



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1999/SR.16
14 December 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 July 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. DONIGI

(Papua New Guinea)

CONTENTS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

OTHER MATTERS

CLOSURE OF THE 1999 SESSION

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

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

2. The CHAIRMAN, reporting on his meeting with the President of the Economic and Social Council in New York the previous week, said that he had briefed the President on the Committee's programme of work, including its informal consultations with the administering Powers, and on the issues covered at the Caribbean Regional Seminar in Saint Lucia. He had particularly emphasized the need for constructive cooperation between the Committee and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

3. The President had stated that he wished to formalize the relationship between the two bodies. The Chairman had proposed the organization of a joint meeting under the programme of work for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism or of joint meetings after the Committee had formulated a programme of work for the year 2000 and beyond. The President had informed him that he would discuss the matter with the Council's Bureau.

4. The Chairman said that he had had similar discussions with the Vice-President of the Council in Geneva where, two days previously, he had presented the Committee's report to the Council at its substantive session. The President had informed him that a draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, would be introduced by the delegation of Cuba.

OTHER MATTERS

5. The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the proposed text entitled "Future work", said he took it that the Committee wished to approve it and to authorize the Rapporteur to include it in the relevant section of Part I of the report of the Special Committee to be submitted to the General Assembly.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. LEGOWO (Indonesia) said that his delegation had been consistent in its opposition to consideration of the question of East Timor in the Committee. East Timor would remain a part of the Republic of Indonesia until the decision of the East Timorese people, in the popular consultation scheduled under the 5 May Agreement was known. His delegation would therefore oppose any reference to the question in the Committee's report.

/...

8. Ms. SILVESTRE (Portugal) said that until the question of East Timor had been settled, her delegation would favour the inclusion of that question in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

9. The CHAIRMAN, recalling that the Committee had decided at a previous meeting to include that question in its report, assured the representative of Indonesia that his objections would be reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

10. The CHAIRMAN, noting that some delegations had raised the issue of establishing some form of guidelines in respect of representation of the Committee at various activities such as seminars and visiting missions, drew attention to paragraph 4 of document A/AC.109/1999/L.12 and suggested that the Committee should discuss the establishment of such guidelines in a formal meeting at its next session.

11. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE 1999 SESSION

12. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the spirit of constructive cooperation that had prevailed during the session, which had enabled the Committee not only to complete its established programme of work, but also to undertake a critical review of its work so that it could improve its effectiveness. He stressed, in particular, the steps taken to strengthen and revitalize cooperation with the administering Powers and the contribution of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, who had proposed measures for the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It was essential that the views of the Territories should be taken into account in any results-oriented programme of work for the future.

13. During the penultimate year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Committee's deliberations had focused on the situation prevailing in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which were small islands. Their particular needs and vulnerabilities had been highlighted at the Caribbean Regional Seminar in Saint Lucia, where participants had focused on the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. Upon deliberation, the Committee had adopted the substantive conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.

14. The Committee had also reviewed the information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It had adopted one decision and nine resolutions by consensus and one resolution on Puerto Rico by roll-call vote.

15. One consequence of the Committee's work during the year had been focus on establishing a pragmatic dialogue with the administering Powers with a view to further implementation of the Declaration in the remainder of the International Decade. The administering Powers had indicated their interest, and the Committee intended to continue the dialogue. In that regard, the cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was needed for progress to be realized.

/...

16. Although the session was concluding, the Committee's work was not yet done. However, it should seize the opportunity to make progress in engaging the administering Powers in the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate.

17. He then declared the 1999 session of the Special Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.