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**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**

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the 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

Report of the President of the Council

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2024/21, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 79/96 on 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, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in their economic and social sectors. In paragraph 21 of the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate on the question of providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Council to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation with the Special Committee, with the aim of developing appropriate measures for the further coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 79/95, encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on that matter.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),¹ French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to those Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. Responses were received from 19 United Nations system entities. The International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Intellectual Property Organization indicated that they did not have any information to submit on the issue. According to the information received and compiled below, during the period under review, the 14 organizations indicated continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

¹ 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).

pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[7 February 2025]

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continued to provide support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in 2024.² Priority attention was given to supporting and advocating for the Territories in international forums and responding to needs related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the small island developing States platform. This included the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and support in the lead-up to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and for the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity. The Territories of the Caribbean share many of the development challenges that are common to the wider subregion, including economic challenges, such as diseconomies of scale, vulnerability to external shocks and, for some, high levels of indebtedness; social challenges, such as high levels of poverty and inequality and challenges related to organized crime and gang violence; and environmental challenges, such as pollution, biodiversity loss and vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events. To address these challenges, ECLAC prioritizes integrated support for and the engagement of its members, including the seven Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

ECLAC resolution 574 (XXVII) is aimed at ensuring that all Caribbean voices are heard and channelled in regional and global forums. The adoption in 2022 by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of resolution 111 (XXIX) on support for the associate member countries of ECLAC provided further impetus for the work of ECLAC with the Territories. This was further expanded upon in Committee resolution 116 (XXX) on the same topic, adopted in 2024, under which the Committee requested ECLAC to expand data collection and reporting on its associate members, with a view to shaping appropriate programmes of assistance for them, and to establish a working group to facilitate United Nations system collaboration on that matter.

1. Support in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2024, support from ECLAC to the Territories was concentrated on research aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. This encompassed analyses of the development profiles of ECLAC associate members, research on international migration and sustainable development, a preliminary overview of Caribbean economies and a study on artificial intelligence readiness in the Caribbean. In addition, ECLAC held both online and in-person workshops on gender data collection for the Turks and Caicos Islands, to increase their capacity to produce gender statistics.

2. Facilitating participation in regional and global conferences and platforms

Every effort is made to support the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in regional and global platforms. All associate members, including the Territories, are invited to participate in the 11 intergovernmental bodies

² Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

for which ECLAC serves as secretariat. In 2024, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat attended the thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and participated actively in the meeting held to discuss the situation of the associate members of ECLAC.

Several Territories have participated actively in regional meetings on sustainable development, including those of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition. The Premier of the British Virgin Islands presented the Climate Change Trust Fund Act at a side event hosted by the Parliamentary Observatory during the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Antigua and Barbuda on 29 May 2024. This Fund is the region's first public trust fund established by statute, focused exclusively on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

3. Conclusion

Ultimately, ECLAC attaches great importance to the sustainable development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and continues to actively support their sustainable development aspirations through various interventions. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee resolutions 85 (XXV), 111 (XXIX) and 116 (XXX), as well as ECLAC resolution 574 (XXVII), directly inform the way in which ECLAC engages with the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its other associate members. Notwithstanding its commitment and the exhortations for the provision of United Nations system support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories across several General Assembly resolutions, ECLAC continues to be challenged to adequately resource its interventions. Predictable financial support would be essential for the accomplishment of the goals set out in Committee resolution 116 (XXX), including the full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the expansion of data collection and reporting, the provision of direct assistance to the associate members and support for the preparation, conduct and presentation of local voluntary reviews of their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[4 February 2025]

The work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the Pacific is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development priorities articulated in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity. The Commission is seeking to strengthen its reach and presence in countries and the subregion and has identified five key areas for the acceleration of action in the Pacific: climate change and disaster risk reduction; sustainable management and use of oceans; regional integration and connectivity; social inclusion; and data and policy coherence.

Every effort is made to support the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific in subregional, regional and global platforms. At the subregional and regional levels, the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of ESCAP are invited to participate in the intergovernmental bodies for which the Commission serves as secretariat and in multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue.

In 2024, ESCAP prioritized support for the engagement and participation of Pacific small island developing States in the lead-up to and at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, including in subregional and

interregional preparatory meetings, in order to ensure that their priorities were included in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda.

The Pacific region is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with regression in Goals 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). The inadequacy of data has hampered efforts to monitor and evaluate the implementation of various global, regional and Pacific agendas and identify targeted measures.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[19 February 2025]

The joint programme for Tokelau, which is implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is focused on integrated policy solutions, food security and sustainable ocean management, with a budget of \$424,398. Over 300 community members across the three atolls of Tokelau benefited directly from the programme, which contributed to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal targets.

UNICEF developed a national early childhood development policy for Tokelau through extensive community consultation. The policy, supported by a costed action plan and a national advisory committee, is aimed at improving early learning, childcare and family well-being.

FAO established community food gardens, produced and distributed vegetables, trained over 150 participants (including members of women's groups, members of men's groups and schoolchildren) and promoted home gardening, healthy diets and sustainable soil improvement practices. These efforts improved food accessibility, nutrition and local agricultural practices. They were complemented by cooking demonstrations and awareness-raising campaigns and helped to increase ownership and participation, ensuring sustainability beyond the programme's life cycle.

UNDP led the creation of a blue economy road map and action plan for the period 2025–2030, engaging local councils and stakeholders with regard to sustainably managing marine resources. The initiative was marked by strong collaboration between the United Nations and Tokelau.

In terms of the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme served to directly advance the achievement of the following targets:

- Targets 2.2 and 2.4, by addressing malnutrition and promoting sustainable agrifood systems
- Target 4.2, by improving access to early childhood development
- Targets 14.2 and 14.7, by strengthening sustainable ocean management and economic benefits for small island developing States.

This whole-of-community approach helped to strengthen education, food security and local resilience and foster long-term well-being. Under the joint programme, support was provided to advance progress towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, including by reducing malnutrition (Goal 2), improving early childhood development (Goal 4) and promoting sustainable ocean management (Goal 14), while empowering communities and aligning with the priorities of Tokelau.

D. International Maritime Organization

[10 February 2025]

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) provides assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories primarily through regional interventions, through which IMO funds their participation in maritime forums and workshops.

In 2024, IMO delivered three regional activities (see table below) in support of the maritime sector in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, involving six Territories. Those activities included the regional meeting of directors and heads of maritime administrations, which was attended by representatives from five Territories, five of whom were women. In addition, one Territory sent a representative to a regional workshop on the 2023 IMO strategy on the reduction of greenhouse emissions, held in the Caribbean, at which there were no women participants. In the Pacific, the activity was focused on enhancing domestic ferry safety in small island developing States and was attended by one Territory. No women participated in that activity.

While Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) is central to IMO activities, most of the Goals can be realized only if there is a sustainable transport sector supporting world trade and facilitating the global economy. The three activities delivered in 2024 were aimed at contributing directly to the realization of Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Non-Self-Governing Territory participation in regional activities

<i>Capacity-building activities</i>	<i>Participating Non-Self-Governing Territories</i>	<i>Female participants</i>
Regional meeting for directors and heads of maritime administrations (May 2024)	Anguilla	1
	British Virgin Islands	2
	Cayman Islands	–
	Montserrat	1
	Turks and Caicos Islands	1
Regional workshop on the 2023 strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to reduce shipping emissions in the Caribbean (July 2024)	Cayman Islands	–
Fourth Pacific domestic ship safety forum (October 2024)	Tokelau	–

E. International Monetary Fund

[28 January 2025]

The engagement of the International Monetary Fund with the dependent Territories of a member constitutes a part of a broader engagement with the member. Separate data collection and assessments of issues specific to dependent Territories are therefore not common. A list of capacity-development projects carried out in 7 of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories during the fiscal year 2024 (1 May 2023–30 April 2024) is presented below.

1. Anguilla

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: external sector (external sector statistics); macroeconomic programming and analysis (macroeconomic programming and analysis); public financial management II (asset and liability management and budget preparation); national accounts (real sector statistics – national accounts); and revenue administration II (tax administration and customs administration).

2. Bermuda

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: balance of payments (balance of payments); external sector (external sector statistics); and revenue administration II (customs administration).

3. British Virgin Islands

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: balance of payments (balance of payments); external sector (external sector statistics); macroeconomic programming and analysis (macroeconomic programming and analysis).

4. Cayman Islands

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: balance of payments (balance of payments); external sector (external sector statistics); real sector – prices (real sector statistics – prices); and revenue administration II (customs administration).

5. Montserrat

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: external sector (external sector statistics); financial and fiscal law reform (financial and fiscal law reform); public financial management II (fiscal reporting); real sector – national accounts (real sector statistics – national accounts); revenue administration II (tax administration).

6. Tokelau

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: public financial management II (comprehensive, credible and policy-based budget preparation) and real sector – national accounts (real sector statistics – national accounts).

7. Turks and Caicos Islands

Capacity-development projects in the following workstreams: balance of payments (balance of payments); external sector (external sector statistics); financial and fiscal law reform (tax law reform); financial supervision and regulation (banking and insurance supervision and regulation); macroeconomic programming and analysis (macrofiscal forecasting); public financial management II (budget execution, budget preparation, fiscal reporting); real sector – prices (real sector statistics – prices); revenue administration II (tax administration and customs administration); and systemic risk analysis (systemic risk and financial stability).

F. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

[8 February 2025]

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights underscores and recognizes the importance of the General Assembly resolutions relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

While the Office did not implement any specific activities in or provide any assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean during the reporting period, it continued to support the integration and mainstreaming of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, in the implementation of the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean for the period 2022–2026.

G. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[7 February 2025]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is implementing the Automated System for Customs Data project in several Non-Self-Governing Territories. The System, which underpins the full customs clearance process, supports the Territories in building an efficient and effective customs administration and trade environment. Accordingly, the project serves:

- To boost the territorial economy by improving revenue collection
- To reduce corruption and ease trade
- To reduce the time and cost of international trade
- To promote green transport and improve supply chain efficiency
- To assist the territorial Governments in implementing national and international policy
- To protect the Territories by facilitating measures to combat fraud and the illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods and the illegal exploitation of marine and other natural resources
- To provide statistical information on foreign trade transactions that is essential for economic planning and encouraging international trade.

The project is at various stages of implementation in each of the Territories, as set out below.

1. Anguilla

Anguilla implemented the Automated System in 2011. In July 2019, an upgrade project was initiated, enabling the Customs Department to further automate customs processes and benefit from enhanced functionalities. The upgraded version was successfully launched in February 2020, just before the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. That same year, the Customs Department successfully implemented the system's web portal, to further enhance and modernize the quality of customs processes. In 2022, import and export transactions increased by 13 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, in comparison with 2021. There was no project activity in 2024. Nevertheless, Anguilla continued to benefit from the system by enhancing and modernizing the quality of customs processes and receiving support from the project.

2. Gibraltar

In 2024, as part of the implementation of the Automated System, technical assistance and support were provided for the enhancement of the System and the strengthening of customs operational capacity.

3. Montserrat

Montserrat adopted the Automated System in 2011. In February 2021, an upgraded version was deployed, introducing additional features and enabling integration with other government systems, in particular the Port Authority cargo manifest data exchange. The System has allowed for the streamlining of clearance processes, the reduction of paper-based transactions and the minimization of their associated costs. There was no project activity in 2024. Nevertheless, Montserrat continued to benefit from the System by enhancing and modernizing the quality of customs processes and receiving support from the project.

4. New Caledonia

In 2021, New Caledonia migrated its customs system to the Automated System, which allowed for the centralization of data exchange 24 hours a day, seven days a week, interconnection with public and private entities and the computerization of new processes. In 2023, an extension of the System implementation project was signed to maintain the System and enhance its services and functionalities.

In 2024, the System was enhanced with the development and integration of additional modules and functionalities. The System support project was renewed in 2024 up to the end of 2025. Additional support costs are borne by the territorial Government.

5. Saint Helena

The Automated System has been operational since 2015. It includes the online manifest submission procedure, customs declaration processing and selectivity features. In 2022, import and export transactions increased by 15 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively, in comparison with 2021. There was no project activity in 2024. Nevertheless, Saint Helena continued to benefit from the System, by enhancing and modernizing the quality of customs processes and receiving support from the project.

6. Turks and Caicos Islands

The Automated System was implemented in April 2011. Since its initial launch, no further updates or upgrades have been installed. In 2021, a module for the examination of imported vehicles was integrated into the System. The automation of the process allows traders to enter information directly in the System for subsequent examination by customs officers. In 2024, the Customs Department submitted a request for the upgrading of the System, which is currently under discussion.

H. United Nations Development Programme

[11 February 2025]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides support to Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a focus on six Caribbean Territories, namely, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. These territories benefit from an integrated and regionally coordinated approach through UNDP multi-country offices in Jamaica (covering Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands) and

Barbados (covering Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat), leveraging the Caribbean Action Plan and partnerships with the Caribbean Community.

Key initiatives include the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project, which is co-funded by the Global Environment Facility and is a key regional framework for addressing issues, such as overfishing, pollution and habitat degradation, and promoting sustainable ocean resource management.

UNDP interventions are focused on key areas, such as disaster resilience and economic diversification in the British Virgin Islands, socioeconomic recovery efforts in response to external shocks like the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the promotion of a blue economy across the Caribbean. In addition, UNDP supports efforts to combat drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities through regional platforms, such as Blue Justice hubs, ensuring that the sustainable use of natural resources benefits the people of these territories.

UNDP analyses progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets for the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda and Tokelau, as outlined below.

1. British Virgin Islands

The Territory is making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and, specifically, target 14.1. However, the Territory is off track for target 14.5. The Territory is also off track for target 5.b of Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). In addition, there are data gaps regarding other targets under both Goals.

2. Bermuda

Bermuda is making progress towards achieving several Sustainable Development Goals. Target 1.4 of Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) is on track, while target 1.3 is under review. Target 8.4 of Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) is off track. Targets 10.7 and 10.a of Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) are on track. Several targets of Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) are on track, including target 17.8, while targets 17.6, 17.7, 17.11 and 17.13 are off track. In addition, there are data gaps across the targets of Goals 5 and 13.

3. Tokelau

Tokelau is making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and, specifically, target 14.1. However, there are data gaps with regard to targets 14.2 and 14.7. Target 1.4 of Goal 1 is on track, while there are data gaps regarding other targets. Target 2.5 of Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) is off track, but target 2.a shows increased investment in agriculture. While there are data gaps regarding Goal 5, gender-specific initiatives have been established, such as gender-responsive blue economy strategies. Some of the targets of Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), which highlights environmental challenges, such as climate change and natural disasters, also have data gaps.

I. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[14 February 2025]

The following Non-Self-Governing Territories are associate members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, New Caledonia and Tokelau.

In February 2024, UNESCO organized a workshop on crisis preparedness and response for journalists and broadcasters, attended by three women from Anguilla, four from the British Virgin Islands and one from the United States Virgin Islands. During the workshop, the Organization emphasized a gender-responsive approach that addressed the differential impact of disasters on women and men and introduced initiatives for developing disaster risk assessments, business continuity plans and the use of digital technologies for real-time reporting. The training workshop was also focused on ethical reporting, the avoidance of stereotypes and sensitive coverage of the experiences of disaster survivors, including those affected by gender-based violence. The project was aimed at building media resilience in disaster-prone Caribbean territories, in support of Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11.

Anguilla was recognized as tsunami ready in 2011, and the British Virgin Islands achieved the same status in 2014, under the UNESCO and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Caribbean pilot project. Currently, one of the Vice-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions hails from the United States Virgin Islands. In addition, the Vice-Chair of the working group on tsunami warning dissemination and communication is from Anguilla.

New Caledonia is hosting the Oceania Regional Seismic Network server, which transmits metadata to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, strengthening the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

Tokelau participated in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories Regional Exercise during the Pacific Wave Exercise in 2022 and 2024. It also participated in the thirtieth session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, held in Tonga in September 2023.

Through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO continues to work closely with relevant Tokelau authorities to provide access to Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System products from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre and inform national tsunami warning arrangements. In collaboration with New Zealand and the International Tsunami Information Centre, efforts are under way to strengthen tsunami standard operating procedures, the national tsunami response plan and the implementation of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme in Tokelau.

With regard to culture, five Territories (Bermuda, French Polynesia, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Saint Helena) are home to six world heritage sites. French Polynesia has two such sites, which were inscribed on the list in 2017 and 2024, respectively.

UNESCO has engaged a team of regional experts to develop the Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery of the Culture Sector, in collaboration with officials and experts from the Caribbean Community. The Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery of the Culture Sector (2023–2033) constitutes a specific agenda geared towards supporting disaster resilience and recovery in the cultural sector across the Caribbean, including in Territories, such as Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat. The Plan is

focused on awareness-building, capacity-building, institutional strengthening, policy and legislation and the promotion of synergies and best practices across the region, as well as on the need to strengthen coordination among disaster, climate change and cultural actors.

J. United Nations Environment Programme

[4 February 2025]

1. Marine plastics

The Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea project (2024–2026) is currently in the implementation phase in the British Virgin Islands. The agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the project implementing partner was signed on 25 July 2024 for the amount of \$403,622.40, and the political counterpart is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour. The broader project activities include: (a) mapping waste streams and establishing monitoring systems; (b) implementing circular economy solutions at pilot sites; (c) strengthening policy capacities; and (d) raising stakeholder awareness. The principal activities in 2024 included: (a) participation in a project inception meeting and study tour in the Dominican Republic; (b) stakeholder mapping and project scoping; and (c) participation in the project's annual meeting and summit in Colombia.

2. Blue economy

The secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region provided support to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat to attend the fourth Blue Economy Roundtable, convened by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, together with auxiliary events, on 15 and 16 October 2024. At the meeting, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission partnered with the Convention secretariat to focus on identifying and navigating the diverse pathways needed to develop blue economies, ensure policy coherence and meet regional and international commitments.

3. Pollution prevention and control

The secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region provided coordination support for a counter-pollution workshop organized by the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held in Miami, United States of America, from 27 to 29 November 2024, with the aim of furthering collaboration by sharing the challenges faced by regional maritime authorities

K. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[7 February 2025]

1. Drug trafficking and drug control

In 2024, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published a key report entitled *Transnational Organized Crime in the Pacific: Expansion, Challenges and Impact*.³ The authors of the study describe what is known about the mechanics of contraband trafficking, including the modus operandi, networks and

³ See www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/TOCTA_Pacific_2024.pdf.

illicit flows, and discuss the potential impact of such trafficking on governance and development in the Pacific.

2. Corruption

UNODC supported the development of the Teieniwa Vision action plan to guide coordinated implementation efforts while concurrently delivering regional training programmes for law enforcement personnel, supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption agencies on corruption investigation and the prevention of corruption. The Teieniwa Vision⁴ is the Pacific region's anti-corruption blueprint, which was endorsed by all 18 Pacific Island Forum leaders, including those from French Polynesia and New Caledonia. The Vision serves as the foundation for a strong regional approach to combating corruption, emphasizing the need for well-resourced national efforts that are rooted in transparency, accountability and good governance. As part of this initiative, UNODC has engaged with Tokelau to support its anti-corruption efforts. In close coordination with local authorities, a tailored approach was developed to address the unique geographical and political context of Tokelau.

L. Universal Postal Union

[2 February 2025]

As an intergovernmental organization of a technical character and specialized agency of the United Nations, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is currently composed of 190 sovereign States.

For a number of Territories, the relevant provisions of the Acts of UPU apply in full, particularly with regard to the operation and regulation of international postal services and due fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Acts of UPU. Some of these Territories may also benefit, on a regular basis, from technical cooperation and other UPU projects.

Some Territories have their own designated operators, namely, the governmental or non-governmental entities officially designated by the member country to operate international postal services and fulfil the related obligations arising from the Acts of the Union.

Furthermore, UPU has provided training workshops on electronic advance data, its Customs Declaration System and its International Postal System, as well as on operational efficiency and e-commerce development, for the Caribbean region. In addition, UPU organized a disaster risk management expert training workshop for the Caribbean region.

Lastly, UPU conducted operational and security certification reviews in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands and launched pilot projects for disaster risk management certification (one of which has already been completed by Bermuda), in order to assist its members in identifying opportunities to improve security and measure designated operators' compliance with UPU security standards.

UPU does not have additional information on gender-specific data regarding participation by women and the assistance provided to them. Similarly, there is no further coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic-related information concerning

⁴ See www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/archive/documents/pacific/2021/Teieniwa_Vision_PUAC_post_LEADERS.FINAL.pdf.

the impact of the pandemic on the mentioned Territories and the support provided to address those challenges.

M. World Food Programme

[13 February 2025]

Since 1986, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been supporting the most food-insecure people in and around the Tindouf camps to meet their basic food and nutritional needs and strengthen their livelihoods. The interim country strategic plan 2019–2024 for Algeria is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

In 2023, WFP served its beneficiaries mostly with in-kind general food assistance, distributing more than 2,000 tons of commodities per month. More than 40,000 schoolchildren in the camps received nutritious mid-morning snacks while 8,600 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls received monthly cash-based transfers to diversify their diets and thereby contribute to anaemia prevention. WFP also provided special nutritious food to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia among pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6 to 59 months. In 2023, the total number of beneficiaries reached 133,672, of which 49 per cent were female and 51 per cent male. Beneficiaries included an estimated 3,993 persons with disabilities, among whom the gender distribution was the same (49 per cent female and 51 per cent male).

WFP strengthened the development of an integrated resilience approach, combining environmental and social responses to the needs in the camps. WFP provided agricultural training to beneficiary families and the community, resulting in the reactivation of gardens at the family, regional and school levels. In addition, green fodder production plots were restarted. Resilience-building activities in camps are aimed at improving local food production and increasing access to fresh produce within the community through the adoption of an integrated food system approach that takes into accounts such elements as livelihood enhancement, climate change adaptation, environmental protection and impact sustainability.

In the first half of 2023, approximately 82 per cent of households reported adequate food consumption, up from 75 per cent in 2022. This improvement was largely due to the full rations provided by WFP. However, in the June 2023 post-distribution monitoring report, ongoing concerns about the consumption of micronutrients, particularly vitamin A and haem iron, were highlighted.

As resources allowed, WFP distributed a monthly food basket of 2,216 kcal per day and per capita, which was adjusted to beneficiary preferences throughout the year. However, due to challenges with contributions, including delays in the latter half of 2023, WFP was forced to apply reductions to the rations received by beneficiaries. A 25 per cent reduction was made to barley, rice and lentil rations and a 37.5 per cent reduction to fortified wheat flour rations for the months of November and December.

Following the 2022 nutrition survey, WFP conducted a nutrition causal analysis to delve deeper into the core reasons and variables contributing to malnutrition among the population. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and WFP started a food security and nutrition analysis at the end of 2023 to assess the food security and nutrition situation.

In November 2023, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, key humanitarian stakeholders in the camps launched the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan

for the period 2024–2025. The Plan is focused on the pillars of food security, nutrition, health, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, the environment, education, protection and logistics. It outlines a comprehensive response to support humanitarian efforts to protect and assist Sahrawi refugees in the five camps near the town of Tindouf. The financial requirements of the plan are estimated at \$214 million, almost one third of which is required for the food security sector.

In 2023, WFP Algeria provided the management response element of the recommendations of the evaluation report on the interim country strategic plan for the period 2019–2022. Key recommendations for 2023 were addressed and implemented throughout the year, including the participation of WFP in the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan, the expansion of cash assistance in the camps and the development of a partnership action plan for effective advocacy. Efforts to address the remaining recommendations continued in 2024.

Moving forward, WFP Algeria will continue its efforts to diversify its partnership portfolio and explore funding opportunities with new donors, the private sector and multilateral and bilateral donors. WFP will continue to advocate timely, flexible and multi-year funding to ensure programme continuity and implementation predictability.

N. World Health Organization

[17 February 2025]

With regard to the 27 Sustainable Development Goal 3 indicators, sex disaggregation was not possible for the three indicators for which such data are collected at the household, subnational or national levels, or for the 5 female-specific indicators.

Sex-disaggregated data could be informative for all 27 Sustainable Development Goal 3 indicators. Such data were available for only 11 of them at the country or aggregate level. Sex-disaggregated data are essential for tracking the principle of leaving no one behind.

Since 2000, data for 14 of the 27 Goal 3 indicators have been available for the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, only 2 of the 10 indicators that could benefit from gender disaggregation have such data available. The data are sparse, with no single indicator having data for all 17 Territories.
