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**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the
specialized agencies and the international institutions
associated with the United Nations**

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2021/2 B, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair 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 on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 76/87, entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review the conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in their economic and social sectors. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate on the question and requested the Council to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation with the Special Committee, with the aim of developing appropriate measures for the further coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 76/86, encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by hurricanes, natural phenomena or other extreme weather events and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on that matter.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),¹ French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to those Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. Responses were received from 20 United Nations system entities. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Meteorological Organization indicated that they did not have any information to submit on the issue. According to the information received and compiled below, during the period under review, the twelve organizations indicated below continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[23 February 2022]

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) remained deliberate in ensuring its continued engagement with, and support to, the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in both its regular budget and extrabudgetary work programmes. Priority attention was given to responding to the needs associated with the vulnerability of the Territories to disasters and efforts to pursue national development within the respective frameworks of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the small island developing States (SIDS) platform, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. This integrated engagement with the Territories in the Caribbean is indicative of the similarities of their development challenges to those of the wider membership of the subregion, given the unique economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities to external shocks, high levels of debt, limited fiscal space and high exposure to climate change and extreme weather events. It is for this reason that the Caribbean First strategy, prioritizes the commitment of ECLAC to actively support and engage its 30 Caribbean members, including the seven Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.²

The Caribbean First strategy emerged as a means to not only address economic, social and environmental issues, but to support planning frameworks for the strengthening of sustainable development, at a time when Governments were under severe pressure to curtail public spending, and to advance advocacy on behalf of the Caribbean. This is particularly timely in the light of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the virtual collapse of the tourism sector and the search for fiscal space. The objective of the strategy is also to give a prominent place to the subregion in the work of the regional commission to better address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of Caribbean countries, ensuring that the concerns of the Caribbean are given the widest consideration and are addressed with an integrated approach. Ultimately, this strategic vision further advances resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998³ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and aims to ensure that all Caribbean voices are heard and channelled in regional and global forums, with a view to advancing the subregion's agendas for sustainable development with equality and to strengthening common positions.

Within this context, the work of ECLAC with the Territories and its other associated members remains critical.

1. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the effects of the measures taken to address it, continued to be defining features of this period. ECLAC collaborated with the Territories to conduct research which explored and sought to more fully understand the impact of the pandemic, particularly the effects associated with health, education, social and economic activities, and provide a road map for recovery. For example, in February 2021, ECLAC released several specific projections for the Territories⁴ forecasting the economic impact of COVID-19 on the health sector, should there have been a doubling or a 10-fold increase in the May 2020 base prevalence rate; and

² Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21 (E/1998/41)*, sect. III.G.

⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "The case for financing: Caribbean resilience building in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic", February 2021, available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46629-case-financing-caribbean-resilience-building-face-covid-19-pandemic>.

overall (gross domestic product) GDP, where the tourism-dependent economies of the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, were forecast to experience declines in their growth rate by over 15 percentage points. Ultimately, that research offered recommendations for rethinking operations in the industry, including innovative measures to enable it to bounce back after the crisis.

Similarly, the publications entitled “Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”⁵ and “Selected online learning experiences in the Caribbean during COVID-19”⁶ which included analyses of the experiences in the Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands, respectively, identified several good practices for replication in other Territories. From the Turks and Caicos Islands, for example, one of their good practices was the formulation of policy guidance for distance education. From the British Virgin Islands, their approach to leveraging project-based and self-directed remote learning for advanced students, facilitated by using systems already in place, as well as strengthening knowledge management to foster improved data capture and reporting, and integrated approaches across teams were noteworthy practices.

2. Climate change and natural disasters

The COVID-19 pandemic further increased the vulnerability of the Territories, several of which are still recovering from the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. The Caribbean continues to be the second most disaster-prone region in the world, with climate change impacts being felt across the Territories.

The work of ECLAC to address these challenges has revolved around finding ways to increase the resilience of the Territories, in particular with regard to preparedness and response to natural disasters. In this regard, two high-level international seminars were convened in 2021,^{7,8} which included parliamentary representatives from the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. During the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition (OPCC) initiative was formally announced by ECLAC,⁹ participating parliamentarians from the region, including the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands issued a joint statement,¹⁰ articulating the fundamental role that parliamentary representatives play in building consensus-based and long-term policies and committed continued active participation in the process to shift from words to climate action and the strengthening of environmental democracy in the region.

⁵ ECLAC, “Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, March 2021, available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46696-building-forward-better-action-strengthen-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>.

⁶ ECLAC, “Selected online learning experiences in the Caribbean during COVID-19”, February 2022, available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47742-selected-online-learning-experiences-caribbean-during-covid-19>.

⁷ ECLAC, “Just transition: strategies for a sustainable recovery”, June 2021, available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/just-transition-strategies-sustainable-recovery>.

⁸ In August 2021, ECLAC hosted a seminar entitled “Financiamiento necesario para la acción climática: el desafío de incorporar mecanismos de precio de carbono en la legislación climática”. For more information see <https://www.cepal.org/en/node/54381>.

⁹ The Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition initiative arose from the identification of the need to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation so that lawmakers can review and pass legislation relevant to the just transition to low-carbon economies.

¹⁰ ECLAC, “Joint statement by Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians at COP 26” November 2021. Available at https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/final_joint_statement_-_eng_-_signed.pdf.

3. Support in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Support to the Territories from ECLAC remained primarily focused on capacity development and technical assistance framed by the 2030 Agenda, through their participation in events to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Most significant among these was the support provided to the British Virgin Islands, which benefitted from projects by ECLAC to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, aimed at the development of their National Sustainable Development Plan. The Plan will guide the Territory for the next 15 years (2021–2036) and includes a built-in review every three years that is supported by implementation and monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure reporting, transparency and accountability.

ECLAC also focused on strengthening the national capacity of the British Virgin Islands in the production and dissemination of official statistics, to enhance its ability to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and to measure progress.

4. Facilitating participation in regional and global conferences and platforms

Every effort is made to support the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean in regional and global platforms to make their voices heard. At the regional level, all Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members of ECLAC are invited to participate in the 11 intergovernmental bodies for which the Commission serves as Secretariat. These bodies constitute multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, as they examine various public policy issues in the region, facilitate cooperation among countries and territories and promote regional positions while including subregional specificities in their mandates.

For example, in January 2021, the Territories participated in the fourth meeting of the presiding officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the British Virgin Islands was one of the Vice-Chairs.¹¹ In March 2021, the Territories and other associate members of ECLAC were active participants in the discussions of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.¹² The Territories also participated in the high-level meeting on the challenges faced by Associate Members of ECLAC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ which was convened prior to the Forum. At that high-level meeting, representatives from the Territories highlighted specific challenges they faced related to administrative capacity, policy expertise, technology transfer and financial resources, all compounded by COVID-19 and the climate emergency and called for sustained cooperation in advancing resilient and sustainable development and identifying common responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2021, the Territories actively participated in the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,¹⁴ with the British Virgin Islands serving as a Vice-Chair.

¹¹ ECLAC “Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, May 2021, available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46866/S2100286_en.pdf.

¹² ECLAC, Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en>.

¹³ See <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en/programme/high-level-meeting-challenges-faced-associate-members-eclac-implementation-2030-agenda>.

¹⁴ See <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/twentieth-meeting-monitoring-committee-caribbean-developmentand-cooperation-committee>.

5. Conclusion

ECLAC attaches great importance to the sustainable development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee resolution 85 (XXV) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 574 (XXVII) directly inform the way in which ECLAC engages with the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its other associate members. ECLAC continues to be engaged through various interventions, technical assistance, research and flagship publications to actively support the sustainable development aspirations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

Notwithstanding its commitment, and the exhortations for the provision of United Nations system support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, ECLAC continues to be challenged to adequately resource its interventions. This is primarily due to the budgetary procedures which place limitations on the use of regular budget resources to support development activities with associate members, and these Territories, in particular.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[16 February 2022]

Representatives from French Polynesia attended the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) worked on implementing technical materials on regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Pacific, including the publication in December 2021 of the report entitled “Advancing Pacific Priorities”. On coronavirus disease (COVID-19) related areas of activities, ESCAP provided technical assistance and policy guidance on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in social protection, including holding a capacity-building workshop for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on follow-up actions highlighted through the voluntary national review; and a workshop on “Innovative Climate Financing Instruments: supporting Post COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery in Asia-Pacific SIDS”.

C. International Labour Organization

[14 February 2022]

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) attaches significant importance to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Working with Governments, workers and employers organizations, ILO provides assistance to people in countries and regions affected by natural disasters, to allow them to recover their livelihoods and seek decent work opportunities. Such support may come in the form of enterprise development, employment services, occupational safety and health, access to social protection and a range of essential services.

While ILO does not have direct ongoing operations in any of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, and therefore no information readily available to share at this time, the Decent Work Teams in Trinidad and Tobago and in Thailand, as well as the multi-country office in Fiji stand ready to join forces with their respective United Nations country teams to provide the necessary assistance when required.

D. International Monetary Fund

[22 February 2022]

The engagement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the dependent Territories of a member constitutes part of a broader engagement with the member. Separate assessments of the issues specific to the Territories are not common. For that reason, IMF has only limited information to share.

During the IMF fiscal year 2022, the following 21 missions¹⁵ to Non-Self-Governing Territories were conducted or planned:

(a) Anguilla: missions for capacity development on real sector – national accounts (6 September 2021), public finance management (12 October 2021), revenue administration (3 December 2021 and 21 February 2022), and balance of payments (21 February 2022);

(b) Bermuda: missions for capacity development on balance of payments (1 November 2021);

(c) British Virgin Islands: missions for capacity development on balance of payments (14 February 2022), real sector – prices (11 April 2022);

(d) Cayman Islands: missions for capacity development on revenue administration (26 August 2021) and systemic risk analysis (26 August 2021);

(e) Montserrat: missions for capacity development on real sector – national accounts (14 June 2021), financial and fiscal law reform (24 June 2021), revenue administration (25 October 2021) and balance of payments (14 February 2022);

(f) Turks and Caicos Islands: missions for capacity development on systemic risk analysis (11 October 2021), revenue administration (1 November 2021 and 11 April 2022), balance of payments (17 January 2022), real sector – prices (31 January 2022), and tax policy – consumption tax (23 March 2022).

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[17 February 2022]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is implementing the Automated System for Customs Data project in New Caledonia, which supports the Territory in building an efficient and effective customs administration. By doing so, the project:

- benefits the territorial economy by collecting revenue;
- assists the territorial Government in implementing national and international policy;
- protects the Territory by combating fraud and the illegal trafficking of prohibited and restricted goods;
- provides the statistical information on foreign trade transactions essential for economic planning;
- encourages international trade.

The ongoing Automated System for Customs Data project for New Caledonia is intended to upgrade the current system that New Caledonia had been using since 2005. The upgrade will be completed by June 2022. The automation of the custom

¹⁵ The documents resulting from the missions are not in the public domain.

process contributed to maintain New Caledonia customs open and international trade of goods operational while measures to protect from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic were active. The latest version of the Automated System which underpins the full customs clearance process is expected to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the customs authorities in tackling drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities, as well as the illegal exploitation of marine and other natural resources of New Caledonia, and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the Territory.

F. United Nations Development Programme

[7 March 2022]

1. Latin America and the Caribbean

As part of sustained efforts to help Territories recover from the pandemic, in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to support the three Territories with the implementation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery programme focused on providing technical and financial support for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises that are directly or indirectly linked to the tourism sector and have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this support is to build forward better by enhancing the capacities of those enterprises.

In Anguilla, UNDP has provided financial support for the economic recovery of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises working in the areas of innovation, communications and coral reef restoration. The participating enterprises benefited from a comprehensive training programme facilitated by the University of West Indies and the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and have received financial resources to implement the approved Business Improvement Plan. The enterprises will continue to receive mentorship and technical assistance from the University until June 2022.

In the British Virgin Islands, UNDP signed the first Government cost-sharing agreement in April 2021 with the objectives of (1) enhancing strategic programme planning and ensuring programme coordination and implementation in the Territory; (2) maintaining collaborative relationships among key project partners and donors, through effective communication, consultation, and reporting; (3) supporting operationalization of activities; and (4) promoting communication between the parties and other relevant stakeholders.

In Montserrat, the Cabinet approved the Blue Economy Scoping Study elaborated by UNDP. The study uncovers the constraints to developing a more productive blue economy and assesses the potential for generating greater value, creating equitable blue growth and promoting climate resilience. It provides guidance on the blue economy opportunities that can be explored, and best fit the local context in Montserrat. Sector specific opportunities that support the overarching framework of blue economy development are also outlined. UNDP has also assisted territorial partners in developing the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Ocean Resources Management Act and Regulations (2022) that will ensure that Montserrat improves the management and governance of its fisheries and ocean resources sustainably for future generations in accordance with international instruments and best practices.

UNDP does not currently have programmes in Bermuda, Cayman Islands or Turks and Caicos Islands.

2. Pacific

Tokelau is one of very few places in the world to remain free of COVID-19. It is one of the most inaccessible atolls in the world. Without an airstrip and with shallow coastal waters, the atolls can only be reached by dinghies, canoes or small rafts. Without tourism, the economy of Tokelau has faced less economic disruptions than its Pacific peers. Nonetheless, it is reported that the Territory faced disruptions with respect to access to imports, delays in infrastructure projects, access to international study and travel for health and family reasons because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Tokelau families are largely supported by remittances from family members working overseas, mainly in New Zealand and Australia, so there is likely to be some indirect effects from any COVID-related economic downturn in those countries.

Tokelau depends heavily on imports (34 per cent of GDP in 2016); the lockdown in late 2020 affected inflation and access to imported goods. In late 2020, 50 per cent or more respondents in the socioeconomic impact assessment of COVID-19 lockdown in Tokelau reported a reduction (or great reduction) in access to imported goods, mostly because of higher prices. Disruptions in global supply chain and higher import prices of food and energy that affected neighbouring import-dependent Pacific Island Countries have also affected Tokelau's economy. The consumer price index rose 3.9 per cent in the 12-month period ending in December 2021, pushed by transportation price that jumped 22 per cent in the last quarter of 2021 and the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which increased 3.2 per cent in the same quarter.¹⁶

Currently, UNDP programmatic support in Tokelau focuses on addressing the issue of unemployment. Through circular economy interventions, UNDP contributed to increased employment and income generation, specifically for unemployed women and youth, including persons with disabilities, through value chain development in the recovery of glass waste, a low-value waste stream. The initiative provided jobs to unemployed youth. Tokelau's waste management workforce has increased by 300 per cent, with all new waste management officers employed being women. On top of this, to accelerate digital transformation as a key pillar of building forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic and overcoming its geographic remoteness, UNDP extended the Zoom licences provided to the Government of Tokelau.

The gender inequality gap in Tokelau has been reported in the recent common country assessment by the United Nations country team.¹⁷ To address the gap, one recommendation is the adoption of basic legislation promoting equalities in employment, as well as putting policies and legislation in place for prevention, detection and support to victims of violence against women and girls. The public space also needs gender balance.

UNDP "Circular Economy for the Recovery of Waste (CERO Waste)" project has increased meaningful participation of female youths in the waste sector in Samoa and Tokelau; for instance, 55 per cent of the Youth Incubator Programme are young women against 45 per cent men. In Tokelau, 100 per cent of waste management officers hired per atoll are women. The initiative both in Samoa and Tokelau absorbed unemployed youth, with 87.5 per cent of the employed being youth and gender parity being achieved and 75 per cent of women are youth with disabilities.

¹⁶ See <https://www.tokelau.org.nz/site/tokelau/2021q4-cpi-tokelau-info-release.pdf>.

¹⁷ See <https://samoa.un.org/en/150038-people-inform-development-direction-next-five-years>.

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[21 February 2022]

Out of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, 6 have the status of associate members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), namely Anguilla (2013), British Virgin Islands (1983), Cayman Islands (1999), Monserrat (2015), New Caledonia (2017) and Tokelau (2001).

UNESCO continued supporting its Member States and associated members in the implementation of their development strategies and recovery plans following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Organization assists Non-Self-Governing Territories through various platforms of action and through long established cooperation relationships, including the exchange of good practices, capacity-building activities and data collection. UNESCO is in the process of launching a number of initiatives to address the specific needs of the Territories, particularly in the fields of education for sustainable development, statistics, artificial intelligence, natural sciences and oceans management. In addition, UNESCO considers that prioritizing cultural policies and their adaptation to the digital transformation, including in culture-related employment, is key to ensure a sustainable development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Education

Since its last report, UNESCO has pursued efforts to support its Member States and Associate Members in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its targets, which encompass elements of education for global citizenship and education for sustainable development. Building on its role as the United Nations lead agency for Education for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution [74/223](#) of 17 January 2020), and through its Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education programmes, UNESCO has been supporting some of its associate members, which are Non-Self-Governing Territories, in implementing Goal 4, and in particular its target 7.

UNESCO supported the development of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education teaching and learning materials for the Pacific States from early childhood, primary, secondary to tertiary levels. Those online resources were made available to all 15 Pacific small island developing States. The Tokelau Department of Education participated in the regional dissemination workshop held in 2021, along with over 70 participants from across the Pacific, and benefitted from the regional sharing on the process of curriculum review, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education material development and contents, lessons learned, as well as Education for Sustainable Development Road map, to help build the next steps and some Education for Sustainable Development initiatives from other parts of the world.

With regards to social protection in support of persons with disabilities, UNESCO is assisting Tokelau in building evidence-based, locally owned social protection systems to accelerate progress of the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated programming in the principle of Leave No One Behind. This is being done as part of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund social protection programme on strengthening the resilience of Pacific Island States through universal social protection, implemented in Tokelau, as well as in the Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa. In particular, UNESCO supports closing the coverage gaps of existing social protection interventions and developing locally appropriate social protection programmes to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

In November 2021, a national assessment of persons with disabilities was completed in Tokelau and a disability reference group is being formulated in the Territory. The cognitive assessment of children with intellectual disabilities as well as the survey of persons with disabilities is complete. The data captured has informed the establishment of a national register of persons with disabilities, with data disaggregated including, but not limited to, gender and subgroups. Tokelau is now focused on developing a national policy on persons with disabilities and capacity development programme to deliver disability inclusive education training for teachers, members of the Department of Education and other concerned Ministries.

As regards Education Statistics, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics annually collects and disseminates education data for the following territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Tokelau and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Data are disaggregated by sex to allow the analysis of gender-specific data regarding women's access, participation and completion of education.

In April 2021, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics held a regional training webinar on education statistics and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 4 for the Caribbean region, in which the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated. The webinars were also an opportunity to discuss the challenges in data collection and reporting that countries and Territories are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and how the Institute could help mitigating them.

In October 2020, Tokelau participated in the regional workshop on international education statistics and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 4, organized by UNESCO and its Institute for Statistics, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Tokelau was also supported through the Secretariat in education data extraction and generating data related to Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its indicators. The training helped the Territory build understanding and capacity in producing quality timely data for national monitoring, using various data sources and using data for planning and monitoring. It was a major step to improve data submission to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics for regional and global monitoring. The Institute and the Secretariat have also been working with Tokelau in establishing national benchmark values for Goal 4 indicators aligning global, regional and national monitoring processes.

Natural sciences and oceans

UNESCO started a strategy to promote the concept of Geoparks and to provide local training in the small island developing States, including some of its Non-Self-Governing Territories. A study has been ordered under the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme to inventory the geological heritage of the region and identify knowledge gaps. The study includes a case study of best practices in Montserrat and a short description of the potential for geoheritage conservation of Montserrat and of the British Virgin Islands.

As UNESCO Associate Member States, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, are active members of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, established in 2005 as a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. The Coordination Group was established with the purpose of providing efficient assistance on tsunami risk reduction to Member States in the Caribbean region after the lessons learned from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, a similar system established in Pacific, includes French

Polynesia and New Caledonia as active members. This mechanism was first convened in 1968 as a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO with the purpose of providing efficient assistance on tsunami risk reduction to Member States. The Centre Polynésien de Prévention des Tsunamis, and the Laboratoire de Géophysique, at Nouméa, New Caledonia, are dynamic leader organizations within the Coordination Group.

Culture

A small number of World Heritage properties are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories. In Bermuda, the historic town of Saint George and related fortifications (cultural property, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, inscribed in 2000); in French Polynesia, Taputapuātea (cultural property, France, inscribed in 2017); in Gibraltar, Gorham's Cave Complex (cultural property, United Kingdom, inscribed in 2016); in New Caledonia, the lagoons of New Caledonia, their reef diversity and associated ecosystems (natural property, France, inscribed in 2008); in Pitcairn, Henderson Island (natural property, United Kingdom, inscribed in 1988); in Saint Helena, Gough and Inaccessible Islands (natural property, United Kingdom, inscribed in 1995).

There are also some sites located in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which are included in the States parties' tentative lists. These lists comprise national inventories of sites that States parties intend to submit for UNESCO World Heritage inscription, including American Samoa: Marine Protected Areas of American Samoa (Natural property, United States of America); French Polynesia: Les Iles Marquises (Mixed property, France); Saint Helena: Island of Saint Helena (Natural property, United Kingdom); Turks and Caicos Islands: Turks and Caicos Islands (Natural property, United Kingdom).

Whereas nomination files have to be submitted by those States parties that have ratified the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), local authorities of the Territories are usually involved in the preparation of the files and in the daily management of the properties. Non-Self-Governing Territories also participate in World Heritage Committee sessions and may make statements as part of the State party delegation. They often participate in international meetings, capacity-building programmes and training courses organized by UNESCO.

In the context of the third cycle of the periodic reporting exercise (2018–2024), UNESCO World Heritage Centre invited representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by France, the United Kingdom and the United States that have World Heritage properties located in the Asia and the Pacific region to participate in training workshops.

Several Non-Self-Governing Territories hold important underwater cultural heritage and/or are profiting from its valorization and their representatives occasionally participate in and benefit from capacity-building programmes organized by UNESCO under its Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001). The Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage works closely with the Cayman Islands National Museum and its Director; and the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The cooperation with the University, which is member of the University Twinning and Networking Programme for underwater archaeology of UNESCO, focuses particularly on fish weirs and also on shipwreck sites from the First World War.

With regard to museums, an expert from the Cayman Islands took part in the International Centre for Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and UNESCO webinar entitled "Museums after the pandemic" (23 July

2020) and in the Youth Forum on Museums entitled “Museums, Youth and Education” (21 May 2021).

A number of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island developing States, which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of disasters, including those related to climate change. In this regard, under its Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), UNESCO has undertaken a reflection on the role of living heritage in emergencies, which in 2020 led to the adoption of the “Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies” by the General Assembly of the States parties to the Convention. The text points to the dual nature of living heritage in emergencies: on the one hand, living heritage can be directly threatened by emergencies, and on the other hand, it can be drawn upon by communities to help them prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. The principles and modalities provide guidance to communities, States and other relevant stakeholders on how best to ensure that intangible cultural heritage is most effectively engaged and safeguarded in emergencies. UNESCO has also developed dedicated training materials on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in disaster contexts, which are available on the Organization’s website.

Communication and information

Gibraltar and the Cayman Islands participated in the 2021 UNESCO Survey on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.2 on public access to information. The annual survey is conducted by UNESCO, as the United Nations custodian agency for this indicator. UNESCO reports not only on progress on the adoption and the implementation of access to information guarantees worldwide, but also promotes efforts around the issue, including reinforcing the relevance of access to information to crisis recovery and to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals as a whole.

From May 2020 to May 2021, UNESCO, with the support of its Information for All Programme, implemented the Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative, a project that has benefitted small island developing States in the Caribbean by providing capacity enhancement training on artificial intelligence. The webinars held as part of the project considered the Caribbean context, also as regards the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed how to harness the potential of artificial intelligence to accelerate sustainable development in small island developing States, including in the following associate members of UNESCO: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat.

UNESCO is in the process of launching an initiative to assess the needs of small island developing States in artificial intelligence, digital transformation and open data. The survey will be an assessment of Government and/or Government designated entities’ capacity and infrastructure gaps. It will assess how vulnerabilities specific to small island developing States have made it all the more important to explore the potential of artificial intelligence as an alternate source to grow and sustain the economy. It will also assess the open data policy settings which could drive a sustainable uptake of artificial intelligence-powered technologies to serve these countries’ quest for sustainable development. This needs assessment is based on a similar survey that was carried out in Africa in 2020.

H. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

[15 February 2022]

Women have suffered steeper job losses than men, along with increased – and unpaid – care burdens at home. The latest global data, produced through collaboration between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) expose the motherhood penalty faced by millions of women around the world in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Data on coupled women and men of prime working age (25 to 54) with at least one child under the age of 6 at home is used as a proxy for parents with small children at home that actively participate in the labour market. The database includes estimates for five Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Even before the pandemic, attachment to the workforce for mothers – standing at 55.0 per cent using our proxy – lagged far behind women’s overall participation rate (62.1 percent), and substantially lower than comparable fathers (97.1 per cent). The latter face a labour market premium, that is, they are more likely to participate in the workforce than all men in the same age group (93.5 percent). The data confirm that the unequal division of care and domestic responsibilities inside the home is a strong driver of inequalities in labour market participation. The effect is also felt in other ways, including women’s access to equal pay, growth in wages and immediate and long-term opportunities for management and leadership positions.

In 2020, the pressures of juggling work and family, coupled with school closures and job losses in female-dominated sectors meant even fewer women were participating in the workforce. Globally, an estimated 113 million women aged 25–54, with partners and small children, were out of the workforce in 2020. This figure is astonishing, particularly when compared to their male peers (13 million, up from 8 million before COVID-19). The estimates for French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and the United States Virgin Islands show similar significant drops in participation among working mothers in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of government policies and business practices that support women in the workforce.

Data available on Sustainable Development Goal 5

There is virtually no reporting at global level on progress or status of Sustainable Development Goal 5 targets and indicators for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the exception of the following:

- British Virgin Islands: 77.4 per cent of women own a mobile telephone compared to 75.6 per cent of men (target 5.b, indicator 5.b.1). Global averages cannot be computed for this indicator due to insufficient data.
- Guam: women hold 15.4 per cent of seats in local government according to latest estimates, compared to 36.3 per cent globally (target 5.5, indicator 5.5.1.b).
- New Caledonia: women hold 47.2 per cent of seats in local government according to latest estimates, compared to 36.3 per cent globally (indicator 5.5.1.b).
- Saint Helena: data on Sustainable Development Goal target 5.c, indicator 5.c.1 is available i.e., countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Under this indicator, Saint Helena “does not meet the requirements” of having a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- Tokelau: data on Sustainable Development Goal target 5.c, indicator 5.c.1 is available i.e., countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. Under this indicator, Tokelau "does not meet the requirements" of having a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Gender-sensitive measures from the UN-Women and UNDP policy tracker for 5 out of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories are presented below.

American Samoa

- March 2020: Restrictions on hazard pay were suspended and the Director of the Department of Human Resources was tasked with developing a policy to compensate medical personnel, first responders and all employees of the territorial Government that faced increased risk and exposure associated with their duties. Women's share of employment in the health and social sector is 60 per cent.

Cayman Islands

- June 2020: The Government relaunched the Ready2Work programme designed to provide industry specific training and re-tooling of Caymanian workers to better prepare them for the workforce. This includes paid internships (by employer and/or by the Government when required); support for childcare, where needed, and counselling and coaching.
- The Government also extended the Passport2Success programme, a 16-week soft skills training programme that bridges the gap between high school and the world of work for young people 17 to 24 years of age. It has serviced a wide spectrum of young people: young parents, young persons with special needs and young people in their final years of high school who attend during the summer. Most participants of the programme are women.

Montserrat

- March 2020: The Government made provisions for discretionary leave and issued a flexible working arrangements policy for public officers. The Government introduced this 'discretionary leave provision' to allow employees the time and flexibility to make alternate arrangements for the supervision of school-aged children. During this relaxed attendance period, heads of departments could grant civil servants additional paid leave to resolve personal commitments relating to childcare.

New Caledonia

- March 2020: The Government of New Caledonia increased family benefits for salaried workers who had to stay at home to care for children under 16, due to the closure of nurseries and schools as of 19 March 2020. Top-ups of 60 points (22,785 pacific francs) for the period 20 to 31 March 2020 and 120 points (45,570 pacific francs) for the period from 1 to 3 April and from 20 to 30 April when gradual reopening of schools was planned.

United States Virgin Islands

- April 2020: To contain the spread of COVID-19 among homeless individuals, the United States Virgin Islands scaled up essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, outreach,

employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services and transportation.

- July 2020: The United States Virgin Islands Department of Human Services waived income requirements for childcare assistance for parents who need to return to work amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The department is utilizing a federal childcare grant in the amount of \$3.3 million awarded to provide assistance to families and childcare providers.

I. United Nations Environment Programme

[15 February 2022]

In November 2021, the British Virgin Islands participated in a virtual workshop organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (also known as the Cartagena Convention), as a non-contracting Party to the Convention's Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities. The objective of the workshop was to assess the level of progress in the ratification of the Protocol, identify major barriers to ratification and the type of support that could be provided by the Secretariat, the Land-Based Sources and Activities Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks, through ongoing programmes, projects, and activities. The workshop, held under the European Union-funded project on Capacity-Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific Countries and within the frame of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, directly supported the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen the governance framework of the Protocol and increase national awareness about the importance of this legal instrument in addressing marine pollution.¹⁸

Under the same project, in partnership with the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP produced a report on the protection of migratory species in the Wider Caribbean Region, including Non-Self-Governing Territories that was presented at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) held virtually in July 2021. The report, entitled "SPA Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean: a comprehensive Booklet",¹⁹ is part of efforts by UNEP to develop a plan to facilitate cooperation between the protected areas listed under the SPA Protocol and create a functional network of marine protected areas in the Caribbean region, including relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories. The report examined the ecological components that connect SPA marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean and analysed the national regulatory frameworks, tools, management plans, and ongoing projects at national level for the protection of the recommend species, among other things.

In February 2021, the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat hosted a 3-day online training on the basic principles of negotiations and environmental diplomacy. The training targeted Member States of the Cartagena Convention, including relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories. Participants received capacity-building on the institutional and governance structure of multilateral environmental agreements, with specific focus on the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, as well as training on rules of procedures, drafting and adopting recommendations and decisions, how to

¹⁸ <https://www.unep.org/cep/news/blogpost/governments-wider-caribbean-benefit-sensitization-workshops-regions-legal-framework>.

¹⁹ See gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWSTAC9/Info-Docs/WG.42.INF.18-en.pdf.

effectively participate in negotiations of multilateral environmental agreements, and other applicable procedures and concepts. In addition, key topics of interest under the Convention were also addressed, such as linkages with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, possible amendments to the LBS Protocol and the development of a new Regional Pollution Nutrients Reduction Strategy. Participants were also engaged in simulation exercises to help them build their skills and practical engagement in negotiations.

Within the frame of the United Nations Development Programme and Global Environment Facility Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project, the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat also finalized a report on the state of marine habitats,²⁰ a regional strategy and action plan for the valuation, protection and restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME+ region 2021–2030²¹ and, in collaboration with the Ocean Foundation, the “Integrated large-scale action on habitat restoration and pollution in the CLME+ region: a baseline and feasibility assessment report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment”,²² covering the wider Caribbean region, including relevant Non-Self Governing Territories. All of these reports were also presented at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the SPAW Protocol, held virtually in July 2021. The regional strategy and action plan, notably, aims to strengthen national and collective action by member States to manage coastal ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses, to maintain the integrity of the habitats and ensure continued flow of ecosystem goods and services. The baseline and feasibility assessment report will support global efforts on restoration, such as the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 6, 13, 14, 15, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

J. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[18 February 2022]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided the information set out below on drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, money-laundering and the illegal exploitation of marine and other natural resources, as requested by Economic and Social Council resolution 2021/2 B, operative paragraph 10 (c) and (d).

1. The world drug problem

As the entity of the United Nations primarily responsible for supporting Member States in addressing the world drug problem, including by providing research and analysis services, UNODC collects, analyses and shares up-to-date data on drug supply and demand trends worldwide in order to assist Member States in formulating appropriate responses to fight drug trafficking and promote the well-being of individuals.

The Non-Self-Governing Territories are, in general, characterized by a lack of drug-related data, both on the supply and the demand side. One exception has been Gibraltar, for which UNODC received a comprehensive response to its annual report questionnaire for the years 2019 and 2020. This showed significant seizures of cannabis resin (over 3 tons for 2019 and close to 5 tons for 2020), as well as some

²⁰ See gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWSTAC9/Info-Docs/WG.42-INF.5-en.pdf.

²¹ See gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWSTAC9/Info-Docs/WG.42-INF.6-en.pdf.

²² See gefcrew.org/carrcu/LBSSTAC5/Info-Docs/WG.41INF.14-en.pdf.

seizures of cocaine (0.6 kg in 2019 and 25.8 kg in 2020) and small seizures of ecstasy, amphetamine, cannabis herb, methadone, ketamine, benzodiazepines and psilocybin.

To monitor patterns and trends on drug trafficking, UNODC collects and shares data on its Drugs Monitoring Platform. The Platform includes seizure reports from some Non-Self-Governing Territories.

2. Economic crime: corruption and money-laundering

2.1 Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Implementation Review Mechanism is a peer review process that assists States parties in the effective implementation of the Convention.

In 2019, the Government of Bermuda, through the United Kingdom, formally communicated its readiness to participate in the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and undergo the review of chapters II to V of the Convention.

In 2020, UNODC published the country review report of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of articles 5–14 and 51–59 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for the review cycle 2016–2021. The review includes the review report of the British Virgin Islands. The document reports that, while the policies to prevent and fight corruption are enshrined in various laws of the British Virgin Islands, including in the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007, there is not a dedicated anti-corruption body, although its establishment is currently under consideration. Furthermore, the British Virgin Islands lack a structured framework for corruption prevention activities and awareness-raising and an established consistent process to review legislative and administrative measures related to combating corruption. Moreover, while there are measures in place to prevent corruption in the public sector, as well as among public officials, the Territory is currently lacking a legal framework for the protection of whistle-blowers and a Ministerial Code of Conduct and Public Service Management Bill, which are under development.

The review concludes with a set of recommendations to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the British Virgin Islands. These include:

- The development and implementation of effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies, based on a comprehensive corruption risk assessment and broad stakeholder consultations;
- The establishment and promotion of effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption, including anti-corruption awareness-raising as well as a more systematic process to periodically evaluate legal instruments and administrative measures to prevent and fight corruption;
- The establishment of and enforcement of the whistle-blowing policy under development;
- The finalization and adoption of a legal framework to ensure transparency and integrity among public officials, as well as the publication of periodic reports on the risks of corruption in the public administration.

2.2 Money-laundering

In the review report, it is stated that in the British Virgin Islands a legal framework is in place to prevent money-laundering, providing specific mechanisms to prevent and detect transfers of proceeds of crime and allow cooperation and information exchange, both domestically and internationally.²³ This includes mechanisms for the registration and execution of foreign confiscation orders and for the issuance of restraint orders. However, non-conviction-based confiscation is not available and, unless a request to preserve property for confiscation is received from another State, there is no provision to preserve property for confiscation. To date there have been no cases where a foreign confiscation order was registered or where authorities of the British Virgin Islands have frozen, seized or traced property based on a foreign mutual legal assistance request.²⁴

The lack of an effective regulatory framework to combat money-laundering has been reported in a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories located in the Caribbean and has resulted in these Territories having been repeatedly placed on the so-called “black list” or the so-called “grey list” of the Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental policymaking body created to establish international standards to combat money-laundering. By 2021, however, none of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was on the Task Force’s black list (call for action) and only one Non-Self-Governing Territory located in the Caribbean (the Cayman Islands) was still on the grey list, suggesting that substantial progress in improving the legal and regulatory framework regarding the prevention of money-laundering was noted in most of these Non-Self-Governing Territories over the last two decades.

3. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

3.1 Smuggling of migrants in the Turks and Caicos Islands

UNODC has been providing judicial support to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in international efforts to tackle trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the Americas. In December 2021, under INTERPOL-led Operation Turquesa III, 216 arrests were made and more than 10,000 irregular migrants from 61 different countries were identified. The Operation saw the joint and coordinated enforcement actions of authorities from 34 countries against criminal networks believed to be moving vulnerable men, women and children across borders for profit. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, authorities confirmed the detection of vessels full of migrants undertaking difficult journeys by sea, highlighting the transnational manifestations of the crime of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the region that involves countries of origin, transit and destination, including Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

To combat the activities of migrant smuggling networks and the threat posed to smuggled migrants along smuggling routes to North America, including through the Caribbean, UNODC is implementing the “Strengthening Transregional Action and Responses against the Smuggling of Migrants” project. The project, which sees the participation of the Turks and Caicos Islands, aims to enhance law enforcement and judicial responses and strategies beyond interdiction activities towards dismantling

²³ The Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2008; the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Code of Practice, 2008; Anti-Money Laundering Regulations, 2008; Financial Investigations Agency Act, 2003; and Financing and Money Services Act, 2009; among others.

²⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Country Review Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Review by Turkey and Israel of the implementation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of articles 5–14 and 51–59 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for the review cycle 2016–2021, p. 30.

criminal networks, and fostering transnational cooperation. The project commenced in April 2021 and will be implemented through March 2023. However, several activities, including a meeting of prosecutors and investigators scheduled for 2021, were postponed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was postponed to March 2022 and will aim to create a common understanding of the international legal framework of cooperation against migrant smuggling and its benefits in the fight against organized criminal groups. For this meeting, the Turks and Caicos Islands has nominated participants with a 50 per cent gender parity representation.

4. Crimes that affect the environment

Illegal exploitation of marine resources in the Caribbean and Pacific

The UNODC wildlife trafficking seizure database contains some records of wildlife trafficking concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories. Most relevant to the illegal exploitation of marine resources and making up the largest volumes of wildlife seizures from Non-Self-Governing Territories, are seizures of meat and shells of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), a species common in the Caribbean but threatened in some areas as a result of overfishing and poaching. The main source locations for these seizures are the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands. There is also a number of cases reported by New Zealand coming from New Caledonia and French Polynesia, concerning mostly small amounts of maxima clams (*Tridacna maxima*) and corals of various kinds, commonly seized by customs from tourists carrying such “souvenirs”.

K. United Nations Population Fund

[23 February 2022]

Specific support given by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat included the following:

- Guidelines to support shelter managers, health-care providers, gender affairs officers and disaster coordinators to reduce the risks of gender-based violence and integrate essential actions for sexual and reproductive health in emergency shelters.
- COVID-19 guidelines for shelters for victims of gender-based violence to provide guidance on infection prevention and control measures to be adopted in short-term and long-term care facilities for survivors of gender-based violence and their children (UNFPA/Pan American Health Organization/UN-Women).
- Assessment of reproductive health commodity security to strengthen supply chain and logistics management of reproductive health supplies in the light of the impact of COVID-19 on the production supply chain.
- COVID-19 communication materials on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence for public sensitization and awareness and to increase access to available services.

UNFPA did not have direct interventions in the COVID-19 response and recovery for the Turks and Caicos Islands, however, continued monitoring was done to take note of the severity of the pandemic in the Territory.

Capacity-building initiatives

In 2021, UNFPA conducted training of trainers sessions to help gender-based violence case managers from the Ministries of Gender Affairs, Social Services and

Development in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat better respond to gender-based violence and adapt programme implementation to the COVID-19 context. The training sessions will be rolled out at the territorial level in 2022 with UNFPA support. Specific training areas included:

- Specialized response to gender-based violence incidents for gender-based violence service providers with remote service provision adapted to the COVID-19 context;
- Gender-based violence in emergencies and mental health and psychosocial Support; and
- Safe referrals by medical personnel and non-specialized response to gender-based violence/gender-based violence pocket guidelines

Staff from the statistics offices in Anguilla, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands benefitted from the United States Census Bureau/UNFPA Caribbean collaboration entitled “The Demographic Analysis and Population Projections Workshop”. The one week workshop, held from 24 to 28 May 2021, was designed for demographers and subject matter specialists in statistics offices and planning departments who are tasked with producing and utilizing population projections and demographic estimates. The workshop covered the preparation of base population, fertility, mortality, and migration estimates and cohort-component projection; which are key to supporting countries and Territories to have accurate baseline data in preparation for possible humanitarian emergencies.

Resource mobilization

Montserrat is expected to benefit from a pipeline two-year Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund project on integrated population data and policy solutions to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals. Montserrat is expected to receive \$750,000 from the project. The focus will be on policies for sustainable development, civil registration and vital statistics and data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.

L. World Food Programme

[17 February 2022]

Algeria has hosted Sahrawi refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. These refugees live in five camps near the town of Tindouf, where opportunities for self-reliance are limited. Thus refugees depend almost entirely on humanitarian assistance. Although the pandemic gave rise to unprecedented challenges, the World Food Programme (WFP) successfully implemented its life-saving activities.

The WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan for Algeria 2019–2022, which came into effect on 1 July 2019, is oriented around two strategic outcomes that aim to meet the basic food needs of Sahrawi men, women, boys and girls, including those with disabilities, and improve the nutrition status of the most vulnerable among them. In 2020 the Strategic Plan for Algeria continued to focus on four activities: providing unconditional resource transfers, school feeding, complementary livelihoods activities and nutrition support, with nutrition being an area of focus across all activities.

The World Food Programme’s complementary livelihoods activities provided refugee men and women with opportunities that increased food security in the refugee camps. In this context, WFP’s approach to resilience building identified opportunities and fostered interconnectedness with other activities and partners to increase access to fresh and protein-rich food. WFP also worked to empower women and men through

activities involving planting technology that allowed the growth of fresh fruits and vegetables with limited water consumption.

Progress towards gender equality

The World Food Programme is committed to mainstreaming gender across all activities to ensure that the different needs of women, men, girls and boys, including persons with disabilities, are addressed. The 2019 gender analysis and WFP Gender Action Plan 2019–2022 helped to further identify needs and define gender-responsive actions. In 2020, WFP disaggregated data by age and gender to ensure that quantitative data can support in responding to the specific needs of women, men, girls, boys and persons with disabilities.
