



General Assembly

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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

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 23 February 2012, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chair: Mr. Fernandez-Taranco (Assistant Secretary-General)

Chair: Mr. Morejón (Ecuador)

Contents

- Opening of the session by the Assistant Secretary-General
- Adoption of the agenda
- Election of officers
- Organization of work
- Other matters

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Opening of the session by the Assistant Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chair** read out a statement from the Secretary-General addressed to the Special Committee.

2. The creation of new sovereign nations had once been described as one of the great liberating movements of history, yet the process of decolonization was still incomplete. Sixteen Non-Self-Governing Territories, which were home to nearly 2 million people, remained in colonial situations. If the international community was to make tangible progress in assisting those Territories to achieve self-determination, all stakeholders, including the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves, had to constructively engage in that process. The Special Committee was in a position to develop innovative approaches and generate new dynamics and it should work with the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, to forge pragmatic partnerships to achieve full decolonization. Sustained and improved official and informal communication between the Special Committee and the administering Powers would be essential. The Secretariat would continue to provide assistance so that the Special Committee could implement its annual programme of work. He wished the Special Committee every success in the year ahead.

Adoption of the agenda

3. The agenda was adopted.

Election of officers

4. *Mr. Morejón (Ecuador) was elected Chair, Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) and Mr. Touray (Sierra Leone) were elected Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) was elected Rapporteur, by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Morejón (Ecuador) took the Chair.*

6. **The Chair** said that the main principles of Ecuador's foreign policy were legal equality between States, solidarity, peaceful coexistence, sovereignty, integrity and the self-determination of peoples. The Government of Ecuador called upon States to develop strategies to achieve one of the main objectives of

humanity in the twentieth century: the eradication of colonialism and the establishment of a world of free and independent peoples. The Special Committee should engage in dialogue with all stakeholders, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves and their administering Powers, to identify a possible course of action for each process of decolonization.

7. The implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism posed a challenge from the development standpoint, and the Special Committee's activities should address the main economic, social and environmental issues, particularly as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would soon be convened. The Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be excluded from that review process, as they too continued to suffer from the negative repercussions of climate change and the international economic and financial crises. The Special Committee must therefore strive to enhance its cooperation with those Territories and ensure that its assistance was as effective as possible.

8. The main focus of the Special Committee's work was to gather information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The 2012 regional seminar, which would be held in the Pacific, would enable participants to exchange information on the situation of those Territories. The Special Committee should also consider other options, including special missions, round tables and meetings for the exchange of ideas. In that connection, an informal meeting could be arranged in New York for the members of the Special Committee and the representatives of administering Powers to discuss specific cases.

9. Delegations should increase their participation in activities to support the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, so that the nearly 2 million people who still lived in colonial situations could look forward to a future of freedom and independence.

Organization of work (A/AC.109/2012/L.1 and L.2)

10. **The Chair** drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/AC.109/2012/L.1, indicating the resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee for the current year. The Special Committee also had before it for consideration document

A/AC.109/2012/L.2, which contained a note by the Chair concerning the Special Committee's organization of work, programme of work and timetable.

11. In that connection, he wished to indicate that, while a tentative timetable had been proposed in that document, consultations were still ongoing in order to accommodate, as much as possible, the interests of all parties concerned in scheduling the work of the Special Committee, particularly with regard to its substantive session. Delegations would be contacted in due course with a finalized proposal for the programme of work.

12. With regard to the substantive schedule contained in document A/AC.109/2012/L.2, he noted that the Special Committee would consider the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) on 14 June 2012, at meetings that would be attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina and his delegation.

13. He took it that the Special Committee wished to approve its proposed organization of work for the current year, as orally revised, on the understanding that the Special Committee might subsequently revise its meeting schedule as and when required.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea) said that, although the Special Committee had been working for three decades to achieve its goals, 16 territories remained on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. He urged the administering Powers to work with the Special Committee to achieve progress in that regard. While the regional seminar would be held in the Pacific region in 2012, he suggested that the Special Committee should consider holding a future seminar in Ecuador, the Chair's country of origin.

16. **Mr. Núñez Mosquera** (Cuba), speaking as Vice-Chair, said that his country was committed to the struggle against colonialism. The Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would signal a change in the work of the Special Committee, and Cuba would increase its efforts with a view to ensuring that the Special Committee achieved its objectives.

17. **Mr. Touray** (Sierra Leone) said that he looked forward to serving as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee, and that he would carry out his duties diligently.

18. **Mr. Daou** (Mali) said that his country's delegation looked forward to working with the Special Committee and the Chair with a view to achieving the aims set forth in the programme of work.

Other matters

19. **The Chair** said that in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Special Committee would be convened without the presence of the quorum required under rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. That would enable the Special Committee to declare its meetings open and to proceed with its work without the required quorum. However, the presence of a majority of the members would be required for any decision to be taken.

20. Informal consultations would be held to consider the issues related to the organization of the next regional seminar of the Special Committee, which would take place in the Pacific region in mid-May 2012.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.