

Annex II

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: assessment of the decolonization process in today's world, held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, from 18 to 20 May 2010

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/146, 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 International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 64/106, the General Assembly approved the programme of work 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 envisaged for 2010, which included the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The objective of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to hear the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization. It assessed the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including follow-up to the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, and aimed to identify policy approaches and practical ways of dealing with the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in a changing world. The seminar also assessed the constitutional evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government and self-determination, with a view to developing, in cooperation with the administering Powers and representatives of the Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Furthermore, the seminar aimed to further identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to Territories within an integral framework, particularly to ensure the sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

4. The seminar also aimed to assess the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism as the Decade comes to an end, and to identify priority actions for the remaining year of the Decade and possible approaches and priorities beyond 2010.

5. The contributions of the participants were intended to serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session in June 2010, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the

fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, from 18 to 20 May 2010. It held five meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental, regional and other organizations and experts took part. The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

7. The seminar was conducted by Donatus Keith St. Aimee, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea and Saint Lucia. France, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, administering Powers, participated as observers. Representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Morocco and Spain also participated.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 18 May 2010, Robert G. Aisi (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Vice-Chair of the seminar. Tumasie Blair (Antigua and Barbuda) was

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 18 May, Donatus Keith St. Aimee (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in his capacity as the Chair. The statement of the Chair appears in appendix I to the present report.

11. At the same meeting, Philippe Gomés, the President of the Government of New Caledonia addressed the seminar.

12. The High Commissioner of France in New Caledonia, Yves Dassonville, also addressed the seminar.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General.

B. Statements and discussions^a

14. At the 1st meeting, on 18 May, the Chair made a statement (see appendix I).

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further statements. After a statement by the observer for Gibraltar, the representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Chile and Cuba also made statements.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar heard presentations by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and an expert, Carlyle Corbin. The representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of the Frente Polisario.

21. At its 5th meeting, on 20 May, the seminar held a general exchange of views on the way forward for the Special Committee, including priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade and possible approaches and priorities beyond the Second Decade. The representative of Indonesia made a statement.

C. Closing of the seminar

22. At the 5th meeting on 20 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

23. At the same meeting, the President of the Government of New Caledonia addressed the seminar.

24. At the same meeting, the Chair made a closing statement.

achieved, reviewed existing methods of work, and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task, requiring continued efforts by the Committee beyond the Second Decade;

(b) Identified a number of cross-cutting issues in the process of decolonization during the Second Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially on Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self-governance;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of the challenges faced by many 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;

(d) Recognized the important role played by regional organizations and

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(d) With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the

until all outstanding decolonization issues have been resolved in a satisfactory

Appendix I

major issues of sustainability (in economic, environmental and social terms) confront everyone, but especially smaller, more vulnerable societies.

The challenges of climate change will require significant international cooperation, often relying more closely on neighbours and long-established relationships. There are wrongs that need to be corrected. This is extremely important \$ it applies to all peoples, even in the biggest of the States.

Hence it is important for the United Nations to hear the views of Non-Self-Governing Territories on how they see their own future in an interconnected world. The choices of current generations require thinking ahead and considering the interests of future generations as best as possible.

Regional and subregional organizations such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum today play a far more important role than they did in the past. The growing importance of such organizations can provide a significant focal point for participation and interaction of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and "creative discussions# of decolonization options.

I trust that after these deliberations we can come up with a plan for the way

Appendix II

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of France and New Caledonia

The participants in the Pacific regional seminar,

Having met from 18 to 20 May 2010 in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to assess the decolonization process in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the President of the Government of New Caledonia,

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 France and New Caledonia for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution 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 New Caledonia.

