



# General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
25 November 2014

Original: English

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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 14 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Bhattarai. . . . . (Nepal)

## Contents

Agenda item 55: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 56: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 57: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 58: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (*continued*)\*

Agenda item 59: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*)\*

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

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14-62578 (E)



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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 55: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/69/23 (chaps. VII and XIII) and A/69/69)

**Agenda item 56: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/69/23 (chaps. V and XIII))

**Agenda item 57: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/69/23 (chaps. VI and XIII) and A/69/66)

**Agenda item 58: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/69/67; A/C.4/69/L.3)

**Agenda item 59: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples** (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*) (A/69/23 (chaps. VIII-XI and XIII) and A/69/189; A/C.4/69/L.4)

1. **Mr. Cousiño** (Chile) said that the work of the Special Committee on decolonization had been a success but had not yet been completed. His country called on the administering Powers to take the measures needed to achieve the rapid decolonization of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and transmit, in conformity with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, appropriate information on the Territories under their administration.

2. With respect to the special and particular question of the Malvinas Islands, which involved a sovereignty dispute between two States, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions. It urged the two parties, Argentina and the United Kingdom, to resume negotiations in order to find as expeditiously as possible a solution that conformed with United Nations resolutions. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/49, and as already expressed in a number of

regional, biregional and international forums, the United Kingdom should refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands were going through the process of seeking a solution, and in particular should refrain from military activities and from prospecting for or exploiting the renewable and non-renewable natural resources of the Argentine continental shelf. His delegation joined the call to the Secretary-General to renew his efforts in the ongoing mission of good offices to bring about the resumption of negotiations directed towards a peaceful solution to the dispute, and requested him to provide an update on the progress made thus far. It commended the Argentine Government for its willingness to undertake negotiations in order to find a peaceful and lasting solution.

3. His delegation appreciated the progress made in the Special Committee under the leadership of its Chair, as well as the efforts of the Department of Public Information to disseminate knowledge about the work of that Committee. It joined others in calling for the decolonization website to be maintained in the six official languages in order to highlight the work of the United Nations in such an important sphere.

4. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) expressed deep frustration and serious concern about the lack of progress in resolving the remaining cases of colonialism as the international community approached the midpoint of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism; there was no alternative to the full implementation of the principle of self-determination. He recalled that the question of Western Sahara was one of decolonization, that Western Sahara had been listed by the United Nations as a Non-Self-Governing Territory since 1963, when it had still been a Spanish colony, and that, since then, Algeria had never changed its opinion on and commitment to that issue. The conflict could only be resolved through the Sahrawi people's full and fair exercise of its right to self-determination.

5. Numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council had reaffirmed the legal nature of the conflict and the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination, as had also been stated in the relevant advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The people of the Territory were entitled to full protection from any abuse, whether related to human rights or the use of the Territory's natural

resources, which could only be exploited in consultation with and for the benefit of its people. In that regard, he recalled the opinion of the United Nations Legal Counsel dated 29 January 2002 (S/2002/161) regarding exploration and exploitation activities in Western Sahara.

6. He recalled the African Union's commitment to the full decolonization of Western Sahara, which had been cemented during its 2014 summit, held in Malabo, by the appointment of former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique as African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara should continue to facilitate negotiations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), the two parties to the dispute.

7. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that North Africa, the Sahel region and the Middle East were experiencing an unprecedented rise in terrorism and radicalism. Terrorist groups with ties to arms, drug and human trafficking networks exploited feelings of desperation, democratic deficits and socially and economically precarious situations. In the face of those security threats, it had become urgent for the Sahel-Saharan and Maghreb regions to resolve their regional and internal conflicts to preserve State unity and territorial integrity and to prevent terrorist groups from forging ties with desperate inhabitants of refugee camps. The imperatives of security and stability prevailed over any other consideration or principle.

8. In that uncertain and turbulent context, the Kingdom of Morocco was the sole regional haven of peace and stability. It remained convinced of the need for a negotiated political solution to the regional dispute over Western Sahara. As the Security Council had recognized in its resolution 2152 (2014), a political solution to the dispute and enhanced cooperation between the States members of the Arab Maghreb Union would contribute to stability and security in the Sahel region.

9. In fact, it had been Morocco that had placed the question of the Sahara on the Committee's agenda in 1963, when the region had still been under Spanish occupation. At the time, no other State had laid claim to the Sahara and the so-called Frente Polisario had not existed. However, the negotiated settlement of the dispute between Morocco and Spain had gone against

the wishes of certain countries in the region. At the heart of the armed conflict imposed on Morocco were other countries' hegemonic ambitions in the Maghreb, which had transformed the question of Moroccan Sahara into a regional conflict.

10. Morocco had participated in good faith in the Organization's efforts to find a definitive solution to the issue. Its 2007 initiative for the negotiation of an autonomy statute for the Sahara region had been the result of a nationwide effort involving all political, social, economic and academic actors, as well as authentic representatives of the population living in the southern provinces. The Security Council had qualified the initiative as "serious and credible" in successive resolutions since 2007, thus endorsing it as the appropriate solution for the regional dispute. The autonomy proposal wholly reflected the fundamental parameters established by the Organization, which specified that the solution could only be political, negotiated and rooted in realism and a spirit of compromise. The initiative would fulfil the principle of self-determination, as the negotiated agreement, once accepted by all parties, would be put to a referendum among the populations concerned.

11. As a result of Morocco's autonomy proposal, the process of political negotiation had been relaunched after a four-year impasse. However, instead of seizing the opportunity to discuss the proposal, the other parties had unfortunately persisted in their backward-looking positions through pseudo-proposals and plans whose inapplicability had been clearly established by the Secretary-General and the Security Council. As the parameters set by the Council constituted the sole basis for facilitating the self-determination process, any deviation from them would be seriously detrimental to that process.

12. Since the recovery of the southern provinces, the Moroccan Government had made colossal efforts to ensure lasting, comprehensive and integrated development in that region, taking full account of its special features and the wishes of its population. Genuine progress had been recorded in the sphere of human development and in basic economic and social infrastructure, with the result that the region had the highest social indicators in the country, together with a regional gross domestic product (GDP) above the national average. As part of an advanced regionalization policy incorporated into the new Constitution, Morocco had also implemented a new

development model for those provinces to promote and strengthen human development, the full exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, environmental protection, good governance, democracy and gender parity.

13. Morocco had received numerous visits from special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as well as hundreds of non-governmental organizations, parliamentary delegations, diplomats and journalists, who had visited the southern provinces without restriction. In May 2014 the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had visited Morocco and had declared that, in the 13 years since the last visit to the country by a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Morocco had clearly made great strides in the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. Morocco regretted the international community's silence on the issue of lawlessness in the Tindouf camps, whose populations were deprived of their most basic rights, including freedom of movement, assembly and expression. They were forced to live in militarized camps under the control of a military movement that had no authority or standing under international law. Morocco also regretted that the host country continued to oppose the conduct of a census of the camp populations, despite its obligation to do so.

15. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom), speaking in exercise of the right of reply in response to statements made at the current and preceding meetings by the representatives of Belize, Bolivia, Chile and Nicaragua, said that his Government had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands under the principle of self-determination. In March 2013, the Falkland Islands Government had conducted a referendum to seek the views of the people, 99.8 per cent of whom had voted to remain an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.

16. The Falkland Islands had no indigenous population, and no civilian population had been removed before the current population's ancestors had settled on the islands. The people of the Falkland Islands were a legitimate people with a right to have their wishes respected. He rejected claims that the United Kingdom was militarizing the South Atlantic; rather, it had maintained a defensive military posture in the South Atlantic since Argentina had illegally invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Since then, garrison numbers had been reduced to the minimum necessary. The United Kingdom's position on the issue of nuclear weapons had been clearly set out in its letter of 18 October 2012 ([A/67/544](#)).

17. The United Kingdom rejected the allegation that unauthorized exploitation and exploration of hydrocarbons was being conducted on the continental shelf of the Falkland Islands. The decision to exploit natural resources had been made by the Falkland Islands Government for the benefit of its people and in accordance with their right to self-determination. The United Kingdom was fully committed to defending the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their political, social and economic future and called on Argentina to respect their wishes.

18. The United Kingdom welcomed the election of a Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which had been in place since 9 November 2012. It had worked continuously with that Government to ensure good governance, sound financial management and economic development. It had received no formal communication from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the latter's 2013 visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands, but reiterated that wherever independence was an option and had been clearly and constitutionally chosen by an Overseas Territory, progress towards that goal would be facilitated by the British Government. Finally, he affirmed that South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands would remain an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.

19. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, recalled that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were part of Argentina's national territory. As they were being illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom, they were the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries that had been recognized by various international organizations. In a number of resolutions, the General Assembly called upon the two countries to settle the dispute peacefully through negotiations.

20. Argentina regretted that the United Kingdom continued to distort historical facts in an attempt to conceal the act of usurpation it had committed in 1833. Instead, the United Kingdom should abide by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, thus acting in the same lawful and responsible manner that it demanded of the rest of the international community.

The question of the Malvinas Islands had been defined as a special and particular case of decolonization because it involved a bilateral sovereignty dispute. In 1985, the General Assembly had expressly ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination to the question when it had rejected two British attempts to introduce the principle into resolutions related to the question.

21. The so-called referendum conducted unilaterally by the United Kingdom among the population it had implanted in the islands, whose predictable results had confirmed that the islands' British subjects wished to remain British, had been an illegitimate and tautological exercise that could not resolve the sovereignty dispute. The claim that the British had maintained a military presence in the Malvinas Islands solely for defence reasons following the events of 1982 was dubious, in light of the imperialist policy that had prompted that country's occupation of the islands in 1833. Since the restoration of democracy in Argentina in 1983, no objective observer of the political and military situation could argue that the country was a military threat. Rather, it was the United Kingdom's militarization of the area that had been rejected by the region as a whole. Argentina also rejected persistent unilateral British activity related to the illegal exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. It reaffirmed its legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which were an integral part of its national territory.

22. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolutions under agenda items 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59, none of which had any programme budget implications.

*Draft resolution I: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 55 (A/69/23 (chap. XIII))*

23. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei

Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

24. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 157 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.*

25. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that, as in previous years, the United Kingdom had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. His Government did



not take issue with the main objective of the draft resolution, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its obligations fully in that regard in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. It believed, however, that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter ultimately fell to the Government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

*Draft resolution II: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 56 (A/69/23 (chap. XIII))*

26. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian

Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

27. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 159 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

28. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution II on the understanding that the references in the text to the right to self-determination, which, according to resolution 1514 (XV), presupposed the existence of a people subject to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, were in no way applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, because the United Kingdom, in its illegal occupation of the Islands, had expelled their local population and replaced it with its own population. The General Assembly itself had expressly ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination to the question of the Malvinas Islands in 1985 when it had rejected by a large majority two proposals by the United Kingdom seeking to incorporate that principle into a draft resolution on that specific question. All General Assembly resolutions subsequent to resolution 2065 (XX) and all subsequent Special Committee resolutions on the issue had expressly established that the way to put an end to that special and particular colonial situation, in which sovereignty over the Islands and the surrounding maritime areas was disputed, was not through self-determination but rather through a negotiated settlement of the sovereignty dispute between the two parties involved: Argentina and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the General

Assembly, in resolution 31/49, had called upon Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation during such negotiations. The unilateral and illegal exploration and exploitation by the United Kingdom of the renewable and non-renewable natural resources of Argentina in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were in open violation of that specific United Nations pronouncement.

*Draft resolution III: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 57 (A/69/23 (chap. XIII))*

29. **Mr. Volgarev** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation continued to support the effective realization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories' right to self-determination. It hoped that the Special Committee would bolster the effectiveness of its work on questions of decolonization and obtain increased results from the implementation of the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. At the same time, the Russian Federation was convinced that the consideration of that strictly political question in the Economic and Social Council distracted from the Council's main functions in the socioeconomic sphere. Thus, the Russian Federation intended to abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

30. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia,

Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

31. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 113 votes to none, with 51 abstentions.*

32. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation supported assistance by the specialized agencies to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the humanitarian, technical and educational fields, it considered that the statuses of those agencies must be carefully respected, and for that reason it had abstained in the vote.

33. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because the draft resolution must be implemented in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee relating to specific Territories.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.3: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 58*

34. *Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.3 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.4: Question of Western Sahara, submitted under agenda item 59*

35. **Mr. Hallergard** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Encouraging the parties and neighbouring States to cooperate with the Personal Envoy, it welcomed the parties' commitment to step up the negotiations, which should be held in good faith and without preconditions, taking note of developments since 2006, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2152 (2014) and other recent Council resolutions. The European Union fully supported the new methodology of shuttle diplomacy, which had been proposed by the Personal Envoy and accepted by the parties, for it remained concerned about the implications of the Western Sahara conflict for security and cooperation in the region.

36. The European Union encouraged the parties to continue their cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing confidence-building measures, which would help further the political process. Welcome progress had been made in that area, particularly the increase in the number of beneficiaries of family visits by air as well as the parties' readiness to begin to allow family visits by land, and also the meetings held to assess the implementation of the updated plan of action on confidence-building measures. UNHCR should also continue to consider conducting a refugee registration in the Tindouf camps.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.4 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution IV: Question of New Caledonia, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

38. *Draft resolution IV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution V: Question of French Polynesia, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

39. **The Chair** read out a minor drafting change.

40. *Draft resolution V, as orally revised, was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VI: Question of Tokelau, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

41. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VII: Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

42. *Draft resolution VII was adopted.*

43. **Mr. Gutiérrez Blanco Navarrete** (Spain) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it supported the principle of self-determination for the Territories to which it applied. It recalled, however, that that was not the only principle relevant to decolonization. In certain cases the principle of territorial integrity applied, as in Gibraltar. As mandated by the General Assembly, Spain was ready to settle the dispute over Gibraltar once and for all. That could be done only through direct negotiations with the United Kingdom, in which the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar would be heard.

44. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina), expressing his country's support for the right to self-determination of the peoples in all 11 Territories considered in draft resolution VII, said that the United Nations, the administering Powers and the Governments of those Territories must ensure that their populations were made aware of that right through civic education. However, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), self-determination was not the only principle applicable to decolonization; the principle of territorial integrity also applied in certain cases, such as that of the Malvinas Islands, explicitly defined in all resolutions on the question as a special and particular colonial situation. In that context,



Argentina reiterated its willingness to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom to settle the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

45. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that, since his Government supported the right to self-determination, it had joined the consensus on draft resolution VII. However, it found some of the wording in the draft resolution unacceptable in that it failed to reflect the modernization of the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, all of which had a large measure of self-government and had chosen to retain their link to the United Kingdom. It was a mutually acceptable relationship, based on partnership, shared values and recognition of the right to self-determination. The United Kingdom did not accept the assertion that the people of Gibraltar did not have the right of self-determination.

*Draft resolution VIII: Dissemination of information on decolonization, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

46. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco,

Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France.

47. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 160 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

48. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution because it considered that the obligation placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represented an unwarranted drain on the scarce resources of the United Nations.

49. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that Argentina, while fully supporting the right to self-determination of colonized peoples under resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV), had voted in favour of draft resolution VIII on the understanding that it would be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee, all of which subsequent to resolution 2065 (XX) had defined the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas explicitly as a special and particular colonial situation in that it involved a sovereignty dispute between two parties, Argentina and the United Kingdom, which had been requested to conduct bilateral negotiations in order to find as soon

as possible a peaceful solution to the problem, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the Islands.

*Draft resolution IX: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, submitted under agenda item 59 (A/69/23, chap. XIII)*

50. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania,

Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Bangladesh, France.

51. *Draft resolution IX was adopted by 161 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.*

52. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation continued to find some elements of the draft resolution unacceptable, and had therefore voted against it. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom remained committed to modernizing its relationship with its Overseas Territories, while fully taking into account the views of the peoples of those Territories.

53. **Mr. Díaz Bartolomé** (Argentina) said that visiting missions could be sent only to Territories to which the right of self-determination applied, meaning Territories where there was no dispute over sovereignty. That requirement was fully in line with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), which also established the requirement that any visiting mission must be approved by the General Assembly.

54. **Mr. Gutiérrez Blanco Navarrete** (Spain) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it supported the principle of self-determination. It recalled, however, that self-determination was not the only principle relevant to decolonization. In certain cases the principle of territorial integrity applied, as in Gibraltar. Spain also emphasized that visiting missions could be dispatched only to Territories to which the principle of self-determination applied, and not to Territories in respect of which there was a sovereignty dispute. That requirement was fully in line with the practice of the Special Committee and with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), which also established the requirement that any visiting mission must be approved by the General Assembly.

55. **Ms. Dixon** (Bahamas) said that the unfinished business of decolonizing Territories in her region and beyond remained an urgent task. Her Government, consistent with the principles of good neighbourliness and regional solidarity, reaffirmed its continued interest and concern with respect to developments in

the Turks and Caicos Islands. In July 2013, the CARICOM Heads of Government had endorsed the report of a ministerial fact-finding mission to assess the judicial, political, economic and social realities of the Turks and Caicos Islands since the November 2012 elections. The report recommended, inter alia, that a referendum on the existing dependency and constitutional arrangements should be conducted. In February 2013, the CARICOM Heads of Government had noted with grave concern that, despite the restoration of representative government after the November 2012 elections, the overall state of political affairs remained less than desirable. Her delegation therefore echoed the support expressed in draft resolution VII for the full restoration of democracy in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

*The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.*