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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade
for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends**

**Quito, Ecuador
28 to 30 May 2013**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: First quarter review of developments and trends, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 28 to 30 May 2013

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism^a and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.
2. In its resolution 67/134, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2013, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. Discussions at the seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.
4. The seminar was also aimed at a first quarter review of developments and trends with regard to the implementation of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as expected accomplishments of the Special Committee during the Decade.
5. The respective contributions of the participants would be further considered by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2013, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 28 to 30 May, 2013. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United

^a A/56/61, annex.

Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, Administering Powers 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.

7. The seminar was conducted by Diego Morejón-Pazmiño, Deputy 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, Fiji, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, and United Republic of Tanzania. Three administering powers, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Spain.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 28 May 2013, Namita Khatri (Fiji) and Anna M. Evstigneeva (Russian Federation) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Jose Antonio Cousiño (Chile) was appointed Rapporteur. The Chair established an informal drafting Group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Third International Decade — First quarter review: The role of the Special Committee:
 - (a) Assessing prospects for advancing the decolonization process;
 - (b) Fresh options for communication and cooperation on a case-by-case basis among the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (c) Synergies and partnerships in moving the decolonization process forward.
2. Third International Decade — First quarter review: Views of the administering Powers and territorial Governments as well as of experts and civil society.
 - (a) Caribbean region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (b) Pacific region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (c) Other regions' Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Third International Decade — First quarter review: Recommendations.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 28 May 2013, Diego Morejón-Pazmiño (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.

11. At the same meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, addressed the seminar.
12. Also at the same meeting, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Quito, Ecuador, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

B. Statements and discussions^b

13. At the 1st meeting, on 28 May, the Chair made a statement. The seminar heard a presentation from the representative of the British Virgin Islands. Statements were made by the representatives of Western Sahara and Argentina, and by two experts.
14. At the 2nd meeting, the seminar heard presentations from Salesio Lui (Tokelau) and Edward Alvarez (Guam). The representatives of New Zealand and Fiji made statements.
15. At the same meeting, the seminar heard further presentations from two experts: Peter Clegg (United Kingdom) and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico). Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Chile. Further statements were made by three experts: Richard AriihauTuheiava (French Polynesia), Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine) and Alejandro Betts (Argentina) made statements. A statement was also made by the representative of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).^c
16. At the 3rd meeting, the seminar heard presentations by four experts, including Stephanie Graff, through a Skype connection (on behalf of Roch Wamytan, New Caledonia), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (Guam), Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine) and Richard AriihauTuheiava (French Polynesia). Statements were made by the representatives of Fiji, Cuba and the Russian Federation. An expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), also made a statement.
17. At the same meeting, the seminar heard presentations by the representatives of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)^c, Gibraltar and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario). It heard a further presentation by an expert, Alejandro Betts (Argentina).
18. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, China, Brazil and Ecuador. The representatives of Morocco, Frente Polisario, Algeria and Gibraltar made statements in the exercise of the right of reply. An expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico) and the representative of Fiji made further statements.

^bAll statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization>.

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

19. At the 5th meeting, on 30 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultation on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

20. Also at the 5th meeting, on 30 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

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

22. Also at the same meeting, the Chair made a closing statement.

IV. 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 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.

24. Participating members reaffirmed the continued relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

25. Pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2013/17, annex), participating members will present the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar to the substantive session of the Special Committee.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Caribbean regional seminar on implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: First quarter review of developments and trends.

I am happy to greet the participants in this Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization.

I thank the Government and people of Ecuador for again hosting this important seminar, which is being held in the context of the United Nations Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

This year, you have gathered to review recent developments as well as trends that are likely to influence developments in the upcoming period.

First and foremost, you will focus on the Special Committee's role in advancing the United Nations decolonization process.

Enhanced dialogue and communication among the Special Committee, the elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers are essential.

When I addressed the Special Committee in February, I suggested that it identify possibilities for change and promote priorities for decolonization.

Your gathering in Quito is designed to facilitate informal exchanges and brainstorming to help the Committee to accomplish this important task at its substantive session less than a fortnight away.

I encourage you to use this seminar to show how statements of principle can be transferred into action. Let us build on the many successes of decolonization. Let us also retool and rejuvenate our methods of work and become true "enablers" of the decolonization process.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive seminar.

Appendix II

List of Participants
(To be Updated and Inserted)

Appendix III

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

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 28 to 30 May 2013, in Quito, Ecuador, to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador,

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 Ecuador 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 Ecuador.