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

### Anguilla

### Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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*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 2020. 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).



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### **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 Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam (since January 2021). She is the second woman to become Governor in Anguilla.

*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 Ellis Lorenzo Webster (since June 2020).

*Elections:* Most recent: 29 June 2020; next: by September 2025.

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

*Legislature:* House of Assembly.

*Gross domestic product per capita:* US\$ 19,891 (2018 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, 2019 and 2020, 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, four members elected in island-wide constituencies, and the same two ex officio members as in the Executive Council. Following a request from the Government of Anguilla, the Anguilla Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020 changed the category of persons eligible to hold the office of Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly. The effect of the Order is that neither the Attorney General nor Deputy Governor will be able to hold that office, but that any elected members of the Assembly other than a member of the Executive Council may be elected as Deputy Speaker. The Assembly also elects a new Deputy Speaker when it first meets after the order comes into force. 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 29 June 2020 resulted in a change of government from the Anguilla United Front, which won 4 seats, to the Anguilla Progressive Movement (APM), which won 6 seats. Ellis Webster from APM took office on 30 June 2020 as the Premier.

4. According to the Supervisor of Elections report published in July 2020, changes and innovations introduced to the 2020 general elections included: enactment of the Elections Act 2019 and the Elections Registration Regulations 2020; development of an online voter database; introduction of voter registration cards; introduction of electronic poll books; introduction of advance polls for certain categories of voters; introduction of electronic tabulating of votes; commissioning of a full service, stand-alone Central Electoral Office; conduct of public voter education sessions; and introduction of a single island-wide electoral district to elect four candidates.

5. The law of Anguilla is the common law of England and Wales, 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 2020 general election, and the second phase, consisting of a full review of the Constitution, to follow once the first phase has been completed.

8. 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.

9. The Privy Council passed the relevant Order in the 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. According to the administering Power, negotiations on the second phase of reforms are likely to recommence in early 2021.

10. 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.

## 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. On 15 April 2020, then Premier and Minister of Finance, Victor Banks, presented to the House of Assembly a budget for the 2020 fiscal year of EC\$ 256.99 million. In the 2020 budget for the territorial Government, recurrent expenditure was estimated at EC\$ 241.47 million, while the capital budget had an allocation of EC\$ 15.52 million. On the other hand, the 2020 recurrent revenue estimate was EC\$ 253.45 million, which had increased from the actual revenue of EC\$ 234 million in the previous year.

14. With regard to fiscal year 2019, the recurrent revenue out-turn amounted to EC\$ 234.10 million, and recurrent expenditure was estimated at EC\$ 213.48 million. According to the administering Power, its Government continued to provide capital grants to the Territory through Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office programme funding totalling EC\$ 52.84 million in financial year 2019 in order to support projects for revenue strengthening, 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 2015–2019 by the Ministry of Finance and Health of the territorial Government, total public debt, comprising central government debt and government-guaranteed debt from domestic and external sources, stood at EC\$ 493.16 million, which was equivalent to 49.93 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). At the end of 2019, the debt stock level decreased by 6.10 per cent (EC\$ 32.01 million), compared with 2018, primarily because of scheduled amortization payments exceeding disbursements on loans.

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. According to the territorial Government, in the final quarter of 2019, the interim goods tax contributed EC\$ 9.46 million and excise tax contributed EC\$ 2.78 million to collections.

17. On 7 May 2020, a bill for the Supplementary Appropriation (2020) Act, 2020, was presented to the House of Assembly, reallocating sums within the original figure.

### **III. Economic conditions**

#### **A. General**

18. According to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the GDP of Anguilla, at market prices, is estimated to have decreased by 31.34 per cent in 2020, compared with a 18.44 per cent growth rate in 2019. GDP in market prices in 2020 was EC\$ 703.72 million, compared with EC\$ 1,024.88 million in 2019.

19. The main industries in Anguilla are tourism, real estate and financial intermediation. According to the administering Power, owing to the economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, real estate is projected to be the largest contributor to the economy in 2020, accounting for 17.98 per cent of real economic activity despite shrinking by 7.52 per cent compared with 2019.

20. 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**

21. 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.

22. Visitor arrivals in 2019 numbered 166,351, increasing to levels similar to those seen in 2017 and prior to Hurricane Irma. In 2020, registered visitor arrivals were drastically reduced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Anguilla closed its borders on 20 March 2020, with some exceptions. Reduced entry restrictions came in to force on 1 November 2020, which has allowed some tourists to visit.

## **C. Financial services**

23. According to the administering Power, the financial intermediation sector, representing all banking, insurance and related services, experienced a significant increase of 34.31 per cent in 2019, with a small (1.24 per cent) decline forecast for 2020. In 2020, the financial intermediation sector was among the top sectors contributing to the economy of Anguilla.

24. 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.

25. 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. According to the administering Power, on 17 June 2020, the former Premier and Minister of Finance, Victor Banks, released a statement, in which he made a commitment to introducing a publicly accessible register of beneficial ownership of Anguillan corporate and other legal entities registered in the jurisdiction. The register is under construction and due to be completed by March 2021.

26. 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.

27. 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. On 15 July 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom welcomed the statements made by eight overseas territories, including Anguilla, in which they committed themselves to greater transparency in financial services by announcing that they would establish publicly accessible registers of the beneficial ownership of companies.

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

28. Agricultural activity in Anguilla is limited. 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 for 2015–2025, 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 2020 budget address, the territorial Government stated that the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment and its departments had a 2020 recurrent budget allocation of EC\$ 17.48 million, which is a 17.5 per cent (or EC\$ 2.61 million) increase from the 2019 approved budget of EC\$ 14.88 million. In 2020, the Ministry focused on developing and implementing a cohesive three-year strategic plan to revamp the delivery of its service through trainings.

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 under the Ministry of Social Development and Departments offers basic social services to the public. According to the administering Power, the launch of the national social protection policy in 2019 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 has a campus in the Territory offering the basic sciences to its students, who are mostly from the United States.

41. 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, which has seen significant investment in its infrastructure during 2020, including a purpose-built oxygen plant, storage buildings and an extension to the laboratory, which has the ability, through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, to screen for COVID-19. 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.

46. The Government of the United Kingdom has been supporting the overseas territories throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The support has included the funding and supply of testing kits, laboratory consumables, medical equipment and medical supplies and the provision of public health expertise. In addition, the Government of the United Kingdom has committed itself to supplying the overseas territories with a share of the COVID-19 vaccines that it procures. According to the administering Power, its support is in line with its enduring commitment to the peoples of its overseas territories.

## D. Crime and public safety

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

48. 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.

49. In 2020, HMS *Medway* and RFA *Argus* were stationed in the Caribbean, 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**

50. 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**

51. In its 2020 budget address, the territorial Government announced the establishment of the Department of Natural Resources, created from the merger of the Departments of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries and Maritime Resources with the aim of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the natural endowments of Anguilla.

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

52. 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.

53. The eleventh European Development Fund (2014–2020) allocated €14 million (approximately EC\$ 42.9 million) for the territorial programme of Anguilla.

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.

55. In June 2020, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) published "Anguilla – COVID-19 HEAT Report: Human and Economic Assessment of Impact", outlining a number of recommendations, including expanding the time frame for COVID-19-related unemployment benefits; expanding the School Feeding Programme to cover poor students in all schools and extend the benefit of EC\$ 200 per month for each child; establishing a shelter for women who are victims of gender-based violence; and amending the Anguilla Framework for Fiscal Sustainability and Development to account for the COVID-19, among others.

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

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

56. 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.

57. 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**

58. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the eighth meeting of the United Kingdom-Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council was held virtually from 23 to 26 November 2020, when the administering Power hosted the representatives of the Governments of its overseas territories. With the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in attendance, the participants held wide-ranging discussions on such topics as economic issues, COVID-19 response and recovery, the protection of vulnerable groups and environmental matters. According to the administering Power, the statement made by the Prince of Wales at the meeting, ahead of discussions on the environment and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be hosted in 2021 by the United Kingdom, showed the importance placed by the United Kingdom on its relationship with the overseas territories and its recognition of their significant contribution to its biodiversity.

59. In the communiqué adopted at the eighth meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council, the Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories indicated that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, applied to the peoples of the overseas territories. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting the right of those peoples to self-determination, a collective responsibility of all parts of the Government of the United Kingdom.

60. The Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories committed themselves to exploring ways in which the overseas territories could maintain international support in countering hostile sovereignty claims. It was also stated that for those territories with permanent populations that wished so, the United Kingdom would continue to support their requests for removal of the Territory from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

61. At the 3rd meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), held on 15 October 2020, during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of his Government 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.

62. He stated that his Government's responsibility 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. He explained that his Government was committed to involving all overseas territories in the negotiations on its future relationship with the European Union, in order to ensure that their priorities were taken into account at every stage of the process.

63. He added that, while the United Kingdom would carry out all the responsibilities of the sovereign Power, the governments of the United Kingdom and its overseas territories were in agreement that the overseas territories were internally self-governing, subject only to the United Kingdom retaining powers to enable it to carry out its obligations under international law. He also added that the Joint Ministerial Council met annually to monitor and drive forward collective priorities.

## VIII. Action taken by the General Assembly

64. On 10 December 2020, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution [75/108](#) 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 2020 ([A/75/23](#)) 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, urged that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible, and noted the first stage of amendments to the Constitution, which came into force on 14 May 2019;

(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 on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 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) Reiterated its call 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 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-sixth session and on the implementation of the resolution.



## Annex

## Map of Anguilla

