



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2023

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 58

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2023

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/78/429, para. 33)*]

78/91. Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the report 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 for 2023,¹

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on French Polynesia² and other relevant information,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled “Self-determination of French Polynesia”, in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514 (XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 e of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/78/23).*

² [A/AC.109/2023/7](#).



Recalling also the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019,³

Expressing concern that, more than 60 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁴ there still remain 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, including French Polynesia,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the people of French Polynesia require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Reaffirming the inalienable rights of the people of French Polynesia to the ownership, control and disposal of their natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 77/119 of 12 December 2022, entitled “Effects of atomic radiation”,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia,⁵ prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 71/120 of 6 December 2016,

Recalling also that, in February 2017, the administering Power amended the Act concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests⁶ in order to allow for the compensation of a larger number of victims, and that further amendments have been adopted,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at

³ See A/74/548, annex.

⁴ Resolution 1514 (XV).

⁵ A/72/74.

⁶ Act No. 2010-2 of 5 January 2010 concerning the recognition and compensating of victims of nuclear tests.

assisting the people of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Recalling the admission of French Polynesia as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum at the forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum, convened in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016,

Taking note of the statement made by the representative of the President of French Polynesia in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 2022,⁷ and of the statement made by the representative of the new President of French Polynesia in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in June 2023,

Recalling the invitation extended by the President of French Polynesia to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory, as reiterated in the Fourth Committee at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly,⁸

Stressing the importance of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

Noting the legislative elections held in June 2022, and the territorial elections that were held in April 2023,

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Recalls* the previously made calls for the delisting of the Territory, and takes note of the statement made by the representative of the President of the Territory in June 2023 that the Territorial government fully supports a proper decolonization process and self-determination process under the scrutiny of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, General Assembly resolution 67/265, which provided for the reinscription of French Polynesia on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and takes careful note of an independent self-governance assessment of the Territory, presented to the Fourth Committee on 4 October 2016,⁹ that the Territory did not meet the full measure of self-government;

⁷ See A/C.4/77/SR.3, paras. 2–6.

⁸ See A/C.4/76/SR.3, para. 15.

⁹ See A/C.4/71/SR.3, paras. 71 and 72.

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work 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 in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

6. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate a visiting mission to the Territory, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

7. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under Article 73 *e* of the Charter since the reinscription of the Territory by the General Assembly in 2013;

8. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

9. *Urges* the administering Power to ensure the permanent sovereignty of the people of French Polynesia over their natural resources, including marine resources and undersea minerals, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the administering Power concerning the recognition and compensation of victims of nuclear tests, and in that regard encourages the administering Power to take steps to this effect;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide continuous updates on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, in follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [71/120](#);

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power to initiate a dialogue with the new Government of French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

45th plenary meeting
7 December 2023