

**Annex****Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the  
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
“Next steps in decolonization”, held in Saint George’s, Grenada,  
from 22 to 24 May 2007****Contents**

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**I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second

The list of participants is given in appendix I. The seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

8. The seminar was conducted by Margaret Hughes Ferrari, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada (host country), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). France and the United States of America, administering Powers, participated in the seminar as observers. Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain also participated.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 22 May 2007, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed Vice-Chairmen of the seminar: Luc Joseph Okio (Congo) and Sofia Borges (Timor-Leste). Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar. The Rapporteur also chaired the work of the drafting group, which was composed of the representatives of all members of the Special Committee attending the seminar: Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada (host country), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent an

4. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories: presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and others.
5. Recommendations on advancing the decolonization process for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

### **III. Overview of the seminar**

#### **A. Proceedings of the seminar**

11. On 22 May, Margaret Hughes Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair.
12. Elvin Nimrod, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Grenada, addressed the seminar.
13. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix II).
14. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee made a statement.
15. On 24 May, at the fifth meeting, the Chair made a concluding statement.
16. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada (see appendix III).

#### **B. Statements and discussions<sup>a</sup>**

17. At the 1st meeting, on 22 May, the Chair made a



7. In the process of decolonization, and where there are no disputes over sovereignty, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and in other relevant resolutions and decisions.

8. 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



conjunction with innovative, more cost-effective approaches to ascertaining a representative range of public opinion in select Non-Self-Governing Territories.

#### **4. Regional seminars**

22. As activities of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

23. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, remains a crucial element in their success. The participants encouraged the Committee, whenever possible, to hold these events in the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves.

24. The participants took note of the decision of the Special Committee to



2000. Participants nonetheless reiterated that progress could only be achieved with the active cooperation of the administering Powers. The Special Committee will consider whether it might be useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General's "good offices" in this process.

29. The participants drew the attention of the administering Powers to the three options listed in resolution 1541 (XV) (annex), in which the Assembly stated that a Non-Self-Governing Territory could be said to have reached a full measure of self-government, as envisaged in the Charter, by: (a) emergence as a sovereign independent State; (b) free association with an independent State; or (c) integration with an independent State.

30. Participants suggested the applicability of resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that "The establishment of a sovereign and independent State, the free association or integration with an independent State or the emergence into any other political status freely determined by people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people".

31. The Special Committee expressed its appreciation to Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain for their participation in the seminar and encouraged other States Members to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

**C. Perspectives of administering Powers, representatives of Territories and experts in the Caribbean region**

32. The seminar welcomed the presence of representatives from the Caribbean, including from a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories (Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands), as well as experts and/or non-governmental organizations from the region (Anguilla, Grenada, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and United States Virgin Islands).

33. The seminar took note of the establishment of the Cayman Islands Constitutional Review Secretariat, which had begun its work in March 2007 on a constitutional review process.

34. In the case of Montserrat, participants encouraged the administering Power to commit reasonable budgetary resources for the economic and other development needs of the Territory, particularly in terms of the special needs remaining since the volcanic eruption of 1995.

35. The participants welcomed the new constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands which took effect in August 2006, and took note of the emphasis placed by the territorial Government on economic development.

37. The participants also heard views presented by



United Nations resolutions and decisions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on specific Territories.

52. The participants recommended that the Special Committee establish closer ties with relevant regional organizations and encouraged Non-Self-Governing Territories to develop closer contacts with them.

## Appendix I

### List of participants

#### Members of the Special Committee

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Margaret Hughes Ferrari* (Chair)
China	Bian Ge*
Chile	Jose Antonio Cousiño
Congo	Luc Joseph Okio* (Vice-Chairman)
Côte d'Ivoire	Guillaume Bailly-Niagri*
Cuba	Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz* (Vice-Chairman) Victoria M. Delgado
Grenada (Host country)	Angus Friday Cyrilla R. Steele
Indonesia	Hari Prabowo
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Hossein Maleki*
Russian Federation	Denis Paletskiy*
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Carlisle Richardson*
Timor-Leste	Sofia Borges
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Edna Figuera

#### States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mahieddine Djeflal
Argentina	Gerardo Abel Diaz Bartolomé Ana Marcela Pastm76(a)-J T*(A)-1623418

**Non-Self-Governing Territories**

Cayman Islands	Alden McLaughlin Orett Connor Suzanne Lookloy
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**	Richard Davies
Gibraltar	Joseph Holliday Perry Stieglitz Francis Cantos
Montserrat	Claude Hogan Sylvia Gabriel
Turks and Caicos Islands	Jeffrey C. Hall Olinca Missick
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

**Organizations of the United Nations system**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ronald Williams
World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization	Gina Watson

**Non-governmental organizations**

Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla)	Lana Hoyoung
Grenada Education and Development Programme (Grenada)	Dessima Williams Gloria Payne-Banfield

**Experts**

Nicole Philip (Grenada)  
Howard Fergus (Montserrat)  
La Verne E. Ragster (United States Virgin Islands)  
Tregenza A. Roach (United States Virgin Islands)

**Observers**

Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)  
William Drabble (Saint Helena)

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\*\* 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 III

#### **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada**

*The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,*

*Having met* from 22 to 24 May 2007 in Saint George's, Grenada, for the purpose of reviewing next steps in the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

*Having heard* the important statement by the Honourable Elvin Ni