

VII. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE¹

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36/46. Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 35/19 of 11 November 1980 on the question of Western Sahara,

Having considered the relevant chapter of 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,²

Having heard the statements made on the question of Western Sahara, in particular the statements of the representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro,³

Recalling its resolution 35/117 of 10 December 1980 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Taking note of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981, to organize throughout the Territory of Western Sahara a general and free referendum of the people of Western Sahara on self-determination,⁴

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Implementation Committee on Western Sahara of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 26 August 1981,⁵ concerning the establishment of appropriate machinery to enable the people of Western Sahara to express themselves freely and democratically on their future,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the objectives of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), as well as the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Organization of African Unity;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Organization of African Unity and its Implementation Committee on Western Sahara with a view to promoting a just and definitive solution to the question of Western Sahara;

3. *Takes note* of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African

¹ For the decisions adopted on the reports of the Fourth Committee, see sect. X.B.5.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/36/23/Rev.1)*, chap. IX.

³ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Fourth Committee*, 15th meeting, paras. 21-26, and 19th meeting, paras. 3-5.

⁴ See A/36/534, annex II, resolution AHG/Res.103 (XVIII).

⁵ A/36/512-S/14692, annex. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-sixth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1981*.

Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session to organize throughout the Territory of Western Sahara a general and free referendum of the people of Western Sahara on self-determination;

4. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Implementation Committee with a view to organizing and conducting the referendum;

5. *Appeals* to the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro, to observe a cease-fire in accordance with the decisions of the Organization of African Unity and its Implementation Committee;

6. *Urges*, to that end, Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to enter into negotiations with a view to establishing an immediate cease-fire and concluding a peace agreement permitting the fair conduct of a general and free referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara;

7. *Reaffirms* the determination of the United Nations to co-operate fully with the Organization of African Unity in the fair and impartial organization of the referendum;

8. *Requests* to that end the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure that the United Nations participates in the organization and conduct of the referendum and to report to the General Assembly and the Security Council on this subject and on the measures requiring a decision by the Council;

9. *Urgently requests* the Secretary-General to co-operate closely with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity with a view to the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and of its Implementation Committee, and of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

*70th plenary meeting
24 November 1981*

36/47. Question of the United States Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands,

Having examined the relevant chapters of 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,⁶

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the United States Virgin Islands,

Noting the active co-operation given by the administering Power, both through its participation in the work of the Special Committee and through its willingness to receive visiting missions to small Territories under its administration,

Having heard the statement of the administering Power,⁷

1. *Approves* the chapter of 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 relating to the United States Virgin Islands;⁸

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Reaffirms* its conviction that questions of territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration with regard to the Territory;

4. *Requests* the Government of the United States of America, as the administering Power, to take all necessary measures, in consultation with the freely elected representatives of the people of the United States Virgin Islands, to expedite the process of the decolonization of the Territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

5. *Reaffirms* that it is the obligation of the administering Power, in consultation with the freely elected representatives of the people of the Territory, to inform the local people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to enable them to exercise that right freely and without interference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

6. *Reaffirms* that the administering Power has the responsibility for taking such measures as will ensure the preservation of the identity and cultural heritage of the people of the Territory;

7. *Urges* the administering Power, in consultation with the freely elected representatives of the people of the United States Virgin Islands, to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures which guarantee the right of the people to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development;

8. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power, under the Charter, for the economic and social development of the United States Virgin Islands and in this regard notes that, although steady economic progress has continued in the Territory, especially in the area of service industries, there are still problems which need to be resolved, including those relating to unemployment and the infrastructure;

9. *Notes* the sustained efforts undertaken by the territorial Government to diversify the economy and urges the administering Power, acting in co-operation with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, to strengthen the economy of the Territory by, wherever possible, taking additional measures of diversification in all fields;

10. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to enlist the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the development and strengthening of the economy of the United States Virgin Islands;

11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to the United States Virgin Islands at an appropriate time and in

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/36/23/Rev.1), chaps. III, IV and XXIII.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Fourth Committee*, 14th meeting, paras. 1-8.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/36/23/Rev.1), chap. XXIII.*