

**Seventieth session**

Agenda item 63

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of  
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples****Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(Fourth Committee)***Rapporteur:* Ms. Clotilde **Ferry** (Monaco)**I. Introduction**

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples” and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. At its 1st meeting, on 7 October 2015, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate on decolonization items (agenda items 59 to 63). The general debate on those items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 8, 9 and from 12 to 15 October (see [A/C.4/70/SR.2-7](#)). The Committee took action on item 63 at its 7th and 24th meetings, on 15 October and 12 November (see [A/C.4/70/SR.7](#) and 24).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters 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 ([A/70/23](#), chaps. VIII, IX, X, XI and XIII);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism ([A/70/73](#) and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara ([A/70/201](#)).



4. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 October, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, in his capacity as Rapporteur 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, introduced the report of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia, in his capacity as Acting Chair of the Special Committee, made a statement in which he gave an account of the activities of the Special Committee during 2015 (see [A/C.4/70/SR.2](#)).
5. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee granted requests for hearings to the petitioners listed in documents [A/C.4/70/2](#), [A/C.4/70/3](#), [A/C.4/70/4](#), [A/C.4/70/5](#) and [A/C.4/70/6](#) in connection with its consideration of the item.
6. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 October, the Committee granted requests for hearings to the petitioners listed in document [A/C.4/70/7](#) after hearing statements by the representatives of Algeria, Namibia, Morocco, Senegal and Uganda (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
7. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard a statement on the question of Gibraltar by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
8. Also at the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard a statement by the Minister of Budget, Housing, Energy, Digital Development and Audiovisual Media of the Government of New Caledonia, Thierry Cornaille (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
9. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard a statement on the question of Guam by Senator Anthony B. Ada representing the Governor of Guam.
10. Also at the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard one petitioner on the question of Gibraltar (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
11. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard four petitioners on the question of New Caledonia (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
12. Also at the 3rd meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard one petitioner on the question of Guam (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
13. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard one petitioner on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
14. Also at the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard three petitioners on the question of French Polynesia (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).
15. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard one petitioner on the question of Western Sahara (see [A/C.4/70/SR.3](#)).

16. At its 4th meeting, on 12 October, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard 34 petitioners on the question of Western Sahara (see [A/C.4/70/SR.4](#)).

17. At its 5th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee heard 35 petitioners on the question of Western Sahara (see [A/C.4/70/SR.5](#)).

## II. Consideration of proposals

18. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee was informed that the draft resolutions submitted under item 63 had no programme budget implications, with the exception of draft resolution IX contained in document [A/70/23](#).

### A. Question of Western Sahara

19. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Question of Western Sahara” ([A/C.4/70/L.4](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/70/L.4](#) without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution I).

### B. Question of New Caledonia

21. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled “Question of New Caledonia”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee ([A/70/23](#)), without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution II).

### C. Question of French Polynesia

22. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled “Question of French Polynesia”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee ([A/70/23](#)), without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution III).

### D. Question of Tokelau

23. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution VI, entitled “Question of Tokelau”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee ([A/70/23](#)), without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution IV).

### E. 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

24. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution VII, entitled “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”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee (A/70/23), without a vote (see para. 32, draft resolution V).

## F. Dissemination of information on decolonization

25. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution VIII, entitled “Dissemination of information on decolonization”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee (A/70/23), by a recorded vote of 159 to 3, with 2 abstentions (see para. 32, draft resolution VI). The voting was as follows:<sup>1</sup>

### *In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, 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, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, 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 Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### *Against:*

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

### *Abstaining:*

Democratic Republic of the Congo, France.

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Uzbekistan subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

## G. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

26. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee had before it draft resolution IX, entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, contained in chapter XIII of the report of the Special Committee (A/70/23).

27. The Committee also had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.4/70/L.6).

28. The Committee adopted draft resolution IX by a recorded vote of 153 to 6, with 1 abstention (see para. 32, draft resolution VII). The voting was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, 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 Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Israel, Morocco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

France.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, the delegation of India indicated that, had it been present, it would have abstained, and the delegation of Uzbekistan indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

## H. Question of Gibraltar

29. At its 24th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Question of Gibraltar” ([A/C.4/70/L.5](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

30. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.4/70/L.5](#) without a vote (see para. 33).

### III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

32. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I** **Question of Western Sahara**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,*

*Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,*

*Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolution 69/101 of 5 December 2014,*

*Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,*

*Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990, 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001, 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570 (2004) of 28 October 2004, 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005, 1634 (2005) of 28 October 2005, 1675 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1720 (2006) of 31 October 2006,*

*Underlining the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007) on 30 April 2007, 1783 (2007) on 31 October 2007, 1813 (2008) on 30 April 2008, 1871 (2009) on 30 April 2009, 1920 (2010) on 30 April 2010, 1979 (2011) on 27 April 2011, 2044 (2012) on 24 April 2012, 2099 (2013) on 25 April 2013, 2152 (2014) on 29 April 2014 and 2218 (2015) on 28 April 2015,*

*Expressing its satisfaction that the parties met on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and in the presence of the neighbouring countries and that they have agreed to continue the negotiations,*

*Also expressing its satisfaction at the holding of nine informal meetings convened by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on 9 and 10 August 2009 in Dürnstein, Austria, on 10 and 11 February 2010 in Westchester County, New York, United States of America, from 7 to 10 November 2010, from 16 to 18 December 2010 and from 21 to 23 January 2011, all on Long Island, New York, from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Mellieha, Malta, from 5 to 7 June 2011 and from 19 to*

21 July 2011, both on Long Island, and from 11 to 13 March 2012 in Manhasset, New York, to prepare for the fifth round of negotiations,

*Calling upon* all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and with each other,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

*Having examined* the relevant chapter 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 2015,<sup>1</sup>

*Having also examined* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Supports* the process of negotiations initiated by Security Council resolution 1754 (2007) and further sustained by Council resolutions 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014) and 2218 (2015), with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara in this respect;
3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, noting efforts and developments since 2006, thus ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014) and 2218 (2015) and the success of negotiations;
4. *Also welcomes* the ongoing negotiations between the parties held on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 in the presence of the neighbouring countries and under the auspices of the United Nations;
5. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and calls upon them to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;
6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;
7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23)*, chap. VIII.

<sup>2</sup> [A/70/201](#).



## Draft resolution II Question of New Caledonia

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of New Caledonia,

*Having examined* the chapter 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 2015 relating to New Caledonia,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

*Noting* the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

*Noting also,* in this context, the importance of continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

*Recalling* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,<sup>2</sup> following his visit to the Territory in February 2011,

*Noting with satisfaction* the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

*Recalling* the conclusions of the nineteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, under the historic inaugural chairmanship of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste, held in Nouméa from 19 to 21 June 2013, including the Leaders Declaration of the Group reaffirming the strong commitment and support, including technical assistance, for the self-determination of New Caledonia, in accordance with the Charter and the Nouméa Accord,<sup>3</sup>

*Welcoming* the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

*Mindful* that New Caledonia has entered the most seminal phase of the Nouméa Accord process, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23), chap. IX.*

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/18/35/Add.6](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> [A/AC.109/2114](#), annex.

United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

*Welcoming* the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chiefs Councils, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia,

*Welcoming also* the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014,

*Recalling* the statement by the Chair of the visiting mission,

*Having examined* the report of the visiting mission,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia and its readiness for and concurrence with the dispatching of the 2014 visiting mission,

*Taking note* of the statement by the representative of the administering Power,

*Acknowledging* the successful conduct by New Caledonia of municipal and provincial elections in May 2014,

*Taking note* of the information presented to the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, and in Managua, from 19 to 21 May 2015, on the situation in the Territory, including on the issues related to the 2014 elections,

*Aware* of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative committees in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms its approval* of the chapter 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 2015 relating to New Caledonia;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the report, observations, conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2014;<sup>4</sup>

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission;

4. *Notes* the concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and

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<sup>4</sup> [A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1](#).

encourages the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable and peaceful manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;<sup>3</sup>

5. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair, credible and transparent electoral roll, as provided in the Nouméa Accord, are essential for the conduct of a free, fair and genuine act of self-determination consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations principles and practices;

6. *Welcomes*, in that respect, the continuous dialogue undertaken by the parties in the framework of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord to establish the parameters for the conduct of a conclusive act of self-determination, including the setting of an electoral roll, as provided in the Accord;

7. *Takes note* of the outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Committee of Signatories, held on 3 October 2014, which, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the administering Power to enable the people of New Caledonia to decide their future status in a fair, credible, democratic and transparent self-determination process consistent with the Accord;

8. *Notes with interest* the convening of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Signatories, held in Paris on 5 June 2015, regarding the New Caledonia self-determination process, including, in particular, the electoral roll for the referendum and related issues;

9. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission, to consider developing an education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

10. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

11. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

12. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 68/87 of 11 December 2013 and 69/97 of 5 December 2014, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

13. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the

Charter, particularly the submission on 8 January 2015 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

14. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

15. *Commends* the “Cadres for the future” programme, and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives in the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia,<sup>2</sup> made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

17. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and communities of the Territory, especially for the well-being of the Kanak indigenous people;

18. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to ensure and enhance safeguards for and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

19. *Recalls* the provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

20. *Welcomes* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the Group, the successful completion of the chairmanship of the Group by the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste, in June 2015, and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

21. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

22. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

23. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji,

from 21 to 23 May 2014 and in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015, including on measured progress made in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

24. *Welcomes* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 11 May 2014, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Stresses* the importance of the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

26. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

27. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

### **Draft resolution III**

#### **Question of French Polynesia**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of French Polynesia,

*Having examined* the chapter 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 2015 relating to French Polynesia,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

*Recalling* its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled “Self-determination of French Polynesia”, in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514 (XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter, and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

*Taking note* of the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014,<sup>2</sup>

*Expressing concern* that 55 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>3</sup> there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

*Recognizing also* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

*Conscious* of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

*Mindful* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23)*, chap. IX.

<sup>2</sup> See [A/68/966-S/2014/573](#), annex I.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

*Recognizing* the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 69/84 of 5 December 2014, entitled “Effects of atomic radiation”,

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia,<sup>4</sup> prepared pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 68/93 of 11 December 2013,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia 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;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia 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 calls 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 French Polynesia 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;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work 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 in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

4. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the

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<sup>4</sup> [A/69/189](#).

administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.



## **Draft resolution IV**

### **Question of Tokelau**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Tokelau,

*Taking note* of the chapter 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 2015 relating to Tokelau,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 69/104 of 5 December 2014,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

*Noting with appreciation also* the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

*Noting* that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

*Recalling* the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Cognizant* that New Zealand and Tokelau signed, on 21 November 2003, a document entitled “Joint statement of the principles of partnership”, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

*Bearing in mind* the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and bearing in mind also that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

*Recalling* the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory in January 2014,

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23)*, chap. XI.

*Noting* the 2013 constitutional consultations, to be further considered by the Constitution Committee, which were driven by the people of Tokelau and which aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, along with the constitution, national anthem and national flag,

*Bearing in mind* the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and the rise in sea level, and bearing in mind also the intention of Tokelau to further review the National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015, including consideration of the issue of self-determination and how it would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power,

*Recalling* the statement made at the seminar by the representative of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, citing the close and cordial cooperation that has existed for nearly 90 years between the Territory and the administering Power, with an emphasis on quality health care and education, telecommunications, renewable energy, support for the fisheries sector and the establishment of transport infrastructure and services, including the ongoing construction of a new purpose-built ferry vessel for the people of Tokelau, to be delivered in 2015,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations in the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Recalls* the adoption by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and that the Joint Commitment for Development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011-2015 prioritizes four main development pillars, including good governance, infrastructure development, human resources capacity development and sustainable development;

5. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including with the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project and a new shipping charter service, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

6. *Commends* the achievement by Tokelau in 2013 of 60 per cent of the objectives of its National Strategic Plan, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and receipt by the Government of the Renewable Energy Award granted by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

7. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans;

8. *Notes* the intention of Tokelau to further review its National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015 and to include consideration of the issue of self-determination and how the Territory would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power;

9. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs, and in this regard notes the successful chairmanship by Tokelau in 2014 of the tenth annual ministerial meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, held in Tokelau on 1 and 2 July 2014, and the representation of the Agency by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

12. *Recognizes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

13. *Commends* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continuing to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

**Draft resolution V**  
**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**

**A**  
**General**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories 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, hereinafter referred to as “the Territories”,

*Having examined* the relevant chapter 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 2015,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Expressing concern* that 55 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>2</sup> there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Conscious* of the importance of continuing the effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second<sup>3</sup> and the Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23)*, chap. X.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 1514 (XV).

<sup>3</sup> [A/56/61](#), annex.

*Noting* the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

*Noting also* the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Convinced also* that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

*Noting* that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

*Aware* of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Noting* the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

*Mindful* that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

*Mindful also* that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

*Acknowledging* the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

*Aware* of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

*Recognizing* the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

*Mindful*, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Noting* the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

*Welcoming* the Caribbean regional seminar held by the Special Committee in Managua and hosted by the Government of Nicaragua from 19 to 21 May 2015 as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess the progress made in the decolonization process and to review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its momentum in implementing its historic task,

*Recognizing* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee<sup>4</sup> and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>5</sup>

*Conscious* of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and in that connection bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

*Recalling* the statement made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar that all seven Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories were active associate members of the Commission,

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<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23).*

<sup>5</sup> See resolution 65/119.

*Aware* that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>6</sup> reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

*Recalling* the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

*Recognizing* that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,<sup>7</sup> as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>8</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/119 on the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>9</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories 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;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves 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 reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories 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;

4. *Stresses* the importance 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 being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional

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<sup>6</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>7</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/1](#), 4-12 and 14.

<sup>8</sup> [A/65/330](#) and Add.1.

<sup>9</sup> [A/70/73](#) and Add.1.

arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers 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 the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second<sup>3</sup> and the Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, in particular by expediting the implementation of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;



14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>6</sup> with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and on the implementation of the present resolutions.

## **B** **Individual Territories**

*The General Assembly,*

*Referring to resolution A above,*

### **I** **American Samoa**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa<sup>10</sup> and other relevant information,

*Taking note also* of the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was seen as an anachronism that exposed the Territory to situations beyond its control and needed to be remedied,

*Aware* that, under United States law, the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,<sup>11</sup>

*Recalling* the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars inviting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

*Aware* of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee, as well as the holding in June 2010 of the Territory's fourth Constitutional Convention,

<sup>10</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/12](#).

<sup>11</sup> United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

*Noting* the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar, expressing concern that the Territory continued to get its authority from the President and the Department of the Interior of the administering Power, that the Territory had no representation in the federal Congress and that its Constitution needed to be approved by the Government of the administering Power,

*Acknowledging* the outcome of the referendum held on 4 November 2014, in which the proposal to give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto was rejected, and welcoming the discussion opened in the Territory as to the way forward,

*Taking note* of the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, issued on 5 June 2015, affirming the judgement of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which dismissed a lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgement that would have asserted that the citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States extended to American Samoa,

*Acknowledging* the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar, that certain federal laws have had and continue to have a debilitating impact on the Territory's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth,

*Aware* that, in July 2012, the United States passed Public Law 112-149, which includes a provision to delay the minimum wage increases in American Samoa, as provided by United States Public Law 110-28, until September 2015,

*Aware also* that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress and in particular the announcement of a dialogue among the people of American Samoa on the Territory's future political status;

2. *Acknowledges* the indication by the territorial Government that American Samoa should remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, under the purview 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, until such time as its people have exercised their right to self-determination;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2015 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

## **II** **Anguilla**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla<sup>12</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recalling* the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

*Recalling also* the statement made by the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012 that the people of the Territory were concerned that they were being denied the full range of decolonization options under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

*Aware* of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

*Noting* the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the recent efforts undertaken in that regard,

*Noting also* the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Taking note* of the general elections which took place in April 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of

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<sup>12</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/14](#).

the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls 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;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

### **III Bermuda**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda<sup>13</sup> and other relevant information,

*Aware* of the statement made by the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

*Conscious* of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

*Recalling* the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

*Noting* serious concerns regarding good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory, including with respect to external election campaign financing originating in a neighbouring country, which led the Premier to resign in May 2014 with a view to maintaining integrity and confidence in the political landscape,

*Cognizant* of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of

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<sup>13</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/6](#).

the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation of Bermuda in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

#### **IV**

##### **British Virgin Islands**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands<sup>14</sup> and other relevant information,

*Recalling* the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013 that, while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power was stable and not problematic, it could be enhanced,

*Aware* of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the financial and tourism services sectors of the Territory,

*Cognizant* of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

*Taking note* of the general elections which took place in June 2015,

1. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

#### **V**

##### **Cayman Islands**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands<sup>15</sup> and other relevant information,

*Conscious* of the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,

*Aware* of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

<sup>14</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/7](#).

<sup>15</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/8](#).

*Aware also* that, in spite of the global economic downturn, the tourism sector continued to be one of the key drivers for economic growth and that the financial services sector reportedly continued to bring about slight growth in 2014,

*Cognizant* of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to continue to implement financial sector management policies, medical tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors;

## **VI Guam**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam<sup>16</sup> and other relevant information,

*Noting* the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015, in which he presented an update on the efforts of Guam towards decolonization, including by securing funding for the public education programme on self-determination, and on the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in reinforcing public awareness in order to address the limited and distorted understanding of decolonization,

*Noting also* the concern expressed by the representative of the Governor about the reinstatement of a lawsuit challenging the voting restrictions for the Territory's plebiscite on self-determination,

*Cognizant* of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination, to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered and to identify and secure territorial and federal resources for a self-determination education programme,

*Aware* that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme

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<sup>16</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/4](#).

responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,<sup>17</sup>

*Recalling* that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

*Aware* that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

*Cognizant* of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

*Noting* that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

*Aware* of the deep concern expressed by civil society and other parties regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

*Conscious* that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination and its ongoing work on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

2. *Stresses* that the decolonization process in Guam should be compatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples<sup>2</sup> and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>18</sup>

3. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary

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<sup>17</sup> United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

5. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

6. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

## **VII**

### **Montserrat**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat<sup>19</sup> and other relevant information,

*Noting with concern* the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

*Acknowledging* the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

*Noting* the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

*Aware* that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

*Taking note* of the letter dated 2 June 2015 from the Premier of Montserrat addressed to the Chair of the Special Committee, requesting to address the Special Committee in order to share the concerns of his Government regarding some situations that affect the lives of Montserratians,

*Noting* the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Montserrat, as conveyed by the Premier of Montserrat to the Chair of the Special Committee in their meeting on 11 May 2015,

*Cognizant* of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

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<sup>19</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/9](#).



2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's participation in the work of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

## **VIII Pitcairn**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn<sup>20</sup> and other relevant information,

*Taking into account* the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

*Aware* that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

*Cognizant* that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan, covering the period from 2012 to 2016, that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

*Aware* of the assessment made in 2013 that the population of the Territory needs to be boosted if the Territory is to have a sustainable future and of the approval by the Pitcairn Island Council of an immigration policy and the repopulation plan, covering the period from 2014 to 2019, designed to promote immigration and repopulation and bring people with the necessary skills and commitment to Pitcairn,

*Noting with concern* the findings contained in the final report on the survey commissioned by the Pitcairn Island Council to ascertain whether members of the diaspora had any interest in returning to the Territory and the factors conditioning a decision,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through the training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter,

<sup>20</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/5](#).

and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including as regards demographic matters;

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

## **IX Saint Helena**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena<sup>21</sup> and other relevant information,

*Taking note also* of the statement made by the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 that the Territory had no aspiration to independence and had been able to have a formal form of government,

*Noting* the concerns expressed by the representative of Saint Helena about the potential negative impacts of the construction of the airport, including the growing number of expatriate families settling in the Territory and the lack of a specific plan to operate an air route or sea link between Saint Helena and neighbouring islands,

*Noting also* the information provided by the representative of Saint Helena that, although human rights provisions are enshrined in the 2009 Constitution of Saint Helena, some international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>22</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>23</sup> have not yet been extended to the Territory,

*Taking into account* the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

*Recalling* the fact that, in January 2013, following a resolution passed in September 2012 by the Legislative Council to undertake minor adjustments to the 2009 Constitution, a public consultation process was launched,

*Aware* that a consultative poll was held in March 2013, with the majority opting for no change to the Constitution, and that, for the first time, a general election based on one constituency was held in July 2013,

*Cognizant* that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

*Aware* of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment, transport and communications infrastructure,

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<sup>21</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/1](#).

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socioeconomic development challenges of the Territory;

## X

### Turks and Caicos Islands

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands<sup>24</sup> and other relevant information,

*Taking note also* of the statement made by the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,

*Recalling* the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

*Noting* the decision of the administering Power to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution, the subsequent presentation of a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011 and the introduction of a new constitution for the Territory, as well as the election of a new territorial Government in 2012,

*Aware* that the 2014 report of the Constitutional Review Committee, which was submitted to and considered by the House of Assembly, is under consideration by the administering Power,

*Recalling* that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

*Acknowledging* the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, which are the mainstays of the economy of the Territory,

1. *Reiterates its support* for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory and for the work of the Constitutional Review Committee in that regard, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

<sup>24</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/11](#).

3. *Also notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

## **XI**

### **United States Virgin Islands**

*Taking note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands<sup>25</sup> and other relevant information,

*Aware* that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,<sup>26</sup>

*Aware also* of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

*Cognizant* that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

*Cognizant also* that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

*Noting* the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2014,

*Aware* of the closing of the Hovensa plant, and noting the continuing negative impact on manufacturing and on the employment situation in the Territory,

*Cognizant* of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the

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<sup>25</sup> [A/AC.109/2015/10](#).

<sup>26</sup> United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

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administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing negative impact of the Hovensa plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call for* the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Recalls* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

## **Draft resolution VI Dissemination of information on decolonization**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having examined* the chapter 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 2015 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 69/106 of 5 December 2014,

*Recognizing* the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

*Reiterating* the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

*Recognizing* the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing also* the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Aware* of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and encourages the continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, published in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization;

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23), chap. III.*

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports 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;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television and the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

## **Draft resolution VII Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having examined* 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 2015,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 69/107 of 5 December 2014, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways and means to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

*Recognizing* that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

*Regretting* that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

*Reiterating its conviction* of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

*Noting with satisfaction* the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

*Stressing* the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

*Noting with satisfaction* the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

*Noting* that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence, on a case-by-case basis;

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/70/23).*



2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms its support once again* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to participate formally in its future sessions and seminars;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly, as appropriate, the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, inter alia, to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

10. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, are an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requests the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year;

11. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,<sup>3</sup> updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

12. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

14. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering

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<sup>3</sup> A/56/61, annex.

Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

15. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers 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 economies of those Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2015,<sup>1</sup> in which the programme of work for 2016 is outlined, in particular the Pacific regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and augment the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, especially, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 69/107.

33. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

### **Question of Gibraltar**

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 69/523 of 5 December 2014:

(a) Urges the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, while listening to the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar that are legitimate under international law, to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Agreement of 27 November 1984, a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar, in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Takes note of the desire of the United Kingdom to continue with the trilateral Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar;

(c) Takes note of the position of Spain that the trilateral Forum for Dialogue does not exist any longer and should be replaced with a new mechanism for local cooperation in which the people of the Campo de Gibraltar and Gibraltar are represented;

(d) Welcomes the efforts made by both parties to resolve current problems and to engage in a flexible and responsive form of dialogue between all relevant and appropriate parties, on an informal ad hoc basis, and that such efforts are aimed at finding common solutions and making progress on issues of mutual benefit.

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