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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

Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 June 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Webson. (Antigua and Barbuda)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Question of New Caledonia ([A/AC.109/2018/11](#); [A/AC.109/2018/L.22](#))

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the question of New Caledonia ([A/AC.109/2018/11](#)).

Report of the visiting mission to New Caledonia
([A/AC.109/2018/20](#))

2. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba) introduced the report of the Committee's visiting mission to New Caledonia ([A/AC.109/2018/20](#)).

3. **Ms. Rodríguez Silva** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation was pleased that the inhabitants of New Caledonia would soon have the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and it welcomed the support given by the delegation of France as the Committee fulfilled its mandate.

Hearing of petitioners

4. **The Chair** said that, in line with the Committee's usual practice, petitioners would be invited to take a place at the petitioners' table and would withdraw after making their statements.

5. **Mr. Wamytan** (Groupe Union calédonienne (UC)-Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste (FLNKS) et Nationalistes, Congress of New Caledonia) said that New Caledonia had reached a historic moment in its decolonization and emancipation process. On 4 November 2018, its population would vote on the future of the country.

6. Recalling the history of the Territory's colonization by France, he said that thousands of convicts had been dumped on the archipelago, which had contributed to the near extinction of the native Kanak inhabitants. The demographic composition was being further altered by incessant migration from France, which could have an impact on the right to self-determination in the context of the upcoming referendum. The Committee should examine the status of implementation of the Nouméa Accord in relation to the principles of decolonization. It should also perform an audit to assess the extent to which France, the administering Power, had prepared the colonized Kanak people and other communities that shared their destiny to take part freely, genuinely and transparently in the referendum.

7. The composition of the electoral lists and the voter registration procedures remained a cause for concern and his people could no longer tolerate any trickery or manipulation of their good faith and outstretched hand. The exercise of the right to self-determination should not bury the claims of colonized peoples under a massive wave of immigration but rather should enable them to freely choose their destiny. In the meantime, non-autonomous Territories must remain on the United Nations list of countries not yet decolonized. For its part, New Caledonia had already been taken off the list once in 1947 and added again in 1986. New Caledonia was not prepared to be removed from that list once again because of electoral skulduggery and intrigue in the service of geopolitical interests and battles for influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

8. **Mr. Forrest** (Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste (FLNKS)) said that the 2018 referendum would be the first opportunity for the Kanak people to exercise their right to self-determination and achieve emancipation from French colonial rule.

9. The Committee had played a key role in the efforts to ensure a fair and unimpeachable consultation process, through two visiting missions and three electoral observer missions. Real progress had been made but it was imperative that United Nations observers were present during the forthcoming referendum. In addition, greater attention must be given to the establishment of the list of voters, especially as the administering Power had adopted a new approach to the provisions for automatically registering voters which meant that persons not involved in the process continued to be included on the list of voters. In addition, visits from French parliamentarians had become increasingly frequent in 2018. Their involvement in the pre-referendum debate destabilized the impact of the referendum in the eyes of the population and gave a voice to outdated colonialist reactions. Such actions were not appropriate for a modern and innovative decolonization process. Furthermore, massive organized immigration continued, in a spirit that ran counter to the process of emancipation and decolonization.

10. More than ever, FLNKS was active in promoting political and economic independence and in securing a reliable future for young persons. The party was working to involve Melanesians in major development projects in the tourism, fishing, health and education sectors, and to combat the colonial legacy of structural inequality to establish a more just and unified society. Indigenous wisdom and know-how were crucial to achieving sustainable development and FLNKS was guided by the principles and values of traditional societies. The latest version of the party's political

independence project was aimed at engaging the 341 tribes and 33 communes of the country to educate the population on the viability of the political project. Its ultimate goal was for the Kanak people of New Caledonia to reach full international sovereignty, which was widely supported internationally.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.22: Question of New Caledonia

11. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea), speaking on behalf of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and introducing the draft resolution on behalf of that Group and FLNKS, said that the Group was determined to contribute to ensuring a just, fair and transparent self-determination process for New Caledonia and an outcome that was respected by all, in line with the Nouméa Accord, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

12. After 165 years of colonization, New Caledonia had reached a crucial phase, with the referendum date set for 4 November 2018 and the question for the ballot agreed by the Committee of Signatories in March 2018. That question was: “Do you want New Caledonia to accede to full sovereignty and become independent?”. The draft resolution recognized the serious concerns expressed by New Caledonians regarding the importance of and need for clarity concerning the potential referendum outcomes. The administering Power and the Territory’s authorities had therefore been called on to provide educational and awareness programmes to clearly inform the people of New Caledonia about what the day after the referendum would mean for them. The draft resolution also encouraged the administering Power to facilitate the presence of international observers, including from the United Nations, during the self-referendum.

13. The significant advances on the question of New Caledonia had been made possible through joint efforts under the auspices of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord and with the support of the United Nations through the Special Committee. Such collective efforts must be further strengthened to enable the achievement of self-determination and to eliminate the indignity and yoke of colonialism. Irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, the Committee must continue to focus on New Caledonia, which must remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to the Nouméa Accord.

14. The draft resolution also described the highly successful second visiting mission to New Caledonia and Paris in March 2018. However, important challenges remained for a successful referendum: the

electoral process must be acceptable to all parties; its choices must be clearly explained; and the anxieties and concerns of New Caledonians regarding an uncertain future must be addressed by authorities both in New Caledonia and in France. The Group had noted the Secretary-General’s response to the request of the Union calédonienne-Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste (UC-FLNKS) for an audit of the decolonization process in New Caledonia. However, the Secretary-General’s opinion did not represent that of the Member States, which had the right to further discuss any proposals. A lack of precedent did not in any way preclude new initiatives and the Group therefore intended to explore the proposal.

15. The draft resolution also addressed ongoing concerns regarding human rights issues and inequalities in the Territory. Despite measures taken, much work remained to eliminate inequalities between and within the three provinces of the Territory, including the low participation of Kanak people in the education and employment sectors; high levels of school drop-outs; juvenile delinquency; and the high numbers of Kanak people in prison, where they accounted for an estimated 90 per cent of inmates.

16. The draft resolution recognized improvements made to the referendum process since 2014. While progress had been made regarding the electoral lists for the referendum, it was important to ensure that the definitive list had a high level of transparency, integrity and credibility, as that would determine whether the outcome of the referendum was accepted. The second revised electoral list could potentially serve as a basis to move forward.

17. The Group appreciated the continued positive engagement of France as New Caledonia strived towards the forthcoming referendum. The draft resolution was balanced and representative of all relevant stakeholders and the Group hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

18. **Mr. Prasad** (Fiji) said that 2018 was a historic year for New Caledonia, and indeed for the entire region of Melanesia, but the United Nations must ensure that the referendum in November was credible and that questions raised during its preparation were addressed in a timely, transparent and robust manner that satisfied the concerned parties. France was encouraged to continue working with all relevant groups, communities and signatories to the Nouméa Accord in New Caledonia to deliver a successful referendum. His delegation welcomed the report of the second visiting mission and the update on the electoral support mission under way.

19. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation commended France, the administering Power, for its support and facilitation of the second visiting mission to New Caledonia. The issue of the final electoral list for the referendum should be handled carefully to ensure the credibility of the process. Mass immigration to the Territory was creating social inequalities and was an important factor that must not be ignored. All stakeholders should work to ensure a peaceful referendum process. Dissatisfied parties should address their concerns through due process and should avoid any violence that could threaten the peace and security of the Territory.

20. **Ms. Savitri** (Indonesia) said that the Committee had made valuable contributions to the decolonization process in New Caledonia. The visiting mission had provided clear and updated information on the situation in the Territory and the preparations for the referendum. The participation of France was solid proof of the benefits of good cooperation between the Committee and the administering Power.

21. **The Chair** said that Indonesia and Sierra Leone had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

22. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.22 was adopted.*

Question of French Polynesia (A/AC.109/2018/7; A/AC.109/2018/L.24)

23. **The Chair** drew attention to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on French Polynesia (A/AC.109/2018/7) and to a draft resolution on the question of French Polynesia (A/AC.109/2018/L.24).

Hearing of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territory

24. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with the Committee's usual practice, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories would be invited to address the Committee and would withdraw after making their statements.

25. **Mr. Terai** (Adviser for International, European and Pacific Affairs) said that French Polynesia had experienced continued economic growth in 2017, generating significantly higher tax revenues that had helped to shrink the debt. Tourist industry revenues and consumer spending had regained levels comparable to before the 2004–2013 political crisis. In 2016, the per capita gross domestic product had been approximately \$20,000.

26. Thanks to its largely autonomous status, French Polynesia had gained full membership in the Pacific Island Forum in 2016. It had participated in the eighth

Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in May 2018 in its own right and in the Ocean Conference in 2017 as part of the New Zealand delegation.

27. For 40 years, French Polynesia had been politically divided between pro-autonomy and pro-independence factions. French Polynesians could vote in French elections like other French citizens, but they also elected their own legislative assembly, which in turn elected their president. In both 2013 and 2017, the overwhelming majority of voters — 71 and 77 per cent, respectively — had voted for pro-autonomy candidates in free and fair elections, thereby affirming that they wished to remain an autonomous Territory. In that light, the Committee should cease submitting draft resolutions on his country to the General Assembly with hostile language affirming its lack of autonomy.

28. With respect to representatives and petitioners, they should be heard before the informal meetings on the draft resolutions concerning them, rather than during the formal meeting when it was too late to take their views into account. Regarding the draft resolution on French Polynesia, it had been useful that the Committee had modified the wording of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/101. However, given that the Territory's authorities had not been informed of the content and tenor of the self-governance assessment mentioned in that paragraph, the previous year's drafting process had lacked transparency. To avoid all ambiguity, the best course of action would be to eliminate the paragraph altogether.

Hearing of petitioners

29. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with the Committee's usual practice, petitioners would be invited to take a place at the petitioners' table and would withdraw after making their statements.

30. **Mr. Tuheiava** (Tavini Huiraatira) said that it had been more than five years since the General Assembly had confirmed the right of the people of Ma'ohi Nui to self-determination and independence in its resolution 67/265. The administering Power should therefore comply with its international legal obligations by providing information to the Secretary-General under article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and by enabling the Territory to achieve the full measure of self-government through a genuine self-determination process, which should entail direct United Nations participation in both the political education programme and the self-determination referendum.

31. In his hearings before the Committee since 2013, he had pointed to actions that had impeded the exercise of the right to self-determination and had highlighted the

considerable political, social and economic inequalities inherent in the colonial arrangement euphemistically termed “autonomy”. The administering Power was exploiting French Polynesia by retaining control over the Territory’s natural resources, extending its illegal authority over undersea and seabed resources and deriving revenue from airlines and satellites crossing the Territory’s airspace.

32. He had also reported on the appalling human cost of 30 years of nuclear testing and the obstacles to just compensation. In view of the gross inadequacies of the two reports of the Secretary-General on the impacts of that testing ([A/69/189](#) and [A/72/74](#)), he had even offered to submit a more extensive report. Reference to those inadequate reports had reportedly been removed from the draft resolution and, with it, the request that the Secretary-General should provide continuous updates on the issue. The absence of references to accurate public information in United Nations resolutions could be attributed to the stealthy influence of the administering Power.

33. The administering Power exercised absolute control over the Territory’s electoral system, including the authority to write and amend electoral ordinances, to determine voter eligibility and to annul election results. Abuses included registering French police and military personnel to vote, manipulating electoral boundaries to favour specific political interests, and, astoundingly, granting “bonus” legislative seats to the political party that supported the so-called autonomy status. The communes were administered by the French State rather than the Territorial government.

34. In June, the Territory’s Assembly had voted unanimously to oppose a French electoral reform reducing the number of legislators representing Ma’ohi Nui in the French Parliament and limiting the number of terms that its mayors could serve. In view of the administering Power’s manipulation of the electoral system, elections in the Territory could not be considered a legitimate act of self-determination.

35. **Mr. Corbin** (Dependency Studies Project) said that, in its resolution [72/111](#), the General Assembly had reiterated its decades-long call for the Committee to develop a constructive programme of work for each Territory on a case-by-case basis. Those programmes of work were intended to provide Member States with a mechanism for assessing the existing dependency arrangements. Their absence, combined with an overall lack of the studies, analyses and political education programmes mandated by the General Assembly resolutions on decolonization, had resulted in limited progress. While the case-by-case approach was useful,

given the variety of apparently autonomous arrangements which might be based on a reversible delegation of power, it should not be misinterpreted as a rationale for legitimizing the political and economic inequality of the dependency status. The intent of General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) had not been to recognize existing colonial arrangements.

36. In the case of French Polynesia, the General Assembly had consistently called for a programme of work based on established principles of genuine decolonization. The administering Power’s refusal to cooperate with the Committee should not serve as an effective veto of such a programme or the envisaged political education programme. Furthermore, given the continued need for a qualitative report on the effects of 30 years of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, the language requesting the Secretary-General to provide continuous updates on the effects of nuclear testing should be reinserted into the draft resolution. It would also be useful to reinsert the language requesting the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of decolonization resolutions, which had been absent for many years. Furthermore, the longstanding decolonization mandates should be reflected in the United Nations budget.

Draft resolution [A/AC.109/2018/L.24](#): Question of French Polynesia

37. **The Chair** introduced draft resolution [A/AC.109/2018/L.24](#).

38. **Ms. Yáñez Loza** (Ecuador), speaking in explanation of position before the decision, said that after having been unilaterally removed from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1963, French Polynesia had been reinscribed in 2013 owing to its continuing colonial status. Ecuador called on the administering Power to participate and cooperate fully in the work of the Committee and to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory.

39. *Draft resolution [A/AC.109/2018/L.24](#) was adopted.*

Question of Tokelau ([A/AC.109/2018/14](#); [A/AC.109/2018/L.23](#))

40. **The Chair** drew attention to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Tokelau ([A/AC.109/2018/14](#)) and to a draft resolution on the question of Tokelau ([A/AC.109/2018/L.23](#)).

*Hearing of representatives of the
Non-Self-Governing Territory*

41. **The Chair** said that, in line with the Committee's usual practice, representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territory would be invited to address the Committee and would withdraw after making their statements.

42. **Mr. Gaualofa** (Ulu-o-Tokelau), titular head of the Territory, said that the three Tokelau village councils had recently met with representatives of United Nations agencies and the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, as well as with the new Administrator of Tokelau. Both meetings had been productive, and he looked forward to a close working relationship with the Administrator. Despite the failed referendums, Tokelau's aspirations for self-government in free association with New Zealand were not at issue. Meanwhile, it was critical for the interests of the people of Tokelau to remain at the heart of all efforts to achieve that goal. Furthermore, although Tokelau and New Zealand continued to work together to promote the well-being of the people of Tokelau, he requested the Committee's assistance in ensuring that, as a Territory, Tokelau was not excluded from access to global financial assistance, including climate finance, which was particularly important to it as a group of remote, low-lying atolls.

43. Following the referendums, Tokelau had strengthened its governance systems with respect to decision-making and the management of public services. While the Territory remained committed to self-determination, the General Fono had decided not to consider another referendum until more could be done to develop its capacities, infrastructure and economy. In the meantime, Tokelau would continue to look to the Committee for support and guidance. As the Ulu-o-Tokelau, he was confident that the National Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 would lay the groundwork for self-government. Despite the difficult financial climate, Tokelau continued to budget for the Plan priorities.

44. The warm relationship between Tokelau and New Zealand was evidenced by the joint statement of the principles of partnership and the latter's economic support arrangement. In view of its growing development needs, Tokelau would continue to look to New Zealand and its development partners for support. It was working closely with New Zealand to direct resources to key areas. The Council for the Ongoing Government was looking forward to its first meeting with the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

45. Rising sea waters had encroached on the atolls and contaminated their water. While other Pacific nations

had access to significant funding from the Special Climate Change Fund and other environmental funds and programmes, Tokelau was included under the allocation for New Zealand and did not have access in its own right. Thanks to financial support from the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, Tokelau had made progress on climate adaptation and food security projects. With the support of regional and international agencies, it would be launching projects to produce biogas to supplement household cooking fuels. Tokelau was addressing climate change through its "Living with Change" strategy and its commitment to nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

46. To ensure more sustainable development, the National Strategic Plan focused on good governance, infrastructure and transport and communications. In the latter area, Tokelau now operated a fleet of two vessels that provided passenger and cargo service, and it was working with New Zealand to widen the reef channels and improve the infrastructure around wharves, to identify options for implementing air service and to connect to an undersea Internet cable. Its public services had been under local control for almost 20 years.

47. **Mr. Hawke** (Observer for New Zealand), speaking on behalf of the Administrator of Tokelau, said that, in response to the request of Tokelau, in 2017 New Zealand had decided to appoint an administrator for Tokelau who did not have other responsibilities. Its increased focus on the Pacific region had resulted in a sense of momentum in its Pacific relationships, and it was confident that its relationship with Tokelau would continue to deliver tangible benefits to the people of Tokelau.

48. Over the previous three decades, New Zealand had progressively devolved its administrative powers to Tokelau and had supported the development of its institutions. Tokelau had its own court system, made its own laws, ran its own public services and exercised local administrative authority. While the 2006 and 2007 referendums had narrowly missed the two-thirds majority required for a change of status, the close results reflected considerable desire for greater self-governance. New Zealand was committed to helping Tokelau develop its capacity and confidence in self-governance and improve quality of life. In December 2017, it had announced the allocation of almost 40 million New Zealand dollars for upgrading the channels around the three atolls and connecting Tokelau to undersea fibre-optic cables, and it had been working closely with the Territory's government to improve the administration and management of its fisheries.

49. In view of the overwhelming impact of climate change on Tokelau's weather patterns and coastal environment, including the acidification of its lagoons, New Zealand was supporting the Territory's adaptation efforts through a project to reduce the risk of coastal flooding. Furthermore, Tokelau regularly joined the New Zealand delegations to international climate change negotiations such as the 2017 Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. New Zealand was committed to improving the quality of life of its most remote citizens and welcomed the Committee's ongoing interest in Tokelau.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.23: Question of Tokelau

50. **The Chair** said that Indonesia and Sierra Leone had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

51. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation supported the aspirations of the people of Tokelau for self-determination and thanked New Zealand for its commitment in that regard.

52. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea), introducing the draft resolution on the question of Tokelau on behalf of his country and Fiji, said that both delegations appreciated the useful update on the self-determination process and applauded New Zealand, as the administering Power, for its consistent reporting on that process and for its appointment of the new Administrator, with whom they looked forward to working. They also commended Tokelau and New Zealand for their commitment to improving the lives of the people of the Territory. Their ongoing cooperative partnership set an example for other Non-Self-Governing Territories and administering Powers.

53. The most significant new developments since the Committee's last session were reflected in the eighth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth preambular paragraphs, which welcomed, inter alia, Tokelau's recently adopted anti-tobacco and climate change policies, and in operative paragraphs 3, 5, 7 and 8, which noted, inter alia, the investment by New Zealand to connect Tokelau to an undersea fibre-optic cable and its support for the delivery of education services.

54. **Mr. Prasad** (Fiji) said that Tokelau was pursuing its development and self-determination agendas in the context of extreme exposure to the effects of climate change. He applauded New Zealand's considerable, well-thought-through support for climate change adaptation and would welcome continued reporting on progress in that area.

55. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.23 was adopted.*

Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (continued)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.20: Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands

56. **The Chair** introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.20.

57. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.20 was adopted.*

Question of the United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2018/L.21)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.21: Question of the United States Virgin Islands

58. **The Chair** introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.21.

59. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.21 was adopted.*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/2018/L.25)

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.25: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

60. **The Chair** introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.25.

61. **Ms. Rodríguez Silva** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the United Nations must assert its historic commitment and institutional responsibility to eradicate colonialism and any type of occupation or tutelage over peoples by enforcing General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Given that only three years remained in the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011–2020), urgent action must be taken by all stakeholders to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. That would enable the aspirations of their peoples for self-determination, including independence, to be realized on a case-by-case basis. In that context, the Committee should optimize its working methods by adopting a transparent, practical and expeditious approach.

62. Administering Powers should fulfil their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations to ensure the well-being of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and promote concrete progress to bring an end to their political subjugation. They should respect the inalienable right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to control their natural resources and should avoid any economic, military or other activities that negatively affected the interests of the peoples of those Territories. Foreign investment should

be made with the approval of those peoples and in accordance with their desires and needs. That would ensure that investment was contributing to their socioeconomic development and the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/92.

63. Specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations could contribute to the acceleration of socioeconomic advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Their role was an undeniable contribution to the achievement of the Committee's mandate. Her delegation called for greater participation of those agencies and organizations in regional events organized by the Committee and invited them to provide detailed information to shed light on the realities and needs of those Territories.

64. The decolonization process would be strengthened by the sharing of information on the activities promoted by the organization and on the political developments under way. In that connection, her delegation called on the Department of Public Information to increase its efforts to support the work of the Committee and encouraged the Secretariat to provide reports with a greater level of analytic detail to reflect the situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories as exhaustively as possible.

65. Island Non-Self-Governing Territories were the most vulnerable to natural disasters and environmental degradation. Her delegation reiterated its solidarity with the peoples of those Territories in the Caribbean region that had been affected by hurricanes in 2017 and called on the international community to assist them. She trusted that future reports of the United Nations would reflect the actions taken by the respective administering Powers and specialized agencies in support of those Territories. Her delegation called on all Member States to contribute to the elimination of colonialization in the name of peace, human rights and socioeconomic development.

66. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2018/L.25 was adopted.*

Report of the Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2018/CRP.1)

67. **The Chair** drew attention to a conference room paper containing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Pacific regional seminar held from 9 to 11 May 2018 in Saint George's, Grenada (A/AC.109/2018/CRP.1). He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Pacific regional seminar.

68. *Conference room paper A/AC.109/2018/CRP.1 was adopted.*

Organization of work

69. The Chair suggested that the Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to prepare the report of the Special Committee to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. In accordance with established practice, the Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to submit the report directly to the Assembly.

70. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the session

71. **The Chair**, after the customary expression of thanks to the Committee members and Secretariat staff, declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.