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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**

**Caribbean Regional Seminar
on the implementation of the Third International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: the United Nations at 70: taking stock of the
decolonization agenda**

**Managua, Nicaragua
19 – 21 May, 2015**

Draft Report

I. Organization of the seminar

1. The seminar was held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 19 to 21 May, 2015. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs), two administering Powers and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts took part (see appendix I). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

2. The seminar was conducted by Xavier Lasso Mendoza, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Two administering powers (France and the United Kingdom) participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco and Spain. Also represented at the seminar was one Fund and Programme (United Nations Development Programme) and one United Nations regional Commission (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).

3. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May 2015, the Chairman appointed Jaime Hermida (Nicaragua) and Alexander Volgarev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the seminar, with Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile), appointed Rapporteur, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the seminar. The Chair also established an informal drafting Group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

4. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. The role of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders in the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

(a) Principles established by the General Assembly for the conduct of free and genuine decolonization processes, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with United Nations principles and practices;

(b) How to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, to decide their future political status with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them, including independence;

(c) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all political exercises relating to decolonization processes are carried out in an atmosphere free from intimidation and outside interference and allow for the open expression of the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(d) How to ensure, on a case-by-case basis, that all decolonization processes are preceded by adequate and unbiased campaigns of political education.

2. Perspectives of the Special Committee, the administering Powers and territorial Governments and other concerned Member States and stakeholders, as well as views of experts and civil society:

- (a) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region;
- (b) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific region;
- (c) In the Non-Self-Governing Territories of other regions.

3. The role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions

- (a) Presentation by the United Nations

4. The United Nations at 70: taking stock of the decolonization agenda: recommendations on advancing the decolonization process.

II. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

5. On 19 May 2015, Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador) opened the seminar in his capacity as the Chairman of the Special Committee and acknowledged the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. Also at the opening segment, Padre Miguel D'Escoto, former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its 63rd session and Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, delivered a welcome address applauding the work of the Special Committee and urging it to redouble efforts towards realizing the goal of eradicating colonialism, which he observed had stagnated.

7. The Chief of the Decolonization Unit, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix II), underlining the remarkable progress made in the past 70 years in efforts to advance the decolonization agenda, and highlighting in particular that over 80 nations that were once colonized were currently among sovereign Member States of the United Nations. He encouraged the Special Committee and seminar participants to build on that track record towards the complete eradication of colonialism by the year 2020, the end date of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared in General Assembly resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman made a further statement highlighting the task ahead for the Special Committee.

B. Statements and discussions¹

9. At the 1st meeting, on 19 May, the seminar heard a presentation by one expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), on the role of the Special Committee and other

¹] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/index.shtml>.

stakeholders, within the context of the broad theme of the seminar. Related comments and statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Algeria and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Statements were also made by one expert and the representatives of Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario, who occupied the seat for Western Sahara) and New Caledonia.

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 19 May, the seminar reviewed the status of the NSGTs in the Caribbean region, from the perspective of their representatives and within the context of the seminar theme and heard a related statement by Conrad Howell (Turks and Caicos). Statements were also made and by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Argentina, Cuba, and Chile. The seminar also heard statements from four experts.

11. Also at the 2nd meeting, the seminar considered the status of the NSGTs in the Pacific region, from the perspective of their representatives and within the context of the seminar theme. Statements were made by Talauega Eleasalo Ale (American Samoa), Edward A. Alvarez (Guam) and Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes (New Caledonia), following which the seminar heard comments and statements by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, France, Indonesia, and Cuba. A further statement was made by the representative of Guam, and by one expert.

12. At the same meeting, the seminar heard the views of independent experts regarding the situation of NSGTs in the Caribbean region. Related presentations were made by three experts: Peter Klegg (United Kingdom), Daniel Manfred Malcolm (Turks and Caicos) and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico).

13. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 May, the seminar heard statements and comments on the situation of the NSGTs in the Caribbean region, made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Argentina, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and China. Statements were also made by the representatives of Saint Helena and Turks and Caicos, and by two experts.

14. Also at 3rd meeting, the seminar addressed the status of NSGTs in the Pacific region from the viewpoint of independent experts and heard presentations from four such experts in attendance: Michael Lujan Bevacqua (Guam), Edward Paul Wolfers (Australia), Roch Wamytan (New Caledonia) and Michael Forrest (New Caledonia). Thereafter the seminar heard related statements and comments by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Cuba, Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Nicaragua and China.

15. At the 4th meeting, on 20 May, the seminar heard statements by five experts, also regarding the situation of NSGTs in the Pacific region, following which it addressed the status of other NSGTs in other regions, beginning with a presentation by Phyllis Rendell (Falkland Islands/Malvinas)². Thereafter, the seminar heard statements by El Salvador, Venezuela and Argentina. Statements was also made by Phyllis Rendall and by one expert.

16. Further at the 4th meeting, the seminar heard presentations on three other NSGTs in other regions, delivered by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar), Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (Frente Polisario who occupied the seat for Western Sahara) and Pamela

²] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

Ward Pearce (Saint Helena). Related statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Chile, Guatemala, Ethiopia, China, Papua New Guinea and Argentina. Further statements were made by Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar) and Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich (the representative of Frente Polisario who occupied the seat for Western Sahara).

17. At the 5th meeting, on 21 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultation on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar. Thereafter, the seminar resumed and heard a presentation on the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, delivered by Dale Alexander from the subregional office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Trinidad and Tobago.

18. At the same meeting, the seminar heard a presentation by one expert, Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine), on recommendations, within the context of the seminar theme.

C. Closing of the seminar

19. Also at the 5th meeting, on 21 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

20. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Nicaragua (see appendix III).

21. Also at the same meeting, closing remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, Maria Rubiales de Chamoro, and by Padre Miguel D'Escoto, former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its 63rd session and Adviser on Foreign Policy to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra. The Chairman of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

22. 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 Special 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.

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

24. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2015/17*, 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 2015.

Caribbean Regional Seminar, Managua, Nicaragua (19 – 21 May 2015)

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Ecuador (Chair)	Xavier Lasso Mendoza ¹ Diego Morejón José Eduardo Proaño ¹
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Wei Zonglei
Cuba	Oscar León González ¹
Ethiopia	Dawit Yirga Woldegerima ¹
Indonesia	Indah Nuria Savitri ¹
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Hossein Maleki ¹
Nicaragua	Miguel D'Escoto María Rubiales de Chamorro Jaime Hermida Castillo Rubén Berrios Juan Damau Patricia Bajana
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa
Russian Federation	Alexander A. Volgarev ¹
Syrian Arab Republic	Bashar Ja'afari ¹
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño Zael Alexis Fernandez Rivera Jose Arrue Ansonith Alvano

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Sofiane Mimouni Hadj Ali Zaina Benhabouche
Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Gonzalo S. Mazzeo

¹ Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Australia	Peta McDougall
Costa Rica	Rebeca Díaz Calderón
El Salvador	Morena Iris Bustamante
Guatemala	Diego Israel Girón Rodas
Mexico	Miguel Díaz Reynoso Gilberto Velarde Meixueiro
Morocco	Abderrahman Leibek Omar Kadiri Khaddad El Moussaoui
Spain	Rafael Garranzo García Carlos Blasco Bernáldez José Miguel Bello Villarino
Administering Powers	
France	Antoine Joly
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Chris Campbell
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
American Samoa	Talauega Eleasalo Ale Mauga Tasi
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ²	Phyllis Rendell
Gibraltar	Joseph Bossano Albert Poggio
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
New Caledonia	Jean-Louis D'Anglebermes François Bockel Marjorie Ehnyimane
Saint Helena	Pamela Ward Pearce
Turks and Caicos	Conrad Howell
Western Sahara	Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich Sueliman Tieb Mayra Luisa Sandoval

² 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).

United Nations Funds and Programmes

United Nations Development Programme

Silvia Rucks
Tamara Delgado
Glomara Iglesias

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin
America and the Caribbean

Dale Alexander

Experts

Alejandro Betts

Michael Lujan Bevacqua

Sergei Cherniavsky

Peter Clegg

Mickael Forrest

Daniel Manfred Malcolm

Wilma E. Reveron-Collazo

Roch Wamytan

Edward Paul Wolfers

**Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government
and the people of Nicaragua**

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 19 to 21 May 2015, in Managua, Nicaragua, to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement at the opening of the Seminar by His Excellency Padre Miguel D'Escoto, former President of the United Nations General Assembly at its 63rd session and Adviser to the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, His Excellency Commandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Nicaragua for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for this 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 Managua.