



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

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

I. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items before it directly at its plenary meetings. In recent years, the Special Committee has succeeded in keeping the number of its formal meetings to a minimum through increasing reliance on informal consultations, including by the Bureau, for the consideration of some of the issues before it.
2. The Chair recommends that the Special Committee continue to use informal meetings as much as possible, and, as warranted, the Chair would consult with the Bureau on urgent and/or specific issues relevant to the Committee's work.

II. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee in 2015. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chair would, in particular, like to draw the attention of the Special Committee to paragraph 7 (d) of General Assembly resolution 69/107, in which the Special Committee was requested to develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.
4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the subject



(A/AC.109/2015/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should be guided by General Assembly resolution 65/119, in which Member States were called upon 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 in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

III. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chair will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for the consideration of items in plenary meetings and on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Third International Decade.

6. In the meantime, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (see A/69/23, sect. I.F, para. 30).

IV. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Committee continue to formulate its decisions in the same format as those of the General Assembly and to submit them to the Assembly at its seventieth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of its report to the Assembly.

V. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Annex

A. Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2015

<i>Question</i>	<i>Procedure for consideration</i>
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolutions 2911 (XXVII) and 69/107 and decision 37/421)	As appropriate
Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 65/119 and annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade (A/56/61))	
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 69/97)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 69/98)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 69/99)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 69/100)	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly resolution 58/316, annex, sect. D, para. 4 (b))	
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 69/523)	
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 69/101)	
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 69/102)	
French Polynesia (General Assembly resolution 69/103)	
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 69/104)	
American Samoa (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Anguilla (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Bermuda (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	

<i>Question</i>	<i>Procedure for consideration</i>
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Guam (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Montserrat (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Saint Helena (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolutions 69/105 A and B)	
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 69/107, paras. 7 (e) and 14)	
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 69/107, para. 7 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 69/106)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision concerning Puerto Rico (A/69/23, para. 25)	
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/2014/L.14, paras. 2-3)	
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/2014/L.14, para. 9)	

B. Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Thursday, 19 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
Wednesday, 25 March (1 meeting)	Organization of the forthcoming Caribbean Regional Seminar
Monday, 15 June (1 meeting)	Dissemination of information on decolonization Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations Question of sending visiting missions to Territories Question of Gibraltar Question of Western Sahara
Tuesday, 16 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 17 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 18 June (1 meeting)	Informal consultations
Monday, 22 June (2 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Tuesday, 23 June (1 meeting)	Question of Tokelau Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Thursday, 25 June
(1 meeting)

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)^a

Friday, 26 June
(1 meeting)

Question of French Polynesia

Question of New Caledonia

Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar

Report of the Special Committee: adoption of
recommendations

^a 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).
