



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 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 June 2013, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Morejón (Ecuador)

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

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.109/2013/L.2*)

1. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the reissued programme of work, as contained in document [A/AC.109/2013/L.2*](#).

2. *The agenda was adopted.*

3. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Spain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates had indicated their wish to participate in the substantive session of the Committee during 2013.

Requests for hearing (Aides-memoires [04/13](#), [05/13](#), [06/13](#) and [07/13](#))

4. **The Chair** drew attention to aides-memoires [04/13](#), [05/13](#), [06/13](#) and [07/13](#) relating to the Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico and the questions of Gibraltar, Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), respectively, and to the various communications attached thereto, which contained 30 requests for hearing. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to those requests.

5. *It was so decided.*

Question of the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2013/18; [A/AC.109/2013/L.4](#))

6. **Ms. Novicki** (Department of Public Information), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2012 to March 2013 ([A/AC.109/2013/18](#)), said that, during the reporting period, the Department had issued 45 press releases and distributed stories through a variety of channels to some 50,000 subscribers on the decolonization work of various United Nations bodies. It had also provided television and radio coverage, including live coverage of 23 formal meetings of the Committee.

7. The Department had produced and packaged videos on events related to decolonization, and continued to maintain and update the United Nations decolonization website in all six official languages, increasing its number of page views by 46 per cent over the previous year. The website for the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of

Non-Self-Governing Territories, which it maintained, also saw a 42 per cent increase in its page views during the same period. Most recently, the Department had deployed a press officer to cover the Pacific regional seminar on decolonization, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2013, and had compiled a background note and information materials for distribution among the participants.

8. The outreach activities of the Department had continued to focus on educating the public about the process of decolonization and its current status, and the Department's guided tours regularly covered the historical process of decolonization. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continued to provide research and information services on the topic of decolonization and had continued to digitize and post important older documents of the United Nations on the Official Documents System, including 80 volumes of landmark documentation on decolonization.

9. The Department had continued to work closely with the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs, using both traditional and new information and communications technologies, to stress the need for immediate and full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The work of the Special Committee remained at the centre of the Department's outreach activities with media, civil society and educational institutions.

10. **Ms. Vaccari** (Department of Political Affairs) said that efforts by the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs to prepare the annual working papers on each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had included a push to make them more informative and concise. While information from administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations served as the basis for updating the working papers, increased contact between the Special Committee and the Territories, including with civil society organizations, would further enhance the quality of those papers.

11. The Unit was responsible for organizing the annual regional seminars, which provided a unique forum for the exchange of views among representatives of the Territories, civil society, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, administering Powers and the Special Committee. The Unit ensured that statements delivered at the seminars were made

available on the United Nations decolonization website.

12. The Unit also maintained a roster of contacts comprising individual experts, academics and non-governmental organizations specializing in decolonization to promote knowledge- and information-sharing. In its ongoing effort to make the United Nations decolonization website a useful educational tool, the Unit had expanded it to include reference material reflecting the work of the Special Committee from 1974 to 1993. The Unit had also worked closely with the Department of Public Information to update the website in the six official languages and would also assist in updating the existing digital brochures and leaflets on decolonization.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.4

13. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.4 was adopted.*

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/68/64 and Add.1; A/AC.109/2013/L.3)

14. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/64 and Add.1), which contained information provided by the administering Powers called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to a draft resolution on the issue (A/AC.109/2013/L.3).

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.3

15. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.3 was adopted.*

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2013/L.5)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.5

16. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.5 was adopted.*

Other matters

17. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea) said that all stakeholders, particularly the administering Powers, should continue supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee to address the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. They should continue to transmit relevant information to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of

the Charter, including disaggregated data on economic, cultural and social developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In the case of New Caledonia, he urged the Department of Political Affairs to help put together such information before the Special Committee completed its consideration of the resolution on that Territory.

18. His delegation commended the Government of France for the information it had provided in 2013 in respect of New Caledonia and hoped that General Assembly resolution 67/266 on the self-determination of French Polynesia would help to improve relations between France, the administering Power of New Caledonia, and the United Nations. The Government of New Zealand should also be commended for providing information on Tokelau. The information obtained from all stakeholders, including the peoples of New Caledonia and Tokelau, would feed into the draft resolution on those Territories which his Government intended to sponsor during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

19. Lastly, the question of sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was a vital means of ascertaining the evolving situation and the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories. In that connection, his delegation noted with concern that it had been six years since the last United Nations decolonization mission to any of those Territories. He urged all stakeholders, particularly the administering Powers, to work together to implement the various resolutions adopted by the United Nations in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.