



**United Nations**

**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 2025**

**General Assembly  
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of the Declaration on the Granting of  
Independence to Colonial Countries and  
Peoples for 2025**



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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## Letter of transmittal

### **Letter dated 11 July 2025 from the Chair 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 addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly 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, in accordance with resolution [79/114](#). The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2025.

*(Signed)* Menissa **Rambally**  
Chair 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

**Chapter I**  
**Establishment, organization and activities of the  
Special Committee**

**A. Establishment of the Special Committee**

1. The establishment and history 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 are covered in detail in section II of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Committee ([A/AC.109/2025/L.1](#)).
2. At its seventy-ninth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee ([A/79/23](#)), the General Assembly adopted resolution [79/114](#), in which it approved the report of the Committee covering its work during 2024 and requested the Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requested the Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year. It also called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions of the Committee to the Territories on a case-by-case basis. The Assembly also called upon all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.
3. In addition to resolution [79/114](#), the General Assembly adopted 22 other resolutions and one decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2024, which are listed below.

**1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories**

**Resolutions**

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	<a href="#">58/316<sup>a</sup></a>	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	<a href="#">79/98</a>	4 December 2024
American Samoa	<a href="#">79/99</a>	4 December 2024
Anguilla	<a href="#">79/100</a>	4 December 2024
Bermuda	<a href="#">79/101</a>	4 December 2024
British Virgin Islands	<a href="#">79/102</a>	4 December 2024
Cayman Islands	<a href="#">79/103</a>	4 December 2024



<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
French Polynesia	<a href="#">79/104</a>	4 December 2024
Guam	<a href="#">79/105</a>	4 December 2024
Montserrat	<a href="#">79/106</a>	4 December 2024
New Caledonia	<a href="#">79/107</a>	4 December 2024
Pitcairn	<a href="#">79/108</a>	4 December 2024
Saint Helena	<a href="#">79/109</a>	4 December 2024
Tokelau	<a href="#">79/110</a>	4 December 2024
Turks and Caicos Islands	<a href="#">79/111</a>	4 December 2024
United States Virgin Islands	<a href="#">79/112</a>	4 December 2024

<sup>a</sup> In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution [58/316](#), the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

## Decision

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Gibraltar	79/521	4 December 2024

## 2. Resolutions concerning other items

<i>Title</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	<a href="#">79/94</a>	4 December 2024
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	<a href="#">79/95</a>	4 December 2024
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	<a href="#">79/96</a>	4 December 2024
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: eradicating colonialism in all its forms and manifestations	<a href="#">79/115</a>	4 December 2024
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	<a href="#">79/97</a>	4 December 2024
Dissemination of information on decolonization	<a href="#">79/113</a>	4 December 2024

**3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee**

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and which it took into account were listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Committee ([A/AC.109/2025/L.1](#)).

**4. Membership of the Special Committee**

5. As at 1 January 2025, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

**B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2025 and election of officers**

6. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management opened the 2025 session of the Special Committee on 13 February and the Chef de Cabinet made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.1](#)).

7. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February 2025, the Special Committee elected the following officers, by acclamation:

*Chair:*

Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Ernesto Soberón Guzmán (Cuba)

Hari Prabowo (Indonesia)

Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone)

*Rapporteur:*

Koussay Aldahhak (Syrian Arab Republic)

**C. Organization of work**

8. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February, the Special Committee had before it suggestions relating to the organization of its work and outlined in document [A/AC.109/2025/L.2](#). The Special Committee approved its tentative programme of work and timetable for 2025 contained in that document, as orally revised, with the understanding that it may be further revised, as necessary, closer to or during its resumed substantive session in June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.1](#)).

9. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work of the Special Committee and on the status of the decolonization agenda of the Organization (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.1](#)).

10. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee acceded to the requests of Algeria, Argentina, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Panama, Senegal, Spain, Zimbabwe and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to participate as observers in its 2025 session (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.1](#)). Subsequently, at its 2nd to 6th meetings and 9th to

11th meetings, on 10 March and on 9, 10, 16 to 18 June, the Committee acceded to the requests of Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial-Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kuwait, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay to participate as observers (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.2–6](#) and [9–11](#)).

11. Also at its 1st meeting, the Special Committee considered preparations for the Pacific regional seminar and approved the offer made by Timor-Leste to host the seminar in Dili, as well as the dates of the seminar. A statement was made by the representative of Timor-Leste. Statements were also made, under the item “Other matters”, by the representatives of Indonesia, Cuba, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Fiji, Nicaragua, Iraq, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and India.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March, the Special Committee further considered preparations for the Pacific regional seminar and approved the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar, including the theme and agenda of the seminar, as outlined in document [A/AC.109/2025/19](#). The Committee decided to extend invitations to attend the seminar to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, other Member States, specialized agencies within the United Nations, and select experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.2](#)).

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Fiji made a statement.

#### **Requests for hearing**

14. At the 3rd meeting, held on 9 June, the Chair drew attention to communications containing requests for hearing, circulated in aides-memoires 01/25, 02/25, 03/25, 04/25, 05/25, 06/25, 07/25, 08/25, 09/25 and 10/25 regarding the Special Committee decision of 20 June 2024 concerning Puerto Rico and the questions of the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Island (Malvinas),<sup>1</sup> French Polynesia, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara) (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#)).

15. The requests for hearings contained in the above-mentioned aides-memoires were approved by the Special Committee at the same meeting.

### **D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies**

16. In keeping with its resolve to continue to take all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its Bureau were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive electronic consultations among the officers of the Committee by email. During the reporting period, the Committee held four informal consultations.

<sup>1</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

## 1. Special Committee

17. Up to the end of its resumed session, on 20 June, the Special Committee held 12 plenary meetings, as follows:

(a) First part of the session (organizational meetings): 1st meeting, 13 February; 2nd meeting, 10 March;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd and 4th meetings, 9 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 10 June; 7th meeting, 11 June; 8th and 9th meetings, 16 June; 10th meeting, 17 June, 11th meeting, 18 June; and 12th meeting, 20 June.

18. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the questions set out below and adopted resolutions or decisions thereon. The hyperlinks to the texts of the resolutions or decisions may be found in the present report, as follows:

<i>Question</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Resolution/decision</i>
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
American Samoa	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
Anguilla	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Bermuda	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
British Virgin Islands	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Cayman Islands	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
French Polynesia	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX
Guam	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution X
Montserrat	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XI
New Caledonia	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XII

<i>Question</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Resolution/decision</i>
Pitcairn	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIII
Saint Helena	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIV
Tokelau	3rd and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XV
Turks and Caicos Islands	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVI
United States Virgin Islands	4th and 12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVII
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	12th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX
Gibraltar	7th and 10th	Chap. VIII, para.98
Western Sahara	5th and 6th	Chap. VIII, para. 99
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	11th	Chap. XII, para. 175
Sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 78
Decision of the Special Committee of 20 June 2024 concerning Puerto Rico	8th and 9th	Chap. I, para. 29

## 2. Subsidiary bodies

19. The Special Committee did not establish subsidiary bodies during its 2025 session. However, in keeping with the practice adopted in recent years, the Committee continued to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum through increased reliance on informal consultations, including by the Bureau, for the consideration of some of the issues before it. During the 2025 session, the Bureau held three meetings.

## E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is applicable

20. The Special Committee maintained the practice of addressing the situation of Puerto Rico, as it had done in previous sessions.

### Consideration of Puerto Rico

21. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing a wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. The Committee acceded to the requests for hearing on this item.

22. At its 8th meeting, the Special Committee heard from the following speakers: Benjamín Ramos, The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Adrián González Costa, Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño; Joanne Kuniarsky, Socialist Workers Party; Jaime Esteban Inclán, Friends of Puerto Rico Impact; Ignacio Ros, Atlanta Union President Chapter and Georgia Statehood Puerto Rico; Ramón Vázquez-Escudero, Coalition for Statehood for Puerto Rico, New Jersey chapter; Valeria Curet, Federación de Estudiantes de Trabajo Social; Ricardo Rosselló, Congressional Delegation; Andrea Malavé Bonilla, Alianza Mujeres Viequenses; Beatriz Areizaga, Extended Congressional Delegation of Puerto Rico; Calvin Yohannan, Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora; Mario Solano, Statehood Texas Chapter; Zoraida Velez Beniquez, Extended Congressional Delegates Florida Chapter; Edwin Ortiz, Call to Action; Iván Elías Rodríguez, Instituto Hostosiano del Norte; Zoan Dávila, Colectiva Feminista en Construcción; Vivian Rivera Moreno, Puerto Rico Extended Delegation of Rhode Island; Madelin Colon Perez, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Kevin M. Rivera-Medina, Comité Pro-Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico; Cynthia Rodríguez Santos, Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas; Rosalinda Rivera, Miami chapter – Puerto Rico Extended Congressional Delegation; Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists (Asociación Americana de Juristas); Ricardo Santiago, Statehood Front; Gustavo Meza Buelvas, Inmigrantes Estadistas en Puerto Rico; Carlos Rafael Alicea Negrón, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico-Movimiento Ñin Negrón; Christina Mojica, Puerto Rican Alliance (PRA); Juan Martinez-Cruzado, Movimiento Diálogo Soberanista; Lindsay Waters, University of California Irvine Law International Justice Clinic; Annette Falcon, Reunificacionistas en Acción; Isha V. Rodriguez Gonzalez, Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico; Vivian Godineaux-Villaronga, Puerto Rico Bar Association; Amy Anderson, The Ruth Reynolds Front for Puerto Rico's Independence; Yoandry Carlos Oduardo Torres, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (ACNU); José Miguel Velázquez Cruz, Reunification Station: Puerto Rico and Spain; Michael Viera, El Grito; Ramonita Echevarria Roman, Delegación Extendida Guaynabo Puerto Rico; Elvin Ortiz, Delegado Extendido Distrito 7 Puerto Rico; Ana Torres, Delegada extendida capítulo San Juan, Puerto Rico; Juan Manuel Cruz de Armas, Adelante Reunificacionistas de Puerto Rico y España; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción; Gerardo Ruben Lugo Segarra, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico; Estelí Capote, Instituto Puertorriqueño de Relaciones Internacionales; Abiel Soto, Puerto Rico Congressional Delegation; Regina Bermudez Villegas, Puerto Rico Congressional Delegates for Statehood; Rev. Carmen Hernandez, New York Delegates Extended; Christopher Rivera, Juventud Unida por la Independencia, United States of America; Hector Bermudez Zenon, Grupo por la Igualdad y la Justicia de Puerto Rico; and Davina Resto, Adolfinia .

23. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba took the floor for a point of order (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.8](#)).

24. At its 9th meeting, the Special Committee heard from the following speakers: Janet Temin, Latino Coalition Democratic National Committee; Emilia Rodriguez De Arroyo, Arroyo Dominicci International.; Ada Dominicci, Arroyo Dominicci Foundation; Olga A. Carino Lima, Extended Delegates, Kissimmee; Myrna Pagán, Vidas Viequenses Valen; Hector Torres-Diaz, JurisBorikén; Rafael Olivera-Cintrón, Organismo Boricua; Jason Cruz, Victory in Puerto Rico; Eric Ramos Rodriguez, Frente Independentista Boricua; Annette Morales, Extended Delegate New York; Trilce Torres López, Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; John Downing, Downing Services; and Alexandra Zuani Connelly Reyes, Vieques Environmental Research Institute.

25. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to a report on the item prepared by the Rapporteur ([A/AC.109/2025/L.13](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2025/L.7](#)).

26. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations), Cuba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation. Statements were also made by the observers for Colombia (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Uganda (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

27. At the 9th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.7](#), also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.7](#) without a vote. The representative of Cuba made a statement (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.9](#)).

29. The text of the adopted draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.7](#).

## **F. Consideration of other matters**

30. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work and decided to include on its programme of work and timetable for 2025 items relating to the compliance of Member States with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other resolutions on decolonization (see [A/AC.109/2025/L.2](#)).

### **1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters**

31. Having regard to its programme of work for 2025, the Special Committee remained committed to its mandate to hold meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [1654 \(XVI\)](#) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution [2621 \(XXV\)](#), by which the Assembly authorized the Committee to meet elsewhere than at Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions.

### **2. Pattern of conferences**

32. In accordance with measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee continued to ensure the effective utilization of the conference-servicing resources allocated to it, and the further reduction of its documentation requirements by circulating communications and information material by, as much as possible, electronic means.

33. In the conduct of all its meetings during 2025, the Special Committee closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution [67/237](#). By effectively organizing its programme of work and holding extensive informal consultations, the Committee was able to keep its formal meetings to a minimum.

### **3. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee**

34. In accordance with the provisions of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of the administering Powers, France and New Zealand,

participated in the work of the Special Committee in 2025, during its plenary meetings at Headquarters.

35. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories in which it called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see chap. IV) ([A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#)).

#### **4. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee**

36. During the year, the Special Committee continued to encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and at its regional seminars.

#### **5. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories**

37. The importance of the Special Committee's observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as mandated in General Assembly resolution [79/114](#), was highlighted during the Pacific regional seminar held in Timor-Leste (see annex).

#### **6. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly**

38. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February, the Special Committee agreed to the Chair's recommendation, as outlined in the organization of work for 2025, that the Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (see [A/AC.109/2025/L.2](#)).

39. At its 12th meeting, on 20 June, the Chair informed delegations of the need to reduce the word count of Committee reports in the light of the current liquidity crisis facing the United Nations. In this regard, the Chair recommended following the practice of other Committees, by including hyperlinks to the issued text of draft resolutions adopted instead of reproducing them in the report. The Special Committee authorized the Rapporteur to prepare, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the report on the Committee's work at its 2025 session, incorporating all the resolutions and decisions adopted by hyperlinks and the related proceedings of the Committee and, once completed and approved by the Bureau, to submit it directly to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, in accordance with established practice (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

### **G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations**

40. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 21 of General Assembly resolution [79/96](#), the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Committee are requested to deepen cooperation and maintain close contact with regard to appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (see [E/2025/56](#)). An account of the Committee's consideration of the question is contained in chapter VII of the present report.



41. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII).

42. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain regular contact with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed their work.

43. The Special Committee also continued to monitor related developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, having regard to relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

## H. Review of work

44. In ongoing efforts to find creative and innovative ways to enable better implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee, its Bureau maintained the practice of holding during the intersessional period informal consultations with the administering Powers and other stakeholders regarding the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Committee's agenda. Meetings were held with three administering Powers, namely France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during which the discussions in that regard were centred on the situation in the Territories for which they were each responsible and aimed at promoting cooperation and partnership with them in addressing the decolonization prospects of those Territories, on a case-by-case basis.

45. The Special Committee also considered each of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda (see chaps. VIII–XII). In addition, the Committee continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was applicable and, in that context, heard from the representatives of many concerned organizations regarding the situation of Puerto Rico (see paras. 22 and 24).

46. Furthermore, the Special Committee considered and adopted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter; the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories; the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations; and economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Territories (see chaps. IV–VII).

47. As noted in chapter II and in annex I to the present report, the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar in Timor-Leste from 21 to 23 May, at which participants, while focusing on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, reflected on pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

48. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its eightieth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII).

## I. Future programme of work and activities envisaged for 2026<sup>2</sup>

49. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, as reaffirmed in resolution [79/114](#), and taking into account its draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.25](#), adopted at its 12th meeting, on 20 June, and contained in the present report (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX), the Special Committee intends to continue in 2026 to seek suitable means for the immediate, full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

50. The Special Committee will continue to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In particular, the Committee intends to formulate specific proposals, on a case-by-case basis, to bring about an end to colonialism, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

51. The Special Committee will maintain its efforts to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

52. The Special Committee will continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly 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.

53. In 2026, the Special Committee will aim at developing and finalizing, in cooperation with the administering Power and the Non-Self-Governing Territory in question, a constructive programme of work, on a case-by-case basis, for the Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

54. In addition, the Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable and in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

55. The Special Committee will also continue to conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on its work, and will endeavour to facilitate the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars.

56. In that regard, the Chair noted at the 12th meeting, on 20 June, the offer of Nicaragua to host the regional seminar in Managua in May 2026 and in keeping with past practice, the Special Committee would finalize the details of the 2026 seminar following the organizational meeting in February 2026 (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

57. The Special Committee will take all steps necessary to elicit worldwide support from Governments and national and international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the implementation of related resolutions.

<sup>2</sup> The activities mentioned in paragraphs 46 to 56 are also outlined in draft resolution XIX, contained in chapter XIII.

58. The Special Committee will maintain efforts to continue consultations on how best to observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with resolution [79/114](#).

59. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the resources at its disposal, in order to ensure that it has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its activities envisaged for 2026, as outlined in paragraphs 49 to 58 above.

## **J. Conclusion of the 2025 session**

60. At the 12th meeting, on 20 June, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Chair on the occasion of the closing of the 2025 session of the Special Committee (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

## Chapter II

### **Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism**

61. At its 1st, 2nd and 12th meetings, on 13 February, 10 March and 20 June, the Special Committee considered issues relating to the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Pacific regional seminar held in Timor-Leste from 21 to 23 May to assess the goals and expected accomplishments of the Fourth Decade.

62. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February, the Special Committee had before it its organization of work for 2025, submitted by the Chair, annexed to which was a list of pending matters for its consideration during the year, which included the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism ([A/AC.109/2025/L.2](#)).

63. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March, the Special Committee adopted the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific regional seminar contained in document [A/AC.109/2025/19](#), which incorporated the agenda and theme of the seminar. It also approved the composition of its official delegation and the categories of participants to be invited to the seminar, especially those from the Non-Self-Governing Territories (see para. 12 above, [A/AC.109/2025/SR.2](#)).

64. At its 12th meeting, on 20 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.25](#), submitted by the Chair and entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, in which there was extensive reflection on the implementation of the Fourth Decade (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.10](#)).

65. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIX).

66. Also at the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific regional seminar, containing the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which had been negotiated in advance of the meeting by members of the Special Committee present at the seminar, as well as the procedural part of the report of the seminar, which had been adopted at the final meeting of the seminar.

67. At the same meeting, the Special Committee took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which are set out in annex I to the present report. In keeping with the established practice of the Committee, annex I includes the procedural report of the seminar also taken note of by the Committee at its 12th meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, India, Côte d’Ivoire, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Antigua and Barbuda, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

## Chapter III

### Dissemination of information on decolonization

68. The Special Committee considered the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#)).

69. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [79/113](#) on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution [79/114](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

70. At its 3rd meeting, the Special Committee heard statements from representatives of the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat.

71. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations), the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, Fiji and by the observer for Rwanda.

72. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2024 to March 2025 ([A/AC.109/2025/18](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair ([A/AC.109/2025/L.4](#)).

73. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.4](#) without a vote.

74. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVIII).

## Chapter IV

### Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

75. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories at its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 13 February and 9 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.1](#) and [3](#)).

76. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [79/114](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions [79/98](#) to [79/112](#) relating to specific Territories, in addition to previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

77. At its 1st meeting, on 13 February, the Special Committee considered the report of the visiting mission to the British Virgin Islands ([A/AC.109/2025/20](#)). Statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia and Iraq.

78. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.5](#), submitted under the item, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote. The text of the adopted draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.5](#).

## Chapter V

### **Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations**

79. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#)).

80. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), by which the Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer aspects of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution [79/94](#), in paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution [1970 \(XVIII\)](#), in accordance with established procedures. The Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions [79/114](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and [75/123](#) on the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

81. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/80/63](#)), which contained the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter by the administering Powers with regard to Territories under their respective administration, and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2025/L.3](#)).

82. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba and the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.3](#) without a vote.

83. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution I).

## Chapter VI

### **Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

84. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 12th meeting, on 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

85. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution [79/95](#) on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution [79/114](#) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Committee took into consideration relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies, to which reference was made in the final preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.6](#).

86. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.6](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

87. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution II).



## Chapter VII

### **Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

88. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 12th meeting, on 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

89. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution [79/96](#) on the question, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its eightieth session. The Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution [75/123](#), by which the Assembly declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

90. The Special Committee also took into account relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies, to which reference was made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.9](#).

91. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item ([A/80/64](#)) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see [E/2025/56](#)), as well as to the draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2025/L.9](#)), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

92. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution III).

## Chapter VIII

### Gibraltar and Western Sahara

93. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 79/521 and resolution 79/98, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

#### A. Gibraltar

94. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 7th and 10th meetings, on 11 and 17 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.7](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.10](#)).

95. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/8](#)).

96. At the 7th meeting, in accordance with a request for hearing granted by the Special Committee at the start of the meeting, a statement was made by Richard Buttigieg, Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group ([A/AC.109/2025/SR.7](#)).

97. At the 10th meeting, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, made statements. The observer for Spain also made statements (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.10](#)).

98. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its 2026 session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its eightieth session, and to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

#### B. Western Sahara

99. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 10 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.5](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.6](#)).

100. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/17](#)).

101. At its 5th meeting, the Special Committee agreed to the Chair's proposal to hear first from the petitioners who had requested the floor on the question of Western Sahara, followed by the members of the Committee and the observers, given that the petitioners had limited time access to the building. Accordingly, statements were made by Ghalla Bahiya, Conseil Régional de Dakhla-Oued Eddahab; M'hamed Abba, Conseil Régional de Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra; Kathleen Thomas, Global Directives; Mouhidine Souvi; Ahmed Mohamed Fall, Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders Collective; Hamza Ahmed Baba; Nabroha Duihi, Association 9 mars; Zine El Aabidine El Ouali, African Forum for Research and Studies in Human Rights; El Fayedha Khayya; El Moustapha Tate; Chris Sassi, SKC; Mohammed Abbadi, FreedomSun Organization for the Protection of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders; Nayat Aduh Jatri; Brahim Agharas, Itosi Tribal Coordination for Land Defence; Yvonne Lodico, Grace Initiative Global; Sidi Mohamed Omar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO); Khalid Bendriss; Touria Hmyene; Saad Bennani; Agron Pali, Global Monitoring Center; and Taib Malaikhaf, Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders Collective. Statements were made by the observers for Morocco, Algeria and South Africa.

102. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Dominica, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, Nicaragua, Côte d'Ivoire, Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ethiopia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Kitts and Nevis and the observers for Kuwait (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Peru, South Africa, Senegal, Zimbabwe, the Gambia and Togo.

103. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representative of Cuba and by the observers for Equatorial Guinea, the Dominican Republic, Benin, Qatar, Guatemala, Mexico, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, Burundi, Bahrain, Namibia, the Comoros, the United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Colombia, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belize, Algeria and Morocco.

104. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the observers for Algeria and Morocco.

## Chapter IX

### New Caledonia and French Polynesia

105. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions [79/107](#) and [79/104](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

#### A. New Caledonia

106. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [79/107](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/11](#)).

107. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observer for France and the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Fiji (also speaking on behalf of Papua New Guinea).

108. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by Craig Murray, Justice Pour Tous Internationale; Hector Pindard, Movement for Decolonization and Social Emancipation; Sonia Backes, Les Loyalistes; Naïa Wateou; Jérôme Bouquet-Elkaim, JBE Avocat; Charles Wea, PALIKA; Briec Frogier; and Roch Wamytan.

109. At the 12th meeting, the representative of Fiji introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.22](#). Subsequently, the delegation of Papua New Guinea joined as sponsor of the draft resolution.

110. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.22](#) without a vote.

111. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XII).

#### B. French Polynesia

112. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.10](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [79/104](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/7](#)).

113. At the 3rd meeting, the Delegate for International, European and Pacific Affairs of French Polynesia, Mareva Lechat-Kitalong, made statements. The observer for France and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also made statements.

114. At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by Richard Tuheiaava, Parti politique Tavini Huiraatira No Te Ao Ma'Ohi; Matilde Pacheco, Justice Pour Tous Internationale; and Carlyle Corbin, the Dependency Studies Project.

115. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.24](#) and the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

116. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX).

## Chapter X

### **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**

117. In its consideration of the 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, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions [79/99](#) to [79/103](#), [79/105](#), [79/106](#), [79/108](#), [79/109](#), [79/111](#) and [79/112](#).

#### **A. American Samoa**

118. The Special Committee considered the question of American Samoa at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

119. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/1](#)).

120. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.10](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

121. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IV).

#### **B. Anguilla**

122. The Special Committee considered the question of Anguilla at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

123. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/2](#)).

124. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.11](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

125. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution V).

#### **C. Bermuda**

126. The Special Committee considered the question of Bermuda at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

127. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/3](#)).

128. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.12](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

129. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VI).

#### **D. British Virgin Islands**

130. The Special Committee considered the question of the British Virgin Islands at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

131. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/4](#)).

132. At the same meeting, the Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands, Natalio Wheatley, made statements. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis also made statements.

133. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, a statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley, University of Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy.

134. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.14](#) and the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

135. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VII).

#### **E. Cayman Islands**

136. The Special Committee considered the question of the Cayman Islands at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

137. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/5](#)).

138. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.15](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

139. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII).

## **F. Guam**

140. The Special Committee considered the question of Guam at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

141. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/9](#)).

142. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.16](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

143. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution X).

## **G. Montserrat**

144. The Special Committee considered the question of Montserrat at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

145. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory. A statement was made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda ([A/AC.109/2025/10](#)).

146. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.17](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

147. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XI).

## **H. Pitcairn**

148. The Special Committee considered the question of Pitcairn at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

149. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/12](#)).

150. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.18](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

151. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIII).



## I. Saint Helena

152. The Special Committee considered the question of Saint Helena at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

153. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/13](#)).

154. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.19](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

155. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XIV).

## J. Turks and Caicos Islands

156. The Special Committee considered the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

157. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/15](#)). At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by Benjamin Roberts (Turks and Caicos Forum) and Alpha Gibbs (Turks and Caicos Heritage Foundation).

158. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.20](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

159. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVI).

## K. United States Virgin Islands

160. The Special Committee considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands at its 4th and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.4](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)).

161. At the 4th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/16](#)). At the same meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, a statement was made by Russell Christopher, OWA.

162. At the 12th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the agreed text of draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.21](#), which the Special Committee adopted without a vote.

163. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XVII).

## Chapter XI

### Tokelau

164. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 3rd and 12th meetings, on 9 and 20 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.3](#) and [A/AC.109/2025/SR.12](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account General Assembly resolution [79/110](#) and had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/14](#)).

165. At the 3rd meeting, and with the consent of the Special Committee, Esera Fofō Tuisano, Ulu-o-Tokelau, made a statement. The Administrator of Tokelau, Donald Higgins, also made a statement on behalf of the administering Power. The representative of Fiji also made a statement.

166. At the 12th meeting, the representative of Fiji introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.23](#). Subsequently, the delegations of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

167. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.23](#) without a vote.

168. The link to the text of the draft resolution appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution XV).

## Chapter XII

### Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

169. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 11th meeting, on 18 June (see [A/AC.109/2025/SR.7](#)). In its consideration of the item, the Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

170. Also in its consideration of the item, the Chair drew the attention of the Special Committee to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory ([A/AC.109/2025/6](#)) and to a draft resolution on the item ([A/AC.109/2025/L.8](#)).

171. At the 11th meeting, in accordance with requests for hearing granted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by Mark Pollard and Peter Biggs of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and by Paula Vernet and Ricardo Ancell Patterson.

172. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.8](#). Subsequently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement.

173. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador (also on behalf of the Brasilia Consensus), Indonesia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Cuba, Timor-Leste, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nicaragua, China, Sierra Leone, Fiji and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Statements were also made by the observers for Uruguay (on behalf of Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and in its national capacity), Peru, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil, El Salvador, Armenia, Serbia, Mozambique and Angola.

174. Also at the 11th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution [A/AC.109/2025/L.8](#) without a vote, following which the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement.

175. The text of the adopted draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.8](#).

## Chapter XIII

### Recommendations

176. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I**

#### **Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.3](#).

#### **Draft resolution II**

#### **Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.6](#).

#### **Draft resolution III**

#### **Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.9](#).

#### **Draft resolution IV**

#### **Question of American Samoa**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.10](#).

#### **Draft resolution V**

#### **Question of Anguilla**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.11](#).

#### **Draft resolution VI**

#### **Question of Bermuda**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.12](#).

#### **Draft resolution VII**

#### **Question of the British Virgin Islands**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.14](#).

**Draft resolution VIII  
Question of the Cayman Islands**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.15](#).

**Draft resolution IX  
Question of French Polynesia**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.24](#).

**Draft resolution X  
Question of Guam**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.16](#).

**Draft resolution XI  
Question of Montserrat**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.17](#).

**Draft resolution XII  
Question of New Caledonia**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.22](#).

**Draft resolution XIII  
Question of Pitcairn**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.18](#).

**Draft resolution XIV  
Question of Saint Helena**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.19](#).

**Draft resolution XV  
Question of Tokelau**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.23](#).

**Draft resolution XVI  
Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.20](#).

**Draft resolution XVII**  
**Question of the United States Virgin Islands**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.21](#).

**Draft resolution XVIII**  
**Dissemination of information on decolonization**

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.4](#).

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

The text of the draft resolution is available at [A/AC.109/2025/L.25](#).

## Annex

### **Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held in Dili from 21 to 23 May 2025**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution [75/123](#), declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism ([A/56/61](#), annex) and to cooperate with 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 updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Fourth International Decade.
2. In its resolution [79/114](#), the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2025, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region.
3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. Discussions at the seminar would assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.
4. The respective contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2025, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

#### **II. Organization of the seminar**

5. The seminar was held in Dili, from 21 to 23 May 2025. Five meetings were held, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts, took part (see appendix I). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.
6. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chair 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, Menissa Rambally, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, United

Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Three administering Powers, France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belize, the Comoros, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May 2025, Dionisio Da Costa Babo Soares (Timor-Leste) and Karim Silue (Côte d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (PRS/2025/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee:
  - (a) Advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
  - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers and relevant stakeholders.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders:
  - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
    - (i) In the Pacific region;
    - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
    - (iii) In other regions;
  - (b) Building a sustainable future in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
3. Role of the United Nations system in supporting the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Recommendations for action and for practical and achievable results.

### **III. Proceedings of the seminar**

#### **A. Opening of the seminar**

10. On 21 May 2025, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the President of Timor-Leste, José Ramos-Horta, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the seminar via a pre-recorded video.



## B. Statements and discussions<sup>1</sup>

13. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) and (b). The Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, India, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Timor-Leste, the Russian Federation, Ethiopia, Chile, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Papua New Guinea, Ghana and Angola. A statement was also made by Alcide Ponga. Additional statements were made by Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic and Timor-Leste.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations on the questions of French Polynesia by Mareva Lechat-Kitalong; of Guam by Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja; and of New Caledonia by Alcide Ponga. An expert, Carlyle Corbin, also made a presentation.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 21 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i). Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Russian Federation, France, Azerbaijan, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. The representative of the Melanesia Spearhead Group made a statement. Ten experts made statements: Marie-Laure Ukweië, Naïa Wateou, Anthony Geros, Patrick Jomessy, Jérôme Bouquet-Elkaïm, Benoît Kautai, Roch Wamytan, Teritahi Tepuarauui, Richard Tuheiava and Moerani Frebault. An additional statement was made by France.

16. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations by Eliezer Benito Wheatley on the question of the British Virgin Islands and by Tregenza A. Roach on the question of the United States Virgin Islands. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indonesia, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and Belize. Two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Steven Laussell Recurt, each made a statement. Additional statements were made by Antigua and Barbuda and Eliezer Benito Wheatley.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 22 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)<sup>2</sup> by Teslyn Barkman; of Gibraltar by Joseph John Bossano; of Western Sahara by Sidi Mohamed Omar and Ghalla Bahiya. A statement was made by an expert, Facundo Rodríguez. Statements were also made by the representatives of Spain, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ethiopia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Dominica, Nicaragua, Chile, Saint Lucia, Papua New Guinea, Belize, Senegal, Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Comoros, Namibia, the Gambia, Gabon, Angola, Djibouti, Algeria and Morocco. Additional statements were made by Algeria, Morocco and Timor-Leste and by Teslyn Barkman and Joseph Bossano. Additional statements were also made by Sidi Mohamed Omar.

18. At the fourth meeting, on 22 May, the seminar commenced its consideration of agenda item 2 (b). Statements were made by the representatives of Angola, Morocco, Algeria and France. Statements were also made by Sidi Mohamed Omar, Teslyn

<sup>1</sup> Statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

<sup>2</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

Barkman, Mareva Lechat-Kitalong and Eliezer Benito Wheatley. Statements were also made by four experts: Carlyle Corbin, Jérôme Bouquet-Elkaim, Richard Tuheiaiva and Naïa Wateau. An additional statement was made by Sidi Mohamed Omar. An additional statement was also made by France.

19. Also at the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard a presentation by the Resident Coordinator in Timor Leste a.i. and representative of the World Health Organization in Timor-Leste, Dr. Arvind Mathur; and through a pre-recorded video by the Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Alexander. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Angola. Statements were also made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley, Tregenza A. Roach and Alcide Ponga. Statements were also made by six experts: Carlyle Corbin, Roch Wamytan, Naïa Wateau, Marie-Laure Ukeiwë, Steven Laussell Recurt and Teriitahi Tepuaurarii.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar considered agenda item 4. Statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Angola. Statements were also made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Teslyn Barkman. Three experts made statements: Jérôme Bouquet-Elkaim, Carlyle Corbin and Anthony Geros.

21. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar agreed on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

### **C. Closing of the seminar**

22. At the 5th meeting, on 23 May, the Rapporteur presented a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Timor-Leste (see appendix III), which the seminar participants adopted.

23. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2025/CRP.4, as orally revised, which the seminar adopted.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

25. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the Assembly.

26. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2025/19](#), annex), participating members would present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee, in June 2025.

27. Participating members welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua to host the 2026 regional seminar of the Special Committee, as announced by the representative of Nicaragua. The decision on the venue and timing

would be made by the Special Committee, taking into account, among others, the relevant provisions of document [A/79/23](#).

28. Participating members took note of the offer of the representative of French Polynesia to host the 2027 regional seminar. The seminar also noted the views of the representative of the administering power of French Polynesia on this proposal. The decision on the venue and timing would be made by the Special Committee.

#### **A. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future - advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

29. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Recalled that the period 2021–2030 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee’s historic task;

(b) Recognized that the eradication of colonialism was one of the priorities of the United Nations and continued to be one of its priorities for the Fourth International Decade that had begun in 2021, and stressed the need to allocate adequate financial support to the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat in order to fully implement the mandates entrusted to it by Member States;

(c) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for expediting the implementation of the plan of action to move towards achieving the goals of the Fourth Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/123](#), as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(d) Reiterated that the United Nations should continue to lead the political process towards decolonization with the resolute support of the Secretary-General and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and stressed that support by the United Nations should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues were resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(e) Noted that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, set out in General Assembly resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#) of 14 December 1960, was not complete so long as there remained Non-Self-Governing Territories that had yet to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant resolutions with regard to all Territories considered under the agenda of the Special Committee,<sup>3</sup> including those adopted by the Assembly and the Committee on special and particular colonial situations, and underscored the fact that the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolutions [1514 \(XV\)](#) and [1541 \(XV\)](#) of 14 and 15 December 1960;

<sup>3</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

(f) While recognizing how much remained to be done in the area of decolonization, acknowledged the efforts made to revitalize the work of the Special Committee in line with its mandates;

(g) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Fourth Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic, financial and health crises, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people and the need for capacity-building for full self-governance;

(h) Took into account General Assembly resolution [1803 \(XVII\)](#) regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

(i) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's interconnected world, underlined the fact that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(j) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic, financial and health crises and their impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Recognized the important role played by United Nations agencies, regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges and making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in that regard called upon them to accelerate their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee and through the regular session of the Committee under the relevant agenda items, and called upon the Special Committee to develop programmes of collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(l) Underlined the fact that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding the future political status of their Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions and bearing in mind relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly called upon 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;

(m) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(o) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(p) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(q) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(r) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/114](#) and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage with the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future;

(s) Reiterated that progress could only be achieved with the active cooperation of the administering Powers, and in that regard underlined the fact that it was considered useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General's good offices in this process, and the importance that the relevant working papers prepared by the Secretariat include further information on the efforts of the Secretary-General in that regard;

(t) Stressed the importance of full and meaningful participation in the regional seminars by those invited, in accordance with the guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminars;

(u) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of other States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belize, the Comoros, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain and Zimbabwe in the seminar.

**B. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific**

30. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of French Polynesia and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>4</sup>

(b) Shared the continuing concern of the Special Committee over the failure of the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) In that connection, underlined the importance of securing substantive and reliable information about the situation in the Territory as a means of complementing the informational working paper prepared by the Secretariat;

(d) Noted the statement by the representative that the territorial Government fully supported a genuine process of decolonization and self-determination under the scrutiny of the United Nations;

(e) Also noted the adoption, in December 2024, by the Assembly of French Polynesia of a resolution which called on the administering Power to initiate a dialogue on decolonization, including on a visiting mission, with a view to developing a programme of work for the decolonization process under the auspices of the United Nations;

(f) Further noted the statement by the representative that sustainable development was linked to political sovereignty and would require full control over its natural resources, the determination of its own development priorities, the pursuit of political and cultural emancipation, the safeguarding of territorial integrity, as well as the recognition of the transgenerational consequences of nuclear tests;

(g) Noted the statement made by the President of the territorial Legislative Assembly that the administering Power should acknowledge the legitimacy of the decolonization process initiated by the re-inscription on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, agree to engage in discussions with the Special Committee and the territorial Government and commit to establishing a political transition timeline aimed at the self-determination of French Polynesia;

(i) Also noted the statements by experts referencing the findings of the Human Rights Committee in 2024, and calling upon France to commit to establishing a political transition timeline aimed at the self-determination of French Polynesia;

(j) Further noted the statements made by experts that the role of communes as crucial institutions of proximity in French Polynesia was emphasized and that the French State was more responsive to the needs of local populations than the territorial authorities.

(k) Noted the statements by experts questioning the necessity of decolonization in a Territory already governed by its own people, emphasizing that the majority showed a preference for remaining within France and expressing

<sup>4</sup> Delegate for International, European and Pacific Affairs.

reservations about the decolonization process which did not reflect the will of the majority;

(l) Also noted the statement by the representative of the administering Power that French Polynesia enjoyed an advanced status of autonomy which it continued to advance, continuing the dialogue with the successive administrations of the territorial Government and that France was committed to supporting sustainable economic development by providing significant financial aid and fostering international presence of the Territory.

(m) Further noted her statement that France had shouldered its responsibilities for the nuclear tests by compensating victims and declassifying archives, among other efforts;

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of Guam and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>5</sup>

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative that the Organic Act of Guam, signed 75 years ago, had been unilaterally enacted by the Congress of the United States without participation or voting of the people of Guam;

(c) Also noted the concerns of the representative over military activities conducted in Guam by the administering Power, including the military buildup which undermined self-governance of Guam, threatened to cause harm to its land and sea environments, endangered the CHamoru culture and deepened its economic dependency and his request to add the language relating to the military activities and their negative impacts in the resolution on Guam;

(d) Further noted that the representative reiterated the call for a visiting mission to Guam, requested the Special Committee to facilitate communication between Guam and the United States Mission to the United Nations to advocate for the dispatch of the mission by 2026 and encouraged the Committee to secure funding for the mission;

(e) Noted that the representative requested the Committee and the administering Power to provide funding and technical assistance for a diplomacy training program for Non-Self-Governing Territories, in view of the importance of building capacity to advocate for their interests in regional and international forums.

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the President of the Government of New Caledonia and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;

(b) Noted the statement by the representative that the tragic events of 2024 in New Caledonia, marked by insurrection and violence, had been attributed to political tensions surrounding the unfreezing of the provincial electoral list, which had been rejected by a radical nationalist faction supported by foreign powers hostile to the interests of the French Republic;

(c) Also noted the statement that the events had resulted in widespread destruction, including 14 fatalities, damages exceeding \$2 billion and public services, such as education and healthcare, being severely impacted;

(d) Further noted the statement condemning the violence and highlighting the resilience of the New Caledonian people, expressing gratitude for intervention and

<sup>5</sup> Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of CHamoru Self-Determination.

financial support by France and emphasizing the need for a negotiated path toward peace, stability and progress to rebuild New Caledonia and ensure a shared destiny;

(e) Noted the statements made by experts underscoring the political and socioeconomic challenges faced by New Caledonia, the complexities of its decolonization process and the impact of recent unrest in which they criticized France for neglecting indigenous rights and commitments under the Nouméa Accord and cited socioeconomic marginalization and human rights violations during the 2024 crisis;

(f) Also noted their statements welcoming the renewed dialogue initiated by France and highlighted the importance of continuing negotiations, including on possible options for consideration, which includes a referendum on federalism versus sovereignty;

(g) Further noted the statements by experts in which they rejected independence, highlighting the results of three referendums including the votes from many Kanaks, advocated for unity and maintaining ties with France for the future and prosperity of New Caledonia as an ally for security, democracy and rebuilding efforts and called for development projects to address challenges facing youth;

(h) Noted the statements by experts in which they were critical of the actions of pro-independence group such as electoral manipulation, governance based on ethnic criteria and exploiting social issues for political gain;

(i) Also noted the statement by the representative of the Melanesian Spearhead Group that it continued to support self-determination aspirations of the Kanaks in New Caledonia and expressed its willingness to strengthen its relations, with the Special Committee;

(j) Noted the statement by the representative of Papua New Guinea voicing concern over the ongoing instability in New Caledonia following the May 2024 civil unrest, which has had significant socioeconomic repercussions in the Territory with potential implications across the Pacific region. Papua New Guinea emphasized the need for inclusive political dialogue and mutual agreement among all stakeholders, including the administering Power, to shape a shared future and welcoming recent discussions, encouraged continued dialogue. Papua New Guinea reaffirmed that the future status of New Caledonia should be determined solely by its people through a peaceful, transparent process. It was suggested that the report of the Pacific Islands Forum high-level troika plus mission to New Caledonia in October 2024 should be of interest to the Special Committee on Decolonization.

(k) Also noted the statement by the representative of France as the administering Power that three referendums held between 2018 and 2021 had resulted in a rejection of independence, demonstrating the will of the population, that its Government had committed to supporting the reconstruction of New Caledonia following the 2024 unrest, providing significant financial aid and that structural reforms were critical to stabilize the economy and ensure long-term development;

(l) Further noted the statement that France reaffirmed its commitment to dialogue with local political actors and the importance of building a common project for all New Caledonians, rejected external interference and manipulation of tensions, emphasizing the principle of free will and self-determination as central to the French Constitution and reconfirmed its disposition to organize a visiting mission of the Special Committee to New Caledonia.



**C. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean**

31. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in the British Virgin Islands:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of the British Virgin Islands in the seminar and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>6</sup>

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative highlighting the inequities of the current relationship with the administering Power, including the presence of a British Governor in the Cabinet, rejecting the concept of colonialism by consent and calling for the achievement of a full measure of self-government;

(c) Also noted the statement that the relationship with the administering Power was challenging and remained on an unsustainable course;

(d) Further noted the statement that the visiting mission by the Special Committee dispatched in August 2024 had been a pivotal moment for discussions on the political future and that the territorial Government has welcomed the recommendations of the report of the visiting mission,<sup>7</sup> requested the assistance of the United Nations in delivering the education programme and been preparing for constitutional negotiations with the United Kingdom;

(e) Noted the statement that the Territory has completed a comprehensive legislative overhaul to strengthen governance as agreed with the United Kingdom in 2022;

(f) Also noted the statement reiterating the request to the United Kingdom to lift the Order in Council that could suspend the territorial Constitution and impose direct rule by the United Kingdom;

With regard to the situation in Montserrat:

(a) Noted the statement by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda that Montserrat continued to face a long and complex road to recovery more than 25 years after the volcanic eruption, while the aid from the United Kingdom has helped stabilize public services and that the self-determination process in the Territory involved effective decision-making and aligning with the national goals of the United Kingdom.

With regard to the situation in the United States Virgin Islands:

(a) Welcomed the participation of a representative of the United States Virgin Islands in the seminar and expressed their appreciation for the information provided;<sup>8</sup>

(b) Noted the statement made by the representative outlining the governance history of the Territory, in particular, the current sixth attempt to adopt a constitution through convening a constitutional convention, by drafting of a constitution by October 2025, followed by the public education, submission to the Congress of the United States and holding of a referendum, with a view to enacting it by March 2027;

<sup>6</sup> Special Envoy of the Premier.

<sup>7</sup> See [A/AC.109/2025/20](#).

<sup>8</sup> Lieutenant Governor.

(c) Also noted the statement emphasizing challenges such as demographic shifts, identity issues, the need for public education about self-determination and the complex relationship with the United States;

(d) Further noted the concerns expressed about a divide between native Virgin Islanders who argued for special recognition, and others who emphasized equal rights, historical injustices and limited political influence due to its small population.

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Noted the statements made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Russian Federation expressing support for the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, reaffirming the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico, emphasizing the importance for Puerto Rican people to make sovereign decisions to address their socioeconomic challenges and calling upon the Government of the United States of America to allow the people of Puerto Rico to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

(b) Welcomed the participation of an expert from Puerto Rico and noted the statement highlighting the colonial relationship of Puerto Rico with the United States which was incompatible with the socioeconomic and cultural development of Puerto Ricans and the obligation of the administering Power.

#### **D. Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pathways to a sustainable future – advancing socioeconomic and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the other regions**

32. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which requested the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the Assembly, and reiterated the request to the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in fulfilling his mission of good offices in compliance with Assembly and Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Agreement of 27 November 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution to the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, noted that, given that the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar had ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism

for local cooperation, in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development, in which the competent Gibraltar local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that the mechanism could start work soon;

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, reaffirmed all resolutions of the General Assembly and supported all resolutions of the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara, underscored the need for renewed efforts to reinvigorate the search for a lasting political solution to the issue, called upon the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations, and reiterated the call upon the parties, made at previous regional seminars, to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

33. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed the participation, by pre-recorded video message, of the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the statement by the United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i. in Timor-Leste, noted the information provided and expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 79/114, as well as to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and the World Food Programme;

(b) Encouraged all the agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation upon the invitation of the Committee in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, taking into account the responsibility of the agencies to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(c) Expressed their support for the strengthened role of regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in

their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

## **F. Suggestions and proposals for the Fourth Decade**

34. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Reaffirmed, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international law, that all peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, and strengthened implementation of its mandate, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list and the need for the Committee to continue to approach each case in a spirit of openness, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) Noted the proposals and recommendations made to strengthen the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-a-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list, including:

(i) The urgency of breaking the status quo and adopting concrete actions and practical measures aimed at eradicating colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;

(ii) In view of the liquidity crisis facing the organization, the suggestion to establish a fund through voluntary contributions to support and finance initiatives aimed at advancing the decolonization agenda, as well as projects developed by the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iii) The importance of redoubling efforts to revitalize the work of the Committee, including its working methods and practices, to fulfil the role that the Territories expect of the Committee;

(iv) The recommendation for the establishment of a mechanism for the implementation of United Nations resolutions;

- (v) The need of strengthening partnerships with regional organizations, administering Powers and the private sector to mobilize resources, share knowledge and support locally led initiatives aimed at advancing the well-being and self-determination of the Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;
  - (vi) The call for the elimination of all standing barriers to decolonization and urged efforts to advance sustainable development in the Territories;
  - (vii) The suggestion that the Special Committee take a deep look at the respect for international law norms and principles by the administering Powers;
  - (viii) The proposal to implementing transitional justice processes and reconciliations mechanisms to end colonialist patterns of thinking;
  - (ix) The proposal for the United Nations to designate a Special Envoy or establish a permanent monitoring mechanism to oversee the political situation in the Territories, including French Polynesia, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;
  - (x) The suggestion that the Special Committee should clarify the process of securing visiting missions, including addressing why some administering Powers permit missions for certain Territories but not others;
  - (xi) The importance of creative financing and planning to make the visiting missions feasible in the current financial environment;
  - (xii) The possibility of deploying fact-finding missions, on a case-by-case basis, to document specific situations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
  - (xiii) The need to ensuring that territorial Governments receive communications meant for them directly, rather than routing them through the administering Powers;
- (g) Reiterated their support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in speeding up the decolonization process;
- (h) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in the work of the relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change and community empowerment;
- (i) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;
- (j) Learning lessons from the practice of holding annual regional seminars, stressed the necessity for the Special Committee to consider updating the rules of procedure for the seminars in order to allow equal and appropriate attention to each Territory on the agenda;

(k) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, to engage actively in and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reached the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(l) To maintain the global focus of the decolonization agenda, also advised that the Special Committee might hold activities in observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the following:

(i) Holding a special meeting of the Special Committee, specifically devoted to the Week of Solidarity, with invitations extended to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Trusteeship Council;

(ii) Organizing an exhibit of documentaries at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on the history of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(iii) Organizing, at Headquarters, a photo exhibit devoted to the history of the Special Committee, which should feature photographs and other audiovisual material from the archives of the Department of Global Communications;

(iv) Organizing, at Headquarters, a screening of documentaries and an exhibition of audiovisual material on liberation movements in the Territories;

(v) Organizing a talk show with the Chair of the Special Committee on United Nations Radio that might subsequently be broadcast in syndicated form to local radio stations collaborating with the Department of Global Communications in disseminating United Nations material;

(m) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, should compile a press kit on decolonization containing the essential information on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other relevant information to ensure that journalists adequately covered the issue of decolonization, suggested that such a kit might be distributed in both printed and electronic form to the local media in the country hosting the annual regional seminar, and affirmed that all publications that might form a kit were already available;

(n) Recommended that the Special Committee should forge a close working relationship with non-governmental organizations concerned with decolonization, primarily in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a first step in that direction, it might request the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to compile a list of such organizations with expertise in that area, using as the basis for such an exercise the current list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/2023/INF/5](#)) and, in vetting other non-governmental organizations that did not yet have such status, being mindful of the need to ensure that non-governmental

organizations chosen as partners would abide by the ideals of the United Nations and not engage in activities against certain Member States;

(o) Affirmed the understanding that all those proposed activities would be adequately covered in the United Nations media and receive global exposure through the network of United Nations information centres;

(p) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers should consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curricula of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(q) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that was respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(r) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all administering Powers, particularly those that had not done so, needed to engage effectively in the work of the Committee;

(s) In that connection, underlined the crucial importance of intensifying current efforts to enhance communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers and urged the Committee to continue to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings and on a case-by-case basis, with a view to making progress in decolonization during the Fourth Decade;

(t) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of increasing current efforts to enhance relations between the Special Committee and other concerned Member States and stakeholders, as well as experts and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars and that the administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(v) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their Territories, and in that regard continued to note the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(w) In that connection, underscored the fact that the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation by its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(x) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to fully engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, to provide assistance to the Territories, and in that regard a proposal was made that the Committee should request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to encourage active interaction between international organizations established in the United Nations system and the Committee, and underlined the fact that the Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies, including improving communication and promoting their participation in the regional seminars to interact with the Committee and providing reports on the work in the Territories;

(y) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress made and things to be done and in that connection invited the Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal in this regard;

(z) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/114](#) and other relevant United Nations resolutions, and in that regard noted the interest expressed at the seminar in such visiting and special missions and encouraged their regular implementation;

(aa) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until such time as all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(bb) Stressed that, within the context of the Fourth Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Fourth Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process;

(cc) Encouraged the administering Powers to provide to the Special Committee, under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.



## Appendix I

### List of participants

#### Members of the Special Committee

Antigua and Barbuda	Alyssa Weste
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Carmen Rosa Ríos
Chile	Mario Artaza
Côte d'Ivoire	Karim Silue
Cuba	Daylenis Moreno Guerra <sup>a</sup>
Dominica	Philbert Aaron
Ethiopia	Yoseph Kassaye <sup>a</sup>
India	Madan Kumar Ghildiyal
	Pawan Kadyan
Indonesia	Hari Prabowo
	Maria Benedicta Diah Kristanti
	Fahmi Ramadhiansyah
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ali Jameh Bozorg
Nicaragua	Eleane Yaoska Pichardo Urbina <sup>a</sup>
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa <sup>a</sup>
Russian Federation	Rodion Grudinsky <sup>a</sup>
Saint Lucia	Menissa Rambally <sup>a</sup>
	Carlton Henry <sup>a</sup>
	Michelle Joseph
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Lasana Andrews
Sierra Leone	Michael Imran Kanu <sup>a</sup>
	Karen Jean Baimarro
Syrian Arab Republic	Koussay Aldahhak <sup>a</sup>
Timor-Leste	José Ramos-Horta
	Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
	Bendito dos Santos Freitas
	Karlito Nunes
	Filomeno Lay
	Hermengildo Pereira

	João Freitas Camara
	Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares
	Domingo Augusto
	Juvencio Martins
	Leoneto Mantilo
	Fulgencio Corbafo
	Marcos da Costa
	Ivens de Sousa
	Liborio Pereira
	Jesuino Alves
	Samuel Soares
	Olivio de Deus
	Sebastiana Barros
	Lidia Soares
	Merina Xareal
	Joaquim Jose Costa Chaves
	Diva Magno
	Sausia Martins
	Rita Alves
United Republic of Tanzania	William Mutafungwa
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Joaquín A. Pérez Ayestarán
<b>States Members of the United Nations</b>	
Algeria	Toufik Laid Koudri
	Mohamed-Esseghir Latrous
	Abdelghani Merabet
Angola	Mateus Pedro Luemba
	Sayonara Mualubambo
Argentina	Francisco Tropepi
	José Luis Fernández Valoni
	Maximiliano Javier Alvarez
Australia	Katherine Molyneux
	Matthew O'Neil

Azerbaijan	Tofiq Musayev
Belize	Carlos Fuller
Comoros	Chanfi Issimail
Djibouti	Elaye Djibril Yacin Abdillahi
Gabon	Lia Bouanga Ayouné
Gambia	Lamin B. Dibba
Ghana	Hafiz Issahaku
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Redouane Houssaini
	Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat
	Majda Moutchou
	Abdelaziz Haouaria
	Mouna Ouazzani Chahdi
	Amine Aazizi
Namibia	Herman Pule Diamonds
	Suoma Nangombe Musilika
Senegal	Diamane Diome
South Africa	Kgomotso Daphne Rahlaga
Spain	Elena Gómez Aoiz
Zimbabwe	Tirivavi Mawire
<b>Administering Powers</b>	
France	Véronique Roger-Lacan
	Antoun Meroueh
New Zealand	Helen Tunnah
	Chelsea Roberts
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ishtiaq Ghafoor
<b>Non-Self-Governing Territories</b>	
British Virgin Islands	Eliezer Benito Wheatley
	Ricardo Wheatley
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) <sup>b</sup>	Teslyn Barkman
French Polynesia	Mareva Lechat-Kitalong
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano

	Stuart Ryan
Guam	Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja
New Caledonia	Alcide Ponga
	Xavier Rossard
United States Virgin Islands	Tregenza A. Roach
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO)
	Boibat Malainin (Frente POLISARIO)
	Ghalla Bahiya
	M'hamed Abba

**Organizations of the United Nations system**

Resident Coordinator a.i. (World Health Organization)	Arvind Mathur
	Mohammed Saleem

**Regional organizations**

Melanesian Spearhead Group	Richard Balkonan
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**Experts**

Jérôme Bouquet-Elkaïm  
Carlyle Corbin  
Moerani Frébault  
Antony Geros  
Victor Gogny  
Patrick Jomessy  
Benoit Kautai  
Steven Lausell Recurt  
Facundo Rodríguez  
Teriitahi Tepuaurarii  
Richard Tuheiava  
Marie-Laure Ukeiwë  
Roch Wamytan  
Naïa Wateou  
Charles Wea  
Maurice Wimian

<sup>a</sup> Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

<sup>b</sup> A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

## Appendix II

### **Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar**

#### **Delivered via pre-recorded video**

I am pleased to send my warm greetings to the 2025 Pacific regional seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

My thanks to the Government and people of Timor-Leste for hosting this meeting.

Your country's journey to independence is a beacon of hope for all.

Through the years, the United Nations has been proud to accompany many Territories on their journey to decolonization – and we pledge to continue that vital work.

Your focus this year is on “Pathways to a sustainable future” – recognizing that circumstances and needs vary from Territory to Territory – and that you also face common challenges.

Non-Self-Governing Territories are on the frontlines of the climate crisis – facing rising seas and extreme weather. The world must step up to ensure you have the climate finance and adaptation support you need.

Economic vulnerability also remains a significant challenge – including reliance on a single sector such as tourism or a heavy dependence on imports. We must keep supporting efforts for economic diversification.

Digital connectivity, education, and access to innovation must also be expanded to empower communities and unlock opportunities – with a special focus on women, young people and Indigenous Peoples.

On all these fronts and more, it is crucial to continue to leave no person or Territory behind.

Let's commit to accelerate decolonization and end colonialism in all its forms.

## Appendix III

### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Timor-Leste**

*The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,*

*Having met* in Dili from 21 to 23 May 2025 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

*Having heard* the important statement at the opening of the seminar by the President of Timor-Leste, José Ramos-Horta,

*Taking note* of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Express their profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Timor-Leste for providing the Special Committee with the facilities necessary for this seminar, for the outstanding contribution that they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Timor-Leste.

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