



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 February 2020

Original: English

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

### Anguilla

#### Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

#### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
The Territory at a glance . . . . .	3
I. Constitutional, legal and political issues . . . . .	4
II. Budget . . . . .	5
III. Economic conditions . . . . .	6
A. General . . . . .	6
B. Tourism . . . . .	7
C. Financial services . . . . .	7
D. Agriculture and fisheries . . . . .	8
E. Infrastructure . . . . .	8
F. Transportation and communications . . . . .	9
IV. Social conditions . . . . .	9
A. General . . . . .	9
B. Education . . . . .	10
C. Public health . . . . .	10

*Note:* The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 9 December 2019. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available at [www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/workingpapers](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/workingpapers).



D. Crime and public safety . . . . .	11
E. Human rights . . . . .	11
V. Environment . . . . .	12
VI. Relations with international organizations and partners. . . . .	12
VII. Future status of the Territory . . . . .	12
A. Position of the territorial Government. . . . .	12
B. Position of the administering Power . . . . .	13
VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly . . . . .	13
Annex	
Map of Anguilla. . . . .	16

**The Territory at a glance**

*Territory:* Anguilla is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

*Representative of administering Power:* Governor Tim Foy (since August 2017).

*Geography:* The Territory lies 240 km east of Puerto Rico, 113 km north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis and 8 km north of Sint Maarten/Saint Martin. It has a relatively flat topography, with a few rolling hills rising to 213 ft.

*Land area:* 96 km<sup>2</sup>. The main island has a maximum length of 26 km and a maximum width of 5 km.

*Exclusive economic zone:* 92,178 km<sup>2</sup>.

*Population:* 15,397 (2018 estimate).

*Life expectancy at birth:* 81.6 years (men: 79.0 years; women: 84.3 years (2018 estimate)).

*Languages:* 97 per cent of the population speaks English. Spanish and Chinese are also spoken.

*Capital:* The Valley.

*Head of territorial Government:* Premier Victor Banks (since April 2015).

*Elections:* Most recent: 22 April 2015; next: by April 2020.

*Main political parties:* Anguilla United Front; Anguilla Progressive Movement.

*Legislature:* House of Assembly.

*Gross domestic product per capita:* US\$ 18,589 (2014 estimate).

*Economy:* Tourism, financial services and remittances.

*Main trading partners:* United States of America and States members of the Caribbean Community.

*Unemployment rate:* 8 per cent (2012 estimate).

*Monetary unit:* East Caribbean dollar, pegged to the United States dollar at EC\$ 2.6882.

*Brief history:* Originally inhabited by the Arawaks, the Territory was colonized by British and Irish settlers in 1650 and was periodically associated with Saint Kitts and Nevis, as well as various regional structures. In 1980, the Territory became a dependency of the United Kingdom.

## I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. According to the Anguilla Constitution Order, which came into force in 1982 and was amended in 1990 and 2019, the Government of Anguilla consists of the Governor, the Executive Council and the House of Assembly. The Governor, appointed by the British Crown, is responsible for defence, external affairs, internal security (including the police), international financial services and their regulation, public service appointments and the application to public servants of their terms and conditions of service. On all other matters, the Governor is required to consult and act on the advice of the Executive Council. At the same time, the Order stipulates that the British Crown reserves the power, with the advice of the Privy Council, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Anguilla.

2. In accordance with the Constitution, the Territory's Executive Council consists of the Premier, not more than three other ministers and two ex officio members, namely, the Attorney General and the Deputy Governor. The Governor acts as Chair of the Council, without voting rights. The House of Assembly is currently elected for a five-year term and comprises the Speaker, not less than seven members elected from single-member constituencies, the same two ex officio members as in the Executive Council and two members appointed by the Governor, one upon the advice of the Premier and the other after consultation with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, as appropriate. Following the constitutional reforms of 2019 (see para. 8 below), the House of Assembly to be elected in the next general election will comprise seven members from individual electoral districts and four members from a single island-wide electoral district. No members will be appointed by the Governor. The Governor appoints as Premier one of the elected members of the Assembly who, in the judgment of the Governor, is likely to command the support of a majority of the elected members of the Assembly. Under the constitutional amendments of 2019, a limit of two consecutive terms for the Premier was introduced. Other ministers are also appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the advice of the Premier, from among the elected members of the Assembly.

3. The general elections held in Anguilla on 22 April 2015 resulted in a change of government from the Anguilla United Movement to the Anguilla United Front. In October 2019, the Anguilla United Movement changed its name to the Anguilla Progressive Movement. Victor Banks took office on 23 April 2015 as the Chief Minister and became the Territory's first Premier following the constitutional amendment, which came into force in May 2019.

4. The law of Anguilla is the common law of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, together with all legislation inherited from the former associated State of Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla up to August 1971 and any legislation that has been enacted either locally or by the United Kingdom on its behalf since. The law is administered by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, a regional court based in Saint Lucia for the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which consists of two divisions, an itinerant court of appeal and a high court of justice. There is ultimate recourse to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

5. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 provides for the granting of British citizenship to citizens of British overseas territories. In that context, the territorial Government has indicated its concerns about the loophole affecting some children of fathers of British overseas territory citizens whose parents were not married at their birth.

6. In 2011, Anguilla set up a team headed by H. Clifton Niles to draft a new constitution. As previously reported, a draft text was presented to the Government in February 2012, containing changes in governance that could become features of an

independent constitution. In September 2015, the territorial Government established a new Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee to advance constitutional and electoral reform with a mandate to, inter alia, review previous proposals for the reform of the 1982 Constitution of Anguilla. In November 2016, the territorial Government published the proposals for electoral and constitutional reform by the Committee as the draft new Constitution, the draft new election bill and the draft new electoral boundaries commission, after which the Committee carried out a public consultation. A revised draft, dated 31 March 2017, was issued and presented to the Executive Council on 4 May. In June 2018, the territorial Government made proposals to the Government of the United Kingdom on amendments to the Constitution of Anguilla, which would be implemented through a phased approach, with the first phase to take effect before the next general election, due by 2020, and the second phase, consisting of a full review of the Constitution, to follow once the first phase has been completed.

7. In October 2018, a public consultation on a draft of the Anguilla Constitution (Amendment) Order was held in the Territory. In February 2019, in sharing the draft Order in Council with the Foreign Affairs Committee of its Parliament, the administering Power indicated that proposals under the first phase had been negotiated with the territorial Government and that they were aimed at improving the efficiency of the government process and preparing for the elections. According to the administering Power, the proposals did not affect the balance of constitutional powers between the United Kingdom and the territorial Government.

8. The Privy Council passed the relevant Order in Council in April 2019, and the first stage of amendments to the constitution of Anguilla were brought into force by the Governor on 14 May 2019. Formal negotiations to move the second phase forward began in November 2019. In a joint statement by the negotiating teams of the United Kingdom and Anguilla, dated 26 November 2019, it was noted that good progress had been made, although nothing final had been agreed to. The statement further indicated that there had been concerns in Anguilla about separating the electoral and constitutional reforms, and that the teams had unanimously agreed that the process should not be rushed or brought to a conclusion before the forthcoming general election in the Territory.

9. According to the administering Power, in line with its white paper entitled *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, published in 2012, the Governor has made clear that any decision to sever the constitutional link between the United Kingdom and Anguilla should be on the basis of the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the people of Anguilla. If the desire for independence was clearly expressed, the Government of the United Kingdom would meet its obligations to help the Territory to achieve it.

10. Following the elections in April 2015, then Chief Minister-elect Banks reportedly stated that stimulating the Anguillan economy was a key priority and that the political independence of Anguilla was not an immediate priority for his administration, in contrast to the position of the previous administration under the Anguilla United Movement.

## II. Budget

11. The Governments of the United Kingdom and Anguilla have agreed upon a framework for fiscal responsibility and development, which was passed into Anguillan law in November 2013. It set out the commitment of the Government of Anguilla to a balanced budget, borrowing guidelines and a medium-term fiscal plan for the management of public finances over the coming five years.

12. According to the territorial Government, Anguilla is committed to fiscal reforms and maintains a position of control over the fiscal responsibility of the Territory. The territorial Government has expressed the view that, given the recovery efforts and financial strains following Hurricane Irma, fiscal reform should not be a precondition for disaster relief.

13. In March 2019, then Chief Minister Banks and the Minister of Finance presented to the House of Assembly a budget for the 2019 fiscal year of EC\$ 230.28 million. In the 2019 budget for the territorial Government, recurrent expenditure accounted for EC\$ 213.48 million, while the capital budget had an allocation of EC\$ 16.80 million. On the other hand, the 2019 recurrent revenue estimate was EC\$ 208.36 million, which had increased from the actual revenue of EC\$ 199.53 million in the previous year. In addition, capital grants and revenue were projected to amount to EC\$ 37.38 million. As a result, a deficit of EC\$ 5.12 million in the recurrent balance was projected for 2019, and a surplus of EC\$ 20.48 million was projected for the capital account balance.

14. With regard to fiscal year 2018, the recurrent revenue out-turn amounted to EC\$ 199.48 million, and recurrent expenditure totalled EC\$ 205.64 million. According to the administering Power, its Government continued to provide capital grants to the Territory through Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme funding totalling EC\$ 8.15 million in financial year 2018/19 in order to support projects for education, telecommunications, the reconstruction of port infrastructure, fire services, air traffic control and recovery and rehabilitation after Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

15. According to a review of the Anguilla debt portfolio in 2018 by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the territorial Government, total public debt, comprising central government debt and government-guaranteed debt from domestic and external sources, stood at EC\$ 525.17 million, which was equivalent to 67.37 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). At the end of 2018, the debt stock level increased by 1.56 per cent (EC\$ 8.07 million), compared with 2017, primarily as a result of an additional EC\$ 40.23 million in new debt offset by amortization payments of EC\$ 32.16 million.

16. There is no income, estate, capital gains, corporation or value added tax in Anguilla. The territorial Government continues to study the matter, in particular with regard to the impact of low taxation on the Territory's economy and public sector reserves. In May 2018, the territorial Government approved a goods and services tax as an essential component of its tax reform and agreed on its phased implementation by 2023. Phase 1 of the goods and services tax, which involves the reconfiguration of the customs duties and the introduction of an interim goods tax, service charge and external excise tax, was implemented in October 2019.

### **III. Economic conditions**

#### **A. General**

17. According to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the GDP of Anguilla, at market prices, is estimated to have increased by 8.9 per cent in 2019, compared with a 13.7 per cent growth rate in 2018. Nominal GDP in 2019 was EC\$ 947.94 million, compared with EC\$ 870.45 million in 2018.

18. The main industries in Anguilla are tourism, real estate and financial intermediation. Tourism is projected to remain the largest contributor to the economy in 2019, accounting for 19.44 per cent of real economic activity and having grown by

20 per cent compared with 2018, when the effects of Hurricane Irma had a heavy impact on the sector.

19. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean reported in 2018 that Anguilla had sustained significant damage to its environment and economy from Hurricane Irma, a category 5 hurricane, in September 2017. The total damages were estimated to be EC\$ 507 million. Total losses and additional costs were valued at EC\$ 331.5 million and EC\$ 41.9 million, respectively. The most affected sector was tourism, which was the driving force of Anguilla's economy, including as the main source of its tax revenue, while the power, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure sectors, which are necessary for the functioning of tourism, also suffered significant impacts. According to the territorial Government, following a year of economic decline resulting from Hurricane Irma, economic prospects for 2018 had been positive as a result of expected growth in the construction sector through rebuilding and renovations. In real terms, however, growth declined by 2.9 per cent in 2018, resulting from a slower than anticipated recovery in the tourism sector and reconstruction delays in the private and public sectors. Nevertheless, signs of recovery, such as a high demand for work permits, increased construction activity and rising visitor arrival numbers, pointed to a positive trend in Anguilla's economy.

## **B. Tourism**

20. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism is responsible for implementing the tourism master plan (2010–2020), while the Anguilla Tourist Board and the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association market and promote the Territory's tourism product.

21. Visitor arrivals in 2018 numbered 87,345, down from 150,678 in 2017, a decrease of 42 per cent that can be attributed to the fact that a number of the larger hotels on the island closed in September 2017 as a result of Hurricane Irma. In 2019, the trend was reversed, with 136,770 registered visitor arrivals.

## **C. Financial services**

22. In the 2019 budget address of the territorial Government it was stated that the financial intermediation sector, representing all banking, insurance and related services, experienced the significant decline of 13 per cent in 2017. That sector contributed EC\$ 61.97 million in nominal terms, representing 9.8 per cent of the economy, in 2017. In 2018 and 2019, the financial intermediation sector was not among the top sectors contributing to Anguilla's economy.

23. The Anguilla Financial Services Commission was established in 2004 as an independent regulatory body reporting to the Governor. At the same time, the administration of the Territory's responsibilities with respect to the United States Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act rests with the Ministry of Finance. In October 2014, Anguilla joined the early adopters initiative to commit itself to the early adoption of the Common Reporting Standard, which was the new standard in the automatic exchange of information between tax authorities developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

24. In April 2016, Anguilla concluded a bilateral arrangement with the United Kingdom on the reciprocal exchange of beneficial ownership information, which came into effect on 30 June 2017. Under the arrangement, law enforcement authorities would have timely access to beneficial ownership information on corporate and legal

entities incorporated in the respective jurisdictions. In 2017, the Government of the United Kingdom agreed to provide financial assistance to Anguilla to help it to establish its beneficial ownership system, as well as assistance in drafting underpinning legislation.

25. In August 2013, two commercial banks in Anguilla, the National Bank of Anguilla and the Caribbean Commercial Bank, were placed under the conservatorship of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In 2015, the territorial Government decided to progress the banking resolution plan proposed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In April 2016, the Governor assented to a series of related legislation (the Banking Act, 2015; the Eastern Caribbean Asset Management Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2016; and the Bank Resolution Obligations Act, 2016) and the two banks were merged to form the National Commercial Bank of Anguilla. According to the territorial Government, the intervention by the Government of Anguilla in that banking resolution amounted to EC\$ 325.4 million.

26. In May 2018, the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act, pursuant to which the Secretary of State is required to provide all reasonable assistance to the Governments of overseas territories to enable each of those Governments to establish a publicly accessible register of the beneficial ownership of companies registered in its jurisdiction and to prepare, no later than 31 December 2020, a draft Order in Council requiring any overseas territory that has not introduced such a register to do so. That deadline has since been extended to 2023.

#### **D. Agriculture and fisheries**

27. While agricultural activity in Anguilla is limited, in its 2019 budget address, the territorial Government expressed satisfaction with the renewed interest in farming demonstrated mainly by the younger generation and stated that the Department of Agriculture was working closely with those farmers to reduce reliance on imported food and improve food quality.

28. Fishing is significant to the livelihoods of many Anguillans, generating direct revenue for more than 300 people, with many more fishing on a subsistence basis. As previously reported, Anguilla is using less than one quarter of its exclusive fishing zone to the north of the island. The Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources is making efforts to mobilize fishers in a united body and to encourage stewardship and sustainable and innovative ways to boost the fishing industry.

29. According to the administering Power, the Anguilla Fisheries Development Plan, adopted by the Executive Council in April 2016, outlines the work needed to ensure the optimal and sustainable exploitation of Anguilla's fisheries resources. The territorial Government has requested assistance from the administering Power to develop a licensed fishing regime over its waters and expressed the view that the introduction of licensed fishing in Anguilla would serve to resolve the illicit trawling and whaling conducted in Anguillan waters.

#### **E. Infrastructure**

30. According to the Government of Anguilla, the Territory has approximately 100 km of paved roads and 60 km of unpaved roads. Some of the paved roads are over 25 years old and have not been sufficiently maintained.

31. The Anguilla Air and Sea Ports Authority, a semi-autonomous self-sustaining entity, manages the operations of the airport and seaports on a commercial basis. Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport, situated on the outskirts of The Valley, is the



only airport on the island and serves both commercial and private aircraft. There are flights to and from the international airports of Antigua, Sint Maarten/Saint Martin, Puerto Rico and Saint Thomas. In addition, the ferry and charter boat service between Anguilla and Sint Maarten/Saint Martin is the main international transportation link between Anguilla and the major international gateways.

32. In November 2017, the Government of the United Kingdom awarded the territorial Government a grant of £60 million following the damage to infrastructure caused by Hurricane Irma earlier that year. Entitled the Anguilla Programme, the grant was developed under a memorandum of understanding between the administering Power and the territorial Government that was signed in May 2018. The territorial Government has confirmed a list of infrastructure projects to be supported through the funding, including the redevelopment of schools, the only hospital, three polyclinics, the environmental health unit and other critical national infrastructure, such as the island's only airport and the passenger ferry terminal at Blowing Point. Additional funding of £17 million has been earmarked for 2019 to 2021 for two specific projects: strengthening the revenue of the territorial Government as part of a medium-term economic fiscal development plan, and construction of a new cargo jetty at the Road Bay port, given that the old jetty has reached the end of its serviceable life. The Anguilla Programme and additional projects are expected to be completed by March 2023.

## **F. Transportation and communications**

33. In its 2019 budget address, the territorial Government stated that the transportation, storage and communications sector made up 9 per cent of the economy, accounting for EC\$ 69.07 million of GDP in 2017. The sector had declined by 14.2 per cent in 2017 as a result of the impact of Hurricane Irma. A slight increase in road transport had been recorded, resulting from clean-up and initial restoration activities following the storm. Air transport had grown by 14 per cent owing to increased airlift requirements following the closure of the Blowing Point port as a result of the destruction caused by Hurricane Irma.

34. Anguilla has a modern internal telephone system with multiple external gateways, including several microwave relays to Sint Maarten/Saint Martin, and a fibre landing point on Tortola for international calls, with competition in mobile, landline and Internet services.

35. The territorial Government has expressed the view that the island's only runway is not suited to accommodate large payloads and aircraft, which became evident during the relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The territorial Government has been working towards the expansion of the airport to improve international access and enable larger airfreight transportation to the island.

## **IV. Social conditions**

### **A. General**

36. The social security scheme of the Territory is overseen by the Anguilla Social Security Board. The Department of Social Development offers basic social services to the public. According to the administering Power, the national social protection policy, approved by the Executive Council in September 2018, sets out the framework for an integrated social protection system in the Territory, with a view to helping Anguilla to advance towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, those focused on social developments. The policy is aimed at ensuring

fairness and justice in service delivery, while respecting the views and inputs of rights holders and bringing social protection into a single, coherent planning and response framework. The Government of Anguilla continues to provide temporary relief to vulnerable groups in the form of public assistance grants.

37. The Ministry of Social Development continues to sensitize stakeholders to the importance of adhering to the Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocol, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to ensure that all agencies responsible for safeguarding children work collectively to respond to child abuse and neglect. According to the administering Power, the Ministry has been supported by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service of the United Kingdom, which has provided a series of training courses for staff in the areas related to child safeguarding.

38. The implementation of the Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocol continued to be monitored in monthly review meetings with the key agencies. A Child Protection Board was formed in 2016, which was further evidence of the continued emphasis being placed on protecting children from abuse.

## **B. Education**

39. According to the Pan American Health Organization, functional literacy in Anguilla is 93 per cent, and net enrolment in primary school is universal, with 100 per cent completing the last grade. The Department of Education provides continuing professional development for all teachers, with an emphasis on supporting new teachers.

40. Anguilla Community College offers associate degrees and a postgraduate diploma, among others. The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies offers fully accredited tertiary education in Anguilla. In addition, according to the administering Power, a private medical school based in the United States of America has a campus in the Territory offering the basic sciences to its students, who are mostly from the United States.

41. According to the territorial Government, the main issue for the education sector is the state of the infrastructure. The Government of Anguilla has expressed the view that the Territory would benefit from an official assessment of the standard of education provided on the island, as well as the introduction of alternative options to provide education, if required, outside the Territory or through long-distance learning.

42. Students from overseas territories benefit from the home student rate for tuition fees at British universities, provided that they have lived in a British overseas territory, the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first academic year of their course of study. In addition, those students have access to funding provided by the European Union for higher or vocational education.

## **C. Public health**

43. The Health Authority of Anguilla is responsible for all primary, secondary and personal health-care services. There are three health districts in the Territory, featuring four health centres, one polyclinic and one hospital, the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Patients requiring major surgery are usually evacuated to a neighbouring island.

44. The Ministry of Health and Social Development regulates and monitors the public and private health sectors, including the Health Authority, and carries out

policymaking and regulatory functions, operating within the framework of the national health strategic plan for the period from 2015 to 2020.

45. Under the quota system, since 1985, up to four patients per year from Anguilla have had free access to primary health care through the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. The territorial Government has called for the quota system to be reconsidered, given that the population has increased by 250 per cent since 1985, leaving the Territory, according to its Government, dependent on neighbouring islands for health care.

#### **D. Crime and public safety**

46. According to information provided by the administering Power, Anguilla has a low crime rate, compared with other jurisdictions in the region.

47. The Money-Laundering Reporting Authority is the central body responsible for the receipt, analysis and dissemination of information pertaining to proceeds suspected to be derived from criminal activities, and it provides strategic oversight of the financial intelligence function. The Anguilla Financial Intelligence Unit, a dedicated specialist unit within the Royal Anguilla Police Force, is delegated by the Authority the task of performing day-to-day operational functions with respect to a wide variety of investigations of financial crime, including money-laundering.

48. In 2019, the work of the United Kingdom-funded office of the law enforcement adviser was affected by the retirement of the post holder and the process of hiring a successor. RFA *Mounts Bay* has been stationed in the Caribbean since January 2017, as part of the North Atlantic patrol tasking of the Royal Navy, ensuring a year-round maritime presence of the United Kingdom to support the overseas territories to prepare for and respond to the threat of hurricanes and other disasters and to provide humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and crisis communications support in the region. The Government of the United Kingdom indicated its commitment to providing assistance to the overseas territories to deal with major storms and other disasters in the future.

#### **E. Human rights**

49. The Territory's Constitution provides that every person in Anguilla is entitled to life, liberty, security of person, the enjoyment of property, protection of the law, freedom of conscience, expression and peaceful assembly and association, and respect for his or her private and family life. The provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have been extended to Anguilla. The European Convention on Human Rights also applies to Anguilla, with individuals having the right to bring cases to the European Court of Human Rights where no other remedy exists in the Territory. However, other fundamental human rights treaties have yet to be extended to Anguilla, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## **V. Environment**

50. The Department of Environment, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Department of Health Protection and the Anguilla National Trust are the principal entities dealing with environmental issues.

## **VI. Relations with international organizations and partners**

51. Since 1998, the Territory has been an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2011, it has maintained a formal dialogue with the International Monetary Fund. Anguilla participates in the Caribbean Community as an associate member. It is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. Anguilla is an associate member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

52. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, Anguilla is associated with the European Union, but is not a part of it. The eleventh European Development Fund (2014–2020) allocated €14 million (approximately EC\$ 42.9 million) for the territorial programme of Anguilla. According to the administering Power, the United Kingdom and its overseas territories have continued their dialogue on the implications for the latter of the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union. The administering Power reiterated its commitment to achieving an outcome that worked for all parts of the British family.

53. At the fortieth regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, from 3 to 5 July 2019, a communiqué was issued in which the Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the continued blacklisting of some of the member States and associate members and viewed such action as a clear and direct threat to the economic well-being of those countries and the region.

54. The territorial Government cooperates directly with Caribbean Governments and participates in regional projects of various international organizations and agencies, including the Pan American Health Organization.

## **VII. Future status of the Territory**

### **A. Position of the territorial Government**

55. A representative of the Government of Anguilla addressing the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at its third meeting, held on 8 October 2019, explained that, while integration or affiliation with another Member State were unlikely options for Anguilla, the Territory was not yet in a position to seek independence, given the current level of support for its development provided by the administering Power and the uncertainties surrounding the departure from the European Union. She asked how the United Nations could ensure that the United Kingdom would honour its stated commitments of diversity, success and opportunities in the Territories and would not abuse its position of dominance.

56. The representative went on to say that, by opting to continue as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, a Territory should not be made to diminish the democratic and human rights of its people, the position in which Anguilla nevertheless found itself at the time. Island colonies at risk of annihilation ahead of hurricane season had a

legitimate fear of losing the financial support of the administering Power, on which they depended for recovery. For Anguilla, the relationship transcended financial concerns, encompassing nearly four centuries of shared heritage, culture and values. However, it was disappointing that the relationship between the administering Power and the Territory was neither a modern one nor one that was in every instance respectful of the citizens of Anguilla (see [A/C.4/74/SR.3](#)).

## **B. Position of the administering Power**

57. According to the administering Power, owing to the general election held in the United Kingdom on 12 December 2019, the seventh meeting of the United Kingdom-Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council was postponed until the first quarter of 2020, when the administering Power will host the representatives of the Governments of its overseas territories to discuss a wide range of policy issues, among them the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, environmental matters and other pressing issues.

58. At the 7th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), held on 15 October 2019, during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of the United Kingdom with its overseas territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to choose to remain British. She added that 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.

59. She went on to say that, in the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the overseas territories had reiterated their commitment to a modern political partnership 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.

60. She stated that her 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 and that territorial 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 her Government in those areas. She explained that her Government was fully committed to involving all overseas territories in the negotiations on leaving the European Union. To that end, the administering Power had established a joint ministerial committee on European Union negotiations to discuss the priorities of the overseas territories.

## **VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly**

61. On 13 December 2019, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution [74/99](#) on the basis of the report 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 for 2019 ([A/74/23](#)) and the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In that resolution, the Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(b) Also reaffirmed that, in the process of decolonization of Anguilla, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which was also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

(c) Further reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Anguilla to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

(d) Welcomed the preparations made for a new constitution and urged that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

(e) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

(f) Stressed the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, called upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desired, and requested the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

(g) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard called upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

(h) Called upon the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

(i) Welcomed the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(j) Stressed that the Territory should continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee, including regional seminars, in order to provide the Committee with up-to-date information regarding the decolonization process;

(k) Also stressed the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Anguilla and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Anguilla and the administering Power;

(l) Called upon the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Anguilla, and encouraged the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

(m) Reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requested the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

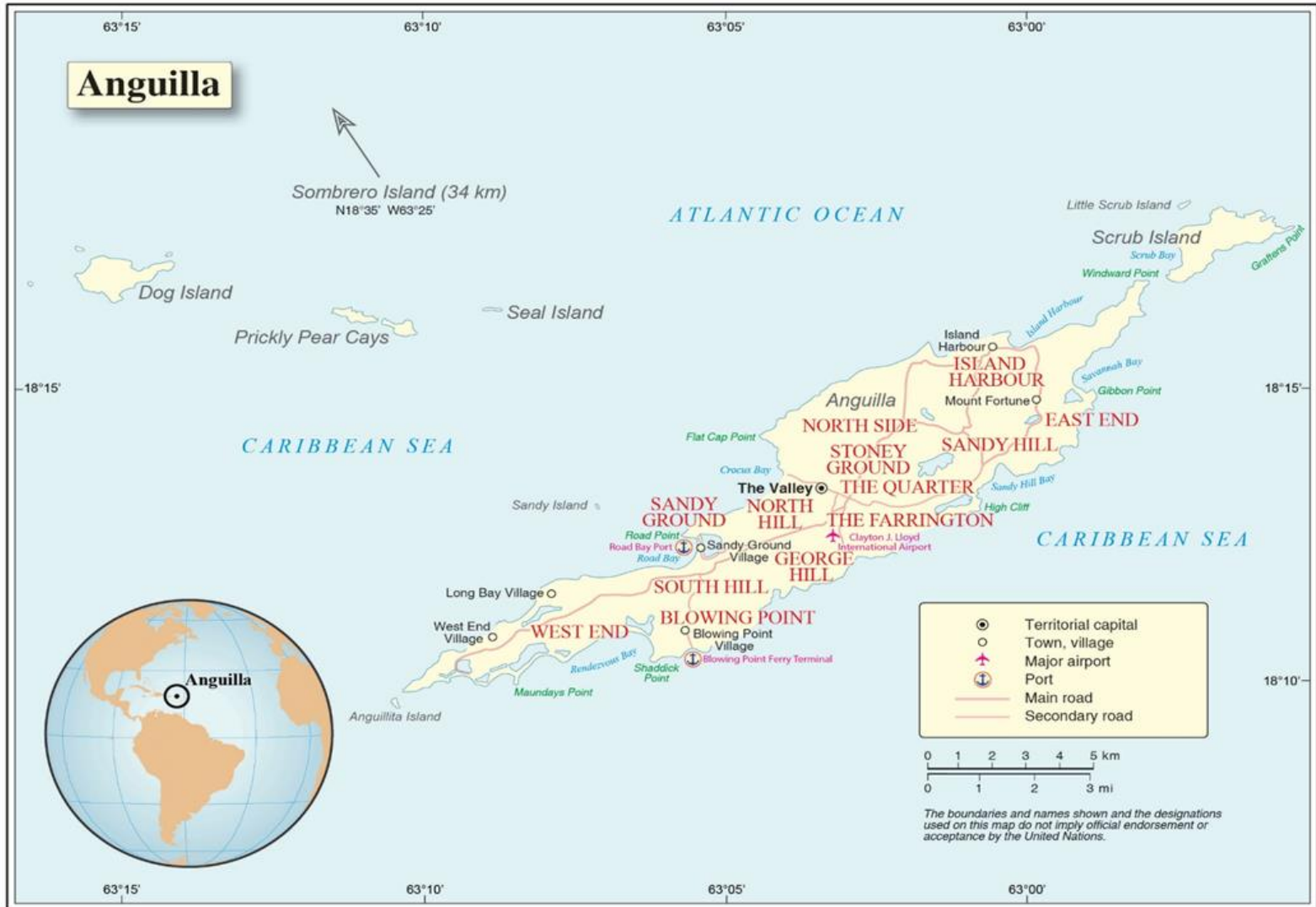
(n) Took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, stressed the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supported, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urged the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as an international financial centre, that were not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

(o) Requested the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requested the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

(p) Called upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to provide all the assistance necessary to the Territory, support the recovery and rebuilding efforts and enhance capabilities for emergency preparedness and risk reduction, in particular in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria that had impacted the Territory in 2017;

(q) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Anguilla and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session and on the implementation of the resolution.

### Map of Anguilla



Map No. 3306 Rev. 1 UNITED NATIONS  
June 2016

Department of Field Support  
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)