

Distr. RESTRICTED

CRS/2024/CRP.4

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

**Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pursuing goals and addressing needs of
the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

DRAFT REPORT

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: pursuing goals and addressing needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 14 to 16 May 2024

I. Introduction

1. At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution [75/123](#), declared the period 2021–2030 the Fourth 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/56/61](#), annex) 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 Fourth International Decade.

2. In its resolution 78/101, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2024, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region.

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 would 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 respective contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2024, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

5. The seminar was held in Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), from 14 to 16 May 2024. Five meetings were held, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, an administering Power 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.

6. The seminar was conducted by the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Melissa Rambally, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic,

of), Iraq, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). One administering Power, France, participated as observer. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belize, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Suriname and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May 2024, Samuel Moncada (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) and Yassi Maximin Brou (Côte d'Ivoire) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar, while Fred Sarufa (Papua New Guinea) was appointed Rapporteur.

8. At the same meeting, the seminar adopted its Programme of Work (CRS/2024/CRP.2).

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee:
 - (a) Responding to the goals and needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with practical and achievable steps;
 - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers and relevant stakeholders.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other stakeholders:
 - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
 - (i) In the Caribbean region;
 - (ii) In the Pacific region;
 - (iii) In other regions;
 - (b) Current realities and challenges, including impact of climate change and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Role of the United Nations system in supporting the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.
4. Recommendations for action and for practical and achievable results.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 14 May 2024, Menissa Rambally (Saint Lucia) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Executive Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, H.E. Ms. Delcy Rodríguez Gómez, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Statements and discussions¹

13. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 1 (a) and (b). The Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the Russian Federation, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cote d'Ivoire, India, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan, Argentina, South Africa and Angola. Statements were also made by six experts, Nina Julie, Levay Roy, Julien Tran-Ap, Naïa Wateou, Marie Laure Ukeiwë, Magali Tingal. A statement was also made by the representative of France. An additional statement was also made by three experts Magalie Tingal, Naïa Wateou and Nina Julie.

14. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations on the questions of Anguilla by Kenneth Hodge and of the British Virgin Islands by Eliezer Benito Wheatley.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (i) and heard presentations by two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Martha Quiñones Domínguez. Statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Syrian Arab Republic and Saint Lucia. A statement was also made by Mickael Forrest. A statement was also made by the representative of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP).

16. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (ii) and heard presentations on the questions of French Polynesia by Mareva Lechat-Kitalong, of Guam by Melvin Won Pat-Borja and of New Caledonia by Mickael Forrest. Statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, France and Azerbaijan. Statements were also made by eight experts, Marie-Laure Ukeiwë, Levay Roy, Julien Tran-Ap, Nina Julié, Naïa Wateou, Magali Tingal, Richard Tuheiaa and Anthony Géros.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 15 May, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii) and heard presentations on the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)² by Teslyn Barkman, of Saint Helena by Karl Thrower and of Western Sahara by Sidi Mohammed Omar and M'hamed Abba. A statement was made by an expert, Facundo Rodriguez. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Argentina, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Dominica, Indonesia, Chile, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Belize, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Angola, Algeria and Morocco.

18. At the fourth meeting, on 15 May, the seminar continued its consideration of agenda item 2 (a) (iii). Additional statements were made by the representatives of Algeria and Morocco. Additional statements were also made by Teslyn Barkman. An

¹ Statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, <https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/>.

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).

additional statement was also made by Sidi Omar. Additional statements were also made by an expert, Facundo Rodriguez. An additional statement was also made by the representative of Argentina.

20. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 2 (b). Statements were made by Mickael Forrest, Eliezer Benito Wheatley, Sidi Omar, Melvin Won Pat-Borja and Karl Thrower. Statements were also made by eight experts, Magali Tingal, Nina Julié, Julien Tran-Ap, Levay Roy, Marie-Laure Ukeiwë, Naïa Wateou, Richard Tuheiava and Anthony Géros. An additional statement was also made by two experts, Magali Tingal and Anthony Géros.

21. Also at the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard presentations by the Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Alexander, and by Cristian Morales Fuhrimann, representative of the World Health Organization in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Statements were made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley and Mareva Lechat-Kitalong. Statements were also made by two experts, Carlyle Corbin and Magali Tingal. An additional statement was made by Eliezer Benito Wheatley.

22. At the same meeting, the seminar began its consideration of agenda item 4. A statement was made by Kenneth Hodge. Statements were also made by the representatives Argentina and Cuba. The Chair also made a statement.

23. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, the members of the Special Committee present at the seminar agreed on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which were agreed under silence procedure prior to the meeting.

C. Closing of the seminar

24. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, the Rapporteur presented a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see appendix III), which the seminar participants adopted.

25. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar, contained in document CRS/2024/CRP.4 which the seminar adopted.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Yvan Gil Pinto, made closing remarks. The Chair of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

[...]

Appendix I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Antigua and Barbuda	Clarence Pilgrim
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Diego Pary Rodríguez Sebastián Rodrigo Michel Hoffman Carmen Rosa Rios
Chile	Javiera Villarroel Miguel Meneses
China	Yu Yang
Côte d'Ivoire	Yassi Maximin Brou ^a
Cuba	Yusnier Romero Puentes ^a Rodolfo Benítez Verson Gretter Alfonso Guzmán
Dominica	Kelver Dwight Darroux
India	P.K. Ashok Babu Yukesh Kumar Mari Cruz
Indonesia	Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir ^a Mariska Dwianti Dhanutirto Basana Mangihuttua Sidabutar
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Zahra Ershadi Hamid Roshanaei
Iraq	Hasanain Hadi Hasan Al-Dahlaki
Nicaragua	Jaime Hermida Castillo Eleane Yaoska Pichardo Urbina Daysi Ivette Torres Bosques
Papua New Guinea	Fred Sarufa ^a
Russian Federation	Rodion Grudinsky ^a Sergey Vershinin Sergey Melik-Bagdasarov Victoria Stegnyy Stanislav Aleksaev Vladimir Ivanov Danis Sultanov
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Mutryce Agatha Williams ^a Ghislaine Vivienne Anne-Marie Williams
Saint Lucia	Menissa Rambally ^a Carlton Henry ^a

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Michelle Joseph Tamira Browne Lasana Andrews Maala Theobalds
Sierra Leone	Amara Sheikh Mohammed Sowa ^a Karen Jean Baimarro
Syrian Arab Republic	Koussay Aldahhak ^a Maan Hnawi
Timor-Leste	Dionisio Da Costa Babo Soares Jesuíno de Oliveira Alves
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Yvan Gil Pinto Rubén Darío Molina Tatiana Pugh Carlos Ron Raúl Li Causi Rander Peña Coromoto Godoy Mercedes Chacín Samuel Moncada Andrea Corao Cristiane Engelbrecht Mairín Moreno Joaquín A. Pérez Ayestarán Alexis Madriz Maira Méndez Liliana Gamboa Jomery Rodríguez Jesús Toro Sau Ming Chan Daniela Landaeta Haymara Correa
States Members of the United Nations	
Algeria	Amar Bendjama Toufik Laid Koudri Farida Azzi Abdelghani Merabet
Angola	Mateus Pedro Luemba
Argentina	Maxililiano Javier Alvarez Norberto Fernandez
Azerbaijan	Farid Soltanov
Belize	Carlos Fuller

Comoros	Issimail Chanfi
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Hans Tshinzela Mbale
Djibouti	Youssouf Aden Moussa
Gabon	Lia Bouanga Ayoune
Gambia	Lamin B. Dibba
Mexico	Leopoldo de Gyvés de la Cruz
	Ismael Hernández Lujano
Morocco	Omar Hilale
	Redouane Houssaini
	Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat
	Omar Kadiri
	Abdelaziz Haouaria
	Mouna Ouazzani Chahdi
	Amine Aazizi
Pakistan	Ahmad Hussain Dayo
Senegal	Diamane Diome
South Africa	Murray Duncan Marshall Sterley
Spain	Elena Gómez Aoiz
Suriname	Marlena Wellis
Zimbabwe	Sheillah Chikomo
	Lui Chitima
	Tapiwa Roy Rupende
	Runyararo A. Mutambirwa
	Rutendo Faith Sagwete
Administering Powers	
France	Véronique Roger-Lacan
Non-Self-Governing Territories	
Anguilla	Kenneth Hodge
British Virgin Islands	Eliezer Benito Wheatley
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ^b	Teslyn Barkman
French Polynesia	Mareva Lechat-Kitalong
Guam	Melvin Won Pat-Borja
New Caledonia	Mickael Forrest
Saint Helena	Karl Thrower
Western Sahara	Sidi Mohamed Omar (Frente POLISARIO)
	Mohamed Laarosi Bahia (Frente POLISARIO)
	Mohamed Salem Ali Ergueibi (Frente POLISARIO)
	M'hamed Abba
	Ghalla Bahiya

Funds and programmes of the United Nations system

World Health Organization Cristian Morales Fuhrmann

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Dale Alexander

Regional Organizations

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) Jorge Arreaza

Germania Fernández

Michelle Marquina

Carlos Escalante

Johanna Briones

Melanesian Spearhead Group

Gregoire Nimbtk

Ilan Kilo

Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System (SELA) Clarems Endara Vera

Experts

Carlyle Corbin

Antony Géros

Nina Julié

Annette Martinez Orabona

Facundo Rodriguez

Levay Roy

Magalie Tingal

Julien Tran-Ap

Richard Tuheiava

Marie Laure Ukeiwé

Naïa Wateou

^a Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

^b 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).

Appendix II

Message of the Secretary-General to the Caribbean regional seminar

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to all those taking part in the 2024 regional seminar of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. I thank the people and Government of Venezuela for hosting this event.

This year's meeting puts the spotlight on the challenges and needs of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Despite the climate crisis and the ongoing economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Non-Self-Governing Territories have demonstrated resilience and resourcefulness.

Each Territory is unique, but they all need support. Young people in particular must play a critical role in turning these challenges into opportunities.

The Special Committee will continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories on their path to decolonization. This seminar brings together Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and other stakeholders, C-24 members, other Member States and civil society. It presents an opportunity to exchange ideas and build on accumulated experience to help the Territories prepare for present and future challenges.

As we look to the Summit of the Future in September, let us resolve to create a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient world for the Non-Self-Governing Territories and for all.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful meeting.

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met in Caracas from 14 to 16 May 2024 to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard the important statement at the opening of the seminar by the Executive Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez Gómez,

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

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for providing the Special Committee with the facilities necessary for this seminar, for the outstanding contribution that 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 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
