

of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,<sup>91</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 political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

*Noting also*, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

*Welcoming* the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords<sup>92</sup> through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

*Noting with satisfaction* the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting 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 New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and provincial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

8. *Welcomes*, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

9. *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 the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

*83rd plenary meeting  
13 December 1996*

#### 51/145. Question of Tokelau

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Tokelau,

*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 relating to the question of Tokelau,<sup>93</sup>

*Recalling* the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

*Recalling also* the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to

<sup>91</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23), chap. IX.*

<sup>92</sup> See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

<sup>93</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23), chap. XI.*

permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

*Noting* that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Noting also* that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Commends* Tokelau for seeking on the basis of wide consultation with its people a form of national government that

reflects its unique traditions and environment, and for charting its own constitutional course;

4. *Acknowledges* the collaboration between New Zealand and Tokelau regarding the Tokelau Amendment Act 1996, which provides Tokelau's national government with a legislative power, supplementing the executive power delegated in 1994;

5. *Also acknowledges* Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

6. *Welcomes* the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. *Invites* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau.

*83rd plenary meeting  
13 December 1996*