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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: 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

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held
with the Chairman 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

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1995/58 of 28 July 1995 on the 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. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman 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 and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995, in paragraph 14 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions, the President is of the view that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Most of these Territories are islands, small in size and population, geographically isolated and vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and cyclones. They are also relatively undeveloped economically and therefore are particularly dependent on external assistance. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, should therefore be invited to examine and review conditions in each of the Territories, commensurate with the pressing needs of the peoples concerned for increased transfer of resources, technology and know-how, and take appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress.

4. In accordance with the terms of Council resolution 1995/58, the President of the Council maintained close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee during the period under review and, on the basis of those contacts and in the light of related developments, submits to the Council the observations set out below, with a view to facilitating Council consideration of the present item.

5. During the year, members of the Council and the Special Committee followed closely the work of their respective bodies relating to the item. The President considers it both useful and essential that such contacts and cooperation continue to be maintained and strengthened to mobilize the maximum possible assistance to the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. According to the information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, during the period under review a number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to the

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relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance.

7. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system.

8. In respect of Anguilla, the UNDP programme of assistance for the period 1992-1996 is described in document DP/CP/ANL/2: Second Country Programme for Anguilla, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992. The total resources for this programme presently stand at \$1,269,000, which includes the IPF allocation of \$1,149,000 and available cost-sharing resources of \$120,000. By holding the mid-term review of the country programme at the end of 1995, UNDP responded to the request for continuing the examination and review of the conditions in Anguilla. Activities regarding the planning of the next programming period, 1997-1999, are under way, whereby UNDP actively seeks to involve the specialized agencies and other organizations associated with the United Nations system. It needs to be taken into consideration, however, that for the years to come, Anguilla has been affected by Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions and will be receiving UNDP's TRAC resources on a reimbursable basis.

9. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of Anguilla, the on-going programme places emphasis on UNDP support for human resources development (HRD), reform of the public sector, and environmental and natural resources management. In general, the mid-term review confirmed these areas of concentration by concluding that UNDP has made a positive contribution to the country in all of these areas.

10. Within the area of HRD, the programme has focused on education and in particular on teacher training. Some 85 per cent of primary teachers have been trained at the newly created Teacher's Training Institute, up from 60 per cent at the start of the cycle. In the area of public sector reform, UNDP assistance focused on the Development Planning Unit, where activities included the preparation of a public sector investment programme and the preparation of capital investment programmes. Multiple UNDP activities in the environmental area were instrumental in bringing about a generally high level of environmental awareness. Area plans for four selected zones are being prepared and a country environmental profile as well as a national land-use plan have begun to inform national policy for land-use planning and physical development. Environmental activities are now concentrated in a single project ANL/94/002 "Environmental management".

11. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn, which struck Anguilla in early September 1995, leaving behind damage estimated at \$100 million, the UNDP Resident Representative effectively coordinated response measures with the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team.

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12. In response to the Programme of Action ensuing from the Global Conference of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which took place in Barbados from 25 April-6 May 1994, two aspects of the Programme of Action are receiving particular UNDP attention: (a) the establishment of the collaborative network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by small island developing States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP), based on a regional assessment of unfunded technical cooperation, including capacity-building gaps in the priority areas under the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action, to promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development. In order to enhance the coordination of follow-up activities in the Caribbean a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/UNDP consultative mechanism, with responsibilities for coordination, results monitoring and resource mobilization, has been set up in Trinidad. The preparation of a directory of scholars and institutions is nearing completion.

13. Bermuda, with a per capita income of \$10,280 in 1983 and of \$27,790 in 1994, according to the 1995 Oxford Analytica Ltd., has been affected by Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions. The country does have a fourth cycle IPF carry-over of \$48,000 but short of an on-going Country Programme with UNDP, it has not been issued an IPF for the UNDP fifth programming cycle. However by decision 91/29 of the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991, Bermuda, like other NCCs, is entitled to participate in other components of the UNDP Programme, including projects financed from the regional and interregional IPF and from special programme resources (SPR). The Caribbean component of the Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, described in document DP/RLA/4, has made provision for technical assistance in the amount of \$7 million to benefit the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), where Bermuda enjoys observer status.

14. The Government of Bermuda has given indications of its present reluctance to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations system. However, UNDP continues to explore areas of cooperation such as facilitating the establishment of a national United Nations focal point.

15. The UNDP programme of assistance for the British Virgin Islands for the period 1995-1996 is described in document DP/CP/BVI/3: Third Country Programme for the British Virgin Islands, approved by the UNDP Executive Board in April 1995. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the British Virgin Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support to provide policy advice and inputs for institutional strengthening, primarily aiming at the formulation of an integrated development strategy.

16. The British Virgin Islands, with a GDP per capita of \$10,882 in 1992, has been affected by Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions during the fifth UNDP programming cycle. Accordingly, the British Virgin Islands has been issued a reimbursable IPF of \$97,000 for the remainder of the fifth programming cycle (1995-1996). However by decision 91/29 of the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991, the British Virgin Islands, like other NCC countries, is entitled to fully participate in other components of the UNDP Programme, including projects financed from the regional and interregional IPF and from special programme resources (SPR). Activities regarding the planning

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of the next programming period, 1997-1999, are under way, whereby UNDP actively seeks to involve the specialized agencies and other organizations associated with the United Nations system.

17. In response to the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, UNDP has launched a regional Capacity 21 funded project that will provide the British Virgin Islands and other participating countries with the opportunity to strengthen their capacities to manage and implement sustainable development plans and programmes at the local, the national and the regional levels.

18. Also in response to the Programme of Action, two aspects of the Programme of Action are receiving particular UNDP attention: (a) the establishment of the collaborative network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by small island developing States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP), based on a regional assessment of unfunded technical cooperation, including capacity-building gaps in the priority areas under the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action, to promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development. In order to enhance the coordination of follow-up activities in the Caribbean a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/UNDP consultative mechanism, with responsibilities for coordination, results monitoring and resource mobilization, has been set up in Trinidad. The preparation of a directory of scholars and institutions is nearing completion.

19. As regards the Cayman Islands, the UNDP programme of assistance for the period 1993-1996 is described in document DP/CP/CAY/3: Third Country Programme for the Cayman Islands, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in February 1993. The total resources for this programme are \$1,457,000, which includes the IPF entitlement of \$163,000 and cost-sharing commitments of \$1,294,000. By holding the mid-term review of the country programme in mid-1995, UNDP responded to the request for continuing the examination and review of the conditions in the Cayman Islands. Activities regarding the planning of the next programming period, 1997-1999, are under way, whereby UNDP actively seeks to involve the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other organizations associated with the United Nations system. It needs to be taken into consideration however, that for the coming cycle, the Cayman Islands has been affected by Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions and will be receiving UNDP's TRAC resources on a reimbursable basis.

20. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Cayman Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for human resources development and economic planning and management. Human resources development is primarily directed at strengthening administrative, managerial and technical skills in selected government departments. Economic planning and management seeks to promote effective management of public expenditure and more active involvement of the Government in macroeconomic planning through improved fiscal management and the rationalization and integration of planning mechanisms.

21. In response to the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, two aspects of the Programme of Action are

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receiving particular UNDP attention: (a) the establishment of the collaborative network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by small island developing States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP), based on a regional assessment of unfunded technical cooperation, including capacity-building gaps in the priority areas under the 14 chapters of the SIDS Programme of Action, to promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development. In order to enhance the coordination of follow-up activities in the Caribbean, a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/UNDP consultative mechanism, with responsibilities for coordination, results monitoring and resource mobilization, has been set up in Trinidad. The preparation of a directory of scholars and institutions is nearing completion.

22. The UNDP programme of assistance for Montserrat for the period 1992-1996 is described in document DP/CP/MOT/3: Third Country Programme for Montserrat, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992. The total resources for this programme presently stand at \$632,000, which includes the IPF entitlement of \$434,000 and a government cost-sharing commitment of \$198,000. By holding the mid-term review of the country programme at the end of 1995, UNDP responded to the request for continuing the examination and review of the conditions in Montserrat. Activities regarding the planning of the next programming period, 1997-1999, are under way, whereby UNDP actively seeks to involve the specialized agencies and other organizations associated with the United Nations system. It needs to be taken into consideration however, that for the coming cycle, Montserrat has been affected by Net Contributor Country (NCC) provisions and will be receiving UNDP's TRAC resources on a reimburseable basis.

23. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of Montserrat, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for environmental and natural resources management, an area which has absorbed more than 90 per cent of the available resources. There has been substantial progress in the establishment of a physical planning unit to direct natural resource management and in the preparation of an environmental profile of the island and an inventory of its historical, archaeological, cultural and natural resources. In the aftermath of volcano activities that started in July 1995 throwing Montserrat into a crisis situation characterized by recurrent evacuations of the whole population from Plymouth, the capital, to the opposite end of the island, the strengthened physical planning unit has been able to take the lead in reappraising national development programmes in the light of the new situation. Further UNDP support with regard to an appropriate disaster response strategy in dealing with thousands of internally displaced persons is anticipated during 1996.

24. Faced with the volcano eruption and following Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn, which struck Montserrat in early September 1995, leaving behind a damage estimated at \$5 million, the UNDP Resident Representative effectively coordinated response measures with the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team and in close cooperation with the office of the British Governor.

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25. In response to the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, two aspects of the Programme of Action are receiving particular UNDP attention: (a) the establishment of the collaborative network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by small island developing States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP), based on a regional assessment of unfunded technical cooperation, including capacity-building gaps in the priority areas under the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action, to promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development. In order to enhance the coordination of follow-up activities in the Caribbean a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/UNDP consultative mechanism, with responsibilities for coordination, results monitoring and resource mobilization, has been set up in Trinidad. The preparation of a directory of scholars and institutions is nearing completion.

26. The UNDP programme of assistance for the Turks and Caicos Islands for the period 1993-1996 is described in document DP/CP/TCI/3: Third Country Programme for the Turks and Caicos Islands, approved by the UNDP Governing Council in February 1993. The total Fifth Cycle IPF entitlement under this programme amounts to \$910,000. By holding the mid-term review of the country programme in mid-1995, UNDP responded to the request for continuing the examination and review of the conditions in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Activities regarding the planning of the next programming period, 1997-1999, are under way, whereby UNDP actively seeks to involve the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other organizations associated with the United Nations system.

27. In recognition of the specific characteristics of small island economies and in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the programme places emphasis on UNDP support for public sector management, education and environmental management. UNDP resources were primarily used to provide technical services in key areas of the public sector. The provision of a computerized data collection system for customs allows the Government to access accurate statistical data for planning purposes and increases its revenue inflows. At the sectoral level, a review of the country's education system has provided the Government with options to be pursued in streamlining the system to meet labour market trends.

28. In response to the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, two aspects of the Programme of Action are receiving particular UNDP attention: (a) the establishment of the collaborative network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate access by small island developing States to vital environmental information; and (b) the implementation of a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP), based on a regional assessment of unfunded technical cooperation, including capacity-building gaps in the priority areas under the 14 chapters of the Programme of Action, to promote inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development. In order to enhance the coordination of follow-up activities in the Caribbean a joint CARICOM/ECLAC/UNDP consultative mechanism, with responsibilities for coordination, results monitoring and resource mobilization, has been set up in Trinidad. The preparation of a directory of scholars and institutions is nearing completion.

I. SUPPORT BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

International Maritime Organization

29. With financing from Norway (\$891,000), IMO has recently completed a project to develop port state control capabilities in the Caribbean, and a regional agreement on this matter was adopted in February 1996. The project seeks to enhance the capacities of the island nations and territories of the Caribbean to ratify and implement effectively the global standards for maritime safety adopted by IMO. Three IMO fellowships have been allocated to Turks and Caicos Islands, Bonaire and Curaçao in the context of this project.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

30. UNESCO has supported journalism training activities in favour of media practitioners from a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to contributing to democratic processes and enhancing citizens' participation. In particular, journalists and other media specialists from Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (associate member of UNESCO and thus benefiting from and contributing to UNESCO's programmes and activities) and Montserrat were able to attend training courses offered by the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communication (Kingston, Jamaica). Similarly, journalists from Tokelau received training under the Pacific Journalism Training and Development regional project.

31. The UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-eighth session (1995) established the Project on Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands (CSI), which aims, in particular, at securing integrated coastal zone planning and management by advancing knowledge, promoting the application of research results and related capacity-building. The CSI project based on interdisciplinary inputs from UNESCO's intergovernmental programmes, comprises four pilot projects and focuses on sites in the South Pacific, East Africa Southeast Asia and Caribbean regions. It will take into account the needs of the remaining Non-Self-Governing small island Territories.

II. CONCLUSION

32. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-first session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the President of the Council shall continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman 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.
