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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

Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2024 to March 2025

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution [79/113](#) of 4 December 2024, provides a general overview of the activities undertaken and supported by the Department of Global Communications to disseminate information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Unless otherwise mentioned, it covers the period from April 2024 to March 2025.



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution [79/113](#) of 4 December 2024, considered it important to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. To that end, it requested the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports 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. It also stressed that the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continue to be jointly responsible for maintaining and enhancing the United Nations decolonization website. In paragraph 4, the Assembly requested the Department of Global Communications to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In paragraph 5, it requested the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television, the Internet and social media, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

2. In implementing that mandate, the Department of Global Communications worked closely with the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, among other relevant United Nations offices and entities, and it will continue to do so.

3. The present report, prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution, covers the period from April 2024 to March 2025, unless stated otherwise.

II. 2024 Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

4. The Special Committee held its 2024 Caribbean seminar in Caracas from 14 to 16 May, within the framework of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021–2030). The theme of the seminar was “Pursuing goals and addressing needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories”.

5. An information officer was assigned by the Department of Global Communications to cover the event. The information officer issued daily press releases, which were disseminated through the Department’s various platforms.

III. Coverage of issues before the General Assembly

6. The Department issued a total of 37 press releases, in English and French, covering meetings and statements relating to the work of the United Nations on

decolonization, including by the General Assembly, its Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee.

7. The Department's Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit continued to provide journalists with information on meetings, events and activities related to the subject matter through media alerts, including media advisories on the work of the Special Committee. The Unit also provided accreditation services and offered liaison support.

8. The Unit's Media Documents Centre distributed statements and resolutions related to meetings of the General Assembly, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee to journalists and members of the media covering the work of the United Nations on decolonization.

A. United Nations websites and social media

9. The "Global issues" section of the United Nations website, maintained by the Department's Web Services Section, continued to feature the issue of decolonization in the Organization's six official languages (www.un.org/en/global-issues/decolonization). The pages on the topic received a total of 183,247 views, a 2.5 per cent increase over the previous reporting period.

10. In the "Observances" section of the United Nations website, the pages for the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (25–31 May; www.un.org/en/observances/non-self-governing-week) in the six official languages were viewed 10,449 times.

11. The main United Nations social media accounts, with more than 73 million collective followers, promoted the subject of decolonization in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. The subjects covered ranged from the observance of various occasions, such as the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, to events and related meetings. Posts directed traffic to United Nations web pages on decolonization and supported the Organization's programme to ensure diverse audiences could be reached with detailed and current information about the work of the Organization in the area of decolonization.

12. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continued to maintain and update the "United Nations and Decolonization" website in the six official languages (www.un.org/dppa/decolonization). However, updates could not be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024 because of a 50 per cent reduction in administrative and operational capacity caused by measures taken in relation to the liquidity situation of the Organization. In 2024, the website had a total of 1,760,184 page views and 1,117,300 sessions, representing an increase of 14.6 per cent and 21.2 per cent, respectively, compared with 2023. The number of users totalled 574,434, a 0.82 per cent decrease compared with 2023.

13. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continued to keep the public informed of activities relating to decolonization, in particular the activities of the Special Committee, the Fourth Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, through the "United Nations and Decolonization" website.

14. As part of the commitment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and as the Special Committee on Decolonization has consistently stressed in its annual reports, the dedicated section on the website subtitled "Women in the Territories: Highlights" was updated to provide information regarding the role, contributions and achievements of women in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the process of decolonization. In addition, in support of the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by

Everyone, Everywhere, an infographic entitled “UN decolonization in numbers” highlighting key numbers in decolonization and an interactive timeline of all regional seminars were produced in the six official languages.

B. United Nations News

15. United Nations News, operating in multiple languages, continued to produce multimedia stories and features on relevant issues, with each of the language units contributing distinct perspectives to the decolonization discussion. For example, the Portuguese Unit of United Nations News organized a special event to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Carnation Revolution of Portugal. The event featured a dialogue with the Secretary-General and ambassadors from Portuguese-speaking countries in which that revolution’s historical significance to the issue of decolonization was highlighted. The coverage of that event was widely shared across 44 international media outlets, including TV Globo (Brazil) and Cable News Network Portugal. In addition, the Portuguese Unit provided coverage of the Secretary-General’s visit to Timor-Leste on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of that country’s independence referendum. The visit was showcased across the platforms of the Department of Global Communications in multiple languages and was also picked up by external media, resulting in 102 broadcasts by various outlets, including Al Jazeera and the Special Broadcasting Service (Australia).

16. The Kiswahili Unit highlighted the enduring effects of colonialism in Africa through interviews and multimedia stories, including an interview with Professor Toussaint Murhula in which he outlined how colonial ideology has destroyed Africa and stressed that the time had come to turn the page on that ideology (news.un.org/sw/story/2024/12/1182811). The Arabic Unit published a feature on the independence referendum of Timor-Leste (news.un.org/ar/story/2024/08/1133876).

17. The United Nations Video Section produced material on decolonization, including UNifeed packages on the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which was held at Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 April under the theme “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth”. UNifeed video news packages were distributed through broadcasters and news agencies around the world, including the Associated Press and Reuters video platforms.

18. The Department of Global Communications, through its global United Nations Web TV platform (webtv.un.org/), continued to provide live and on-demand multilingual streaming coverage of meetings and events related to decolonization. During the reporting period, the platform added videos of 46 meetings and events related to decolonization, including meetings of the Special Committee.

19. United Nations Photo continued to cover decolonization issues. More than 110 images related to the subject were captured during the reporting period, 17 of which were posted on United Nations Photo website. Some 2,500 images related to the subject are currently archived in the photo archive system.

IV. Visitors’ services

20. The Visitors’ Services Section in New York continued to share information on decolonization with United Nations visitors through its guided tours, including on the former role of the Trusteeship Council and the work of the Fourth Committee, as well

as on the progress made on decolonization over the decades in the light of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 1960. During the reporting period, 191,953 visitors took an in-person guided tour at United Nations Headquarters, and an additional 1,672 people took a virtual tour.

21. During the reporting period, 477 visitors took an in-person Black history tour at United Nations Headquarters. The tour provides a unique look at the Ark of Return permanent memorial and highlights the contributions of people of African descent to the work of the United Nations in such fields as peace and security and human rights, with a special emphasis on decolonization.

22. The Visitors' Service at the United Nations Office at Geneva continued to introduce the theme of decolonization through a description of the mandate and past activities of the Trusteeship Council, reaching nearly 38,000 visitors. In parallel, the Visitors Service in Vienna continued to highlight the topic to its visitors during the general guided tours, when explaining the increase in United Nations membership over the years. The historical work of the Trusteeship Council was also presented to visitors participating in a lecture programme on the United Nations. In 2024, some 49,300 visitors participated in the guided tour and more than 2,700 participated in lecture programmes on various topics.

23. The Visitors Service at the United Nations Office at Nairobi also played a pivotal role in informing some 10,000 visitors about the subject through comprehensive briefings and detailed explanations that focused on the work of the Trusteeship Council and the activities of the Fourth Committee. In addition, the Service added Chinese to the list of languages in which offers its decolonization briefings, which were previously available in English only. It also continued to offer an insightful perspective on the historical context of decolonization in the region and to highlight the fact that 80 African countries have gained independence with the help of the United Nations.

V. Dag Hammarskjöld Library

24. During the reporting period, the United Nations Digital Library, a digital repository developed and maintained by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, recorded 851,810 new downloads of United Nations parliamentary and normative documents and publications relating directly to decolonization.

25. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has digitized a collection of 11,700 historic United Nations parliamentary and normative documents and publications, spanning some 226,600 pages. Within that collection, there are 2,880 documents comprising 111,010 pages that pertain specifically to the subject of decolonization. During the reporting period, United Nations Headquarters analysed 85 parliamentary and normative documents and 285 entries for speeches, all relating to decolonization, and added them to the United Nations Digital Library and the Official Document System. Information services colleagues, who actively assisted researchers in their search for information on the topic, continue to carefully maintain two research guides on decolonization, namely, the guide on the documents of the Trusteeship Council (research.un.org/en/docs/tc/documents), which was viewed 24,784 times, and the documentation guide on decolonization, available in English (research.un.org/en/docs/decolonization) and Spanish (research.un.org/es/docs/decolonization), which was viewed more than 3,500 times.

26. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library at Headquarters in New York continues to curate a large collection on the topic of decolonization that currently comprises 1,033

electronic books, 5 electronic journals and more than 17,000 research articles, all sourced from a diverse array of small and large publishers.

VI. United Nations information centres and services

27. The global network of 59 United Nations information centres continued to educate the public on the issue of decolonization through virtual and in-person briefings, guided tours and Model United Nations. On 24 January 2025, the People's Friendship University of Russia and the United Nations information centre in Moscow jointly organized an event to discuss key issues in the fight against colonialism and the role of the United Nations in that context. The discussion, which was devoted to the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, was held within the framework of a regularly held scholarly seminar entitled "International law in the light of new challenges and threats". Some 100 experts, professors and undergraduate and graduate students from the Russian Federation and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States attended the event in person and online.

VII. Conclusions

28. The Department of Global Communications continued its efforts to cover and promote the issue of decolonization and to advance the goals of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Department, in close collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, leveraged its diverse multimedia and multilingual platforms to support the work of the Special Committee. The aim of this collaboration is to further the cause of decolonization and underscore the urgent need for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
