

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

21. At the 4th meeting, on 16 May 2008, the Chairman presented to the participants the conclusions and recommendations outlined below.

A. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. Eradicating colonialism, the role of the Special Committee and the plan of action

22. The Seminar reconfirmed that the United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major programme of the United Nations. United Nations sup

peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and in other relevant resolutions and decisions.

30. 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.

31. It has previously been noted that, in the development of work programmes for individual Territories, the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there is no dispute over sovereignty should be ensured. It has also been pointed out that any work programme should include an information and education campaign for the peoples of those Territories, visiting missions of the Special Committee and a consultation process acceptable to the peoples in the Territories leading to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

32. In order to enhance the exchange of information, the Special Committee, in consultation with the administering Power and the territorial Governments, will continue to explore modalities to help facilitate the Special Committee's working-level contacts with elected territorial Governments

the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

ascertaining a representative range of public opinion in select Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Regional seminars

45. As activities of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

46. There was general agreement on the need to fully facilitate the attendance of representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories at future seminars. The participants also urged the Special Committee to engage proactively with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where there is no dispute over sovereignty, in consultation with the administering Powers.

47. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Pacific and the Caribbean, remains a crucial element in their success. The participants encouraged the Committee, whenever possible, to hold these events in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

under the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

52. The participants welcomed the presence at the seminar of the representatives of France, New Zealand and the United States.

53. The seminar took note of the paper circulated to the seminar by the United Kingdom on its "relationship with its overseas territories". Participants expressed disappointment that the United Kingdom was not present at the seminar, and disagreed with the view on the role of the Special Committee contained in that paper.

54. The seminar once again recommended that the Spe

59. Participants were appreciative of the statement made by New Zealand, as administering Power of Tokelau, as well as of New Zealand's continuing commitment not only to support Tokelau's right to decide its future path, but also in ensuring that, whatever Tokelau's status, the needs of the people of Tokelau are met.

60. Participants took note of the statement by an expert from the Parahyangan Catholic University of Indonesia, highlighting the responsibility of the administering Powers to address the economic and social challenges facing Non-Self-Governing Territories, to aid the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their overall development as they moved towards self-determination, and to help to build capacity in that regard. The seminar also shared the concern that, as many Non-Self-Governing Territories were small-island developing territories, many of them faced particularly serious difficulties concerning sustainable development.

61. Participants took note of the presentation by the representative of the Guam non-governmental organization Fuetsan Famalao'an (Strength of Women). They noted with concern the military installations and activities of the administering

(2008) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy towards a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called upon 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. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars on the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

D. Follow-up to the 2007 Caribbean regional seminar

68. The seminar appreciated the information provided by an expert who was a participant in the British Virgin Islands' Constitutional Review Exercise. Participants welcomed the experiences shared by the expert in the spirit of assisting other Non-Self-Governing Territories in their own constitutional review exercises.

69. The participants appreciated the statement by a representative from the University of the United States Virgin Islands, who provided an update on the Territory's ongoing Constitutional Convention.

E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

70. In the seminar's discussions, participants reiterated the importance of the role of UNDP in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. They expressed appreciation for the outline provided by Tony Angelo on assistance provided by UNDP to Tokelau over the years running up to its two self-determination referendums, and expressed the hope that other Non-Self-Governing

74. The vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories was recognized and continues to be of major concern.

75. The participants requested that the Special Committee encourage Non-Self-Governing Territories to develop closer contacts with relevant regional organizations.

Appendix I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Indonesia	R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa (Chairman)* Kristiarto S. Legowo Desra Percaya Arief Havas Oegroseno Triyogo Jatmiko Hari Prabowo
China	Tang Yinlong
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
Congo (Vice-Chairman)	Raphaël Maboundou*
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)	Jorge Leon Cruz*
Dominica	Crispin Gregoire*
Ethiopia	Elias Melaku Feleke*
Russian Federation	Denis Paletskiy*
Syrian Arab Republic	Bashar Ja'afari* (Rapporteur)
Timor-Leste	Hernani Coelho da Silva

Sudan Sulieman Mohamed Mustafa

Spain Alberto Virella

Administering Powers

New Zealand Joe Ballard

France (observer) Jean-Yves Roux

United States of America (observer) Joseph Novak
Kus Wahyuni

Non-Self-Governing Territories

Tokelau Peter Fa'afiu

Western Sahara Fadel Kamal Mohammed

Organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Development Programme Abdurrahman Syebubakar

Non-governmental organizations

Fuetsan Famalao'an Hope A. Cristobal
(Chamorro for Strength of Women, Guam)

University of the United States Virgin Islands Tregenza A. Roach
(United States Virgin Islands)

Experts

Kedrick Pickering (British Virgin Islands)

Anak Agung Banyu Perwita (Indonesia)

Tony Angelo (New Zealand)

Observer

Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)

Appendix II

Message from the Secretary-General

I am pleased to send greetings to all who have gathered in Bandung, Indonesia, for the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization. Let me thank the Government of Indonesia for hosting this event, and for convening its opening session in the same hall where the historic Asian-African Conference took place in 1955.

Decolonization is one of the great success stories of the United Nations. But as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism draws to a close, 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories highlight the fact that this monumental task is as yet incomplete. It falls to the United Nations, and to all of us as members of the international community, to help bring this process to a successful conclusion.

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Indonesia

from 14 to 16 May 2008 in Bandung, Indonesia, for the purpose of determining priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

the historical 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung, which served as a focal point of the whole process of decolonization,

the important statements by the Secretary-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Assistant to the Governor of West Java of the Republic of Indonesia,

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

to the Government and the people of Indonesia 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 Bandung.