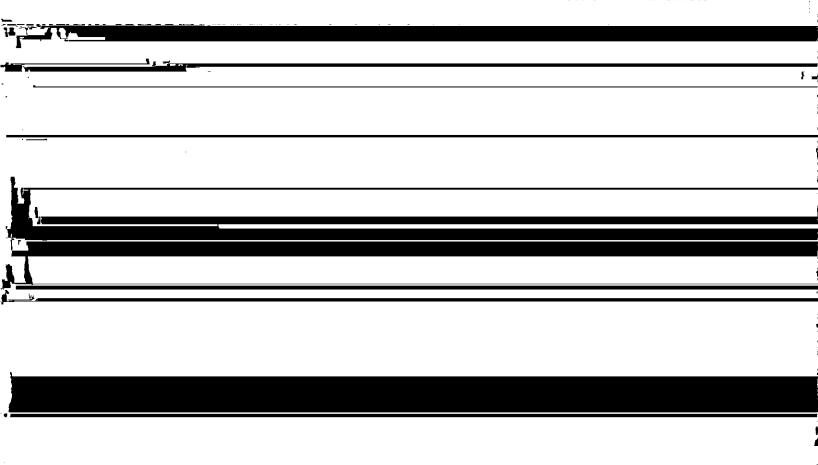
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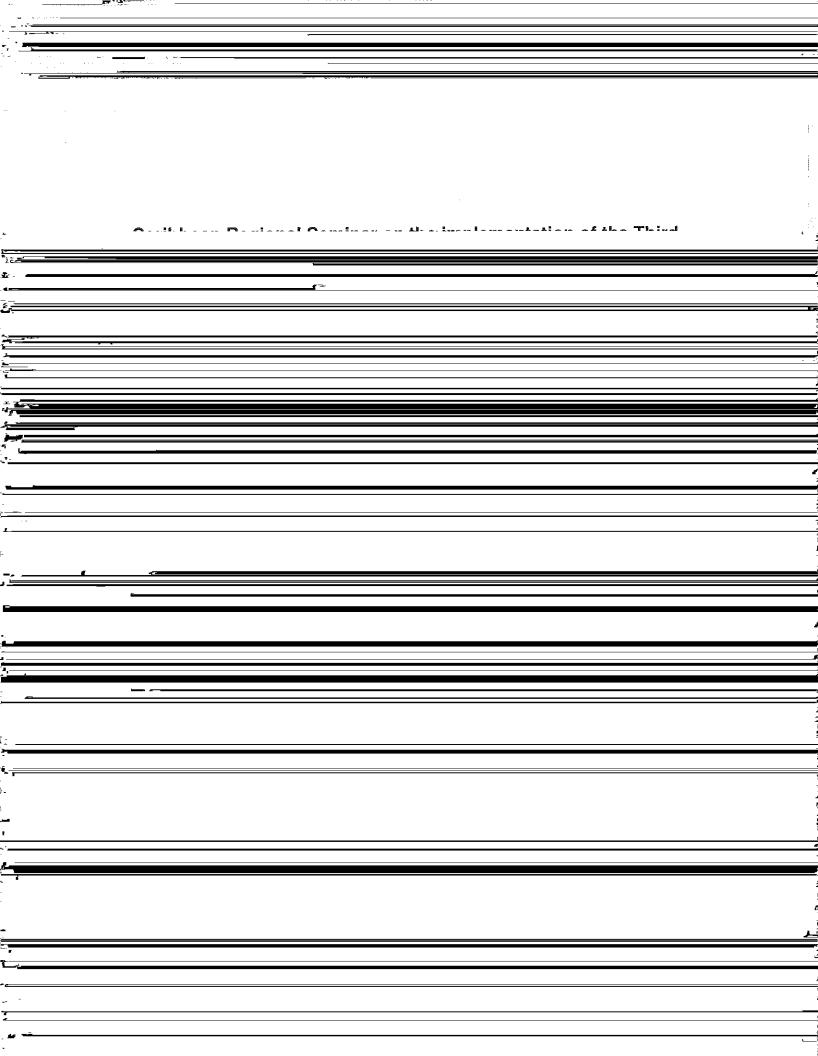
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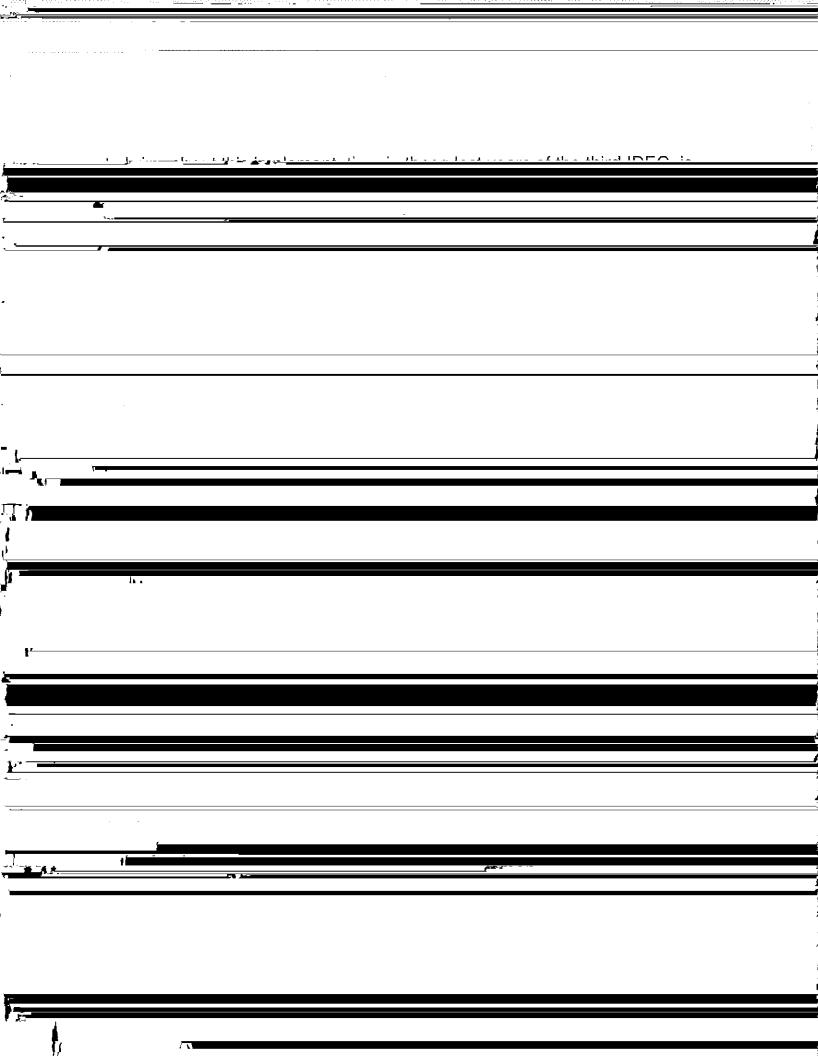
**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH** 



Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 16 to 18 May 2017





implementation of the directives given to it by the General Assembly. In the absence of accountability, what remains is the "repetition of process" with the adoption of resolutions without regard for their implementation. relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the NSGTs the relevant The new Secretary-General **António Guterres** one year later in February 2017 commented that:

"the process was not yet finished, as 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained. "We must unite our strengths to complete this historic task," he stressed, noting that the process would require prestin and austained anacoment by the Committee

This call for a case-by-case approach dates back decades, and has been stymied by the lack of administering power engagement. It has been pointed out that the participation of the administering power is not required for a case-by-case assessment of the territories to be undertaken. It does require the willingness to proceed, and the process can be advanced by simply removing what has become an unnecessary in the resolution requiring their participation to begin the process. Their absence is not an important but an apparatusity to the "innervative magnetic initiate the

case-by-case approach. This would provide important clarity on the

This is longstanding language for decades, but apart from the tripartite collaboration of the U.N. with the Government of New Zealand and the territorial government of Tokelau, it is difficult to identify other such programmes - even as many territories have been requesting such assistance over the years.

As with the case-by-case work programme, the operationalisation of a credible political education programme for the territories is being impeded by the non-cooperation of the administering Powers but their approval is unnecessary to advance an educational programme for the territories. Accordingly, reference in the resolution to the requirement for the administering Power to be a part of the process should be removed from the resolution, and *innovative means* can be employed to involve the universities, civil society, experts and the territorial governments concerned.

In the area of information, the General Assembly has routinely adopted annual resolutions over the period, most recently in December 2016, <sup>9</sup> on the "Dissemination of Information on Decolonisation." The resolution speaks of the continued efforts to disseminate information "with

	# Constant and the cons
	collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the NSGTs, basic material
	on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories."
	on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories.
	The resolution also calls for the U.N. system "to explore further the
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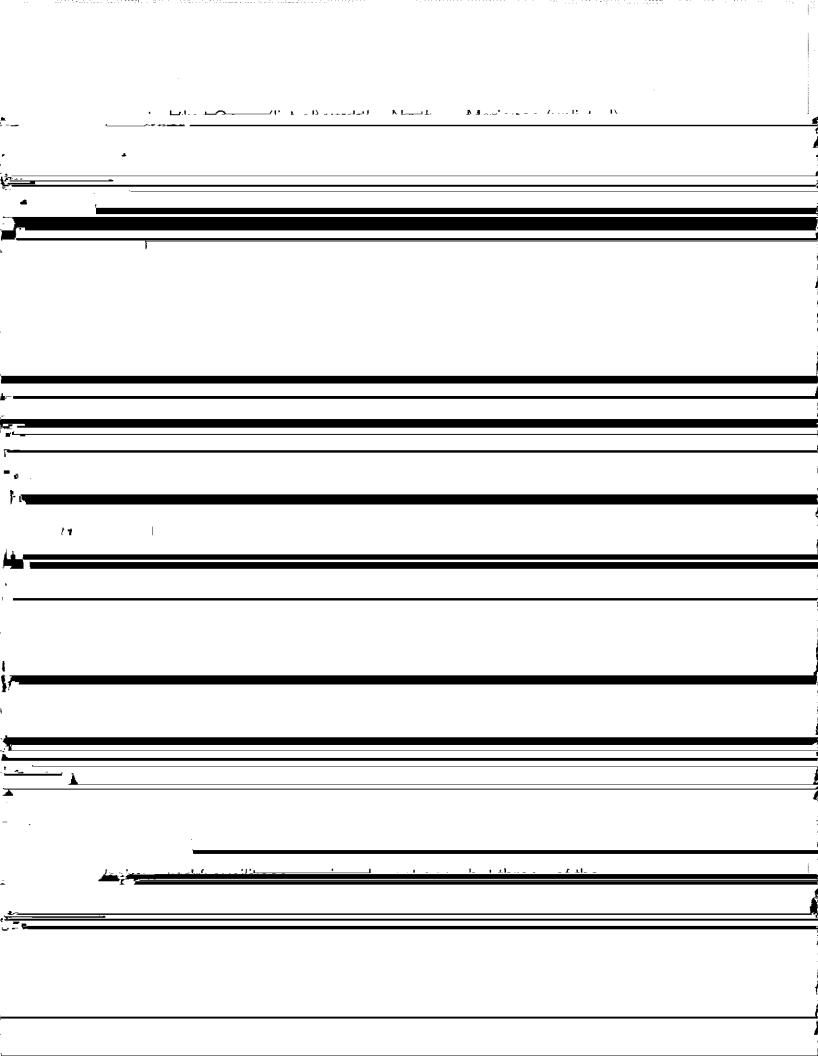
Aside from the presence of information through the decolonisation.

	these U.N. bodies. A Working Group of AMCs was created by the ECLAC
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	the 1990s to further facilitate their participation in the U.N. system, although
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with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide

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	Accordingly, the General Assembly:
	"Reiterates its request that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on

	peoples of the Non Self- Governing Territories to their natural
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	development of those resources, and requests the administering
	Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of
	the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant
	resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization"



territories in their internal struggle whilst the forces of colonial accommodation continue to point to the U.N.'s lack of implementation.

It is not surprising, thus, that many of the territories have ceased

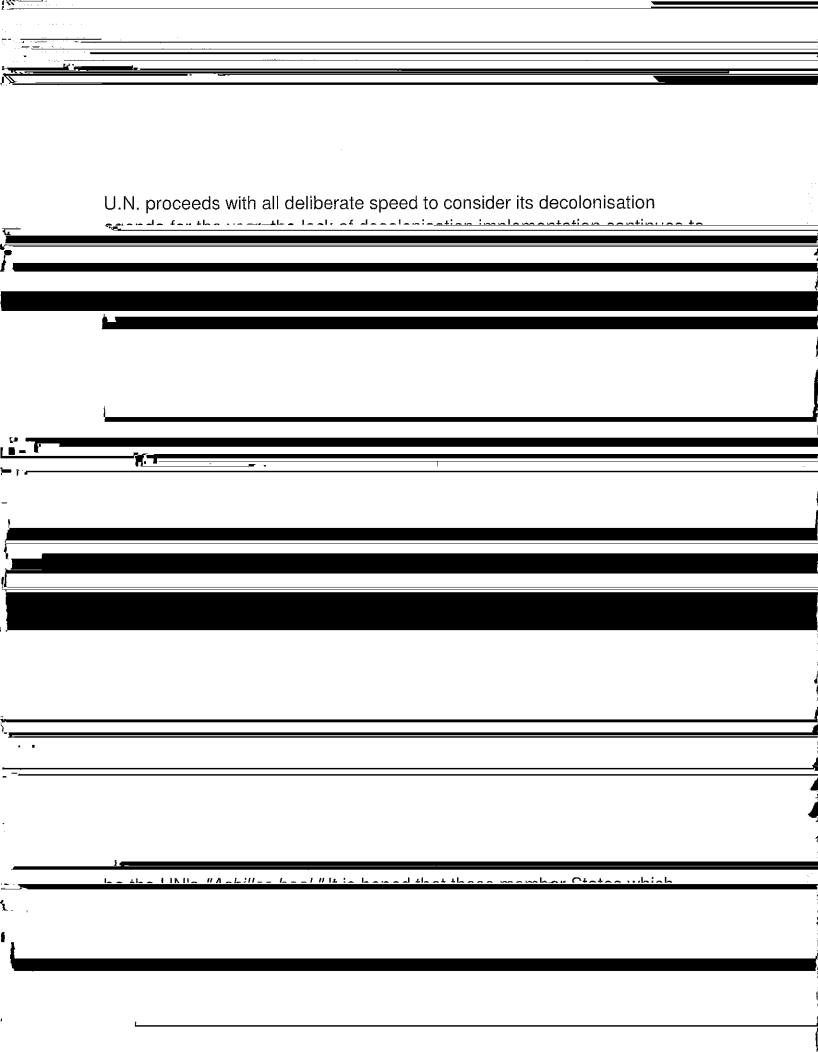
Islands discontinued its direct participation in the U.N. decolonisation process after some 25 years of annual engagement with the Special Committee. The lack of implementation of the actions mandated in the territory's resolution made it extremely difficult to justify our continuation in the process. We were simply not able to resist the pressures of the inertia.

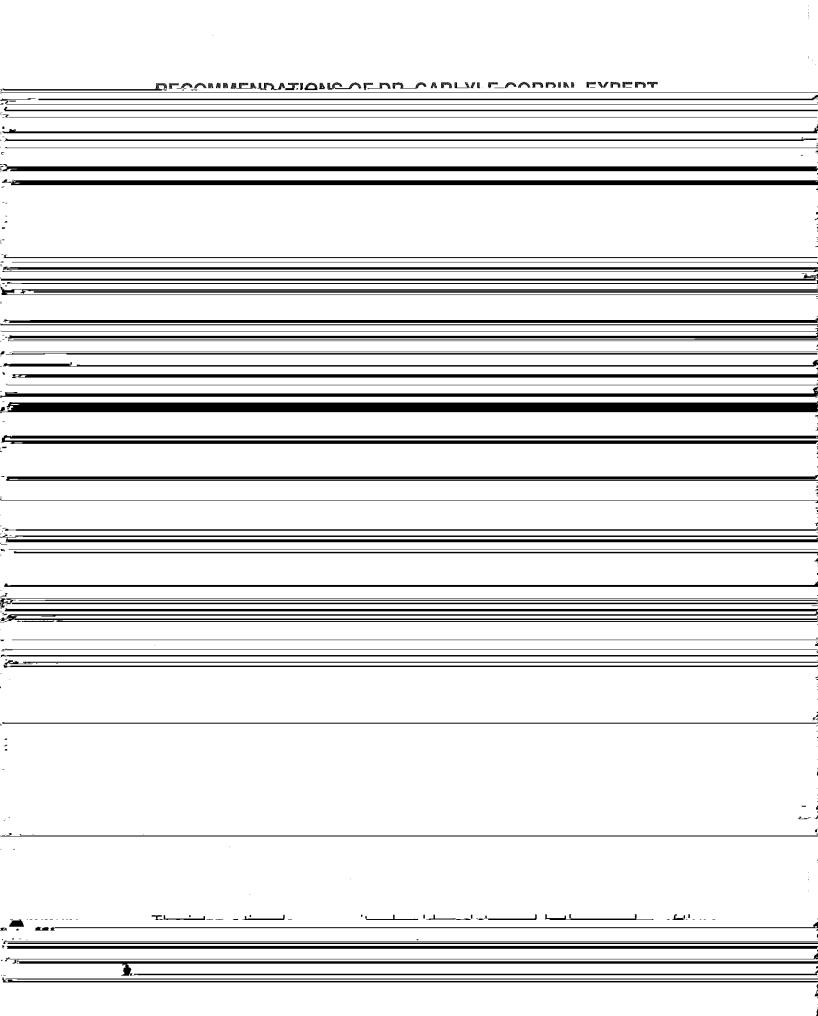
Kingdom in 2003, informed the Caribbean territories under its administration that it no longer offered free association <sup>15</sup> - even as the U.K. routinely joins in the annual consensus on the U.N. resolution which

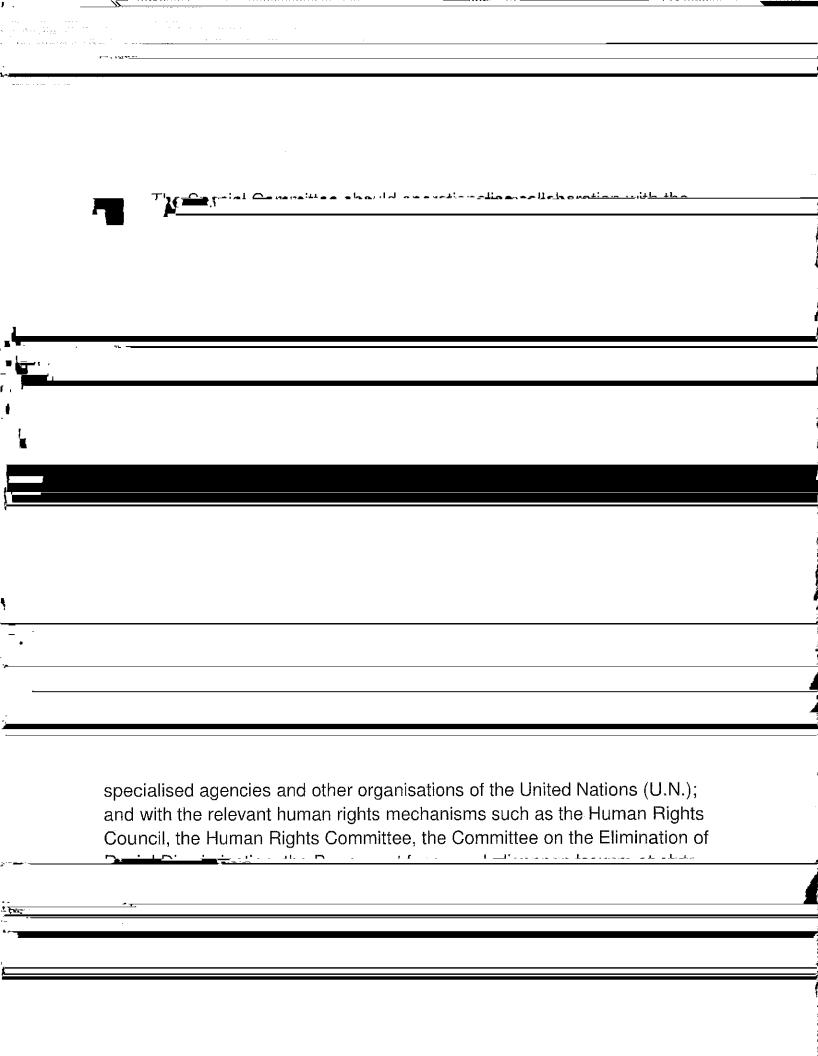
which caused significant confusion in those territories, there was no reference to this issue in the U.N. resolutions covering the small territories. It is this lack of clarity in the territories with respect to the U.N. process, coupled with the denigration of that process often propagated by the administering Powers, which has created a sense of hesitation in the territories to engage the Special Committee.

## IV. IMPLICATIONS OF INACTION

of the laws of the respective Administering Powers which govern (directly or indirectly) the electoral systems of these territories. This is counter to the requisite 'transfer of powers' required by the landmark Decolonisation Declaration in advance of a legitimate exercise of self-determination.







The Special Committee should commission independent selfgovernment assessments of each of the small island territories not subject use of the diagnostic tool of Self-Governance Indicators (SGIs) to identify the self-governance deficiencies in the existing colonial arrangements, and

to make appropriate recommendations to bring the territories to a full

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