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Turks and Caicos Islands

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 31 December 2013. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.shtml.



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The Territory at a glance

Territory: The Turks and Caicos Islands is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administering Power: Governor Peter Beckingham (October 2013).

Geography: The Territory comprises 40 islands and cays, and lies 145 km north of Haiti and the Dominican Republic and 925 km south-east of Miami, United States of America. Six islands are permanently inhabited: Grand Turk, where the capital is located; Providenciales, the business and tourist centre with the great majority of the population; North, Middle and South Caicos; and Salt Cay.

Land area: 948.2 km²

Exclusive economic zone: 154,068 km^{2a}

Population: 31,458 (2012 census), comprising 42.5 per cent citizens or “belongers” and 57.5 per cent “non belongers” from the region, North America and Europe.

Language: English

Capital: Cockburn Town

Head of territorial Government: Rufus Ewing (November 2012)

Main political parties: Progressive National Party, People’s Democratic Movement

Elections: Most recent: 9 November 2012; next: 2016

Legislature: House of Assembly

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: \$16,500 (2012 estimate)

Economy: Tourism, financial services, construction

Unemployment rate: 8.5 per cent (2012 estimate)

Monetary unit: United States dollar

Brief history: The first inhabitants of the islands were the Arawaken-speaking Taino people. In 1799, they were annexed by Britain as part of the Bahamas and subsequently Jamaica. They became a separate colony of the United Kingdom in 1962, when Jamaica achieved independence, although there were close constitutional ties with the Bahamas. After the Bahamas became independent, in 1973, a governor replaced the former administrator for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

^a Exclusive economic zone data from the “Sea Around Us” project, a collaboration between the University of British Columbia and the Pew Environment Group (see www.seaaroundus.org).

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. Under the 2006 Constitution negotiated between the elected territorial Government and the United Kingdom, the Turks and Caicos Islands operated until the suspension of the Constitution in August 2009 on the basis of a ministerial system of government (see also [A/AC.109/2013/12](#)). The Governor appointed by the British Crown is responsible for external affairs, defence, internal security, including the police force, and some public service matters. The legislature consists of the British Crown and the House of Assembly, comprising the Speaker, fifteen elected members, four appointed members and the Attorney General. Ten members are elected to represent one electoral district each, and the remaining five by territory-wide vote.

2. On 14 August 2009, the United Kingdom brought into force legislation that, among other things, suspended parts of the 2006 Constitution, removing the ministerial Government and the House of Assembly. The United Kingdom stated that that action had been motivated by mounting evidence, uncovered by a commission of inquiry, of systemic corruption in the Government and legislature and among public officers.

3. Between August 2009 and November 2012, the Governor worked under interim constitutional arrangements with an advisory council and a consultative forum. Each was constituted by islanders appointed by the Governor. This arrangement was referred to as the “interim Government”, the “interim Administration” or “direct rule”.

4. The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011, which entered into force on 15 October 2012, provides for:

- a governor as the head of the Government
- a house of assembly composed of elected and appointed members and the attorney general
- a cabinet
- ministers appointed from among those elected or appointed members

5. It also provides for the judiciary, the public service and a number of institutions protecting good governance, notably an integrity commission, a human rights commission, an auditor general and a director of public prosecutions. Provisions are also made about Crown land and public financial management. Under the Order, the British Crown reserves the power, with the advice and consent of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.

6. On 9 November 2012, elections were held with an 84 per cent turnout of voters. The Progressive National Party, which was in office when the ministerial Government was removed in 2009, won eight seats and the People’s Democratic Movement won seven seats. The leader of the Progressive National Party, Rufus Ewing, was sworn in as Premier on 13 November 2012, returning elected government rule to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Shortly after the elections, petitions were received by the relevant courts challenging the election results in some constituencies. After due consideration, the courts found that one of the results should be annulled. In February 2013, the Governor announced that a by-election

would be held for the Cheshire Hill and Richmond Hill District the following month. It was subsequently won by the candidate of the Progressive National Party, and Mr. Ewing remained the Premier.

7. The law of the Territory consists mainly of locally enacted statutes, along with some laws enacted in the United Kingdom and English common law. The court system includes magistrates' courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, with ultimate recourse to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. On the advice of a judicial service commission, the Governor appoints judges and magistrates. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 provides for the granting of British citizenship to British overseas territory citizens.

8. In February 2013, the Caribbean Community noted with grave concern that, although the elections of November 2012 had led to the restoration of representative government in the Territory, the overall state of political affairs remained less than desirable and the restoration of true democracy was still a long way off. It dispatched a ministerial fact-finding mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands from 24 to 26 June 2013. According to media reports, the mission's internal report contained a number of recommendations, including the holding of a referendum on the acceptance of British rule under the current constitution.

9. For its part, in September 2013 the House of Assembly established a constitutional review committee which, following public consultations, was expected to formulate a document on constitutional matters for presentation to the administering Power.

II. Budget

10. The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands is committed to achieving a fiscal surplus in the financial year ending March 2014, in line with the approved 2013-2014 budget. Significant challenges remain and continuing tight cost control is required to deliver the budgeted revenue surplus. The 2013-2014 budget statement comprised approximately \$189.5 million for recurrent expenditures and \$14.6 million for capital expenditures.

11. The territorial Government levies no taxes on corporate or personal income, capital gains or inheritance. Foreign corporations pay licence fees to operate in the Territory. In 2013, consideration was given to implementing a general service tax and an environmental levy, in addition to broadening hotel and restaurant taxes.

12. According to the administering Power, the Territory should receive €15 million under the tenth European Development Fund, while preparations have been made to facilitate access to the eleventh European Development Fund allocation of €19 million.

III. Economic conditions

A. General

13. The main sectors of the economy are tourism and financial services. According to the Strategic Policy and Planning Department of the territorial Government, the Territory's gross domestic product in 2012 was about \$541 million.

14. In 2013, the territorial Government agreed to establish a public-private sector forum to provide a space for consultation on matters concerning inward investments and development. It also concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Bankers' Association for a community-based, not-for-profit small business development programme, which is expected to provide valuable support to those looking to establish small to medium enterprises in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

B. Tourism and construction

15. Tourism continues to be the Territory's primary industry, accounting for more than 40 per cent of its gross domestic product, where both foreign investors and visitors, mainly from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, play a significant role. In 2012, visitor arrivals increased by 4.2 per cent over the previous year, totalling approximately 967,000 persons. There were some 677,000 cruise arrivals, i.e. an increase of about 3 per cent. The vast majority of tourists continue to be accommodated at resorts on Providenciales.

16. In 2013, the territorial Government approved a tourism policy strategy to promote intra-island and intra-regional travel of tourists visiting the Turks and Caicos Islands. In this connection, it tasked the Tourist Board with beginning discussions with airlines servicing the region and neighbouring countries in order to develop multi-destination packages, with a view to giving tourists from the Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti the opportunity to visit the Territory on day trips or for overnight stays.

17. Construction output, which is closely linked to capital investment in the tourism sector and represents less than 10 per cent of the gross domestic product, fell by more than 9 per cent in 2012. This was also reflected in a decline in the import of building materials. Construction activity, however, is expected to surge in 2014 as a result of foreign direct investment in large-scale tourism-related projects and of a number of public road works.

C. Financial services

18. International financial services, including company registration, trust business and insurance, are a major source of external revenue for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Territory's financial services sector is centred on automobile industry reinsurance in the United States. There are seven commercial banks in the Territory, three of which are Canadian. The licensing, supervision and development of the international financial services sector are entrusted to the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission, which also provides a centralized service for registering companies, partnerships, trademarks and patents in the Territory.

According to the Commission's annual report, the industry remains strong. The asset base of the banking sector stands at \$1.73 billion. The Territory has seen continued growth in its international insurance sector, with a total of 765 licences issued by the Insurance Department.

19. According to the administering Power, the territorial Government continues to seek treaty partners for tax information exchange agreements. The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development undertook Phase 1 of its peer review process in 2011, while Phase 2 was carried out in March 2013. In October 2013, the Global Forum issued a draft report on the assessment of the second phase, indicating that the Territory was largely compliant with its standards. In November of the same year, the report was adopted by the Global Forum at its meeting in Jakarta.

20. Nevertheless, in an assessment conducted for the Financial Secrecy Index that was issued in the same month, the Territory was considered to be towards the top end of financial secrecy arrangements. It was noted that the Territory had still to make major progress in offering satisfactory financial transparency.

D. Agriculture and fisheries

21. Agriculture and fisheries account for approximately 1 per cent of the Territory's GDP. Agricultural production is limited by the lack of fresh water and consists mainly of the growing of vegetables and citrus fruits on the Caicos Islands. According to the administering Power, there are no large or medium commercial producers for either crops or livestock, with the exception of small farms and one pig farm of note.

22. Fishing is the Territory's main primary sector industry, with at least 250 employees. A recent pelagic fishing study found that the Territory produces as much as 5,000 pounds of tuna, swordfish, mahi-mahi and other deep-water fish per year for the local and export markets. In 2013, the United Kingdom supported the Turks and Caicos Islands in developing a sustainable fishing industry.

E. Communications and utilities

23. The Territory's transport and communications facilities are of fairly good quality. The road network covers about 120 km, with 24 km of paved roads on Grand Turk, Providenciales and the Caicos Islands.

24. The Territory has three international airports: the main one on Providenciales, and smaller ones on Grand Turk and South Caicos. Flights are available to a number of cities in the United States and Canada, as well as London. Air Turks and Caicos operates services to the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. In 2011, the runway of the Providenciales international airport was extended, while work began on a significant enlargement of the terminal building in 2013.

25. The main commercial port of South Dock is situated on Providenciales. Grand Turk has a commercial port and a cruise ship terminal. North Caicos has a deep-water port.

26. Three telecommunications companies provide national and international telephone services in the Territory. There are a handful of cable television channels on Grand Turk, more than two dozen channels on Providenciales and six radio stations. A number of weekly papers also maintain websites.

27. According to official sources, the Territory has a monopoly supplier of electricity that produces electricity exclusively from diesel-powered generators. Numerous studies have indicated that, owing to the excessive cost of electricity generation, solar and wind technologies would not only be economically viable, but also offer a less expensive alternative for private individuals. Given the Territory's abundant solar and wind resources, the territorial Government began to explore the use of those renewable energies in 2013, for example through the possible development of pilot microgrids on West Caicos. In February 2014, it announced its commitment to supporting long-term plans to move the Territory towards renewable sources of energy.

IV. Social conditions

A. General

28. In its 2012 preliminary census report, the Territory noted that, of the total population of 31,458, 16,037 were male and 15,421 were female. Approximately 74 per cent of the total population were over 18 years of age. According to official information, there are people from approximately 70 countries living in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

29. The National Insurance Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a statutory body of the territorial Government, is the sole provider of social insurance benefits to persons who are gainfully employed within the Territory between the ages of 16 and 65 years. According to official sources, a number of families are considered to be living below the poverty line and a Territory-wide poverty assessment conducted in 2013 is expected to help to establish priorities to assist the poor. The Department of Social Development and Gender Affairs continues to assist the poor and vulnerable through various programmes, including free medical care.

30. The territorial Government also decided in 2013 to prepare a young adult empowerment policy with a number of goals that it hopes to achieve by 2020, including a significant increase in the percentage of young islanders being employed in a managerial position, owning a first home by the age of 35 years, owning a business, gaining access to tertiary education and having a certified employable skill. The Government intends to facilitate this policy through initiatives and incentives focused on empowering people between 18 and 35 years of age and on expanding the middle socioeconomic class.

B. Labour and immigration

31. The public sector continues to be the Territory's main employer, occupying nearly one fifth of the working population. Other employment sectors include tourism, construction and international financial and business services.

32. Preliminary data from the 2012 census indicate that the population of non belongers has increased, hailing from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. The number of Filipino, European and American employees moving to the Territory has also increased.

33. According to the administering Power, the Territory has put in place since 2012 a transparent and simplified system to obtain British overseas territory citizenship and Turks and Caicos Islander status. It has also introduced guidance and amendments to its immigration ordinance.

C. Education

34. Education in the Territory is free and compulsory for children from 4 to 16 years of age. There are 47 schools, with a total enrolment of approximately 5,200 pupils, covering from preschool up to tertiary education. Of those, 14 are run by the territorial Government, 10 are primary schools and 4 are secondary schools. While there are more private schools than public schools, approximately 80 per cent of pupils are enrolled in public schools. According to the administering Power, there are two schools for children with special needs. The adult literacy rate among islanders is estimated at 98 per cent, while that of immigrants is much lower.

35. In 2013, the Territory began preparations for a five-year strategic education sector plan. An initial study, undertaken with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, identified strategic priority areas, including provision of additional school places, leadership and management, teachers' professional expertise, curriculum development, technical and vocational training, and tertiary and continuing education.

36. With respect to higher education, a community college with branches on Grand Turk and Providenciales provides two-year and four-year courses. Citizens from the overseas territories benefit from the home student fee rate at British universities. The decision that the Council of the European Union adopted in 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union provides for access to, among others, European Union funds, such as those for higher and vocational education.

D. Public health

37. Medical facilities in the Turks and Caicos Islands have recently been improved with the opening of new hospital facilities operated by Interhealth Canada on Providenciales and Grand Turk. They conduct a range of activities, including diagnostic services, primary care and outpatient specialty clinics, emergency services and inpatient care. Serious cases are still referred overseas, usually to Miami or Nassau. According to the administering Power, the Ministry of Health and Human Services elaborated a national strategic health plan in 2012/13. Early in 2014, the territorial Government formed a medical tourism steering committee to develop policies for the operation of medical tourism activities in the hospitals on Providenciales and Grand Turk.

E. Crime and public safety

38. The crime rate in the Turks and Caicos Islands remains low and consists mainly of theft and burglary; however, it also involves some violent crime, such as armed robbery and sexual assault. Little gang-culture crime was reported in 2013. According to the administering Power, there were numerous illegal migrant sloop landings and interdictions of such landings in 2013. Drug seizures within the Territory remain low.

39. In 2013, the United Kingdom funded a law enforcement adviser based in Miami who coordinates, manages and facilitates training and strategic advice to introduce new techniques and skills for the Territory's law enforcement agencies, while *HMS Lancaster* and Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Wave Knight* were on patrol in the Caribbean and North Atlantic to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance as needed. They were also engaged in counter-narcotics and interdiction patrols. Both ships made reconnaissance visits to the Territory to improve their coordination with local disaster management bodies.

40. As previously reported, a large criminal investigation resulted in more than 10 people (including a former Premier and Cabinet ministers) being charged with serious criminal offences. According to the administering Power, most of those will face plea and directions hearings in 2014, with investigations and prosecutions to proceed independently of the elected Government, given that it is for the courts to pass judgement. The former Premier, Michael Misick, who was arrested in Brazil in 2012, was extradited to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2014. Released on conditional bail by the Supreme Court in January 2014, he faces charges of conspiracy to receive bribes and to defraud the Government and of money-laundering relating to his time in office. He is expected to appear at the Supreme Court for a sufficiency hearing later in 2014. As at December 2013, some 3,000 acres of Crown land had been recovered and various financial settlements received, for an amount of approximately \$20 million.

F. Human rights

41. The following major human rights conventions have been extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, the European Convention on Human Rights applies to the Turks and Caicos Islands and individuals have the right to bring cases to the European Court of Human Rights when no other remedy exists in the Territory. Building on the comprehensive review of local laws that the Human Rights Commission of the Turks and Caicos Islands conducted in 2012 to identify weaknesses in the legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, draft laws were prepared during 2013 for consideration by the territorial Government. Furthermore, work continued to implement the Equality Ordinance 2012, which clarifies the protections from discrimination set out in the Constitution.

42. In February 2014, the territorial Government received a delegation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to discuss areas for possible cooperation. Under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Territory has a number of obligations and requirements to fulfil. The Office had previously provided training and advice to the Territory on dealing with asylum and related matters.

V. Environment

43. The Territory's Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs is responsible for the conservation, protection and management of natural resources, including wetlands, which cover nearly 50 per cent of the surface of the islands. Most of the Territory's tourism-based economy hinges on maintaining a natural environment of high quality. While Providenciales is heavily developed, many of the other islands in the archipelago remain largely ecologically intact.

44. The Territory regularly participates in regional meetings sponsored by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, at which planning for sustainable fisheries and disaster risk management are discussed along with climate change issues. The administering Power also continues to provide funds for projects focused on environmental sustainability, including lobster fishing.

45. In January 2014, the Environmental Audit Committee of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom issued a report on sustainability in the United Kingdom overseas territories, in which it identified financial and institutional concerns regarding threats to unique habitats and species and the protection of biodiversity.

46. In the report, the Committee stated that, during its inquiry, the Government of the United Kingdom had expressed general but unspecified aspirations to cherish the environment in the overseas territories, but had been unwilling to acknowledge or to address its responsibilities under United Nations treaties. That was found to be disappointing because the environment in the overseas territories was globally significant and comprised 90 per cent of the biodiversity for which the Government of the United Kingdom had responsibility. According to the Committee, the Government had failed to negotiate the extension of the Convention on Biological Diversity — the flagship United Nations policy on biodiversity protection — to all the overseas territories and had not ensured the accurate monitoring of biodiversity there. The Committee said that, in environmental terms, the white paper on the overseas territories published in 2012 was considered a missed opportunity.

47. Among the conclusions, the Environmental Audit Committee mentioned that:

(a) In the light of the international significance of the biodiversity in the overseas territories, 13 years was too long a gap between white papers on overseas territories;

(b) The Government of the United Kingdom was prepared to exercise hard and soft power in relation to financial matters in the overseas territories, but it was apparently not prepared to exercise those powers to protect biodiversity and to promote environmental sustainability;

(c) The four overseas territories to which the Convention on Biological Diversity had been extended (the British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Saint Helena and the Cayman Islands) had not been effectively included in biodiversity reporting by the United Kingdom; it was felt that compliance with the stipulations of the Convention was ultimately a responsibility of the United Kingdom;

(d) Without enhanced monitoring, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom could not accurately report under the Convention on Biological Diversity on the full extent of biodiversity in the overseas territories and therefore measure progress towards the commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2020.

48. With respect to the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Committee indicated that the Territory lacked baseline standards on development control, such as statutory environmental impact assessments for major developments and strategic development plans. In addition, on Providenciales, the privatization and development of public lands had inter alia substantially degraded environmental resources. The Committee also pointed out that, during the 2009/12 period of direct rule, the interim Government had moved backwards on some aspects of sustainable development and environmental management, such as the encouragement of high-rise developments and the amendment of existing regulations on the protection of marine mammals.

VI. Relations with international organizations and partners

49. The Turks and Caicos Islands has associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, including in the Commission's Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

50. The Turks and Caicos Islands is an associate member of the Caribbean Community (see para. 7 above for information on the ministerial fact-finding mission to the Territory from 24 to 26 June 2013). The Territory is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank, the International Criminal Police Organization and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. Furthermore, it is a member of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and an associate member of the Association of Caribbean States.

51. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, the Territory is associated with the European Union but is not a part of it. Since January 2014, the Territory has been a partner under the above-mentioned decision of the Council of the European Union, approved, among other things, in an effort to move away from a classic development cooperation approach to a reciprocal partnership that promotes sustainable development and the values and standards of the Union in the wider world. Information on grant aid provided to the Territory by the European Union can be found in section II above.

VII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

52. Information on political and constitutional developments is contained in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

53. On 11 October 2013, at the 7th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of the Government of the United Kingdom with its overseas territories was modern and based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each territory to determine whether to remain British. Should the people of a territory choose to remain British, the United Kingdom would maintain and deepen its special relationship with them.

54. He went on to say that since the publication in June 2012 by the Government of the United Kingdom of a white paper entitled *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, the United Kingdom had been working closely with the territories to develop that partnership further. His Government had a fundamental responsibility to ensure the security and good governance of its overseas territories. The United Kingdom had strengthened the annual meeting with territory leaders into a joint ministerial council and had given it a clear mandate to lead work to review and implement the strategy and the commitments set out in the white paper (see [A/C.4/68/SR.7](#)).

55. At the second meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, held in London on 26 November 2013, the United Kingdom and overseas territory leaders agreed upon a communiqué that included the following passage setting out the joint position of the United Kingdom and the overseas territories on self-determination:

We reiterate our commitment to continuing to build a modern relationship based on partnership, shared values and the principle of self-determination. The people of each territory have the right to choose whether or not their territory should remain a British overseas territory or to seek an alternative future.

...

The right of self-determination is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We believe that the people of all overseas territories have a right to determine their own futures, to decide on the path they wish to take and to maintain freely their constitutional link with the United Kingdom if that is their choice. Being a British territory entails a balance of benefits and responsibilities. We affirm a commitment to shared values, high standards of governance and building a stronger partnership. Any decision to break the constitutional link should be on the basis of the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the people of the Territory. We believe that the United Nations Decolonization Committee should delist territories where this is their wish.

Each territory is unique and has its own constitution. We will continue work to complete the process of constitutional modernizations so that territories have the greatest self-government possible.

C. Action by the General Assembly

56. On 11 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolutions 68/95 A and B, based on the report of the Special Committee (A/68/23) and the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. Section X of resolution 68/95 B concerns the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the operative paragraphs of that section, the General Assembly:

1. *Notes with grave concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;
 2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government;
 3. *Also notes* the extensive public consultations undertaken by the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser and the continuing debate on constitutional and electoral reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;
 4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of the people of the Territory, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;
 5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;
 6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
 7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory.
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