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POSTAL ADDRESS: United Nations S-3065, New York NY 10017 USA TEL:(212) 963 8362

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**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the  
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial  
Countries and Peoples**

**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.**

**Managua, Nicaragua  
31 May – 2 June 2016**

**Draft Report**

## I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua, Nicaragua, 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, one administering Power and the representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part. 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 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, Rafael Ramirez Carreño, with the participation of 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, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. One administering Power, France, participated as an observer. Other States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain. In addition, 6 Non-Self-Governing Territories and 11 experts participated in the seminar.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May 2016, the Chair appointed Sacha LLorenty (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) and Stanislav Aleksaev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) appointed 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:
  - (a) Strategies to ensure the acceleration of the decolonization process;
  - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories, concerned Member States and other stakeholders.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, territorial Governments, concerned Member States and other stakeholders, as well as views of experts on the decolonization process:
  - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
    - (i) In the Pacific region;
    - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
    - (iii) In other regions;

- (b) Effects of socioeconomic conditions, environmental issues and climate change on the decolonization process, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals:
  - (i) In the Pacific region;
  - (ii) In the Caribbean region;
  - (iii) In other regions.
- 3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.
- 4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

## **II. Proceedings of the seminar**

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

5. On 31 May 2016, the Chair of the Special Committee, Rafael Ramirez Carreño of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela opened the seminar, drew attention to the day's sad news of the passing of Mohamed Abdelaziz, the former Secretary-General of Frente Polisario and exalted for a minute's silence in his honour.

6. He thanked the Government of Nicaragua for hosting the Seminar for the second consecutive year, noting that it was the sixth annual Seminar to be held within the context of the Third International Decade. The seminar, he stressed, would enable the Special Committee to redouble efforts to fulfil its mandate, most recently reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/231 of 23 December 2015. The Seminar should be an instrument of change in favour of decolonization, he added. "It is now or never". "Our commitment is to promote the decolonization process and to put an end to the shame of colonialism around the world", he emphasized. Underlining the importance of the annual week of solidarity with the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Chair expressed announced his intention to explore concrete ways of marking the week with activities at headquarters. "We will not rest until all of those deprived of their sovereign and territorial integrity are liberated", he noted.

7. Also at the opening ceremony, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, María Rubiales de Chamorro, delivered a welcome address applauding the work of the Special Committee and urging it to redouble its efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating colonialism.

8. A staff member of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-

General, welcoming the theme of the seminar and urging the participants to seize the opportunity to identify concrete actions to advance the decolonization agenda.

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

9. At the 1st meeting, on 31 May, statements relating to the status of invitations and representation at the seminar were made<sup>2</sup> by the representatives of Morocco, Saint Lucia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Grenada, Algeria, Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Bolivia (Plurinational State of). A statement was also made by a staff member of the United Nations Office for Legal Affairs, serving as the Legal Officer for the seminar. Following those statements, the seminar adopted its programme of work, contained in document PRS/2016/CRP.2.

10. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, also on 31 May, the Chair made a further statement on the core theme of the seminar, emphasizing the importance of carrying out the Special Committee's work in Accordance with its mandate and rules of procedures. Underlining resolution 1514 (XV) as the basis of the Committee's legitimacy, he underscored the value of transparency and non-selectivity as the pillars of its working methods, adding that it could not be influenced by groups attempting to impose their own agendas. The Special Committee's mandate was to execute relevant resolutions on a case-by-case basis, particularly with regard to sovereignty disputes, he said, emphasizing it was not prepared to accept the perpetuation of colonial rule. Under his Chairmanship, the Special Committee would maintain efforts to secure adequate means of implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as the ongoing Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Those means include both negotiation to diplomacy.

11. Two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Sergei Cherniavsky made presentations on the role of the Special Committee and other stakeholders, within the context of the broad theme of the seminar. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Indonesia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Algeria, the Russian Federation, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua and Bolivia (Plurinational State of). Statements were also made by one expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo, and by Mr. Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar).

12. Also at the 2nd meeting, on 31 May, the participants heard from two representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region:

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1. Statements and discussion papers of the seminar will be uploaded on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml>.

2. Details of the statements made are summarized in the press release on the meeting, which will be uploaded on the Committee website.

Edward Alvarez ("Question of Guam") and Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes ("Question of New Caledonia"). Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of France, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Nicaragua. Statements were also made by three experts, Wilma Reveron-Collazo, Julien Boanemoui and Roch Wamytan, respectively.

13. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 1 June, participants heard the views of the following independent experts regarding the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region: Michael Bevacua, Richard Tuheiava and Jimmy Naouna (MSG). Statements were made by the representatives of The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and China. Statements were also made by Edward Alvarez (Guam) and one expert, Michael Bevacua.

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

15. Also at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 1 June, the seminar 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)",<sup>3</sup> and Ahmed Boukhari, on the "Question of Western Sahara". Participants also heard a presentation by one expert, Macharia Munene, who also addressed the "Question of Western Sahara". Statements were made by one expert, Alejandro Betts, and by the representatives of Spain and Argentina.

16. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, also on 1 June, the seminar heard further presentations and statements on the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions, by one expert, Ernesto Moreau, and by the representatives of Ecuador, Sierra Leone, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Chile, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Grenada, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua and Bolivia (Plurinational State of). The representative of Cuba made a further statement, following which statements were made by the representatives of Saint Lucia, Iraq and Algeria. Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario)(Western Sahara) and one expert, Macharia Munene, clarified earlier comments, and further statements

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<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 Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

were by Krysteen Ormond (Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the expert, Ernesto Moreau.

17. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 June, further statements on the status of Non-Self-Governing Territories in other regions, were made by Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario) (Western Sahara). Statements were also made by the representatives of Morocco, Algeria and the Russian Federation, as well as by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar).

18. Also at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, participants held a general discussion on the role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, and on recommendations for advancing decolonization. Statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua, and Morocco. Statements were also made by the following eight experts: Wilma Reveron-Collazo, Carlyle Corbin, Sergei Cherniavsky, Richard Tuheiava, Julien Boanemoui, Ernesto Moreau, Jimmy Naouna (MSG) and Macharia Munene. A statement was also made by Ahmed Boukhari (Frente Polisario)(Western Sahara).

19. Following the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, members of the Special Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

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

20. At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft procedural report of the seminar, contained in document PRS/2016/CRP.5, which was then adopted.

21. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Nicaragua.

22. Also at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, María Rubiales de Chamorro, made closing remarks.

23. The Chair of the Special Committee made a closing statement.

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

24. 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 General Assembly.

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

26. 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.