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**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY ORGANS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF ECLAC/CDCC**

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Introduction

The resolutions which are summarized hereunder were extracted from United Nations sources for the information of delegations, given their perceived special relevance to the membership of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The resolutions encountered in the course of the research covered, in the main, issues related to trade and development; energy and sustainable development; aging; the disabled; and youth. However, the content of these resolutions either marked no real advance on the outcomes of the corresponding conferences that were held within recent times or were cast in a globally relevant context that did not address specific concerns of Caribbean countries to any significant extent. Culled for the attention of the meeting, from among the remaining resolutions are several that address decolonisation issues, which are relevant to the Committee given, *inter alia*, the structure of its membership, as well as such issues as the international drug problem; and sustainable fisheries management.

Res. 58/103 Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of Non- Self-Governing Territories

The resolution affirms the obligations of the Administering Powers to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect their human and natural resources from abuse.

The resolution reaffirms the right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and to enjoyment of their natural resources and to dispose of such in their best interest. Further, it considers that foreign economic investment undertaken with the collaboration of the peoples of the Territories “...can make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories.” but reiterates that damaging exploitation of marine and other natural resources in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations “...are a threat to the integrity and prosperity of these Territories..”

The resolution invites all governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Territories over their natural resources, is preserved respected and safeguarded; the same injunction is laid on the Administering Powers and in addition the Administering Powers are to ensure that no system of discriminatory working conditions exist, especially with respect to the systems that govern payment of wages.

The Secretary General is requested to inform the world of any activity “...that affects the exercise of the rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination..” and appeals also to “...the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-self-Governing Territories..”.

Res. 58/104 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 resolution recalls resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and in particular the Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/30 of 25 July 2002 and brings to the fore the need to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The resolution also calls for continued assistance by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, pointing out that many of the Territories are small island States with their peculiar vulnerabilities to natural disasters and economic shocks and stresses the importance “..of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system...”.

The participation in the capacity of observers by the Territories in world conferences in the economic and social spheres, due to their being associate members of regional commissions, is welcomed and encouraged in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions.

There is a reaffirmation of the recognition of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs, of the legitimate right of the peoples of the Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. All possible assistance should be rendered to the Territories in this regard.

The relevant agencies of the United Nations are requested, within the framework of providing assistance to the Territories, to provide information on environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as on the impact of natural disasters. They are also to devise ways and means to assist the Territories in combating drug trafficking, money laundering and other criminal activities, and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories, the latter which should be used to benefit the peoples of the Territories.

The Territories in turn are to take the necessary steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies.

The Administering Powers are requested to facilitate when appropriate, “..the participation of appointed and elected Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations system..”, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of these agencies and organizations.

Res 58/108 Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

The resolution makes reference to 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 and other resolutions concerned with decolonisation and recognizes 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 people concerned...and the principles contained in resolutions 1514(XV) and 1541(XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly..”

Taking into consideration the stated intention of the United Nations to end colonialism by 2010 and mindful of the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the resolution states that the specificities of the Territories require “...flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice...” and that the wishes and aspirations for the peoples of the Territories should guide the development of their future political status. In tandem with this, any negotiation to determine the status of the Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory and under the supervision of the United Nations on a case-by-case basis.

The Special Committee on Decolonisation is encouraged to embark on an awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining “...an understanding of the options of self-determination” and to this end will continue to hold seminars in the various regions and at Headquarters to keep abreast of the situation in the various Territories. The Administering Powers should, in association with the territorial governments, also undertake political education of the Peoples of the Territories to foster an awareness of their right to self-determination and transmit any information and reports regarding such. It notes with concern the slow pace of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The resolution notes the assistance rendered to the Territories by various United Nations institutions, regional development banks and regional institutions, but expresses concern that in many Territories economic growth has slowed in the tourism and construction sectors.

The Administering Powers are called upon to promote the economic and social development of the Territories, preserve their cultural identity to, as far as possible, diversify their economies to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money-laundering, illegal drug use and preserve the natural environment, which is the heritage of these people.

The resolution calls on the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social life of the Territories and calls for closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in furtherance of the provisions of assistance to the Territories. The resolution also notes the commitment of the Territories to cooperate with international efforts to prevent abuse of the international financial system.

Res. 58/111 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The resolution recalls the declaration of the decade 2001-2010 as the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and reiterated the conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights.

The resolution notes that the Special Committee charged with implementing the Declaration has received uneven support from the Administering Powers of the Territories and that this has affected the work of the Special Committee; it notes the right of all peoples to self determination, including independence and that colonialism in any form or manner, including economic exploitation is incompatible with "...the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights....".

The Administering Powers are called upon to cooperate with the Special Committee to finalize before the end of 2004 "...a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the mandate of the special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonisation, including resolutions on specific Territories.."

The Special Committee is specially requested to continue to monitor the implementation of the relevant resolutions on decolonisation in the relevant Territories and to finalise before the end of 2004 a constructive work programme on a case-by-case basis to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee. The Committee is to conduct seminars for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information and facilitating participation by the peoples of the Territories and take necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among governments, national and international organizations to carry out the work of the Special Committee. In addition, there is to be an annual observance of a Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The resolution also calls upon all States, especially the Administering Powers to ensure that the economic activities in the Territories promote the development of the People and to protect the natural resource base, including land, of the Territories, acknowledging the unalienable rights of the Peoples of the Territories to such resources and their right to determine their use now and in the future. Administering Powers should also make use of all bilateral and multilateral assistance to strengthen the economies of the Territories under their charge, and the resolution calls upon the Powers that have not thus far participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2004.

Further, the Secretary General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system are requested to provide on a continuing basis, economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories after they exercise their right to self determination, including independence, bearing in mind that many are small island States with corresponding specific needs.

Res. 58/141 International Cooperation against the world drug problem

The resolution urges member States to achieve a significant and measurable reduction of drug abuse by 2008 by demand reduction policies, education and development of life skills, especially to the most vulnerable groups including also intervention programmes. It endorses the provision of wider range of treatment services for treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and the prevention of the transmission of infectious diseases associated with drug use.

States are also requested to exercise strict controls over the manufacture of chemical precursors of illicit drugs, forge international judicial and enforcement links and strengthen international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating the laundering of proceeds derived from the illicit drug trade. States are called upon to foster alternative development programmes, including as appropriate “preventative alternative development” so that illicit drug cultivation is contained.

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme is requested to “..strengthen cooperation with Member States and with the United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies, as well as relevant regional organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations..” and foster dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to assist member States in their capacity building to fight the illicit drug trade.

The provision of training and advice through technical cooperation activities to relevant member States through the designated United Nations bodies was urged and the resolution calls upon “..the relevant United Nations agencies and entities, other international organizations and international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes.”

Res. 58/14 Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

The resolution recognizes that the Agreement in accordance with the Convention sets forth provisions concerning the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, inclusive of subregional and regional cooperation in enforcement, dispute settlement and the rights and obligations of States in authorizing the use of vessels flying their respective flags.

Under the goal of achieving sustainable fisheries, the resolution calls upon States to ensure universal participation to promote long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources, by becoming parties to the Convention and to apply the

precautionary approach “..widely to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks...”

The resolution emphasizes the importance of “..effective implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, including those provisions relating to bilateral, regional and subregional cooperation in enforcement..” and calls upon States “to ensure that their vessels comply with the conservation and management measures that have been adopted by subregional regional fisheries management organizations...”.

To assist developing States, it is decided to establish an Assistance Fund administered by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), under Part VII of the Agreement and urges outreach to potential donor organizations. The resolution also urges follow up to address the implementation of the Agreement by regional and national fisheries organizations and the development and implementation of national and regional action plans as appropriate to “..put into effect...the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing capacity, the international Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and the International Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.” States are urged to adopt by 2010 the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.