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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY,
DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATIONProgramme 4. Special Political Questions, Trusteeship
and Decolonization

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* The present document contains programme 4 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 4: SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, TRUSTEESHIP
AND DECOLONIZATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

4.1 The activities consolidated under this programme are derived from Chapters I, III, VI, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII and XV of the Charter. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) marked the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Subsequent General Assembly resolutions 2621 (XXV), 35/118, 40/56 and 44/101 were adopted, charging the Special Committee, inter alia, to examine the full compliance of States with the Declaration. The mandate of the programme is further elaborated in a number of resolutions with regard to specific territories or issues adopted on annual and biennial bases, the most recent of which are General Assembly resolutions 43/25, 44/9, 44/83 to 44/85, 44/87 to 44/100 and 44/102, Security Council resolution 621 (1988) and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 1989/95. This programme also encompasses activities in the area of regional co-operation, which are called for by annual General Assembly resolutions on co-operation with regional and interregional organizations, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/4, 44/7, 44/8 and 44/17.

4.2 The main objectives of this programme are:

(a) Bringing about the resolution of specific questions of a political nature through consultations with parties involved and through co-operation and co-ordination of international actions;

(b) Ensuring that the inhabitants of all dependent territories are given the opportunity to exercise fully and freely their inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence at the earliest possible date in accordance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

4.3 The resolution of special questions of a political nature has been a continuing preoccupation of the United Nations over the years to the extent that these problems affected the maintenance of international peace and security. In the context of its adoption of the revisions to the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1984-1989, by its resolution 41/203 the General Assembly placed emphasis on the political aspects of social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa. This involves keeping abreast of emerging significant political questions of concern to the United Nations, and informing and advising the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council as appropriate. Liaison with regional and interregional organizations and associations has been maintained in order to facilitate the resolution of such questions whenever co-operation with them was a factor.

4.4 The question of the co-operation between the United Nations and regional and interregional organizations and associations was first considered by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965, when it discussed the question of the co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (resolution 2011 (XX)).

The General Assembly subsequently considered the issues of co-operation with the Organization of Islamic Conference (resolution 35/36); of co-operation with the League of Arab States (resolution 36/24); and of co-operation with the Organization of American States (resolution 43/4). In all cases, through subsequent annual resolutions the General Assembly has called for a strengthening and a broadening of co-operation with those regional and interregional organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields as such co-operation is viewed as an important factor in strengthening international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination as well as in the areas of social, economic and cultural development of countries and regions.

4.5 Under the international Trusteeship System provided for in Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter, the United Nations assumed supervisory responsibilities in regard to the administration of 11 dependent territories, known as Trust Territories, which had been placed under trusteeship by individual agreements. The basic objectives of the Trusteeship System are listed in Article 76 of the Charter. These include, inter alia, the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of each Territory and their progressive development towards self-government or independence in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. Only one territory - the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which is designated a strategic area - currently remains under the Trusteeship System. In accordance with the provision of the Charter and by virtue of the Trusteeship Agreement signed with the Security Council in 1947, the United States of America is the Administering Authority for the Territory.

4.6 In accordance with the Charter, for non-strategic areas the machinery and procedures of international supervision are entrusted to the General Assembly while the Security Council carries out this function with respect to areas designated as strategic. In both cases the Trusteeship Council, which is a principal organ of the United Nations established under Article 7 of the Charter, provides the necessary assistance.

4.7 The decolonization activities of the United Nations derive basically from Chapter XI of the Charter, which, inter alia, asserts the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and from General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, which contains the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By adopting that Declaration, the General Assembly proclaimed the necessity of bringing colonialism to a speedy and unconditional end. It called for immediate steps to be taken in all territories that have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of these territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.

4.8 Since then the General Assembly has reviewed annually the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, considering ways and means to advance the process of decolonization. Many colonial territories have attained independence on the basis of the freely exercised right of their people, and were proclaimed independent States or part of existing States. Eighteen territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, still remain non-self-governing, however, and their future has yet to be decided on in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. In pursuance of that

goal the General Assembly at its forty-third session declared the years 1990 to 2000 as the International Decade of the Eradication of Colonialism, in order to usher in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism (resolution 43/47).

2. Overall strategy

4.9 Developments on special questions of a political nature, with particular emphasis on the political aspects of specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa, will continue to be monitored over the plan period. The General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council will be kept informed on the implementation of the relevant resolutions, and ad hoc missions will continue to be undertaken pursuant to standing mandates. On the basis of the findings of those missions Member States will continue to be provided with necessary assistance at their request. Effective co-operation will continue to be maintained with regional and interregional organizations, associations and conferences dealing with matters of concern to the United Nations.

4.10 During the plan period the Trusteeship System will continue to function as long as the last strategic territory - the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands - remains under the System. The Trusteeship Council, as a principal United Nations organ, will therefore, on behalf of the Security Council, continue to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the Territory until the achievement of the final goal.

4.11 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was established in 1961 as the principal subsidiary body of the General Assembly concerned with the broad problem of decolonization, will continue to study existing conditions in each of the remaining 18 non-self-governing territories on the basis of working papers prepared for it by the Secretariat and with the participation of representatives of the administering Powers. The Special Committee will, inter alia, formulate proposals to hasten the decolonization process; encourage concerted efforts by the international community in support of decolonization and promote the mobilization of world public opinion to that end; and provide assistance to colonial peoples.

4.12 The programme will be implemented through the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. The functions and responsibilities of the Department, as well as its organizational structure, are set out in the Organizational Manual (ST/SGB/ORG., Section SPQRCDT/OCN, of 24 February 1989).

4.13 The work of the Department derives from the mandates given annually by the General Assembly and from the programmes of work of the Trusteeship Council and 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. The major areas of work for the Department will continue to be research and monitoring of developments in trust and non-self-governing territories, and monitoring of political developments in the world with specific emphasis to questions relating to Africa; substantive servicing of the sessions of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee and of their visiting missions to the territories and other missions, and also of conferences, seminars and other events that may be organized

or sponsored by the Special Committee. These activities entail the preparation of research papers, specialized studies and reports and the dissemination of information on the process of decolonization. In the area of regional co-operation, the Department will hold consultations as appropriate with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations, for the implementation of relevant Assembly resolutions, and will report to the General Assembly.

4.14 The implementation of the programme will be carried out in co-operation with the departments and offices responsible for the following Programmes: Good offices, special missions and peace-keeping operations, Political and Security Council affairs, Political and General Assembly affairs, Elimination of apartheid, Special programmes and activities, including least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, Regional co-operation for development in Africa, Promotion and protection of human rights, International protection of and assistance to refugees, Disaster relief, including special emergency programmes, and Public information.

4.15 The implementation of the programme will require continuing co-ordination with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council and with a number of specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and some regional and interregional organizations and associations which share in varying degrees the political and social concerns of this programme, in particular, in respect of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The continuing co-operation with non-governmental organizations and individuals with an active interest in successful implementation of the process of decolonization is also foreseen.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

4.16 In light of the above orientations and general objectives, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Special political questions and regional co-operation

Subprogramme 2: Trusteeship and decolonization

4.17 In view of the importance attached by Member States to the activities to be carried out under the two subprogrammes, no priority designation is proposed.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1: SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

(a) Objectives

4.18 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from Chapters VI, VIII, IX and XV of the Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and

regional co-operation, and from annual General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/4, 44/7, 44/8, 44/9, 44/17, and decisions 44/417 and 44/419.

4.19 A wide range of special questions of a political nature are dealt with under this subprogramme. Some of them result from territorial or other disputes between States. Others require action by the United Nations in order to ease tensions or to co-ordinate international action involving political, socio-economic and humanitarian problems. In that regard particular emphasis has been placed on the political aspects of the specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa. During the period covered by the plan, pursuant to mandates given to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council will continue to receive reports on developments and progress achieved with regard to the possible resolution of these special political questions.

4.20 Co-operation with regional and interregional organizations and associations in the political, economic, social and humanitarian fields will continue to be maintained. Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and to the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa will continue in consultation and close co-operation with UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the regional and interregional organizations and associations.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

4.21 Developments on special questions of a political nature, with particular emphasis on the political aspects of specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa, will be monitored and the Secretary-General will be informed of these situations as they develop and presented with recommendations for action, as appropriate. In addition, where requested, reports on developments regarding these questions and the implementation of specific resolutions will be prepared for the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Ad hoc missions will continue to be undertaken where required. The maintenance of liaison with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations and associations will facilitate the resolution of such questions whenever the co-operation of such organizations is deemed appropriate.

4.22 Effective general co-operation will continue to be maintained with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations, associations and conferences dealing with political matters of concern to the United Nations, in particular through joint meetings, consultations and other forms of liaison with those secretariats.

4.23 In connection with the resolutions relating to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and to the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, the continuing monitoring of the implementation of those mandates will be maintained in consultations with the secretariats of UNDP, UNHCR and OAU, while the search for a durable solution, involving political action, will continue in close co-operation with UNHCR.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

(a) Objectives

4.24 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in Chapters III, XI, XII and XIII of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1654 (XVI), 2621 (XXV) and its other annual resolutions and decisions, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/25 and 44/83 to 44/85, 44/87 to 44/102 and decisions 44/406 and 44/425 to 44/428, Security Council resolution 621 (1988) and the annual Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 1989/95.

4.25 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) Assisting the Security Council in discharging its responsibilities with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(b) Assisting in the attainment of the goal of the Trusteeship System with respect to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands through, inter alia, the promotion of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their progressive development towards self-government or independence in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

(c) Promoting the decolonization process through self-determination for the 18 remaining non-self-governing territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for which the objective is to promote decolonization within the framework of the international Trusteeship System as set out in the Charter;

(d) Strengthening the dissemination of information on decolonization in order to mobilize world opinion and ensuring the provision by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations of material assistance to the colonial peoples and their liberation movements, in order to accelerate the decolonization process.

4.26 As long as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands remains under the international Trusteeship System, the Trusteeship Council will continue to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the Territory and assist the Security Council in supervising the administration of that strategic area by the Administering Authority. To that end the Trusteeship Council will continue to dispatch periodic and special Visiting Missions in order to evaluate the process of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of its inhabitants and development of the Territory, examine petitions in consultation with the Administering Authority and review the reports of the Administering Authority.

4.27 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all territories which have not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence. It will formulate specific proposals to this effect, examine the full compliance of States with the Declaration and other resolutions, formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly, make concrete suggestions to the Security Council with regard

to developments in colonial territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security, and enlist world-wide support for decolonization. The Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting missions periodically to colonial territories, so as to enable the Committee to obtain first-hand information on conditions in those territories; examine the views, expressed orally or in writing by the peoples of the colonial territories, and also the views of representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals with a knowledge of conditions in those territories; assist the General Assembly in making arrangements, in co-operation with the administering Powers, to secure a United Nations presence in the colonial territories to observe or supervise the final stages of the process of decolonization.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

4.28 The Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship will continue to assist the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee in the implementation of their mandates, as well as the General Assembly and the Security Council in connection with issues under this subprogramme, as appropriate.

4.29 To that end the Department will:

(a) Provide substantive servicing to the Trusteeship Council, the Special Committee and their respective visiting and other missions as well as to the Security Council and the General Assembly when they are reviewing issues relating to Trusteeship and Decolonization;

(b) Undertake research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the territories;

(c) Provide assistance to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee in the preparation of their reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council;

(d) Collect, review and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to decolonization;

(e) Promote in co-operation with the Department of Public Information a publicity campaign on decolonization. Subject to the relevant decisions by the Special Committee, this will entail organizing panel discussions and seminars, producing and disseminating publications, organizing exhibits, co-ordinating international activities aimed at the elimination of colonialism, including liaison with secretariats of OAU and other international organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations and individuals concerned with the problems of decolonization;

(f) Promote flows of international material assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the non-self-governing territories and to their liberation movements.
