



# General Assembly

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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 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 24 June 2021, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. McGuire ..... (Grenada)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

1. **The Chair** said that the delegation of Colombia had indicated its wish to participate in the work of the Committee as an observer.

**Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**  
(A/AC.109/2021/6; A/AC.109/2021/L.8)

2. **The Chair** drew attention to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (A/AC.109/2021/6) and to a draft resolution on the issue (A/AC.109/2021/L.8).

*Hearing of petitioners*

3. **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.

4. **Mr. Pollard**, speaking in his personal capacity, said that Argentina was seeking to deny the Falkland Islanders their basic human right to self-determination. The people of the Falkland Islands were happy with their current political status, as demonstrated by the outcome of the 2013 referendum, in which 99.8 per cent of Falkland Islanders who had voted had expressed their wish to remain an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. He disagreed with the erroneous arguments and falsified history continually put forward by Argentina before the Committee.

5. His ancestors had arrived in the Falkland Islands 172 years earlier, hoping to carve out a home there for their family. He himself, born three years before Argentina had invaded his family's home in 1982, had grown up in a war-ravaged Falkland Islands, littered with land mines, booby traps and unexploded ordnance. Argentina had never shown remorse for its actions and, notwithstanding its claims to be a peaceful, friendly nation, was still seeking to annex his country against the wishes of its people. It continued to impose economic and environmental sanctions and, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, had even denied humanitarian flights to repatriate fellow South Americans.

6. Argentina wanted to turn his people's home into a colony of its own. To do so, it was even attempting to corrupt the proceedings of the United Nations, using the Committee to try and deny the Falkland Islanders their basic human rights and their right to determine their own future. He urged the Committee to support the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination and not to allow itself to be used by Argentina as a tool for their colonization.

7. Argentina had already pre-empted the result of any potential bilateral negotiations through its constitutional reinforcement of its claim over the Falkland Islands. The only people who could solve the question of the Falkland Islands were the people of the Falkland Islands. He said that, as the current Chair of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, he wished to invite the members of the Committee to visit the Islands in order to see for themselves the reality of the situation. Since 1965, the Committee had sent 37 missions to 23 different territories, but never once had it visited the Falkland Islands.

8. **Ms. Roberts**, speaking in her personal capacity, said that she was a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands and a sixth-generation Falkland Islander. Ever since the 1940s, the Government of Argentina had put forward changing narratives, distorting history to create a false, dangerous mythology around the Falkland Islands. Its claim that a settled population had been ousted in 1833 was untrue. A small illegal garrison that had spent less than three months on the Islands had been asked to leave following mutiny and murder. The Falkland Islanders were confident in their British sovereignty. The Government of Argentina had colonialist aspirations and sought to avoid an inconvenient truth: namely, the people of the Falkland Islands.

9. While many of the earliest settlers of the Falkland Islands had been of British origin, some had come from other nations. That diversity had continued to grow and although the country's population numbered less than 3,500, it was made up of more than 60 nationalities, including settled communities of Saint Helenian, Chilean, Philippine and Zimbabwean origin, who had chosen to become Falkland Islanders. Contrary to the claim by Argentina, theirs was not an implanted population. Their cultural identity was British in many respects but drew on a range of influences and was quite distinct. The refusal by Argentina to acknowledge two centuries of natural settlement was abhorrent, particularly coming from a nation that was itself built on European migration.

10. The violent invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982 by a vastly larger neighbour had left an indelible scar on the nation's soul. Notwithstanding the Falkland Islanders' liberation on 14 June 1982, Argentina continued its attempts to restrict their economic, political and social well-being, threatening those who sought to do legitimate business with the Islands and even attempting to block their athletes from competing in international events. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Argentina had sought to score political points by including COVID-19 infection

rates for the Falkland Islands within its own national statistics. For their part, the Falkland Islanders had actively supported the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross to identify the Argentine war dead buried on the Islands, although the Argentine authorities did not acknowledge their role in that humanitarian endeavour. The Falkland Islands had also sought to share data on fish stocks to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity in the South Atlantic, but Argentina had withdrawn from that important work.

11. The modern Falkland Islands was not a colonial enclave; it was economically self-sufficient and internally self-governing. Successive British Governments had stated that the political future of the Falkland Islands was dependent upon the will of its people, a will that had been clearly expressed in the internationally-observed referendum of 2013. The democratic and mature partnership between the Falkland Islands and the United Kingdom was reaffirmed by the 2009 Falkland Islands Constitution and continued to evolve, underpinned by the principle of self-determination.

12. While the Argentine Government spoke of “respecting the interests” of the people of the Falkland Islands, it denied their existence. By claiming that the fundamental right of self-determination did not apply to what it called an implanted population, Argentina insisted that the Falkland Islanders had no status and denied them a voice. When the Argentine delegation spoke of a “peaceful, negotiated settlement” it sought nothing less than control of the Falkland Islands, purely because it coveted the Islanders’ land and resources. The colonial intentions of Argentina, and its refusal to acknowledge modern realities, were evident. Falkland Islanders did not wish to become a colony of Argentina. She therefore urged the Committee to acknowledge her people’s legitimate right to self-determination and to send a mission to the Falkland Islands to see the reality of the situation.

13. **Ms. Vernet**, speaking in her personal capacity as an Argentine citizen and a descendant of Luis Vernet, who, in 1829, had been appointed the first Political and Military Commander of the Malvinas Islands, said that the conflict between her country and the United Kingdom concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas was a very sensitive issue for the Argentine people. The territory, first occupied by the French, had been ceded to the Spanish Crown, with Argentina later acquiring the rights to it through succession. Luis Vernet had been appointed Governor in 1829 to facilitate enforcement of the Argentine legal system and international obligations and his family had travelled to the Islands the same year with the intention

of making their home there. Unfortunately, in 1833, they had been forced to leave their lands and their hopes behind. The people who had inhabited the Islands were Argentine. Although the current inhabitants had their own traditions and way of life, that did not make them a “people” with the right to self-determination pursuant to international law. While self-determination was a right under customary international law, the International Court of Justice had been clear in its advisory opinions on Western Sahara and on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 that not all populations constituted a “people” entitled to self-determination. In the case of the Malvinas Islands, the General Assembly, in resolution 2065 (XX), had recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute and stated that the interests of the population should be taken into account. By referring to their interests rather than their wishes, it had clearly ruled out the applicability of the right to self-determination. However, in recent years, the United Kingdom had refused to return to the negotiating table with Argentina and claimed the existence in the Islands of a people with the right to self-determination.

14. According to international law, disputes over sovereignty were subject to a critical date beyond which claims of ownership could not be strengthened. Clearly the critical date in the conflict at hand was 1833. Once the sovereignty dispute had crystallized, the rights of the parties remained unchanged. In 1833, the Islands were already an integral part of Argentina, which had been recognized as an independent State by the United Kingdom in 1825 with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Trade and Navigation. Clearly, the population that had arrived subsequently as part of the colonization plan of the United Kingdom was an implanted population, which did not have the right to self-determination.

15. The Islanders were not a people subjected to alien subjugation, domination or exploitation, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). They were an artificial population, tailored to the requirements of the occupying Power. In fact, it was very difficult to obtain resident status and to own land in the Malvinas Islands as the Governor had the discretion to grant that status and to authorize the purchase of properties. Populating the Malvinas Islands had been an integral part of colonial policy since the time of the British occupation. Most immigrants to the Islands were temporary inhabitants of British origin or from British Overseas Territories; the United Kingdom practised migration policies that enabled it to constantly replace inhabitants who emigrated from the Islands. According to the 2016 census, only 46 per cent of the residents in

the Islands had been born there and only 57 per cent had lived there for more than 10 years.

16. The sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom would be resolved by restoring the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic, bearing in mind the interests of the current inhabitants of the Islands.

17. **Mr. Clifton**, speaking in his personal capacity as an Argentine citizen whose grandfather had been born on the Malvinas Islands, and as a veterinarian specialized in animal nutrition, said that Patagonia and the Malvinas Islands faced similar problems: deterioration of natural resources, low wool and meat productivity and remoteness from centres of consumption. Specific training provided in Argentina to address such agricultural problems, had, in some cases, been attended by ranchers from the Malvinas. Agricultural consultants had also travelled to the Malvinas Islands to provide training on those issues.

18. He himself had participated in several projects concerning the Malvinas. The over-exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in the Islands was threatening the populations of some species both inside and outside the area illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, thereby affecting Argentine fishing grounds. Similarly, unauthorized oil exploration in Argentine maritime areas could result in serious marine pollution, as had occurred in the northern seas. The disproportionately large military base maintained by the United Kingdom on the Malvinas Islands violated the status of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and cooperation. All those illegal activities showed clearly that the United Kingdom was unwilling to negotiate, not because it truly wished to defend the Islanders but because it wanted to keep control over resources in the region and maintain its strategic position in the Southern Atlantic.

19. The draft resolution before the Committee, like all its predecessors, recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina and urged the two parties to resume bilateral negotiations. Since the United Kingdom had seized power over the Islands in 1833, expelled the Argentine citizens who had been living there and implanted British civilians and military personnel, it had maintained a strict colonial policy designed to keep the territory under illegal British rule and to make it difficult for Argentine citizens from the mainland to settle on the Islands. The current inhabitants of the Islands were descendants of, or participants in, the illegal colonization by the United Kingdom. They were beneficiaries, not victims, of colonialism.

20. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) in 1965, the Committee had repeatedly requested the United Kingdom and Argentina to enter into negotiations over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. The United Nations had never recognized any right to self-determination in the case of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands, because they were not a people subjected to colonial domination but rather a handful of British citizens living on Argentine territory. Recognizing such a right would imply consenting to the disruption of the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic by the United Kingdom and would thus contravene paragraph 6 of the Declaration, which stated that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee must continue to appeal to the parties to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute.

*Draft resolution A/AC.109/2021/L.8: Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*

21. **Mr. Skoknic Tapia** (Chile), introducing draft resolution A/AC.109/2021/L.8 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text acknowledged the established United Nations position on the peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. It recognized that the issue was a special and particular colonial situation that differed from other colonial situations as a result of the sovereignty dispute between two States. The only way to end it was through a negotiated settlement between the Governments of the two parties. The draft resolution therefore requested the parties to resume negotiations.

22. Finding a definitive solution to the question of the Malvinas Islands was a crucial and sensitive issue for the Latin American and Caribbean countries, as demonstrated by the statements they had adopted at various regional forums reiterating their support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute. Even in the absence of face-to-face meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the question of the Malvinas Islands had remained on the multilateral regional agenda. At the twentieth ministerial meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held virtually on 24 September 2020, and at the twenty-seventh Ibero-American Summit, held in Andorra on 21 April 2021 in a hybrid format, participants had reaffirmed the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations, as soon as possible,

with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) and with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including that of territorial integrity.

23. The persistence of colonial situations in the twenty-first century was an anachronism that must end. The sponsors supported the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and considered that bilateral negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom were the only way to resolve the dispute. They hoped that the draft resolution, like previous resolutions on the subject, would be adopted by consensus.

24. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that the Government and people of Chile had consistently supported the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom must resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and other multilateral forums, including General Assembly resolution 31/49, which called upon the parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

25. **Mr. Solá** (Observer for Argentina), Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, said that, although representatives of different political parties in Argentina had been unable to accompany him to the meeting owing to the precautions required by the COVID-19 pandemic, the unanimous support in his country for the peaceful recovery of the effective exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas was stronger than ever. Three laws reflecting that State policy had been unanimously passed by the National Congress in 2020, including one establishing the National Council of Affairs relative to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime and insular areas, which would serve as a diverse forum at the highest institutional level to design State strategies for promoting the resolution of the

sovereignty dispute, as established in General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions.

26. In 2021, which marked the start of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Committee still faced the challenge of unresolved colonial situations. More than half of the Non-Autonomous Territories were in Latin America and the Caribbean. Argentina would continue to support the efforts of the United Nations to bring to an end, on a case-by-case basis, the colonial situations that were still pending, bearing in mind the relevant General Assembly recommendations.

27. The sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic dated back to 1833, when the United Kingdom had illegally and forcefully occupied the Islands. At that time, the sovereignty of the Argentine Republic over the territories in question had not just been unquestionable from the perspective of international law but had been peacefully exercised since the very inception of the Republic, as was abundantly clear from the evidence. His country had never agreed to the British usurpation by force of part of the Argentine territory and the expulsion of the Argentine population and authorities who were legitimately established there. Argentina had immediately protested and had continued to do so repeatedly, both bilaterally to the United Kingdom and in the relevant international forums.

28. After the General Assembly had recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute in 1965, by virtue of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom had started a process of bilateral negotiations. Different options for enabling Argentina to recover the effective exercise of sovereignty over the Islands had been discussed but had never been implemented owing to the British refusal. Alongside the sovereignty negotiations, discussions on practical aspects had led to an agreement being reached in 1971 to facilitate the provision of services from the mainland, including regular air and maritime services as well as postal, telegraphic and telephone communications. In 1982, after the cessation of hostilities, the General Assembly, in resolution 37/9, had requested the two Governments to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute. There was no reason why the United Kingdom should have refused to do so, other than its intention to maintain its manifestly illegitimate colonial situation.

29. The Government of Argentina had always been willing to pursue sovereignty negotiations with the United Kingdom. For close to four decades, however,



the United Kingdom had refused to do so, alleging that there would be no sovereignty negotiations without the consent of the inhabitants of the Islands. It feigned ignorance of General Assembly provisions, claiming a supposed right to self-determination on behalf of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. That reasoning had no foundation in international law and was merely an excuse to maintain its colonial presence in the South Atlantic. By invoking the principle of self-determination, the United Kingdom sought to justify the disruption of the territorial integrity of Argentina, which it itself had perpetrated in 1833.

30. The right to self-determination did not apply to the Malvinas Islands. The composition of the population was the result of the colonization begun by the United Kingdom in 1833, when, having occupied the territory by force and expelled the Argentine population and authorities, it had established measures to prevent their return and implanted British subjects with the aim of establishing a demographic composition in the Islands in accordance with its colonial interests and making it difficult for Argentine citizens from the mainland to settle there. That was the only reason why, despite the geographical proximity of the Islands to the Argentine mainland, hardly any persons living in the Malvinas Islands had been born on the Argentine mainland.

31. The principle of self-determination was not mentioned in General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) or any other resolution relating to the Malvinas Islands. In 1985, the General Assembly had rejected attempts by the United Kingdom to include references to self-determination in the relevant resolution. Applying the right to self-determination in the case of the Malvinas Islands would be tantamount to allowing the colonizers themselves to decide on the ultimate status of the territory.

32. Argentina had consistently demonstrated its respect for the interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. During the bilateral negotiations on sovereignty that had taken place between 1966 and 1982, Argentina had always shown itself willing to establish special safeguards for the Islanders' interests. Moreover, respect for the way of life of the Islanders was enshrined in the Argentine Constitution. His Government had allowed flights from the Islands to other South American countries and had proposed the resumption of a regular weekly flight between the Argentine mainland and the Malvinas Islands. It was still awaiting a response to that proposal from the United Kingdom.

33. In March 2020, Argentina had indicated to the United Kingdom its willingness to provide food, medical supplies and COVID-19 diagnostic tests to the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands, as well as

humanitarian flights and access to medical treatment on the mainland, but had not received any response. It had nonetheless responded positively to all humanitarian requests, mainly in relation to transport.

34. The Islanders had access to the public health and education systems on the mainland and a scholarship programme had been launched for students of the Malvinas Islands who wished to pursue degrees at any of the six universities in Patagonia. In a joint humanitarian effort with the United Kingdom and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Argentina had cooperated in identifying 115 Argentine soldiers buried on the Malvinas Islands. Further arrangements were being made to identify the remains of other soldiers laid to rest in a mass grave in Darwin Cemetery.

35. In contravention of General Assembly resolution 31/49, the United Kingdom had undertaken, or was planning to undertake, illegal exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable resources, including hydrocarbon resources, in the disputed area. In 2021, it had decided to extend for a further 25-year period, with effect from 2031, unilateral fishery licences in the waters surrounding the Malvinas Islands, making it impossible for Argentina to maintain cooperation in the conservation of fishery resources. His Government would continue to denounce the illegal exploitation by the United Kingdom of the natural resources that belonged to the Argentine people in the South Atlantic and would pursue the legal actions necessary for its defence. Its right to take steps consistent with international law and the relevant General Assembly resolutions in that regard had been recognized by the international community, including by the Group of 77 and China in its Ministerial Declaration adopted on 12 November 2020.

36. Regular manoeuvres and exercises by British military forces on the Islands had been met by sharp protests from Argentina. Such deployment was completely unjustifiable, since all democratic Governments in Argentina had reaffirmed their decision to resolve the dispute exclusively by peaceful means. The military presence also contravened General Assembly resolution 41/11 on the declaration of a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

37. His Government would continue to seek a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute and had assured the Secretary-General of its support for his good offices in assisting the parties to the dispute to resume negotiations. He trusted that once again the Committee would renew its commitment to international law and the peaceful resolution of disputes and would adopt by

consensus the draft resolution on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

38. **Mr. Carazo** (Observer for Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Central American Integration System (SICA), said that SICA reiterated its support for the mandate of the Committee and remained committed to working within the framework of international law, in particular with respect to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions, to make the region of Latin America and the Caribbean an area free of colonialism and colonies.

39. The States members of SICA reiterated their firm support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and the abiding interest of the countries of the region in having the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom resume negotiations with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute, in accordance with resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. In accordance with Assembly resolution 31/49, the two parties should also refrain from adopting decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

40. The States members of SICA urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to renew his efforts to fulfil the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/9, with a view to the resumption of negotiations, and to report on the progress made.

41. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that Costa Rica reaffirmed its unwavering support for the legitimate sovereign rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The sovereignty dispute concerned a special and particular colonial situation insofar as it entailed special characteristics that set it apart from other cases of decolonization.

42. It was regrettable that, 56 years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the Assembly's request therein had still not been implemented. Equally regrettable were the military exercises and missile launches carried out by the Government of the United Kingdom in the area of the Malvinas Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in April 2021, in clear violation of General Assembly resolution 41/11, by means of which the Atlantic Ocean had been declared a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. No military exercises should be

conducted anywhere in the world, since they were nothing other than preparatory exercises for war. The Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom should resume negotiations as soon as possible with a view to finding a peaceful and definitive solution to the long-standing sovereignty dispute.

43. **Mr. Arriola Ramírez** (Observer for Paraguay), speaking on behalf of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), said that 25 June 2021 would mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the 1996 Declaration of Potrero de los Funes on the Malvinas Islands, in which the MERCOSUR States parties and associated States had reaffirmed their support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands. The Presidents of those States had reaffirmed their support at each meeting of MERCOSUR held since that date. It would be in the interests of the region if the protracted sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were to be resolved as soon as possible, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the declarations of OAS, MERCOSUR and other regional and multilateral forums.

44. The adoption of unilateral measures, including the exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in the disputed area, was incompatible with the agreements reached at the United Nations. The Argentine Republic was thus entitled to undertake legal action against unauthorized activities in the area, in full respect for international law. MERCOSUR called on the United Kingdom to resume negotiations, something that the Government of Argentina was fully prepared to do, with a view to reaching a definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute.

45. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that Paraguay reaffirmed its support for the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas and urged the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations as soon as possible with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the dispute. His delegation welcomed the willingness of the Government of Argentina to continue to explore all possible avenues for reaching a peaceful settlement of the dispute, as well as its constructive attitude towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

46. **Mr. de la Fuente Ramirez** (Observer for Mexico), speaking on behalf of CELAC, said that, at each Summit

held since the inception of the Community, the Heads of State and Government of CELAC had reiterated their firm support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands. At the second CELAC Summit, they had pledged to continue working to consolidate Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace in which differences among nations were settled through dialogue and negotiation or any other peaceful means in compliance with international law. At the fifth Summit, and, once again, at the twentieth Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in September 2020, they had adopted a special declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands, in which they had reiterated their strongest support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the dispute and the abiding interest of the countries of the region in having the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant United Nations and OAS resolutions.

47. Through its special declarations on the question of the Malvinas Islands, CELAC had also mandated the Pro Tempore President of CELAC to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to renew his efforts to accomplish the good offices mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly, with a view to bringing about the resumption of negotiations; reiterated the importance of complying with General Assembly resolution 31/49, which called on the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly; and highlighted the willingness of the Government of Argentina to resume a dialogue in order to resolve the sovereignty dispute.

48. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that Mexico recognized the legal and historical validity of the rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. His delegation reiterated the importance of reaching a just, peaceful and definitive solution to the question in accordance with the declarations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. It appealed to the Committee to step up its efforts to promote a dialogue on the issue.

49. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua reiterated its support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, territories that were occupied by the United

Kingdom. His Government reaffirmed its abiding interest in the resumption of negotiations between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom, aimed at finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and pronouncements. On 10 June 2021, Nicaragua had celebrated its seventh National Day of Solidarity with Argentina on the Malvinas Islands.

50. **Mr. Espinosa Cañizares** (Ecuador) said that his Government supported the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Moreover, it rejected attempts to apply the principle of self-determination to the question of the Malvinas Islands, as it was a violation of the principle of territorial integrity of Argentina. His delegation also rejected any decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General should use the good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly to bring about a resolution of the sovereignty dispute. In line with the Ministerial Declaration issued by the Group of 77 and China on 12 November 2020, the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom must resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute.

51. **Mr. Pary Rodríguez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the question of the Malvinas Islands was not only a bilateral concern, but a Latin American and even global issue. The British usurpation of the Malvinas Islands had resulted in the forceful expulsion of the Argentine authorities and settlers who had refused to recognize British authority. In 1965, through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the Assembly had explicitly recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom and had invited the two countries to proceed with negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

52. The situation was recognized by the United Nations as one of the forms of colonialism that must be brought to an end, given that an invasion could not confer rights on an occupying Power. The principle of sovereign equality of all Member States made it possible for countries to talk to one another on an equal footing without privilege or prerogatives for some over others. Numerous resolutions had been adopted by the Committee, the General Assembly and the Security



Council on the question of the Malvinas Islands, all of which had been systematically ignored by the United Kingdom. It was time for the General Assembly, through the Committee, to ensure compliance with those decisions. His Government therefore appealed to the two parties to resume negotiations and to spare no effort to reach a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute.

53. **Ms. Marin Sevilla** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her Government recognized the special and particular situation of the Malvinas Islands and the legitimate rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Argentina and the United Kingdom should resume bilateral negotiations in order to reach a just, peaceful and lasting solution, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Committee.

54. Her delegation urged the Secretary-General to resume his efforts to fulfil the good offices mission entrusted to him under General Assembly resolution 37/9, to assist the parties in complying with the resolutions and to report on the progress achieved. The parties should refrain from adopting decisions that implied unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly, since they undermined efforts to establish a constructive dialogue and to resolve the dispute, and were incompatible with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 31/49. Venezuela also rejected the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources by the United Kingdom in the disputed area.

55. Venezuela would continue to support all international efforts to ensure that Latin America and the Caribbean remained a zone of peace and to have the region declared an area free of colonialism.

56. **Mr. Bynoe** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that diplomacy was of paramount importance, especially at a time when the international community was beset by unpredictable and complex challenges. His Government reaffirmed its full support for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom with a view to finding a prompt, just, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and all other relevant resolutions.

57. As a small independent archipelagic island State that had survived slavery, genocide and colonialism, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines owed its very existence to the robust body of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Thus, his Government remained indisputably anti-colonialist and supportive of decolonization efforts pursued under the auspices of the United Nations. As pointed out by the General Assembly, the issue at stake with respect to the Malvinas Islands was not the will of a colonized people under alien control, but rather the competing claims of sovereignty over islands that lay a short distance off the Argentine coast. The Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom must respect their obligations under international law, expedite negotiations and refrain from taking actions that would compromise the negotiation process. Frustration and past failures should not lead them to impose unilateral quick fixes on what was inherently a sovereignty dispute.

58. Both the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom were to be commended on their meaningful engagement in recent years, including in the humanitarian initiative for the identification of the unknown Argentine soldiers buried in Darwin. They should continue along that path.

59. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2021/L.8 was adopted.*

60. **Mr. Solá** (Observer for Argentina), Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, expressed gratitude to the sponsors of the resolution and to all members of the Committee that had supported its adoption.

61. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda) said that, as a friend of both Argentina and the United Kingdom, his country strongly encouraged both parties to intensify sovereignty negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/49 and other relevant United Nations resolutions. The matter must be addressed promptly as it affected the lives of real people. Antigua and Barbuda supported the commitment reached at the CELAC Summit, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in January 2017, to continue working within the framework of international law and, in particular, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), to make the region of Latin America and the Caribbean a territory free of colonialism and colonies. He therefore called on the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to settle the sovereignty dispute promptly and with humility.

62. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that, by means of resolution 2065 (XX), the General Assembly had

clearly stated that the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas was a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom that should be resolved through negotiations between those two States. The Malvinas Islands were part of the national territory of Argentina, as had been reiterated in various regional forums. The military exercises conducted in that territory by the United Kingdom infringed the sovereignty of Argentina and violated United Nations resolutions and those of other international forums, including the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace adopted by CELAC in 2014.

63. A just, peaceful and definitive settlement of the dispute must be negotiated as soon as possible, taking into account the territorial integrity of Argentina. In that regard, Cuba urged the United Kingdom to respond positively to the willingness expressed by the Government of Argentina to resume bilateral negotiations. Moreover, the Secretary-General should use his good offices to help the parties comply with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Cuba would continue to work to eradicate colonialism in Latin America and the Caribbean.

64. **Mr. Sabbagh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic was sensitive to the issue of colonialism given that part of its own territory had been under Israeli occupation since 1967. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the legitimate rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in full respect for the principle of territorial integrity. The United Kingdom must comply with the Committee's resolutions and engage in serious dialogue with Argentina with a view to resolving the dispute peacefully. The Secretary-General should use his good offices to implement the mission entrusted to him in relation to the Malvinas Islands, in line with the mandate set out in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions.

65. **Mr. Geng Shuang** (China) said that the international community must remain vigilant in the face of colonial attitudes, power politics and bullying, which were part of the historical legacy of colonialism and which could still be observed in various international forums. Steps must be taken to uphold justice and to ensure that all forms of colonialism were eradicated. The process of decolonizing the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Malvinas Islands, should continue. The United Kingdom and other administering Powers should earnestly fulfil their international obligations in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions

and protect the legitimate rights of the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

66. China had consistently supported the sovereignty of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. Territorial disputes between countries should be resolved through peaceful negotiations, in line with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. He hoped that the United Kingdom would respond to the request from Argentina and engage in negotiations as soon as possible in order to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

67. **Mr. Costa Chaves** (Timor-Leste) said that his Government wished to reiterate that the situations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be considered on a case-by-case basis, as each Territory's circumstances were different. On the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Timor-Leste urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to continue the dialogue to find a peaceful and permanent solution to the dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

68. With regard to the question of Gibraltar, his Government urged the United Kingdom and Spain to continue a constructive dialogue with a view to reaching a permanent solution, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions.

69. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that his delegation acknowledged the particular and unique situation of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Since the only way forward was through a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the issue by the two countries, his delegation again encouraged the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to resume their dialogue and cooperation in the quest for a peaceful, just and lasting solution. The two parties were to be commended for their continued communication and consultations with the Committee. His delegation also wished to reiterate its full support for the good offices of the Secretary-General to further assist the two parties in their quest.

70. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom should resolve the sovereignty dispute through political and diplomatic means, in line with the relevant resolutions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. His Government commended Argentina on its constructive approach in that regard.

71. The Russian Federation was concerned about the potential militarization of the disputed region. The parties should honour their international commitments

under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and its Additional Protocols.

72. **Mr. Kabba** (Sierra Leone) said that the principle of self-determination, an inalienable right of all people, irrespective of race, colour or ethnicity, must be respected within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations. The dispute over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be resolved through peaceful means. To that end, the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom should resume bilateral negotiations and continue to engage with the Committee as appropriate. The Secretary-General's efforts in encouraging the parties to work towards a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute were commendable.

73. **Mr. Amorín** (Observer for Uruguay) said that his delegation reiterated its commitment to the sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. In accordance with successive General Assembly resolutions, the special and particular colonial situation of the Malvinas Islands, which involved a sovereignty dispute between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom as the only concerned parties, must be resolved through bilateral negotiations between the parties.

74. Although 60 years had elapsed since the General Assembly had called for a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, the situation of the Malvinas Islands, along with that of other colonial enclaves, persisted. His delegation trusted that a rapprochement between the parties would occur, enabling them to engage in a constructive dialogue and work towards a just, peaceful and definitive resolution of the sovereignty dispute.

75. **Mr. Lam Padilla** (Observer for Guatemala) said that his delegation firmly supported the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and had an abiding interest in seeing the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute in keeping with the relevant pronouncements of the United Nations and OAS. His delegation commended Argentina for demonstrating the political will to resolve the dispute through negotiation and dialogue.

76. **Mr. Popolizio** (Observer for Peru) said that his Government had consistently supported the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the

Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions. His country's position was based on historical, geographical and legal considerations pertaining to the sovereignty rights and possession over the Malvinas Islands that the Argentine Republic had exercised fully from the date of its independence until 1833. Its position was also consistent with that of the General Assembly and the Committee, which recognized that the right to self-determination did not apply to the case of the Malvinas Islands and that negotiation between the parties concerned was the only means of resolving the dispute. His delegation therefore encouraged the Governments of the two countries to strengthen their bilateral relations and to favour dialogue. At the same time, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should use his good offices in that regard, in accordance with the mission entrusted to him by successive General Assembly and Committee resolutions.

77. As stated in General Assembly resolution 31/49, the parties must refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the existing situation of the Islands, including the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

78. **Ms. González López** (Observer for El Salvador) said that her Government reiterated its firm support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and recognized that the issue was a special and particular colonial situation. Consequently, the principle of self-determination was not applicable and the principle of territorial integrity must be upheld. In line with the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted in November 2020, El Salvador reaffirmed that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom should resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the dispute. The Argentine Republic was part of a region that was committed to peace. El Salvador recognized the willingness and constructive attitude of the Government of Argentina with a view to resolving the dispute peacefully through dialogue, as well as its interest in resuming bilateral negotiations. The good offices mission entrusted to the Secretary-General four decades earlier, with a view to bringing about the resumption of negotiations and finding a peaceful and definitive

solution to the sovereignty dispute, remained valid. For El Salvador, the question of the Malvinas Islands was a regional and global issue. Her country was convinced that the good will of both parties, negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and the vigilance of the international community would all help a definitive solution to be found.

79. **Ms. Cerrato** (Observer for Honduras) said that her country, in the various multilateral organizations, mechanisms and forums in which it participated, continued to support the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

80. The United Nations must continue to uphold the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. The curtailment of the right to self-determination hindered the decolonization process, whose completion required ongoing dialogue, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Her delegation once again encouraged the Secretary-General to fulfil his good offices mission and call on the parties to resume their dialogue with a view to finding a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute. It also urged the parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [31/49](#).

81. **Mr. Gutiérrez Plata** (Observer for Colombia) said that his delegation reiterated its firm support for the rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and recognized that the issue was a special and particular colonial situation. The only way to end the dispute was through a peaceful settlement negotiated by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom. The two Governments should resume negotiations as soon as possible with a view to finding a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Committee. His delegation supported the good offices mission of the Secretary-General to facilitate the parties' compliance with the relevant resolutions.

82. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [31/49](#), the parties should refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands were going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*