the Council issued in 2017, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories had confirmed their commitment to a modern political partnership, based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and their continued support for the constitutional arrangements in the Territories, under which powers were devolved to the maximum extent possible consistent with British sovereignty. His Government had also undertaken to help Overseas Territories counter hostile sovereignty claims and to support the request for removal from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories of any Territory with a permanent population that so wished.

28. As its 2012 white paper *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability* clearly stated, his Government's fundamental responsibility and objective under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, was to ensure the security and good governance of the Territories and their peoples. Territory 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, and were being supported by his Government in those areas.

29. His Government was fully committed to involving all Overseas Territories in negotiations on leaving the European Union. To that end, it had established the Joint Ministerial Council on European Union Negotiations to discuss the priorities of Overseas Territories, as well as a separate Joint Ministerial Council to discuss the particularly strong interest and priorities of Gibraltar and to develop shared, substantive programmes of work to strengthen ties between the United Kingdom and that Territory.

30. In the area of democratic development, his delegation welcomed the elections held in the Cayman Islands in May 2017, Bermuda and Saint Helena in July 2017 and the Falkland Islands in November 2017, respectively.

31. The United Kingdom had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas of both Territories, nor about the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 of the two International

Covenants on human rights, by virtue of which they freely determined their political status and freely pursued their economic, social and cultural development. Consequently, no dialogue on sovereignty could be held unless the Falkland Islanders so desired; given the results of the 2013 referendum, in which 99.8 per cent of voters had voted to maintain their status as an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, it was clear that they had no desire for such dialogue. Their wishes should be respected.

32. His Government was clear about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which had been British since 1814 and which it administered as the British Indian Ocean Territory. No international tribunal had ever called that sovereignty into doubt. Having decided not to support resettlement, the United Kingdom was investing heavily in improving living standards on the islands. The strategic location of the Territory, which hosted a defence facility run jointly by the United Kingdom and the United States of America in a region facing growing threats, made a significant contribution to regional and global security. His Government was also committed to preserving the biodiversity of the Territory.

33. Lastly, the United Kingdom reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar. It would neither enter into arrangements under which the Territory's people would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their freely and democratically expressed wishes nor participate in a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar was not content.

34. **Mr. Koonjul** (Mauritius) said that, as the right to self-determination was a fundamental human right, his country reaffirmed its support for the decolonization process in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and encouraged the Special Committee to continue adopting a case-by-case approach in dealing with the situation in each Non-Self-Governing Territory. He emphasized that administering Powers had a duty to respect the territorial integrity of dependent Territories and their peoples' rights over their natural resources.

35. On the question of Western Sahara, Mauritius supported the forthcoming Geneva talks between the parties, in which neighbouring States would become more engaged, and called on the two parties to resume negotiations without preconditions and in good faith in order to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that provided for the self-determination of the Saharan people. Welcoming the decision of the African Union to establish a troika on

Western Sahara to assist the United Nations, he called on all parties to work with the African Union Troika with a view to resolving that dispute. He also called for the renewal of the important MINURSO mandate, which should not be limited to peacekeeping but should include organization of the referendum, and urged all parties to cooperate with the Mission and refrain from conducting destabilizing activities in the Guerguerat buffer zone.

36. With regard to the claim of the United Kingdom over the Chagos Archipelago, Mauritius noted that the International Court of Justice had been asked to issue an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. The matter raised important issues regarding decolonization, the right to self-determination of the Mauritian people and the plight of Mauritians who had been forcibly removed from the islands by the colonial Power. His Government would take all appropriate measures to complete the decolonization of the archipelago in accordance with international law and to reassert its territorial integrity and sovereignty. He urged all Member States to support his Government to that end. It was hoped that the advisory opinion would clarify and strengthen the rule of law at that crucial time and, as a result, advance the cause of decolonization.

37. **Ms. Jáquez Huacuja** (Mexico) said that, although the United Nations had made an undeniable impact over many decades through its decolonization work, which was one of its finest achievements, much remained to be done to attain the goal and ensure the implementation of the Declaration in accordance with successive General Assembly resolutions.

38. Mexico reiterated that the rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were legally and historically valid. It was essential that a just, peaceful, definitive and mutually acceptable solution to the dispute be found, in keeping with the relevant United Nations resolutions. As reaffirmed in the Declaration of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted on 4 June 2018, the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom should resume negotiations as soon as possible.

39. Mexico also supported efforts to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara, as called for in the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. A referendum should be held that set out all the options for self-determination and that was acceptable to the two parties involved. All necessary measures should be taken to enable

MINURSO to operate at full capacity and in complete safety so that it could fulfil its mandate.

40. It was his delegation's hope that by the end of the session the Committee would produce concrete, decisive proposals for the peaceful resolution of outstanding questions of decolonization, with the support of the international community.

41. **Mr. Wardhana** (Indonesia) said that the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were a vivid reminder that the international community's important work of decolonization was far from finished.

42. The Special Committee on decolonization and the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs were doing valuable work. As a member of the Special Committee, Indonesia had taken part in the Visiting Mission to New Caledonia in 2018. Commending the French Government and the people of New Caledonia for their exemplary efforts, he expressed his country's hope that the referendum to be held in December would be conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner, in keeping with the Nouméa Accord.

43. The Department of Public Information was continuing to collaborate with the administering Powers to disseminate useful information regarding their decolonization activities. The various agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions should also continue providing the technical assistance required by the populations of the Territories. Welcome steps had been taken to intensify consultations and dialogue between the Special Committee and the administering Powers and other stakeholders; and visiting missions by the Special Committee should be facilitated. The Special Committee should, however, focus only on the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and refrain from examining other, unlisted territories.

44. The United Nations, in working with the administering Powers and the Territories to achieve decolonization on a case-by-case basis, was guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and the Declaration on decolonization. In the process, it was essential to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent States. All involved in decolonization should continue engaging with the United Nations or should work within the framework of bilateral relations with a view to reaching mutually acceptable solutions. A case in point was the initiative taken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to convene the forthcoming round-table talks between the parties to the Western Sahara dispute. Other such efforts would bring meaningful change to the lives of the dependent peoples.

45. **Ms. Salman** (Bahrain) said that, despite the great efforts of the United Nations to end colonialism, the Palestinian people continued to struggle to enforce its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination. The situation required greater international efforts to reach a peaceful, fair and comprehensive settlement in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, providing for a two-State solution. The Palestinian people was entitled to establish a sovereign State with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the 1967 borders.

46. With regard to the Moroccan Sahara, Bahrain supported the serious and credible efforts of the Moroccan Government to find a political solution to the dispute on the basis of its autonomy plan and the relevant Security Council resolutions, and in a manner that recognized the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Morocco. It welcomed the work Morocco had done to promote development and good governance throughout every region of the country and to protect human rights, and commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to reach a political solution to the question of Western Sahara.

47. Bahrain called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belonged to the United Arab Emirates, and to work with the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over those territories, either through negotiations or through the International Court of Justice.

48. Bahrain urged the international community to take all necessary steps to implement the Declaration on decolonization and the relevant Security Council resolutions to enable all peoples to live in safety and stability, which was key to achieving sustainable development.

49. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in the light of the recognized right of dependent peoples to freely choose a political system and make decisions on their future, decolonization remained an essential priority of the United Nations. His Government therefore attached great importance to the work of the Special Committee. Despite the efforts made thus far, however, the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to suffer from the scourge of colonialism. More must be done by the international community, the United Nations and all other qualified international organizations to combat all forms of colonialism, including political, social, cultural and economic exploitation, in line with the Charter of



the United Nations, the Declaration on decolonization and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

50. Administering Powers had a duty to protect the populations and natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, avoid all activities that could adversely affect the environment, human health or economic development of the Territories, and pay compensation for any economic, social or cultural consequences of their occupation. It was a matter of concern that some administering Powers were undertaking activities, including militarization, that harmed the rights and interests of the peoples in the Territories under their jurisdiction, whereas they should instead be respecting their wishes and interests.

51. Visiting missions were an important tool in the decolonization process, providing an effective means of assessing the situation in each Non-Self-Governing Territory and identifying the wishes of its people regarding its future status, and administering Powers should facilitate them. They should also provide adequate information on the political, economic, social and educational development of the Territories under their jurisdiction, in accordance with article 73(e) of the Charter of the United Nations.

52. In response to the unfounded claims made earlier by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirmed that, as a matter of principle, it did not recognize any such dispute with the United Arab Emirates. Since the islands in question were an inseparable part of the Iranian territory, it categorically rejected any claim to the contrary. As a demonstration of good neighbourliness, the Islamic Republic of Iran remained willing to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates in order to dispel any misunderstanding on the part of that nation regarding the islands. His Government had always striven to restore and preserve good relations with its regional neighbours, including those in the Persian Gulf.

53. **Mr. Tiare** (Burkina Faso), reaffirming his country's solidarity with the peoples of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories which aspired to decide their own fate, said that the issues of decolonization were highly political and could not be resolved without listening, mutual understanding, consultation and continuous dialogue.

54. With regard to the question of Western Sahara, his delegation supported the ongoing political process under the exclusive auspices of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara aimed at achieving a mutually acceptable and negotiated solution to the dispute, as had been recommended by the Security

Council since 2007. In that connection, his delegation endorsed Security Council resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#) and called on all States in the region to increase their participation in the negotiating process. Resolving the question of Western Sahara would enable them to join forces in combating terrorism and insecurity.

55. His delegation commended the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the numerous initiatives that he had undertaken, particularly the forthcoming round-table talks between the parties to be held in December 2018. He welcomed the prompt, positive response of Morocco, which demonstrated its commitment to finding a swift political solution to the regional dispute, and hoped that all parties would participate fully in the discussions. Morocco was also to be commended for its full cooperation in allowing the Personal Envoy to conduct a visit to the Sahara region in June 2018 and meet with democratically elected representatives and non-governmental organizations.

56. Burkina Faso reaffirmed its support for the Moroccan autonomy initiative, which satisfied international norms for the delegation of power to local populations, and welcomed the Kingdom's efforts to develop its Sahara region, particularly through the large-scale socioeconomic and infrastructure projects that integrated it into the life of the country. While hailing the substantial advances Morocco had made with regard to human rights, as recognized in Security Council resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#), his delegation expressed concern for the situation of the people living in refugee camps, who should be registered according to international humanitarian law standards, as repeatedly recommended by the United Nations.

57. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal) said that a new approach was needed to the question of Western Sahara based on the Moroccan autonomy plan, which provided a suitable framework for achieving a compromise solution to the dispute. In keeping with Security Council resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#), which recognized the serious and credible efforts of Morocco to resolve the dispute, the Committee should encourage the parties to engage in negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account all efforts made since 2007 and any new developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution. Senegal welcomed the forthcoming round-table talks organized by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara and the expressed willingness of Morocco to take part. Neighbouring States had also been invited to participate in the talks, and the United Nations should maintain the pace of consultations with all concerned.



58. The resolution of that dispute would help to reinvigorate cooperation between member States of the Arab Maghreb Union, promote development, overcome serious regional and global challenges and resolve the situation of the refugees in the Tindouf camps once and for all. The Moroccan Government had made great efforts to promote human rights and encourage the broad socioeconomic development of its Saharan region, and had extended notable cooperation to the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy during his visit to the region in June 2018, during which he had been able to meet with the legitimate local representatives of Moroccan Sahara.

59. **Ms. Abdullah** (Yemen) said that her country had always condemned all forms of colonialism and supported the inalienable right to self-determination, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity for all colonized peoples. Yemen supported the efforts of the Special Committee to implement the Declaration on decolonization, as colonialism hindered international economic cooperation, social, economic and cultural development and United Nations peace efforts.

60. The Secretary General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara should be commended for their efforts to find a consensus-based, realistic and lasting political solution to the issue, in line with all relevant Security Council resolutions since 2007. The Moroccan Government had also made a useful proposal to resolve the issue fairly and definitively.

61. Condemning the Iranian occupation of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which violated the provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Yemen called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to withdraw from the islands and expressed support for all peaceful efforts of the United Arab Emirates to re-establish its sovereignty.

62. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the Israeli settlement policies were a primary cause of instability in the Middle East. Any fair resolution of the dispute must uphold the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital and must put an end to Israeli occupation and resettlement and to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

63. **Mr. Richardson** (Saint Lucia) said that all Non-Self-Governing Territories, regardless of their level of political or constitutional development, were increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The heads of government of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Monserrat had attended a post-hurricane pledging conference held by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations Development

Programme in November 2017, and called on the Special Committee on decolonization to develop programmes in conjunction with United Nations specialized agencies to address the environmental and economic vulnerability of the Territories.

64. Collaboration was essential to ensure that all Territories became fully self-governing. An expert study published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean assessing opportunities for improving the integration of Non-Self-Governing Territories into United Nations programmes and activities should serve as a guide for helping all small island Territories in the larger region promote sustainable development. Because their socioeconomic advancement could not be addressed in isolation from the decolonization process, the Special Committee had to ensure that all General Assembly resolutions on decolonization were fully implemented, rather than simply adopted year after year.

65. As the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism came to a close, Saint Lucia remained concerned that the decolonization of small island Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific had not been completed. The full application of all resolutions, declarations and programmes of action on decolonization, in particular the Plan of Implementation of the Decolonization Mandate 2006–2007, and the adoption of a case-by-case approach in assessing the situation of each Territory were essential if progress was to be made. His delegation asked the Secretary-General to provide Member States with a detailed analysis of the challenges faced in the implementation of the decolonization mandate with specific reference to the small island Territories, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [69/107](#) and [72/111](#).

66. Given that the General Assembly resolutions on the small island Territories had established that self-determination was a fundamental human right, the constitutional reform undertaken in some Territories, although welcome, was not a substitute for a legitimate process of self-determination leading to decolonization according to one of the three options set out in the Declaration on decolonization. The involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in various regional institutions reflected the strong ties that bound the people of the region, regardless of political status. The decolonization of the region would remain incomplete until all Caribbean Territories were fully self-governing.

67. Saint Lucia supported the efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to achieve a just and mutually acceptable solution to the question

of Western Sahara, requiring a spirit of realism and compromise, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2351 (2017) and 2414 (2018). It was promising that a round-table meeting was scheduled to be held between the parties, attended also by Algeria and Mauritania, that Morocco had already agreed to attend, and that all options for resolving the dispute, including the Moroccan autonomy proposal, would be under consideration.

68. Saint Lucia would continue to work with the Special Committee and regional organizations to address the challenges of the contemporary colonial dynamic and ensure the decolonization of all remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

69. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya), affirming the alienable right to self-determination and independence of the peoples of all Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, said that the draft resolutions under consideration should be implemented in order to expedite the process of liberating all peoples from colonial bondage and foreign occupation.

70. Kenyan foreign policy was heavily influenced by its experiences as a former colony and was based on the belief that there was a strong link between national independence and the promotion of freedom, justice, sustainable development and shared heritage. All options for self-determination were valid, provided that they were chosen in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people and the clearly defined principles of the General Assembly.

71. The total decolonization of Africa and all other parts of the world had to be a top priority. Supporting the decisions of past summits of the African Union and its predecessor Organization of African Unity on the self-determination of peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly with regard to Western Sahara, Kenya urged all parties involved in the dispute over the Territory to support the African Union Troika recently set up to bolster the United Nations efforts to resolve that question. A meeting among all parties involved had been scheduled by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to chart the way forward; and all should engage in the talks without preconditions and in a spirit of compromise.

72. **Ms. Guadey** (Ethiopia) said that the Special Committee was to be commended for its work in advancing the decolonization of the remaining Territories. The impasse over the long-standing question of Western Sahara, the only Non-Self-Governing Territory remaining in Africa, had to be broken by resuming direct negotiations between the parties.

Ethiopia welcomed the relaunching of the peace process by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, and the commitment of the African Union to engage at the highest level to support the United Nations-led peace process by establishing the Troika on Western Sahara. Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO as well as Algeria and Mauritania had expressed their willingness to participate in the scheduled Geneva talks. All parties should continue to commit fully to the political process in order to resolve the dispute. Ethiopia fully supported the Committee's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that provided for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

73. **Ms. Mōnōko** (Lesotho) said that as a former colony, Lesotho could not remain indifferent to the continuation of colonial domination. The principles of human rights and democracy were cherished both by the United Nations and by its Member States as civilized nations. Efforts should therefore be made to guarantee the right to self-determination of all peoples under colonial rule, which would contribute to reducing conflict and encouraging economic development.

74. Sadly, Western Sahara remained the only colony on the continent, even though its people yearned to determine its own destiny. The efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to engage Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO in direct negotiations deserved recognition, as did the rulings of the European Court of Justice and the South African High Court regarding the ownership of the natural resources and adjacent waters of Western Sahara.

75. Even as the plight of the Palestinian people continued to worsen, hope for a resolution of the crises in Syria and Iraq was also dimming. Genuine engagement by all parties was essential to achieving peace in the Middle East.

76. **Mr. Suárez Moreno** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that much remained to be done by the United Nations in its important role in eradicating colonialism. It was essential for administering Powers to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information relating to the economic, social and educational conditions and the political and constitutional development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which they were responsible, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations. They should also respect the desire of the Territories to exercise their inalienable rights over their natural resources. United Nations agencies for their part could make an important contribution to the sustainable development of the Territories, especially by supplying

statistical information and planning and executing programmes on the ground.

77. The visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2018 had done commendable work during the preparations for the December referendum on self-determination. His Government expected that the Special Committee would decide to organize missions to Montserrat, Anguilla and American Samoa as well, in response to their invitations, and urged the administering Powers to facilitate the missions.

78. A negotiated solution had to be found to the question of Western Sahara in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Recently, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy had taken welcome steps to engage all parties to the dispute in the talks that would soon be held in Geneva. The objective of all participants should be to reach a just and lasting solution.

79. In the Americas, Puerto Rico had remained under colonial domination for over a century, denying the people the enjoyment of its human rights, including the right to self-determination and the option of independence. Puerto Rico had the right to decide its political future and the kind of cultural, social and economic development it wanted.

80. Expressing solidarity with the Territories of the Caribbean that had been hard hit by hurricanes in 2017, his Government urged the administering Powers to fulfil their responsibilities towards their peoples in the areas of health, education and infrastructure.

81. His Government called on all administering Powers, with the support of all Member States, to wipe out colonialism in all its forms as soon as possible and unconditionally, in all corners of the world, in the name of idealism, peace, human rights and development.

82. **Mr. Kazi** (Bangladesh) said that the subjugation of a people to alien domination constituted a denial of fundamental human rights, ran counter to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and undermined international peace and security. Bangladesh supported all peoples which were struggling for their right to self-determination against imperialism, colonialism or racialism. The process of decolonization, though greatly advanced, had yet to reach its ultimate goal. The United Nations should make an objective assessment of what had been achieved thus far during the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and what still needed to be done to meet the targets of General Assembly resolution [65/119](#).

83. In that connection, the importance of the work of the Special Committee should be underscored, as also

the great usefulness of its visiting missions to the Territories. The administering Powers, responsible for promoting the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples under their jurisdiction, must cooperate with the Special Committee, including by facilitating its visiting missions. They should also fulfil their reporting obligations, while developing time-bound programmes of work of their own. In certain cases, meaningful dialogue and cooperation among the parties would help find peaceful, lasting solutions to a protracted impasse.

84. In keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principle of leaving no one behind, the United Nations had a duty to continue to meaningfully address the political, economic, social and educational challenges faced by the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and territories under foreign occupation. Bangladesh commended those States that had made educational and training scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories and urged others to follow suit. Because of the particular vulnerability of many Territories to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, the Special Committee and other relevant United Nations bodies should take appropriate action in that regard.

85. His Government supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a sovereign, viable and contiguous State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as part of a two-State solution.

86. **Mr. Odida** (Uganda) said that his Government deplored the fact that colonialism had not yet been eradicated and expressed its solidarity with the peoples of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. It endorsed the decision on the question of Western Sahara adopted by the African Union at its 31st Ordinary Session reiterating concern at the continued stalemate in the dispute over the Territory. It therefore welcomed the establishment of the African Union Troika to support the United Nations-led efforts in that regard and encouraged all parties to demonstrate flexibility and garner the widest possible support for substantive negotiations. The right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, an unfulfilled political goal on the African continent, must be supported, as should the United Nations efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It was important to engage the people of Western Sahara in determining its political status through a referendum under the supervision of MINURSO. The Mission's mandate should therefore be extended, especially in view of the forthcoming round-table talks. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for

Western Sahara deserved support and his efforts should soon show progress in resolving the issue.

87. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon) said that, on the question of Western Sahara, his Government supported the political process promoted by the Secretary-General and welcomed the increased attention brought to the question since the start of his mandate. It also commended the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara for having helped reinvigorate the political efforts to achieve a solution in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations. The parties and the neighbouring States should all participate in the talks he had organized.

88. The achievement of peace in Western Sahara would strengthen relations between Morocco and Algeria, promote cooperation between the countries of the wider region and contribute to African unity and sustainable development and the establishment of an African common market, which was an African Union goal. Security Council resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#) set out the approach to be taken to achieve a sustainable solution and itself underscored the contribution to the stability and security of the Sahel region that would be made by a political solution to the dispute and increased cooperation between the member States of the Arab Maghreb Union. Cameroon called for the adoption by consensus, as in previous years, of the draft resolution on the question of Western Sahara.

89. **Ms. Sánchez de Orozco** (Honduras) said that it was of the greatest importance to ensure the right to self-determination and independence of all dependent peoples. Decolonization pursuant to General Assembly resolutions, particularly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), demanded constant dialogue between the administering Powers of colonized Territories, the Special Committee on decolonization and the peoples themselves.

90. Highlighting the valuable work done by the Special Committee on decolonization for over fifty years in its consideration of the question of the Malvinas Islands, she said that the Argentine Republic had legitimate sovereign rights over those Islands, which had been under occupation for many years. The good offices exercised by the Secretary-General and the work done by the General Assembly to advance a peaceful solution to the dispute should be acknowledged, but further efforts must be made to fulfil that objective. Honduras had assured Argentina of its support on several occasions in the context of its membership in multilateral organizations, mechanisms and forums, all of which recognized the sovereignty of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South

Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Standing with Argentina, the whole of Latin America advocated a speedy, peaceful and lasting resolution of the dispute. Honduras drew attention to the commitment made by the member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) at its Fifth Summit to continue working within the framework of international law with a view to eliminating colonialism from the region.

*Statements made in exercise of the right of reply*

91. **Ms. Pedros Carretero** (Spain), responding to the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom concerning Gibraltar, said that the United Nations had noted, clearly and on many occasions, that the status of Gibraltar as a colony undermined the territorial integrity of Spain. The United Kingdom and Spain should engage in bilateral negotiations to resolve the dispute and ensure the decolonization of Gibraltar, as proposed by the United Nations. General Assembly resolution 2353 (XXII), which stated that any colonial situation that partially or completely destroyed the national unity and territorial integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, made no reference to the supposed right to self-determination of the people of Gibraltar, as it did not exist. In that resolution, the General Assembly stated that the 1967 referendum had contravened various resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. Spain regretted the efforts of the administering Power and the authorities of the colonized Territory to change their political relationship and deny the existence of colonial ties, while at the same time claiming the right to self-determination.

92. Spain welcomed the consultations between the Government of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on the decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, or "Brexit", as Gibraltar would be particularly affected by that decision. Spain recalled that, in guidelines issued on 29 April 2017, the European Council had advised that, from the moment that Brexit became effective, all treaties of the European Union would cease to apply to the United Kingdom or its territories, including Gibraltar, over which any future agreements between the United Kingdom and the European Union would be dependent on agreement between the United Kingdom and Spain. Spain and the United Kingdom were engaged in advanced negotiations on the withdrawal of Gibraltar from the European Union, with the aim of protecting the rights of all workers, including cross-border workers, and

establishing a fairer future relationship between Gibraltar and Campo de Gibraltar.

93. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina), replying to the United Kingdom concerning the Malvinas Islands, and reflecting the statements delivered by the Argentine President to the General Assembly and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship to the Special Committee on decolonization in 2018, said that his Government reaffirmed that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were an integral part of the Argentine national territory and that, having been illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, they were the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two parties, which was recognized by various international organizations. That illegal occupation had led the General Assembly to adopt resolution 2065 (XX) and nine subsequent resolutions, all of which recognized the existence of the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands and called upon the two Governments to resume negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute as soon as possible. For its part, the Special Committee had repeatedly adopted resolutions in the same vein, most recently in June 2018, and the General Assembly of the Organization of American States had also adopted a new statement on the issue in similar terms the same month.

94. Argentina rejected the British white paper in all aspects related to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, as set out in a formal protest by his Government, and continued to reject any reference by the United Kingdom to those Argentine territories as “British Overseas Territories”, as well as its inclusion of the so-called British Antarctic Territory among its Overseas Territories.

95. The right to self-determination of peoples did not apply in the case of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The illegitimate “referendum” held there had been a unilateral exercise that in no way changed the colonial essence of the question; it could not resolve the sovereignty dispute and had no effect on the legitimate rights of Argentina or the work of the Special Committee. Any attempt to allow the British population on the islands to arbitrate a dispute to which their own country was a party distorted the right of self-determination of peoples, given that the situation did not involve a people in the sense of international law. The interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands were adequately addressed by resolutions of the General Assembly and by the Constitution of Argentina. Argentina reaffirmed its legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and

South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

96. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom), replying to the statement just made concerning Gibraltar, said that his Government reiterated its sovereignty over the Territory and the waters surrounding it and recalled that the United Nations had included it on its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. As such, it enjoyed the rights accorded to it under the Charter of the United Nations. The 2006 Gibraltar Constitution, which had been endorsed in a referendum by the people of Gibraltar, provided for a modern and mature relationship between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom. His Government restated its longstanding commitment to the people of Gibraltar that it would not enter into arrangements under which Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against its freely and democratically expressed wishes nor enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar was not content. His Government remained committed to safeguarding the people and economy of Gibraltar. Although the Governments of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar regretted that the Spanish Government had formally withdrawn from trilateral talks, they remained ready to engage in dialogue, which was the most credible, constructive and practical means of strengthening their relationship and addressing issues of mutual importance.

97. In response to the statements made regarding the Falkland Islands, he said that the United Kingdom had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding maritime areas of both Territories, nor about the Falkland Islanders’ right to self-determination, as that principle was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 of the two International Covenants on human rights, by virtue of which they freely determined their political status and freely pursued their economic, social and cultural development. None of the regional statements of diplomatic support for sovereignty negotiations invoked by Argentina modified or diluted the obligation of nations to respect the legally binding principle of self-determination. Therefore, no dialogue on sovereignty was possible unless the Falkland Islanders so wished. The 2013 referendum, in which 99.8 per cent of those who voted wanted to maintain their current status as an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, had sent a clear message that the people of the Islands did not want a dialogue on sovereignty. Argentina should respect those wishes. His Government’s relationship with the Falkland Islands, as with all of its overseas territories, was a modern one based on partnership, shared values



and the right of the people of each Territory to determine their own future. The Republic of Argentina continued to deny that such fundamental rights applied to the people of the Falkland Islands, and also to act in ways that went against the principles of the Charter.

98. In response to the statement by Mauritius, his Government was clear about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which it administered as the British Indian Ocean Territory. That sovereignty had never been called into doubt by any international tribunal. Although it refuted the claim of Mauritius to sovereignty over the islands, his Government had repeatedly expressed its commitment to cede the islands to Mauritius when no longer required for defence purposes. The United Kingdom alone could determine when that condition had been met, however. It continued to use the British Indian Ocean Territory to combat some of the most difficult problems of the 21st century, including terrorism, international crime and piracy. The referral of the dispute to the International Court of Justice by Mauritius was inappropriate, as it sought to circumvent the principle that no State should have its bilateral disputes submitted for judicial settlement without its consent, in particular with regard to matters of sovereignty.

99. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina), replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, said that, unlike other cases of colonialism in which the General Assembly had recognized the applicability of the principle of self-determination, none of its resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands made reference thereto. In 1985, the General Assembly had rejected two United Kingdom proposals seeking to incorporate a reference to the said principle into the resolutions on that question, whereas in resolution 1514 (XV), paragraph 6, it had upheld the principle of territorial integrity. He called on the United Kingdom to resume negotiations with Argentina on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas as soon as possible with a view to achieving a just and definitive solution to the dispute, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

100. **Ms. Pedros Carretero** (Spain), replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, said that the position of Spain regarding the areas ceded to the United Kingdom under the Treaty of Utrecht remained unchanged. Spain did not acknowledge that the United Kingdom had any rights to the maritime areas of Gibraltar not included in article X of the Treaty. Her Government was clear about the limits of its territory,

which included the waters surrounding Gibraltar. Spanish ships had been operating in those waters without incident since time immemorial; the recent controversy had arisen only in response to certain alleged incidents.

101. As the supposed referendum in Gibraltar had not been recognized by the United Nations, it did provide sufficient grounds for changing the status of the Territory. Spain welcomed the negotiations between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on the effects of Brexit, as they would lead to an improvement in living conditions in the Territory and in Campo de Gibraltar.

102. **Ms. Pertaub** (Mauritius), in reply to the representative of the United Kingdom, said that since the matter of the Chagos Archipelago was currently before the International Court of Justice, Mauritius would release a statement once the Court had issued its advisory opinion.

103. **The Chair** said that he had received a request from the Russian Federation to postpone action on draft resolution IX pertaining to the question of French Polynesia, contained in document [A/73/23](#) (chapter XIII).

104. **Mr. Simon-Michel** (France) asked why the Russian Federation had requested that postponement.

105. **Mr. Aleksaev** (Russian Federation) said that many delegations had commented on the lack of clarity of the draft resolution. The Russian Federation hoped that the resolution could be discussed again by the Special Committee in order to resolve all outstanding issues.

106. He asked the delegations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America why they had earlier requested the postponement of action on other draft resolutions or decisions, as an explanation had not yet been provided.

107. **Mr. Simon-Michel** (France) said that his delegation still did not understand the reasons for postponing action on the draft resolution on the question of French Polynesia, especially at such a late stage in the proceedings.

108. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to postpone action on draft resolution IX.

109. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*