

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories

I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua from 31 May to 2 June 2016. It held six meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, an administering Power and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts, took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

2. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 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, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, with the participation of the representatives of the following States members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). An administering Power, France, participated as an observer. Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain. In addition, six Non-Self-Governing Territories and 11 experts participated in the seminar.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, the Chair appointed Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and Stanislav Aleksaev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, together with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) as Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar.

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in advancing the decolonization agenda in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis

B. Statements and discussions^a

9. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, statements relating to the status of invitations and representation at the seminar were made by the representatives of Morocco,

14. At the same meeting, participants addressed the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region and heard a presentation by an expert, Wilma Reverón Collazo, regarding the situation in Puerto Rico. Related statements and comments were made by the representatives of Cuba, Nicaragua, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. A statement was also made by an expert, Sergei Cherniavsky.

15. Also at the 3rd meeting, the participants addressed the status of other Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions and heard related presentations by Joseph Bossano, on the question of Gibraltar, Krysteen Ormond, on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),^d and Ahmed Boukhari, on the question of Western Sahara. Participants also heard a presentation by an expert, Macharia Munene, who also addressed the question of Western Sahara. Statements were made by an expert, Alejandro Betts, and by the representatives of Spain and Argentina.

16. At the 4th meeting, on 1 June, participants heard further presentations and statements on the status of Non-

C. Closing of the seminar

20. At the 6th meeting, on 2 June, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2016/CRP.5, which was adopted.

21. At the same meeting, participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution in which they expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua (see appendix III).

22. Also at the 6th meeting, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations made closing remarks. Thereafter, the Chair made a closing statement.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

23. 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 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.

24. Participating members of the Special Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of previous seminars.

25. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar ([A/AC.109/2016/19](#), annex), participating members of the Special Committee will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the Committee at its substantive session, in June 2016.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories

26. As their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Noted that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants 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) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, including the impact of climate change, especia

with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

(d) 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 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;

(e) 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 and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(f) 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 in that regard called upon those instances to continue to engage with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee;

(g) Underlined 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;

(h) 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;

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

(j) 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;

(k) 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;

(l) 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;

(m) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remains 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 70/231 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of France in the seminar and encouraged other administering Powers to participate in future regional seminars on decolonization;

(n)

natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals, pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(g) Noted again the constructive cooperation and engagement of the Government of France with regard to the self-determination process in New Caledonia, in particular for permitting the first visiting mission of the Special Committee;

(h) Welcomed the statement by the representative of the administering Power, who said that his Government had cooperated with the Special Committee since the signing of the Nouméa Accord and accepted a group of international experts into the work of the special administrative commissions responsible for updating the electoral rolls in New Caledonia, emphasized the commitment of France to the Territory's democratic process and noted that the Congress of New Caledonia was yet to set a date for the transfer of certain powers from France to the Territory, with the exception of defence, security and justice;

(i) Noted the statement by the representative of the Government of New Caledonia, who said that his Government was committed to continuing to participate in all meetings of the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee, as well as all regional seminars, in order to objectively and collectively present the work undertaken by the Government to ensure the successful emancipation and decolonization of New Caledonia, stated that the current electoral dispute had been addressed at the past two meetings of the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord and that, following a quantitative assessment conducted by an expert, the signatories had declared the dispute closed, subject to compliance with the provisions of the 1999 organic law, and emphasized the collegial nature of the territorial Government and the importance of seeking the common values that would become the foundation of the common destiny of New Caledonia;

(j) Took note of the information provided by the representative of the Union calédonienne-Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste group that the Kanak people had become a minority on their own land following the colonization of the Territory by France and that such colonization could not be considered a closed political matter, with the decision taken in 2016 by the Committee of Signatories declaring the electoral dispute closed having been imposed upon the Kanak minority and not having been taken on the basis of consensus;

(k) Also took note of the request made for ha

(l)

(n) Noted the economic and social rebalancing efforts undertaken by the administering Power and that more efforts are required to ensure the timeli 0.12 0.12 0.12.5(t)33.9973(h)29.005r

(d) Demanded the release of the political prisoner conv

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 on 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 made at previous regional seminars to the parties 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

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 Third Decade

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

(a) Reaffirmed 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) Reaffirmed also 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

to engage 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 reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) 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 Public Information;

(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, which might subsequently be broadcast in syndicated form to those local radio stations collaborating with the Department of Public Information in disseminating United Nations material;

(vi) Exploring the possibility of issuing a commemorative United Nations stamp devoted to the Week of Solidarity, which would mark its forty-fifth anniversary, in 2017;

(j) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs, should compile a press kit on decolonization, containing the essential information on the Declaration on the Granti

Council ([E/2014/INF/5](#)) and, in vetting other non-governmental organizations that did not yet have such status, being mindful of the

(s) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-

(z) Stressed that within the context of the Third 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 Third Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Pacific regional seminar

Delivered by a staff member of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs

I am pleased to send my greetings to all who have gathered in Managua for the 2016 Pacific regional seminar on decolonization, in the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I thank the Government and the people of Nicaragua for their generous hospitality in hosting this important seminar for the second time in two years.

This seminar also marks the twenty-fifth regional seminar of the Special Committee since 1990. I welcome this year's focus on the Pacific region under the theme of "Commitments and actions for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories", within the framework of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

According to the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, a full measure of self-government can be achieved through independence, integration or free association with another State. The choice should be the result of the freely expressed will and desire of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee on Decolonization supports this decolonization process. I also count on the administering Powers to continue to fulfil the obligation to promote the well-being of the peoples under their administration.

This annual regional seminar provides a key opportunity for the Special Committee to hear directly from representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories about their unique situations and problems.

It also facilitates informal exchanges between administering Powers, other stakeholders, Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee, experts, civil society organizations, regional organizations and others.

Let us seize this opportunity to identify concrete actions to advance the decolonization agenda.

I wish you success in your deliberations. Thank you.

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Michael Bevacqua

Julien Boanemoui

Sergei Cherniavsky

Carlyle Corbin

Ernesto Moreau

Macharia Munene

Jimmy Naouna

Wilma Reverón Collazo

Richard Ariihau Tuheh

