



# 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

### Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2022 to March 2023

#### Report of the Secretary-General

##### *Summary*

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution [77/148](#) of 12 December 2022, provides a general overview of the activities undertaken and supported by the Department of Global Communications to disseminate information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Unless otherwise mentioned, it covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution [77/148](#), considered it important to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. To that end, it requested the Department of Global Communications, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports 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. It also stressed that the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continue to be jointly responsible for maintaining and enhancing the United Nations decolonization website. In paragraph 4, the Assembly requested the Department of Global Communications to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In paragraph 5, it requested the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio, television, the Internet and social media, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

2. In fulfilling its mandate, the Department of Global Communications worked closely with the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, among other relevant United Nations offices and entities.

3. The present report, prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution, covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023, unless otherwise indicated.

## **II. 2022 Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism**

4. The Special Committee held the 2022 Pacific regional seminar in Castries, from 11 to 13 May, within the framework of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021–2030).

5. The seminar was held under the theme “Advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond”.

6. The Department assigned a press officer from its Meetings Coverage Section to cover the event. The press officer was present on the ground assisting the Special Committee on Decolonization, issuing daily press releases, which were disseminated through the various United Nations news and media platforms.

### III. Coverage of issues before the General Assembly

7. The Department issued a total of 45 press releases, in English and French, covering meetings and statements relating to the work of the United Nations on decolonization, including by the General Assembly, its Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee.

8. The Department's Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit continued to share information with journalists covering the work of the United Nations about meetings and events, related to the subject matter, through regular media alerts, and also provided accreditation and liaison support. The Media Documents Centre distributed relevant statements and resolutions related to meetings to journalists and members of the media seeking to cover the work of the United Nations on decolonization.

#### A. United Nations websites and social media

9. The "Global issues" section of the United Nations website, maintained by the Department, continued to feature the issue of decolonization in the six official languages of the United Nations ([www.un.org/en/global-issues/decolonization](http://www.un.org/en/global-issues/decolonization)). The pages on that topic were viewed a total of 113,762 times, a 28 per cent increase over the same period the previous year.

10. In the "Observances" section of the United Nations website, the pages for the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (25–31 May; <https://www.un.org/en/observances/non-self-governing-week>) were viewed a total of 21,434 times.

11. The flagship United Nations social media accounts, with more than 64 million collective followers, promoted the subject of decolonization in the six official languages, in addition to Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. Important areas covered ranged from observances to events and related meetings. Posts directed traffic to United Nations webpages on decolonization and supported the Organization's programme to ensure diverse audiences could be reached with detailed and current information about the work of the Organization in the area of decolonization.

12. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continued to maintain and update the "United Nations and Decolonization" website in the six official languages ([www.un.org/dppa/decolonization](http://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization)). From January to December 2022, the website had a total of 703,023 page views, 428,429 sessions and 295,639 users, a 68 per cent, 71 per cent and 47 per cent increase from 2021, respectively.

13. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs continued to keep the public informed of activities relating to decolonization, in particular those of the Special Committee, the Fourth Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, through the "United Nations and Decolonization" website.

14. In line with the mandate on multilingualism and the principle of parity of official languages on United Nations websites, the messages of the Secretary-General to the regional seminars held from 2005 to 2022, previously only available in English, have been translated and are now available in the six official languages on the "United Nations and Decolonization" website. Furthermore, a new dedicated section on the website subtitled "Women in the Territories: Highlights" provides information regarding the role, contributions and achievements of women in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the process of decolonization. As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and as the Special Committee on Decolonization had consistently stressed in its annual reports, this section will be updated regularly.

## **B. United Nations News**

15. United Nations News, operating in nine languages, continued to produce multimedia stories and features related to the issue of decolonization, including the opening session of the Special Committee.

16. Among issues covered, United Nations News teams focused on the legacy of colonization, especially systemic racism, producing an in-depth multimedia feature and interview with journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, best known for the Pulitzer Prize-winning 1619 Project. Some United Nations News language teams also covered the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, whose most recent report argued that violence against Indigenous women and girls was enabled by the legacy of colonialism.

17. Other relevant issues covered by United Nations News included the social and economic impact of climate change, as most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are small islands on the frontlines of the phenomenon. The deliberations of the Special Committee on Decolonization were also covered, in February 2022. Observance of the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (25–31 May) was also featured.

18. The Department provided live coverage of all press conferences and open meetings on the subject of decolonization at United Nations Headquarters through United Nations WebTV, in New York, and made it available to broadcast clients around the world. The Department's news service for broadcasters, UNifed, continued to distribute distributed information packages on the subject matter.

19. The Department continued to provide multilingual live and on-demand streaming coverage of UN meetings and events on decolonization issues directly to a global audience through the United Nations Web TV website (<https://media.un.org/en/webtv>). A total of 37 live and on-demand videos related to decolonization issues were made available to a global audience. Among them were meetings of the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on Decolonization. United Nations Photo also covered decolonization issues; over 50 images were archived in the photo archive system and some 20 images were published online.

## **IV. Visitors' services**

20. The Visitors' Services Section in New York continued to share information with United Nations visitors on decolonization through its guided tours, including on the former role of the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee, as well as the progress made in decolonization over the past decades in the light of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of 1960. The topic is also covered within overview lectures, about the United Nations, organized through the Visitors' services operation in Vienna. Nine such lectures were organized and attended by a total of 263 participants.

21. Over 130,000 visitors took a guided tour at the United Nations Headquarters. In February 2022, some 200 online visitors took a virtual Black History-themed Tour, which provides a unique look at the Ark of Return permanent memorial and highlights the contribution of people of African descent to the work of the United Nations in fields such as peace and security and human rights, with a special emphasis on decolonization.

## **V. Dag Hammarskjöld Library**

22. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library digitized 4,100 United Nations parliamentary documents (a total of 53,000 pages) focusing on deliberations of the Trusteeship Council; as well as 220 documents (a total of 1,300 pages) of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. At the same time, the Library analysed current United Nations parliamentary and normative documents as well as more than 70 speeches delivered during the Fourth Committee meetings concerning decolonization. All documents were uploaded into the United Nations Digital Library and the Official Document System.

23. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library maintains and regularly updates two research guides relating to decolonization. These guides, one on the Trusteeship Council (<http://research.un.org/en/docs/tc>) and the other on Decolonization (<http://research.un.org/en/docs/decolonization>), are part of the United Nations Documentation Research Guide series available online to the public. Both guides have been viewed over 30,000 times. The Library continued to regularly provide research and information services on decolonization and related topics.

## **VI. United Nations information centres and services**

24. The global network of 59 United Nations information centres continued to educate the public on the issue of decolonization through social media posts, virtual and in-person briefings, guided tours, Model United Nations and radio programmes in local languages.

## **VII. Conclusions**

25. The Department of Global Communications continued its efforts to cover the issue of decolonization and the objectives of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Working in close cooperation and coordination with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department deployed its multimedia, multilingual platforms and tools to cover the work of the Special Committee. The Department has not spared any efforts in advancing the issue of decolonization and promoting the need for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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