



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/692
30 September 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fortieth session
Agenda item 18

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Question of Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-ninth session, on 5 December 1984, the General Assembly adopted resolution 39/40 which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

"Recalling 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 in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Recalling its resolution 38/40 of 7 December 1983 on the question of Western Sahara,

"Having considered 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, 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth session, Supplement No. 23 (A/39/23), chap. X.

"Taking note of the report of the Implementation Committee of the Organization of African Unity on Western Sahara, 2/

"Recalling resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) on Western Sahara, 3/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983,

"1. Reaffirms that the question of Western Sahara is a question of decolonization which remains to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

"2. Reaffirms that the solution of the question of Western Sahara lies in the implementation of resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which establishes ways and means for a just and definitive political solution to the Western Sahara conflict;

"3. Requests, to that end, the parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro, to undertake direct negotiations with a view to bringing about a cease-fire to create the necessary conditions for a peaceful and fair referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, a referendum without any administrative or military constraints, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations;

"4. Welcomes the efforts of the Organization of African Unity and its Implementation Committee with a view to promoting a just and definitive solution to the question of Western Sahara in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of that organization and the United Nations on the question;

"5. Reaffirms the determination of the United Nations to co-operate fully with the Organization of African Unity with a view to implementing the relevant decisions of that organization, in particular resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX);

"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 as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

"7. Invites the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to keep the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed of the progress

2/ A/39/680, annex.

3/ For text, see resolution 38/40, para. 1.

achieved in the implementation of the decisions of the Organization of African Unity relating to Western Sahara;

"8. Invites the Secretary-General to follow the situation in Western Sahara closely with a view to the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

2. This report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned resolution.

3. On 7 December 1984, I met Mr. Hakim Ibrahim, member of the Political Bureau of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saquia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). The views expressed by him in this meeting were in substance similar to those made in the statement given by him in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

4. On 21 February 1985, the text of resolution 39/40 was transmitted to the Acting Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) drawing his attention to paragraph 7.

5. On 9 May 1985, at the request of the Permanent Mission of Morocco, I received a delegation of a number of Sahrawi organizations whose representatives had spoken in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on the question of Western Sahara during its thirty-ninth session.

6. On the occasion of the twenty-first session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, I met on 18 July in Addis Ababa with the current Chairman of OAU, His Excellency President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. During our meeting, he informed me that, while that organization remained very much concerned with the problem, a solution which might be acceptable to all the parties had not been found. At the same time this problem remained a source of tension in the subregion. I agreed with him that we would closely co-ordinate our efforts in the search for a peaceful resolution of the problem in pursuance of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and OAU. I also discussed the matter with the Acting Secretary-General of OAU, Dr. Peter Onu.

7. On 18 July, I received Mr. Mohammed Abdelazziz, Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO. During this meeting, he affirmed to me POLISARIO's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the dispute in the framework of the relevant resolutions of OAU and the United Nations. In this context, he underlined POLISARIO's support for the recommendations contained therein with regard to the establishment of a cease-fire directly negotiated by the parties to the conflict and the organization of a referendum in the Territory. This has been confirmed in a telegram which I received from Mr. Abdelazziz on 4 September 1985.

8. During my visit to Addis Ababa, I also held a number of interesting and encouraging meetings on the question of Western Sahara with several African Heads of State and Foreign Ministers, including Mr. Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria and Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

9. In the course of an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, I had a meeting on 20 July 1985 with His Majesty King Hassan II, who reiterated his Government's commitment to resolving the Western Sahara question peacefully. The King said that, since Morocco had withdrawn from the Organization of African Unity, his Government would be willing to accept the holding of a referendum for the self-determination of the inhabitants of the Territory under the auspices of the United Nations. The position of his Government as explained to me by King Hassan has since been conveyed to the Chairman 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 by the Permanent Representative of Morocco in a communication dated 2 August (A/40/529).

10. On 29 July, I invited the Acting Secretary-General of OAU to inform me of the progress achieved in the implementation of the OAU decisions on Western Sahara to enable me to report to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 39/40.

11. In a communication dated 27 August 1985, the Acting Secretary-General of OAU informed me that the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) had been admitted as the fifty-first member of OAU at the twentieth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and that, as a result, Morocco had decided to withdraw from OAU. There has been, he added, no evolution on the question since then. The Acting Secretary-General stated that OAU was still preoccupied with the Western Sahara conflict, but that no progress could be envisaged as long as the resolution adopted at the nineteenth summit meeting remained unimplemented.

12. In the context of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the question of Western Sahara remains a matter of decolonization. It is appropriate to recall here that the United Nations and OAU, as well as the parties concerned, have been in agreement for some time now that a referendum should be held to enable the people of the Territory to exercise their right to self-determination.

13. I am deeply concerned by the delay in allowing the people of the Territory to exercise this inalienable right and by the fact that this unresolved situation constitutes a continuing source of tension in the subregion. In the circumstances, I appeal to all concerned to make renewed efforts to create the necessary conditions for a peaceful and fair referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. As a result of the experience it has acquired in other situations involving the exercise of the right to self-determination, the United Nations is fully prepared to give every assistance in the organization and conduct of the proposed referendum in Western Sahara.

14. I shall continue to follow closely all developments relating to the situation in Western Sahara and remain ready to help and co-operate in the search for a peaceful solution to this problem.
