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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 28th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 16 November 2018, at 10 a.m.

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

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

**Agenda item 54: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

*(continued)* ([A/C.4/73/L.14](#), [A/C.4/73/L.15](#), [A/C.4/73/L.16](#) and [A/C.4/73/L.17](#))

**Agenda item 55: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories** *(continued)* ([A/C.4/73/L.18](#), [A/C.4/73/L.19](#), [A/C.4/73/L.20](#), [A/C.4/73/L.21](#) and [A/C.4/73/L.22](#))

1. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia), introducing the four draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 54 ([A/C.4/73/L.14](#), [A/C.4/73/L.15](#), [A/C.4/73/L.16](#) and [A/C.4/73/L.17](#)), said that they were based on those adopted the previous year, with updates reflecting the situation of the Palestine refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), including the ongoing severe shortages in funding which had reached unprecedented levels that year, jeopardizing the Agency's operations. The international community recognized the Agency's vital role in fostering regional stability and its contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In response to the severe financial deficit, donor countries and organizations had made additional voluntary contributions to ensure continuity of the Agency's essential services. However, further efforts were urgently needed to secure sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding for the duration of the Agency's mandate, as reaffirmed in the Secretary-General's report on the operations of UNRWA ([A/71/849](#)). All delegations were urged to support the efforts in that regard, in line with longstanding commitments and responsibilities and as a critical reaffirmation of solidarity with the Palestine refugees until a just solution for their plight was realized on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

2. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba), introducing the five draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 55 ([A/C.4/73/L.18](#), [A/C.4/73/L.19](#), [A/C.4/73/L.20](#), [A/C.4/73/L.21](#) and [A/C.4/73/L.22](#)), said that they were based on the resolutions adopted the previous year, with updates reflecting developments on the ground. They focused on the violations of international law, particularly humanitarian and human rights law, committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, which had been well documented by various United Nations bodies and human rights organizations. Unfortunately, the

human rights and protection crises had intensified, as had the illegal actions of Israel. The occupying Power had continued to implement its illegal settlement campaign, which included land confiscation, appropriation of natural resources, demolition of houses and forced displacement of Palestinian civilians, threatening the contiguity of Palestinian lands and the viability of the two-State solution. It was hoped that Member States would once again firmly support those crucial draft resolutions and work to apply the principles of international law in order to reach a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict, while ensuring that the long-awaited rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence were realized.

3. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel) said that UNRWA undermined the basic right of the Jewish people to self-determination, and the refusal to accept that basic right constituted the root cause of the conflict, the refugee problem and its failure to be resolved. The Special Committee had failed to address the Arab aggression against Israel that predated the presence of his country in the West Bank and the Golan Heights; the non-stop threats and violence against Israeli and the lack of regional stability were the main obstacles to peace.

4. Israel was accused of failing to abide by resolutions, but the nature of democracy at the United Nations was completely different to that of a national democracy, where freedom and moral values were protected and minorities were promised their rights. The United Nations only had a democratic voting procedure, which enabled Member States with common policies and interests to behave discriminatorily against one country, in the current case, Israel. As the only Jewish State, Israel was a minority at the United Nations and in the world. The United Nations system accommodated the interests of groups of nations, which had led to repeated discrimination against Israel.

5. His delegation wished to clarify that it was only Palestinians who were able to inherit refugee status automatically. In all other cases, inheritance of refugee status was examined and granted on a case-by-case basis, with the relevant United Nations agency doing everything in its power to provide humanitarian assistance, resettle refugees and help them gain citizenship elsewhere. However, refugee status as granted by UNRWA was unique, as nearly 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank were considered refugees, despite never having crossed an international border. Furthermore, millions of Palestinians who were citizens of other countries around the world were also considered refugees.

6. There had been no mention in the Committee of the de facto control of Gaza by Hamas, despite the focus on that region in that year's Special Committee report, nor of the terror committed by Hamas against both Gazan and Israeli civilians. His delegation would vote against the unequal, anti-Israel resolutions, to avoid becoming part of a consensus against itself and to create a minimal inconvenience to those bullying Israel. No country under similar circumstances would have acted differently.

7. **Ms. Sutton** (United States of America) speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that her Government continued to oppose the annual submission of a disproportionate number of draft resolutions biased against Israel. Such a one-sided approach damaged the prospects for peace by undermining trust between parties. It was disappointing that, despite the support for reform, Member States continued to single out Israel. The draft resolutions were quick to condemn Israeli actions, but said almost nothing regarding terrorist attacks against innocent civilians, including the most aggressive rocket attacks into Israeli civilian territory since 2014. Moreover, Israel was blamed for the situation in Gaza, while there was no mention of Hamas.

8. It was unacceptable that the United Nations – an institution founded upon the idea that all nations should be treated equally – should so often be used by Member States to treat the State of Israel unjustly. Her delegation would therefore vote against the draft resolutions and encouraged other nations to do the same. It would also be shifting its vote from “abstention” to “no” on draft resolutions [A/C.4/73/L.14](#) and [A/C.4/73/L.22](#). Instead of repeatedly introducing a draft resolution aimed at Israel, the United Nations should be focusing on issues of genuine urgency, such as the conflict in Syria and its impact on the residents of the Golan Heights. The United States position on the status of the Golan Heights had not changed, but the annual resolution had not facilitated any progress towards a negotiated solution. It also failed to address the increasing militarization of the Golan and the serious threats from Iran and the presence of Hezbollah in that area. The fact that the draft resolution was sponsored by the Syrian regime that was responsible for grievous war crimes in the region underscored the lack of serious intent behind it.

9. The United States Government had withdrawn its support to UNRWA owing to the Agency's failure to mobilize adequate and appropriate burden-sharing, as well as the unsustainability of its fundamental model and fiscal practices. It had also intensified dialogue with host Governments and international stakeholders on new models and approaches, which may include direct bilateral assistance from the United States and other

partners to provide the Palestinian people with a more durable and dependable path towards a brighter future.

10. The United States remained firmly and consistently committed to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. Resolutions such as those that would be passed that day served as a distraction from that process. Progress towards peace could begin only once the bias of the United Nations against Israel ended. Her delegation had consistently opposed every effort to delegitimize or undermine the security of Israel at the United Nations and would continue to do so with vigour. She hoped that other Member States would join the United States in voting against the draft resolutions.

11. **The Chair** said that recorded votes had been requested on the draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 54 and 55, which had no budget implications.

*Draft resolution [A/C.4/73/L.14](#): Assistance to Palestine refugees*

12. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Surinam, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

13. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan,

Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Solomon Islands.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.14 was adopted by 161 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.15: Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities*

15. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Surinam and United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi,

Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Palau, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.15 was adopted by 155 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.16: Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

18. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Surinam, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

19. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

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

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Palau, Rwanda, Solomon Islands.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.16 was adopted by 158 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.17: Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues*

21. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

22. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint



Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Palau, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.17 was adopted by 155 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

24. **Mr. Fachinotti** (Switzerland) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution [A/C.4/73/L.16](#) because UNRWA continued to play a vital role in stabilizing the region and combating radicalization. As one of the Agency's major donors, Switzerland would continue to engage actively in the process of reforming UNRWA and contribute to the conversation on its future and the sustainability of its involvement in the region.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.18: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories*

25. **The Chair** said that the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 55 had no programme budget implications. Recorded votes had been requested on all five draft resolutions.

26. **Ms. Bacher** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union in explanation of vote before the voting, said that while the European Union member States would follow a coordinated voting pattern on the draft resolutions introduced under agenda item 55, the European Union as a whole had not adopted a legal definition of the term "forced displacement", which was used in some of the draft resolutions. Furthermore, the use of the term "Palestine" could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of member States

on the issue and, therefore, to the question of the validity of the accession of Palestine to the international instruments referred to in the draft resolutions.

27. With respect to the holy sites in Jerusalem, the European Union was concerned at the troubling developments and recurrent violent clashes at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. Recalling the special significance of the holy sites, the European Union called for the status quo of the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount established in 1967 to be upheld, in line with previous understandings and acknowledging the special role of Jordan. The position of the European Union with respect to the draft resolutions did not imply a change in its stance on the terminology concerning the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. It was important for language used in reference to the holy sites to reflect their importance and historical significance for the three monotheistic religions and to take account of the necessary religious and cultural sensitivities; the future choice of language used in draft resolutions might affect the collective support of the European Union for the draft resolutions according to the established voting pattern.

28. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

29. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

*Against:*

Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.18 was adopted by 77 votes to 8, with 79 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.19: Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories*

31. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

32. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El

Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Palau, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.19 was adopted by 154 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.20: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan*

34. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

35. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.20 was adopted by 153 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.21: Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

37. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela



(Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.21 was adopted by 153 votes to 6, with 9 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.22: The occupied Syrian Golan*

40. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Somalia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

41. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia,

South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Togo.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.22 was adopted by 151 votes to 2, with 14 abstentions.*

43. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the overwhelming support for the draft resolutions just adopted under agenda items 54 and 55 sent an unambiguous message to Israel to end its occupation of all the occupied Arab territories and to cease immediately all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The fact that only two delegations had voted against the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.4/73/L.22) reaffirmed that the attempt by Israel to annex the Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, in accordance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981). The actions of Israel, including its attempt in October 2018 – foiled by Syrian inhabitants of the Syrian Golan – to conduct the farcical so-called local elections in the occupied Syrian Golan, ongoing settlement activity and cooperation with armed terrorist groups such as the Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), were a deliberate rebuke to all those who strived to uphold the principles of international law and who advocated for an end to foreign occupation and rejected the principle of annexing the land of others by force.

44. The United States delegation's opposition to the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan was unsurprising, given that that country was both the occupying Power's main military and political partner in the region – shielding the latter from accountability before the Security Council over decades – and an occupier itself. United States forces were currently occupying Syrian territory and protecting ISIL terrorists. Moreover, the two countries were working together to plunder the natural resources of the occupied

Syrian Golan, with United States companies illegally prospecting for oil in the territory.

45. The United States vote made it clear to all that that country was not qualified to play the role of Middle East peace broker that it had arrogated to itself. As a great Power, a permanent member of the Security Council and host country of United Nations Headquarters, it behoved the United States to form an international coalition to achieve peace, end the Israeli occupation and restore occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners instead of forging an illegal alliance with sponsors of terrorism, perpetrating aggression and entrenching occupation.

46. **Mr. Danon** (Israel), thanking the United States delegation for its moral opposition to the draft resolution on the Golan Heights and for once again standing on the side of truth, said that the world could not continue ignoring the elephant in the room, namely, the slaughter of thousands of people every day by the evil Assad regime. Tethered to life by Iranian money and weapons, Assad was able to continue committing atrocities that were readily forgotten when the opportunity to slander Israel arose. The world should remember that in the Middle East, certain actors stabilized the region while others terrorized it. The United States decision to oppose the resolution was particularly brave, given the political unpopularity of doing so. For its part, Israel would not be bullied into a situation that placed it in clear danger. The Golan Heights – his country’s rightful territory – was critical to Israeli security. It was therefore high time that the international community accepted that Israel would not withdraw from the Golan Heights.

47. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the adoption of all resolutions under agenda items 54 and 55 by an overwhelming majority was indicative of the widespread support among Committee members for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and for holding the occupying Israeli regime accountable for its crimes against Palestinians, in particular, women and children. Since the tragedy of Palestine had occurred, various concerned countries, the United Nations and other organizations had taken numerous initiatives and adopted resolutions condemning the United States-backed Israeli regime, whose non-compliance with international law had prevented the international community from finding a just solution to the crisis.

48. Only by ending the Israeli occupation, restoring the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, facilitating the return of Palestine refugees to their homeland and establishing a sovereign and viable State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital would it be

possible to bring decades of conflict and instability in the Middle East to an end and establish a durable peace.

49. **Mr. Ja’afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the question of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and of the Syrian Golan was not a matter subject to Israeli whims but rather a legal matter that United Nations diplomats handled as such. The representative of Israel had not only failed to grasp the legal and political message of opposition to the Israeli occupation conveyed by the votes of an overwhelming majority of delegations; he had also made a number of errors that revealed his Government’s tenuous command of international law. For instance, he had used the term “Golan Heights” to refer to the occupied Syrian Golan, which in fact consisted not only of heights but also of valleys, plains, rivers and other topographical features. Israelis commonly used the term in support of their case that the so-called heights were crucial to Israeli security, despite the fact that modern military equipment had rendered the role of mountains and highlands in military strategy obsolete. Whether or not there was a case to be made for the “heights” as vital to Israeli security, the territory was Syrian and would be restored to Syria by any means necessary, whether Israel liked it or not. By refusing to return the Syrian Golan to its people and Government, Israel was opening the door to the military option. Israel had made a mockery of international law for far too long; if it refused to abide by United Nations resolutions, there was no room for it in the Organization.

#### **Agenda item 63: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples** (*continued*)

50. **The Chair** said that the draft proposals submitted under agenda item 63 had no programme budget implications.

51. **Mr. Aleksaev** (Russian Federation) said that although draft resolutions were being considered in numerical order, in keeping with established practice, it was also the case that requests had been made to postpone the consideration of certain draft resolutions. It would therefore be fair to consider the draft resolutions in the order in which the requests for postponement had been received. For example, as his delegation’s proposal to postpone the vote on the question of French Polynesia had been made later in the session, the draft resolution should be placed last on the list. The final deferral would be especially important for the members of the Special Committee on decolonization, which had been following the consensus proposal very closely.

52. **The Chair** said that, as the Committee was in the final stages of the final meeting of the main part of its session, it would continue consideration of the draft resolutions in line with established procedure.

53. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking as the Chair of the Special Committee on decolonization, said that it was regrettable that amendments to the draft resolutions of the Special Committee were being proposed, especially since the Special Committee's practice had always been to have its resolutions adopted by consensus in the Fourth Committee. Nevertheless, the present circumstance gave him the opportunity to once again appeal to the administering Powers to participate fully in the work of the Special Committee, where they could engage openly with the Non-Self-Governing Territories on all issues. To that end, he called on the administering Powers to meet with the Bureau of the Special Committee.

54. The matter before the Committee could have been discussed openly at a Special Committee meeting if all concerned parties had participated. Moreover, amending any of the draft resolutions in respect of which consensus had been reached with the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the absence of those representatives would be unfair to them and might undermine the integrity of the Committee's work. All parties must be treated fairly in discussions before the Committee, just as they were in the various proceedings of the Special Committee throughout its session, which afforded many opportunities to that end.

55. He maintained that once the Special Committee had concluded its session, the consensus reached should stand, and matters on which opinions diverged should be discussed further at the following session. He therefore opposed an amendment to any of the draft resolutions agreed by consensus in the Special Committee and brought before the Fourth Committee and trusted that the latter would stand by the consensus reached.

56. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba), endorsing the statement delivered by the Chair of the Special Committee on decolonization, said that his delegation opposed the amendments to the draft resolution on the question of Guam proposed by the United States delegation, contained in document [A/C.4/73/L.11](#). The draft resolution had been adopted without a vote by the Special Committee in formal meetings in June and appeared as draft resolution X in chapter 13 of the Special Committee's report. The ideas set forth in preambular paragraphs 18 and 27 that the United States delegation was trying to amend were not new but had

been included in the draft resolution adopted by the Special Committee in 2017, as a direct result of the considerations raised by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam at the 2017 regional seminar on decolonization. The Special Committee had then relayed the resolution to the Fourth Committee for adoption in the context of its consideration of the Special Committee's report.

57. In 2018, the delegation of Guam had expressed its concerns with respect to preambular paragraphs 18 and 27 of the draft resolution at both the regional seminar and the Special Committee session in June. The Special Committee had incorporated the concerns expressed into the pertinent draft resolution, in fulfilment of its obligation to heed the concerns of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as the views of administering Powers. On the question of Guam in particular, the United States had not attended any of the meetings or seminars in 2017 and 2018 at which the matter had been discussed. Moreover, it had not even taken the trouble to reply to the invitation extended to it, in its capacity as administering Power, to an informal exchange with the Bureau of the Special Committee.

58. The request by the United States delegation to amend the draft resolution so that it could lend its support thereto – two years after discussions had taken place within the appropriate decolonization forums – flew in the face of the serious work of decolonization and was a clear attempt to break down the multilateralism on which the Organization was based, as if determining the latter's fate was up to the United States. That notion was a grievous error that his country, along with many others, great and small, could not accept.

*Question of French Polynesia (A/73/23)*

*Draft resolution IX: Question of French Polynesia (A/73/23, chap. XIII)*

59. **Mr. Aleksaev** (Russian Federation), speaking in explanation of position before the decision, said that his delegation remained convinced that the draft resolution on French Polynesia should be discussed later, after the question of Guam. At the same time, his delegation was grateful to the members of the Committee for the delay in considering the draft resolution on Guam, as the Special Committee on decolonization had needed time to consider all the statements made about Guam during the current session, including some criticism. The time allowed for deliberations had enabled the Special Committee members to consolidate and reaffirm the consensus on the subject. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

60. *Draft resolution IX was adopted.*

*Question of Guam (A/73/23; A/C.4/73/L.11)*

*Draft resolution X: Question of Guam (A/73/23, chap. XIII; A/C.4/73/L.11)*

61. **Mr. Lederman** (United States of America), speaking as the sponsor of the draft amendment, said that his delegation was grateful for the attention to its concerns on the question of Guam. His Government was seeking focused and minimal changes to the 2018 draft resolution on the question of Guam to demonstrate its interest in returning to consensus while preserving its long-held policies. It could not support language in the draft resolution criticizing a United States court ruling on a planned Guam plebiscite on its status. In response to a law passed by Guam's legislature restricting voting on the plebiscite to native inhabitants of Guam, the United States District Court had found that that law impermissibly imposed race-based voting restrictions in violation of the United States Constitution and had prohibited Guam from enforcing those restrictions. Notwithstanding its objection to some of the language in the draft, the United States was not opposed to noting the current state of affairs in the legal dispute.

62. His Government also took issue with the inclusion of language asserting that the Chamorro Land Trust programme facilitated the transfer of land to the original landowners. The Land Trust programme provided land to native Chamorros, but not based on their status as former landowners or successors in interest of former landowners. Because of that, his Government believed the programme discriminated based on race or national origin and violated United States law. It did not oppose language mentioning the programme but did take issue with that specific assertion. While it did not agree with all of the language in the draft resolution, such as language on military facilities in Guam that expressed opinions rather than fact, the adoption of the proposed minor revisions would allow it to rejoin consensus.

63. **Mr. Aleksaev** (Russian Federation), reiterating his delegation's previous comments on the amendment, said that the amendment would go against the consensus reached in the Special Committee on decolonization. With regard to the United States court ruling that the plebiscite could not be limited to native inhabitants, the Special Committee had proposed to express concern about the decision, while the United States delegation had proposed to take note of the decision. Any delegation considering supporting the United States amendment should consider the consequences of setting such a precedent; holding a plebiscite not limited to the native population would have consequences for other

Territories on the decolonization agenda. Accordingly, his delegation would vote against the proposed amendment.

64. **The Chair** said that the Committee should proceed to take a decision on draft resolution X and the proposed amendment contained in document [A/C.4/73/L.11](#); in accordance with rule 130 of the rules of procedure, the latter would be taken up first. A recorded vote had been requested.

65. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

*Against:*

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United

Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia.

66. *Draft amendment A/C.4/73/L.11 was adopted by 51 votes to 30, with 71 abstentions.*

67. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda) said that his delegation's vote had not been against the substance of the amendment but rather against the practice of breaking the consensus of the Special Committee on decolonization. There should be no vote on an amendment to a draft resolution when the representatives of the Territory in question were not represented in the Committee. The representatives of the Territories should always be granted an opportunity to speak, and it was unfortunate that the Committee had adopted an amendment against the consensus of the Special Committee.

68. **Mr. Nugroho** (Indonesia) said that decolonization was an issue of great concern to his Government. His delegation appreciated the intention of the United States to rejoin consensus on the draft resolution and its efforts to engage with the Special Committee. However, since extensive deliberations had already been held within the Special Committee, his delegation had abstained on the proposed amendment. The United States should collaborate closely with the Special Committee in its future sessions.

69. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution X without a vote.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. *Draft resolution X contained in document A/73/23, as amended, was adopted.*

72. **Mr. Lederman** (United States of America) said that his delegation appreciated the support for its minimal edits, which had allowed it to rejoin consensus on the issue. At the same time, it disassociated itself from language assuming that a military presence on Guam was necessarily harmful to the rights and interests of the people of the Territory or incompatible with the wishes of the people. The United States had a sovereign right to carry out its military activities in accordance with its national security interests. While inclusion of that language in the resolution did not preclude the United States from joining consensus, his delegation emphasized its concern over the language.

73. Turning to the 2030 Agenda, his delegation underscored that the Agenda was non-binding, did not create or affect rights or obligations under international law and did not create new financial commitments. The United States recognized the Agenda as a global framework for sustainable development and applauded

its call for shared responsibility and national responsibility, and each country must work towards implementation in accordance with its own national policies and priorities. Paragraph 18 of the Agenda called for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law; furthermore, paragraph 58 recognized that implementation must respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and did not prejudge or serve as a precedent for actions under way in other forums. For example, the Agenda did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services and did not interpret or alter any agreement or decision of the World Trade Organization, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

74. **Mr. Dang** Son Truong (Viet Nam) said that his Government strongly supported the complete eradication of colonialism. Effective mechanisms should be implemented to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of colonial peoples. Those measures should also reflect the legitimate interests and aspirations of colonial peoples, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions.

#### **Agenda item 123: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/C.4/73/L.10)**

*Draft decision A/C.4/73/L.10: Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly*

75. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel), drawing attention to General Assembly resolution 69/250 acknowledging Yom Kippur as a local holiday which is observed in the host city of the Headquarters of the United Nations and encouraging United Nations bodies at Headquarters to avoid holding meetings on Yom Kippur, said that it was the only Jewish holiday recognized as an official holiday of the United Nations and that staff members were given the option of observing it as a floating holiday. In 2019, Yom Kippur would fall on Tuesday, 9 October, which was expected to coincide with the seventy-fourth session of the Committee. His delegation requested that the Committee revise the proposed programme of work to avoid scheduling a meeting on Yom Kippur.

76. **The Chair** said that the programme of work would be revisited by the Bureau of the seventy-fourth session and changes would be made if necessary. He took it that



the Committee wished to adopt draft decision [A/C.4/73/L.10](#) without a vote.

77. *It was so decided.*

78. *Draft decision [A/C.4/73/L.10](#) was adopted.*

**Completion of the Committee's work**

79. **The Chair**, after presenting an overview of the activities of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), said that the Committee had completed its work for the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.*