IV. Conclusions and recommendations

29. 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 Assembly.

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

31. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2019/19, 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 2019.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures

32. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Recalled that the period 2011–2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task;

(b) Recognized that the eradication of colonialism was one of the priorities of the United Nations and continued to be one of its priorities for the Third International Decade that had begun in 2011, and stressed the need to allocate adequate financial support to the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat in order to fully implement the mandates entrusted to it by Member States;

(c) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for expediting the implementation of the plan of action to move towards achieving the goals of the Third Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/119, as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(d) Reiterated that the United Nations should continue to lead the political process towards decolonization with the resolute support of the Secretary-General and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and stressed that support by the United Nations should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues were resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(e) Noted that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, was not complete so long as there remained Non-Self-Governing Territories that had yet to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant resolutions with regard to all Territories considered under the agenda of the Special Committee, including those

* 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).
adopted by the Assembly and the Committee on special and particular colonial situations, and underscored the fact that the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960;

(f) While recognizing how much remained to be done in the area of decolonization, acknowledged the efforts made to revitalize the work of the Special Committee in line with its mandates;

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

(h) Took into account General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) regarding the sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

(i) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today’s interconnected world, underlined the fact 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;

(j) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Recognized the important role played by United Nations agencies, regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges, and in that regard called upon them to accelerate their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation in the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Committee and through the regular session of the Committee under the relevant agenda items, and called upon the Special Committee to develop programmes of collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(l) Underlined the fact that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding the future political status of their Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions and bearing in mind relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination;

(m) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the
United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(o) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(p) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(q) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(r) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/123 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the attendance of three administering Powers, which were not at the 2018 seminar, and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage with the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future;

(s) Reiterated that progress could only be achieved with the active cooperation of the administering Powers, and in this regard underlined the fact that it was considered useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General’s good offices in this process;

(t) Stressed the importance of full and meaningful participation in the regional seminars by those invited, in accordance with the guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminars, and, in this regard expressed deep concern over bureaucratic obstacles to this participation and urged all the stakeholders to exercise all their duties in a timely and responsible manner to that end;

(u) Recognized the importance of the active engagement of other States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Honduras, Morocco, Spain and Uganda in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific seminar

33. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in Bermuda,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of Bermuda in the seminar, first since 2012 and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Deputy Premier;
(b) Noted the statement by the representative in which he underscored in the context of the public beneficial ownership register that the constitutional arrangement of Bermuda did not allow the United Kingdom to legislate the Territory;

(c) Also noted the statement by the representative that if Bermuda at some point in the future would seek full sovereignty, it should follow a proper process of public engagement through exhaustive public education campaign to ascertain the will of the people, with the assistance and advice of the Special Committee.

With regard to the situation in the British Virgin Islands,

(a) Welcomed the renewed participation of a representative of the British Virgin Islands in the seminar, first since 2013 and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Premier;

(b) Noted the statement of the Premier in which he stated that the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power required the international accountability provided for by the decolonization framework of the United Nations;

(c) Also noted the information provided that despite constitutional advances, contradictions in the Territory’s internal self-government arrangement remained, including the appointment of an unelected Governor who retained reserve powers to intervene in the affairs of the Territory;

(d) Noted the statement made that in recent years the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power had become increasingly strained as the United Kingdom had become more intrusive in areas of governance constitutionally delegated to the territorial Government, including the adoption of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 imposing public registers of beneficial ownership on the Territories and that the economic damage caused by that legislation to the Territory’s financial services industry would be irreparable;

(e) Further noted the information provided that a report of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee published in February 2019 contained such recommendations as calling on the overseas territories to legalize same sex marriage, to abolish belonger status and to permit legally resident British and overseas territories citizens currently ineligible to vote and run for office to be able to do so. While the report had no legal force, such recommendations completely disregarded the Constitution of the British Virgin Islands and other territories;

(f) Noted the information provided that the Territory was due for a Constitutional review;

(g) Also noted the update provided on conditions in the Territory following the passage of two hurricanes in 2017, including assistance provided and the recovery process with the goal of rebuilding the society with greater resilience and diversifying the economy to support long-term growth, with the territorial Government as the primary body steering the recovery process;

(h) Welcomed the statement made that the Territory wished to deepen its relationship with the United Nations in support of the sustainable development goals.

(i) Noted the information provided that the British Virgin Islands was unable to access international funds under United Nations programmes such as the Global Environmental Facility and Green Climate Fund and that the Territory would welcome associate membership in the Food and Agricultural Organization as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(j) Welcomed the statement of the representative that the Special Committee had a meaningful role to play and the proposals put forward to the Committee to: facilitate a self-governing assessment of the Territory, evaluating any democratic deficiencies
in the relationship between the Territory and the administering Power; dispatch a visiting mission to the Territory; facilitate an education campaign on self-determination to raise awareness on the range of options besides independence; and sit as an official observer to public deliberations during the Territory's next constitutional review.

With regard to the situation in Montserrat:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the presence of a representative of the territorial Government;5

With regard to the situation in the United States Virgin Islands:

(a) Welcomed the first participation of the United States Virgin Islands in the seminar since 2006 and expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information provided by the Lieutenant Governor;

(b) Noted the statement made that the United States Virgin Islands required separate treatment in the decolonization process;

(c) Further noted the information provided that the United States Congress had passed legislation authorizing a locally drafted constitution, but that such constitution would require the approval of the Congress. However, the United Nations resolution 1514 (XV) would not endorse the adoption of a constitution by a Non-Self-Governing Territory that must be approved by the administering Power.

(d) Also noted the statement made that the current territorial Government recognized the need for the Territory to embark on a new and meaningful conversation regarding its status which should culminate in a status referendum within the four-year term. There were challenges related to the issue of identity and the native inhabitants should be entitled to special recognition. The Territory would welcome the presence of the United Nations as an objective and credible voice regarding the decolonization process as well as financial support and other resources that can serve to advance the dialogue. The administering Power should also provide financial support in this regard.

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the expert from Puerto Rico and the information provided.

(b) Noted the presentation given by the expert, who (i) explained the aggravation of the already serious social and economic problems in Puerto Rico after being devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, (ii) referred to the high level of inequalities in Puerto Rico, noting that poverty had risen from 45 percent to 60 percent after being hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and (iii) also referred to the increase in military presence by the United States, noting that such military buildup was in violation of General Assembly resolution 57/140.

(c) Also noted that in her presentation, the expert indicated that the United States had ignored the 37 decisions adopted by the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, and her assertion that the United States was in violation of General Assembly resolution 1514

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(XV), the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration of Human Rights, the
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Social, Economic Rights.

(d) Further noted the expert's recommendations that the United States should (i) provide
assistance to Puerto Rico to aid in its recuperation of the effects of Hurricanes Irma
and Maria, (ii) allow the aid of international agencies and of those countries which
were willing to help and (iii) comply with its obligation under resolution 1514 (XV)
by accelerating a process that would allow the people of Puerto Rico to freely exercise
their right to self-determination.

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the
Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through
renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the Pacific,
including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific seminar

34. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special
Committee:

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information
provided by a representative of the Governor of Guam;⁶

(b) Noted the latest information on the judicial cases relating the
decolonization plebiscite and the CHamoru Land Trust Commission;

(c) Welcomed that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Government
of Guam were led by women for the first time in the history of Guam;

(d) Noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Guam's Commission on
Decolonization, such as a self-determination study to assess Guam's current political
status and analyse the options of political status and media education campaign;

(e) Noted the request made by the representative at the seminar to dispatch a
visiting mission to the Territory;

(f) Welcomed the determination of the Territory to building strong
relationship with both the United Nations and the administering Power;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made and the information
provided by a representative of the Government of the Territory;⁷

(b) Shared the continuing concern of the Special Committee over the failure
by the administering Power to submit information on the Territory pursuant to Article
73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) In this connection, underlined the importance of securing substantive and
reliable information about the situation in the Territory as a means of complementing
the informational working paper prepared by the Secretariat;

⁶ Executive Director, Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise
of Chamorro Self-Determination.
⁷ Director, Office of International Affairs, International, European and Pacific Affairs Delegation,
Office of the President.
(d) Noted the statement by the representative, who underlined the importance of considering whether some Territories, including French Polynesia, should be kept in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and recalled the request made at the 2017 regional seminar, as reflected in resolution 73/112 of 2018, to remove French Polynesia from that list;

(e) Also noted the information provided by the representative that over the last 40 years pro-autonomy parties had won all elections except for 2004, giving a good indication of the state of opinion in the Territory;

(f) Further noted that upon request from the territorial Government, the autonomy statute was being revised in order to strengthen the partnership with France and included the recognition by the French State of the role played by the Territory in its contribution to the development of nuclear deterrence policy of France;

(g) Noted the information regarding the economic and social situation in the Territory and the invitation extended by the territorial President in October 2018 to visit the Territory;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the representatives of France who updated the seminar participants the situation in New Caledonia, in particular, with regard to the referendum on self-determination, held in the Territory on 4 November 2018, in accordance with the Nouméa Accord,

(b) Noted that in the referendum with a turnout of over 80 per cent of eligible voters, over 56 per cent had voted to remain in France, while 33.43 per cent had wished to pursue full sovereignty.

(c) Commended the cooperation between New Caledonia, France as administering Power, the United Nations and the Special Committee in preparation for the 2018 referendum

(c) Reaffirmed the usefulness of visiting missions to the Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations, as was the case for the 2018 visiting mission to New Caledonia;

(e) Noted two additional referendums to be held in 2020 and 2022 if territorial Congress so requested.

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

(a) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the representative of the administering Power;

(b) Noted the statement made that the Government of New Zealand remained committed to its relationship with Tokelau based on the decisions of the people of the Territory.

(c) Also noted the information provided which summarized the support given to Tokelau and further noted that: New Zealand would provide resources over the next four years to support public services and infrastructure and support Tokelau's climate change adaptation projects; New Zealand had decided to scale up the position of Administrator; and a new Ulu had taken the position in March 2019.
D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating decolonization through renewed commitment and pragmatic measures in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2018 Pacific regional seminar

35. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

With regard to the situation in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which requested the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and the subsequent relevant resolutions adopted at the United Nations, including Assembly resolution 31/49, in which the Assembly called upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the Assembly, and reiterated the request to the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in fulfilling his mission of good offices in compliance with Assembly and Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

Recalled the need to put into practice the appeal made by the United Nations to Spain and the United Kingdom to hold talks on the question of Gibraltar in order to reach, in the spirit of the Brussels Agreement of 27 November 1984 and listening to the interests of the population of Gibraltar, a definitive and negotiated solution to the controversy in the light of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the applicable principles and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, noted that, given that the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar had ceased to exist, Spain and the United Kingdom were trying to set up a new mechanism for local cooperation, in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development, in which the competent Gibraltar local authorities and the competent Spanish local and regional authorities would participate, and expressed the hope that the mechanism could start work soon;

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, reaffirmed all resolutions of the General Assembly and supported all resolutions of the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara, underscored the need for renewed efforts to reinvigorate the search for a lasting political solution to the issue, 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 abovementioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations, and reiterated the call upon the parties, made at previous regional seminars, to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would 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.
E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

36. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), noted the information provided, and expressed gratitude to the Chair, who had sent invitations, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 73/123, to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), ECLAC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Developments, the International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNFPA, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization;

(b) Encouraged all the agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including through participation upon the invitation of the Committee in the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, taking into account the responsibility of the agencies to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(c) Expressed their support for the strengthened role of regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and ESCAP, in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

37. In their concluding observations, the participating members of the Special Committee:

(a) Reaffirmed, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international law, that all peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that 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;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;
(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, and strengthened implementation of its mandate, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list and the need for the Committee to continue to approach each case in a spirit of openness, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) Reiterated their support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in speeding up the decolonization process;

(g) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in the work of the relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change and community empowerment;

(h) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(i) Learning lessons from the practice of holding annual regional seminars, stressed the necessity for the Special Committee to consider updating the rules of procedure for the seminars in order to allow equal and appropriate attention to each Territory on the agenda;

(j) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communication of the Secretariat, to engage actively in and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reached the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) To maintain the global focus of the decolonization agenda, also advised that the Special Committee might hold activities in observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the following:

(i) Holding a special meeting of the Special Committee, specifically devoted to the Week of Solidarity, with invitations extended to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Trusteeship Council;
(ii) Organizing an exhibit of documentaries at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on the history of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(iii) Organizing, at Headquarters, a photo exhibit devoted to the history of the Special Committee, which should feature photographs and other audiovisual material from the archives of the Department of Global Communication;

(iv) Organizing, at Headquarters, a screening of documentaries and an exhibition of audiovisual material on liberation movements in the Territories;

(v) Organizing a talk show with the Chair of the Special Committee on United Nations Radio that might subsequently be broadcast in syndicated form to local radio stations collaborating with the Department of Public Information in disseminating United Nations material;

(l) Suggested that the Special Committee, through its partnership with the Department of Global Communication and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, should compile a press kit on decolonization containing the essential information on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other relevant information to ensure that journalists adequately covered the issue of decolonization, suggested that such a kit might be distributed in both printed and electronic form to the local media in the country hosting the annual regional seminar, and affirmed that all publications that might form a kit were already available;

(m) Recommended that the Special Committee should forge a close working relationship with non-governmental organizations concerned with decolonization, primarily in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a first step in that direction, it might request the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat to compile a list of such organizations with expertise in that area, using as the basis for such an exercise the current list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/2018/INF/5) and, in vetting other non-governmental organizations that did not yet have such status, being mindful of the need to ensure that non-governmental organizations chosen as partners would abide by the ideals of the United Nations and not engage in activities against certain Member States;

(n) Affirmed the understanding that all those proposed activities would be adequately covered in the United Nations media and receive global exposure through the network of United Nations information centres;

(o) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers should consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curricula of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that was respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(q) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all
administering Powers, particularly those that had not done so, needed to engage effectively in the work of the Committee;

(r) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of intensifying current efforts to enhance communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers and urged the Committee to continue to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings and on a case-by-case basis, with a view to making progress in decolonization during the Third Decade;

(s) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of increasing current efforts to enhance relations between the Special Committee and other concerned Member States, stakeholders as well as experts and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(t) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars and that the administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(u) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their Territories, and in that regard continued to note the proposal made by a representative of a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) In that connection, underscored the fact that the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation by its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(w) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to fully engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, to provide assistance to the Territories, and in that regard a proposal was made that the Committee should request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to encourage active interaction between international organizations established in the United Nations system and the Committee, and underlined the fact that the Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies, including improving communication and promoting their participation in the regional seminars to interact with the Committee and providing reports on the work in the Territories;

(x) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress made and things to be done and in that connection invited the Committee to continue to develop a specific project proposal in this regard;
(y) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/123 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, and in that regard noted the interest expressed at the seminar in such visiting and special missions;

(z) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until such time as all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(aa) Stressed that, within the context of the Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to accelerating the decolonization process;

(bb) Encouraged the administering Powers to provide to the Special Committee, under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, the status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.