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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 [2019/27](#), 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 [74/95](#), the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Assembly commended the Council for its debate and its resolution 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 [74/94](#), 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 this 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),<sup>1</sup> 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 15 United Nations system entities and one international organization. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank Group, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Trade Organization and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria indicated that they did not have any information to submit on the issue. According to the information received, during the period under review, the 11 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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) (see [ST/CS/SER.A/42](#)).

## **A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

5. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provided the information presented below in the context of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 74/94, entitled “Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories” and paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 74/95, 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”.

6. Over the biennium 2018–2019, ECLAC made every effort to integrate and accommodate its associate members in the work programme of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Priority attention was given to responding to needs associated with their vulnerability to natural disasters and with efforts to pursue national development within the respective frameworks of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the small island developing States sustainable development platform. It should be noted that, notwithstanding exhortations for continued United Nations system support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, resources to assist Territories have remained extremely limited, which has narrowed the opportunities to provide more support for their development efforts.

7. The Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean continue to face development challenges similar to those experienced by the wider membership of the subregion, characterized by significant economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and low levels of resilience. The Territories also face mounting public debt and onerous fiscal challenges, which contribute to increasing interest rates and curtailing local investment. Moreover, their limited technical and institutional capacity has undermined their efforts at more effective governance and has had an impact on their ability to deliver a range of social services to meet the growing needs of their vulnerable populations.

### **Support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

8. The Commission’s support for the Territories over the biennium 2018–2019 has mainly been focused on capacity development and technical assistance, framed by the 2030 Agenda and keeping in mind the unique challenges that the Territories face. Opportunities for capacity development have been offered to all ECLAC associate members through participation in a variety of workshops and symposiums to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, organized for the benefit of members and associate members of the Caribbean region. The most significant of these was a learning conference on implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean region, held in Port of Spain in May 2019 and jointly convened by ECLAC, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It provided valuable space for the members and associate members of the Caribbean region to discuss their common challenges and identify possible solutions related to sustainable development from both national and regional perspectives. It also provided a platform for sharing mechanisms and good practices with respect to planning, monitoring, evaluating and financing efforts aimed at the achievement of the Goals. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands all participated actively in the learning conference.

9. Associate members have also benefited from the Commission’s ongoing projects to advance implementation of the Goals. For instance, the British Virgin Islands benefited from focused capacity development support, financed with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. It has been observed that the institutional frameworks for integrated planning and

decision-making in these Territories are generally weak and that the production of official statistics, which are critical in informing policy and decision-making, is fragmented. The inadequacy of the institutional capacity to advance a whole-of-government approach to territorial decision-making is a common challenge for the Territories. The absence of articulated medium- or long-term development plans, or of effective strategies for coherent policymaking, exemplifies this fundamental challenge. It also highlights the need to enhance the local capacity for collecting, analysing and disseminating disaggregated data to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and ensure effective monitoring and measurement of the attainment of the Goals. The capacity development provided by ECLAC sought to address these key challenges.

10. ECLAC provides ongoing support to the British Virgin Islands. A strategic vision mission to the island of Tortola was organized for December 2019, in collaboration with the Government of the British Virgin Islands, for preliminary consultations to prepare for the development of a new national sustainable development plan for the Territory. This will be undertaken with ECLAC support. The mission facilitated consultations with a wide range of stakeholders in the Government and civil society on perspectives regarding the optimal national development planning process for the Territory and likely challenges in the implementation thereof. Attention will be given to strengthening national capacity for the production and dissemination of official statistics, for the benefit of national development, in order to enhance the country's ability to report on the Goals.

#### **Strengthening statistical infrastructure**

11. The capacity development with respect to statistical infrastructure throughout the Caribbean region deserves special attention because addressing this challenge is a priority for both ECLAC members and the Commission itself. Indeed, it is well known that the monitoring of development progress in the Caribbean region has been hindered by the difficulty that governments and international agencies have experienced in producing reliable statistical indicators across multiple thematic areas to measure progress. This was attributable to weaknesses in the statistical infrastructure, such as a lack of availability of survey and administrative data sources, and limited capacity in statistical offices and other government departments.

12. The need to produce indicators to monitor and measure implementation of the Goals in the Caribbean region has therefore presented the subregion with a major challenge. Gaps remain in the statistical infrastructure, as survey and administrative data sources are too often deficient in some way. ECLAC has responded to the need to produce reliable indicators in accordance with international standards by using the data sources available in the subregion. Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat benefited from the regional workshop on strengthening the statistical capacity for census and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean, which was jointly organized by ECLAC, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat in Jamaica, in April 2019. In addition, during the learning conference on implementing the 2030 Agenda, statisticians from the Caribbean region were made aware of the importance of methods, definitions and other metadata being made sufficiently transparent so as to allow users to have trust in the indicators. As already indicated, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the learning conference.

#### **Facilitating participation in global conferences**

13. Every effort is made to accommodate the associate members in the Caribbean subregional reviews of global conferences organized by the Commission. The

midterm review of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway was convened in Belize in August 2018, for which ECLAC had prepared the comprehensive review document that guided deliberations, in collaboration with the Alliance of Small Island States, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. All associate members were invited to provide updates on action taken, through designated focal points, and to participate in the meeting, at which the San Pedro Declaration was adopted, which articulates the key development priorities of the Caribbean small island developing States. These priorities were reconciled with those of the other States members of the Alliance of Small Island States at the interregional preparatory meeting for the high-level review of the progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, held in Apia in November 2018. The consolidated perspectives were then highlighted at the high-level midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, held in New York in September 2019. The Cayman Islands attended the interregional meeting in Samoa.

14. In June 2018, ECLAC also facilitated a Caribbean subregional review of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes. In 2020, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean expects to use the review of the population agenda within the framework of the Montevideo Consensus to place special emphasis on youth, as it will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes.

15. The associate members of the Commission participated in the subregional preparatory meeting for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was a key opportunity for the countries and Territories of the Caribbean region to exchange views on national reports that had been submitted on their progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years after their adoption. That meeting was preceded by a workshop on gender mainstreaming, that was both timely and highly relevant. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in both meetings.

### **Participation in the meetings of the Commission**

16. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat participated in the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Round Table and the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, a subsidiary intergovernmental meeting of ECLAC. Both meetings were held in Saint Lucia in April 2018. In May 2019, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Port of Spain. A significant increase in the involvement of the associate members in the meetings and in the work of the Commission has been discerned in recent years. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean continues to encourage this more active engagement and makes every effort to ensure the meaningful provision of support to the Territories.

### **Ad hoc technical assistance**

17. ECLAC has continued to offer training in damage and loss assessment and disaster risk management, with a view to building local capacity in the countries and Territories of the Caribbean region for incorporating prevention, estimation and risk reduction into public investment plans and sustainable development programmes. The

Commission conducted a training workshop on that topic in Anguilla in 2018 and in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2019. A total of 43 participants received training.

18. The Commission has also given close attention to the increasing concerns expressed by countries and Territories of the Caribbean region regarding the impact of sargassum on the health of coastal waters and beaches, which are crucial areas of the tourism product on which these service economies depend.

### Support for research and data analysis

19. The Commission continues to make every effort to respond to the requests of the associate members to include more data on the Territories in its flagship publications. Coverage of the economic performance of Anguilla and Montserrat is already included in the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean*, which are published annually by the subregional headquarters. A recent ECLAC publication, *A review of Caribbean national statistical legislation in relation to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, contains recommendations for strengthening statistical legislation in the Caribbean, including in Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Efforts to expand such coverage in other studies and publications are ongoing.

20. The Territories also actively participated in other regional meetings and capacity-building initiatives convened by ECLAC and its development partners, as indicated in the table below.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date and venue</i>	<i>Participating Territories</i>
Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development	24–26 July 2018, Georgetown, Guyana	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat
Workshop on gender mainstreaming in national sustainable development planning	17 June 2019, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands
Subregional preparatory meeting for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	18 June 2019, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands
Regional workshop on strengthening the statistical capacity for census and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean region (in collaboration with UNFPA and CARICOM)	2019, Kingston, Jamaica	Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Montserrat
Learning conference on implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean region	2019, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands
Regional workshop on integrated policies and policy coherence for the Sustainable Development Goals	2019, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	British Virgin Islands

## B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

21. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provided the information set out below.

22. Four Non-Self-Governing Territories are associate members of ESCAP: American Samoa (since 1988), French Polynesia (since 1992), Guam (since 1981) and New Caledonia (since 1992). Given their insular or archipelagic characteristics, communities in these Territories are reliant on the ocean and are particularly vulnerable to changes in their environment, especially in relation to climate change, fisheries and plastic pollution.

### **Economic and social issues in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

#### *Plastic pollution*

23. Despite the small population of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, plastic pollution is a major environmental problem, since plastic debris collects in the islands through the South Pacific Gyre.<sup>2</sup> American Samoa banned plastic bags in 2011 and enacted waste management regulation in 2019 banning the import, manufacture, export, sale and distribution of plastic shopping bags, packing bags and straws.<sup>3</sup> These Territories, however, continue to be exposed to floating plastic debris that lands on shore.

24. Solid waste management remains a challenge for the Territories, as their size limits the possibilities for landfill and other forms of waste disposal. Although American Samoa has found a temporary solution to its landfill capacity problem by compacting waste, long-term solutions are needed.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Climate change*

25. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events and ecosystem deterioration resulting from climate change have a significant economic impact. Studies suggest that Guam and American Samoa will become warmer and endure extreme rainfall more frequently, and that Guam will experience more frequent and stronger tropical cyclones.<sup>5</sup> The New Caledonia barrier reef, designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has been subjected to coral bleaching, owing in part to warmer water temperatures.<sup>6</sup> The changing climate could lead to a decrease in tourism and increased needs to reconstruct infrastructure after extreme weather events.

26. The impact of these phenomena is being studied at the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and programmes are being introduced to improve climate resilience by raising awareness in the community.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See [www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/05/henderson-island-pitcairn-trash-plastic-pollution/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/05/henderson-island-pitcairn-trash-plastic-pollution/).

<sup>3</sup> See Act Prohibiting Supplying of Plastic Bags to Consumers, creating section 25.2034 of the American Samoa Code Annotated.

<sup>4</sup> See [www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-42974480](http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-42974480).

<sup>5</sup> See [www.usgs.gov/centers/climate-adaptation-science-centers/science/21st-century-high-resolution-climate-projections?qt-science\\_center\\_objects=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](http://www.usgs.gov/centers/climate-adaptation-science-centers/science/21st-century-high-resolution-climate-projections?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects).

<sup>6</sup> See [www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/marine-heatwaves-kill-corals-quicker-previously-thought](http://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/marine-heatwaves-kill-corals-quicker-previously-thought).

<sup>7</sup> See [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/american-samoa/climate-change-ocean-acidification.html](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/american-samoa/climate-change-ocean-acidification.html).

### *Fisheries*

27. The fishing industry is a key source of income for communities in these Territories and crucial for the well-being of their people. Marine protein is a staple in their diets: the annual consumption of fish and fish products is estimated at 70.3 kg per capita in French Polynesia and 25.6 kg in New Caledonia. The sustainability of fish stocks is challenged by the impact of climate change on fish migrating patterns and by illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. The illegal exploitation of fisheries is both an environmental and an economic threat, as it also leads to losses of revenue and nutrition.

28. The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the international agreement to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Its enforcement is key to achieving the sustainability of fisheries. France, New Zealand and the United States of America are parties to the Agreement, but the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is not a signatory. The Office of Law Enforcement under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America has piloted a programme for the effective implementation of the Agreement in American Samoa and Guam.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Activities undertaken by the Commission to address these issues**

29. Reflecting their commitment to the protection of the ocean, members of ESCAP chose “Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development” as the theme of the Commission’s seventy-sixth session, which is scheduled to be held by videoconference on 21 May 2020. The thematic study will focus on sustainable maritime connectivity, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution in the marine environment and will contain recommendations to address these issues.

30. In their capacity as associate members, American Samoa, French Polynesia and New Caledonia have participated in several intergovernmental meetings for small island developing States, including the review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2019: Structural transformation and its role in reducing poverty* also covered the issues of international migration and statistics with respect to these associate members, especially in relation to access to infrastructure and export diversification.

31. New Caledonia contributes annually to the Pacific Trust Fund to support the participation of countries of the Pacific in the work of the Commission.

### **C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

32. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided the information set out below.

#### **Tokelau**

33. Since the biennium 2016–2017, FAO has implemented two technical cooperation projects in Tokelau. The first project was aimed at strengthening capacity

<sup>8</sup> See [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/enforcement-efforts-combat-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/enforcement-efforts-combat-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing).



in home gardening and promoting awareness about healthy food and effective biosecurity. The second project was designed to improve food security and the resilience of fishing communities through safer fishing operations. Both projects were concluded in December 2019. For the biennium 2020–2021, FAO will focus on creating an enabling framework to incentivize the production and consumption of safe, nutritious and affordable healthy food, as well as to support sustainable climate-smart practices to build resilient agriculture, fisheries and forestry production systems under the multi-country programming framework for the Pacific Islands.

#### **Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands**

34. FAO provides support to CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, where these Territories indirectly benefit from the support of both organizations. FAO also supports the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and the Caribbean Animal Health Network. FAO activities include informal networks to address plant health and animal health issues in the Caribbean region.

### **D. International Maritime Organization**

35. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) provided the information set out below.

36. IMO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that addresses maritime safety, maritime security, the efficiency of shipping and the protection of the marine environment. As such, it is primarily a technical body that sets international standards for global application. Compliance with the IMO regulatory regime benefits both member States and their Non-Self-Governing Territories. IMO does not provide direct assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories without the knowledge and consent of the relevant member State.

37. During the biennium 2018–2019, the following capacity-building activities involving Non-Self-Governing Territories have been conducted under the Organization's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme:

(a) Personnel from the British Virgin Islands participated in the Caribbean Ship Inspector training course for new inspectors, which was conducted in Trinidad and Tobago from 29 October to 16 November 2018 and the follow-up on-the-job training in 2019. The objective of the courses was to prepare ship inspectors and surveyors for their functions in a Caribbean maritime administration so that, by the end of the course, the trainees would have the ability to carry out flag State inspections on all vessels of less than 24 metres in length, annual and renewal surveys and port State control inspections on vessels of up to 500 gross tonnage and document inspections on all ships;

(b) Personnel from Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands participated in a high-level symposium on international maritime developments in the Caribbean, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 27 February 2019. Participants in the high-level symposium reaffirmed the commitment of the region to harnessing the potential of a blue economy for the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and the implementation of IMO standards for safe, secure, environmentally friendly and sustainable shipping;

(c) Personnel from Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands participated in a workshop for senior maritime administrators, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 28 February and 1 March 2019. The objective of the workshop was to update the knowledge of senior maritime administration officials

about the latest regulatory and other developments in the international maritime sector. The workshop was designed to provide maritime administrators from the Caribbean region with the latest information on current and future developments at IMO and to facilitate the exchange of information among administrations in the Caribbean region. The workshop helped facilitate the development of a list of technical assistance priorities for the region for the biennium 2020–2021.

## **E. International Monetary Fund**

38. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided the information set out below.

39. The engagement of 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 dependent Territories are not common. For that reason, IMF has only limited information to share. Between January and April 2019, there were technical assistance missions to the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: Anguilla: a mission on revenue mobilization, initiated on 15 April 2019; Bermuda: a mission on balance of payments and trade, initiated on 14 January 2019; the British Virgin Islands: a mission on regulation and supervision, initiated on 25 March 2019; Tokelau: a mission on budget preparation and public expenditure management, initiated on 15 April 2019; and the Turks and Caicos Islands: one mission on revenue mobilization, initiated on 8 April 2019, a mission on revenue mobilization, initiated on 15 April 2019, and a mission on balance of payments and trade, initiated on 29 April 2019. IMF notes that the documents resulting from the missions are not in the public domain.

## **F. International Telecommunication Union**

40. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provided the information set out below.

41. To date, ITU has neither been requested to provide assistance nor provided assistance to any of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, it reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting States members of ITU with regard to activities and projects falling within its mandate that contribute to sustainable development and humanitarian efforts. It prioritizes the use of telecommunication and information and communications technology for saving lives before, during and after disasters strike. It also assists countries in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as in environmental protection through e-waste management. As a member-driven organization, ITU is ready to respond to requests for assistance by any member State.

## **G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

42. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provided the information set out below.

43. Six Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of associate members of UNESCO: Anguilla (since 2013), British Virgin Islands (since 1983), Cayman Islands (since 1999), Montserrat (since 2015), New Caledonia (since 2017) and Tokelau (since 2001). UNESCO supports its member States and associated members in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Organization assists Non-Self-Governing Territories through various platforms of action and long-established cooperation relationships, particularly in the exchange of good practices and capacity-building activities organized at the regional, subregional

and local levels. Over the past two years, significant activities were conducted, in particular, in the areas of education, natural sciences and oceans, and culture.

### **Education**

44. UNESCO works to support its member States and associate members to achieve Goal 4 and its targets, which encompass elements of education for global citizenship and education for sustainable development. In its resolution [74/223](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed the role of UNESCO as the lead agency for education for sustainable development. UNESCO is also the coordinator for the implementation of the framework for the period 2020–2030, entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ESD for 2030). On the basis of its education for sustainable development and global citizenship education programmes, it has thus been supporting a number of its associate members that are Non-Self-Governing Territories to work towards implementing Goal 4, in particular target 7 of Goal 4.

45. With the support of UNESCO, the Tokelau National Commission for UNESCO developed a mobile application and an online portal of open educational resources for teaching and learning in English and in the Tokelau language, which is freely available to both teachers and learners. These tools will enhance the language proficiency of teachers and support programmes relating to technical and vocational education and training, education for sustainable development and global citizenship education.

46. On 7 November 2019, UNESCO, in cooperation with the British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO, organized a workshop on global citizenship education for education policymakers and key stakeholders. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding, an institution under the auspices of UNESCO, and raised awareness on how global citizenship education contributes to the strengthening of education systems and the development of high-quality education. In his statement at the fortieth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, in November 2019, the Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture of the British Virgin Islands recognized that the support of UNESCO provided his Territory with an opportunity to share innovative concepts and thereby ensure that all learners are provided with the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

47. The Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports of Montserrat participated in a technical consultation meeting on the future of education for sustainable development, held in Bangkok on 9 and 10 July 2018 and has contributed to the planning of the Education for Sustainable Development framework.

48. As regards education statistics, each year the UNESCO Institute for Statistics collects and disseminates education data for the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Tokelau and Turks and Caicos Islands.

### **Natural sciences and oceans**

49. The Fakarava Biosphere Reserve is located in French Polynesia, where development is being promoted through local initiatives for sustained and responsible tourism.

50. Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, as associate members of UNESCO, 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. This Intergovernmental Coordination Group was established for the purpose of providing efficient assistance on tsunami risk reduction to member States in the Caribbean region in the light of the lessons learned from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. On 14 March 2019, over 5,000 people from the above-mentioned Territories participated in the annual Caribe Wave tsunami exercise.

51. The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, a similar system established many years earlier in the 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 for the purpose of providing efficient assistance on tsunami risk reduction to member States. The Polynesian Tsunami Warning Centre geophysical laboratory in Nouméa is a dynamic leader organization in this Intergovernmental Coordination Group.

52. In the context of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's efforts to ensure broad stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the implementation plan for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the period 2021–2030, specific attention has been given to small island developing States, as well as to youth involvement and the value of indigenous knowledge. In July 2019, consultations with South Pacific small island developing States were organized in Nouméa.

### **Culture**

53. A small number of World Heritage properties are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories: in Bermuda, the historic town of St George and related fortifications (cultural property, United Kingdom, 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); Henderson Island, Pitcairn (natural property, Pitcairn, United Kingdom, inscribed in 1988); in Saint Helena, Gough and Inaccessible Islands (natural property, United Kingdom, inscribed in 1995).

54. There are also a number of sites located in Non-Self-Governing Territories that are included in the States parties' tentative lists. These lists comprise national inventories of sites that States parties intend to submit for World Heritage inscription (see [E/2016/49](#), para. 27, and [E/2018/56](#), para. 52).

55. In the context of the third cycle of the periodic reporting exercise for the period 2018–2024, the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO invited representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America that have World Heritage properties located in the Asia and Pacific region to participate in training workshops to be organized throughout 2020.

56. An expert from the Cayman Islands took part in a meeting organized by UNESCO to analyse the results of the first consultations on the implementation of the recommendation made by UNESCO in 2015 concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society, which were held at UNESCO Headquarters in January 2019. Following the meeting, a report was published that highlighted the need to address disaster risks with regard to museums.

## H. United Nations Environment Programme

57. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided the information presented below in response to paragraph 12 of resolution 74/94 of the General Assembly and paragraph 10 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/27.

58. Anguilla works closely with the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme within the framework of its Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre. Through that framework, Anguilla participated in a workshop on regional oil spill prevention in Saint Kitts and Nevis in March 2019.

59. The Training Centre has worked closely with Anguilla to provide a complete set of revisions to the Territory's national contingency plan for oil spills. While the Training Centre's work has not been directed specifically at addressing natural disasters or extreme weather events, it places emphasis on the strong correlation between the responses to natural disasters and to subsequent oil spills (such as those seen recently in the Bahamas).

## I. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

60. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided the information set out below.

61. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/27, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system are requested to provide information on a number of topics, including on ways and means to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities, and on illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories (resolution 2019/27, para. 10).

62. With regard to drug supply, UNODC maintains a Drugs Monitoring Platform for monitoring drug seizures worldwide, including in the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, and which is intended solely for the use of law enforcement officials. However, UNODC has received very little official information from the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories related to drug supply and drug demand over the past decade.

63. UNODC provides technical assistance to border control, law enforcement and health personnel in the Latin American and Caribbean region with the aim of strengthening the range of forensic services available in situ, including:

(a) Equipment and specialized training for units responsible for counter-narcotics and for countering the operations of international organized criminal groups, particularly groups that are involved in drug trafficking and are using the Territories as trans-shipment points for maritime trafficking of drugs and precursors, including new and highly potent substances that may eventually trickle down into the local markets of the Territories;

(b) Strengthening training of relevant forensic services in the use of field test equipment for evidence-based decision-making on the ground, safe-handling procedures of toxic substances and the health risks of drugs.

64. UNODC helps authorities in the Latin American and Caribbean region to develop responses to counter transnational organized crime at sea. Authorities receiving support from UNODC include maritime law enforcement authorities, naval forces and other authorities responsible for maritime crime, including in the areas of immigration, border control, fisheries and justice.

65. UNODC supports building capacity in the fight against transnational organized crime through the inclusion of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands in communication and operational networks at the regional and subregional levels and making use of virtual technologies to support inclusion in capacity-building exercises and regional dialogue.

66. UNODC supports the development of the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network, which brings together conservation groups and intergovernmental organizations to increase cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking in the Caribbean region. The network is a platform for sharing information, building capacity and raising awareness about the problems of wildlife trafficking in the Caribbean region.

67. UNODC is the custodian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is a peer review process that helps States parties to implement the Convention effectively. Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands are being assessed separately as part of the review of the United Kingdom under the Mechanism (the Convention was extended to them by depositary notification).

## **J. United Nations Population Fund**

68. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided the information set out below.

69. Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded over the Atlantic, began its destructive path across the Caribbean on 5 September 2017. For four days, it battered the region, leaving physical devastation and an extensive breakdown of essential services in its wake. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the health-care delivery systems across the affected countries and Territories experienced severe setbacks. Preliminary assessments indicated damage to several health facilities at all levels and destruction of equipment and medical supplies, including sexual and reproductive health commodities and supplies. The damage caused by Hurricane Irma has also increased the vulnerability of the affected population and physical landscapes to further natural hazards.

70. UNFPA addressed critical health-care needs, including comprehensive survivor-centred care for survivors of gender-based violence. In the period 2017–2018, it provided critical technical and financial assistance to the Turks and Caicos Islands, focusing on promoting sexual and reproductive health and combating gender-based violence, to provide life-saving interventions to meet the needs of women and girls. UNFPA coordinated its response with United Nations country teams and relevant in-country partners, such as the national office responsible for gender affairs, the Ministry of Health, affiliates of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the media and other stakeholders. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, 932 women and girls received hygiene kits, not only for their dignity and well-being, but also as a mitigation strategy against gender-based violence, so as to reduce the need to rely on transactional sex to meet their basic needs.

71. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat invested in strengthening their respective capacities to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations. UNFPA and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency formalized a partnership agreement in 2019 for improved disaster preparedness, response and resilience in the Caribbean. That collaboration also proved useful for producing population situation analyses and

population policies and for preparing for the 2020 round of population and housing census in line with the CARICOM regional census strategy.

72. Anguilla collaborated with UNFPA to develop a sexual and reproductive health policy for the period 2018–2022, which will allow the Government to provide comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services. In 2019, UNFPA commenced activities for designing and conducting a population-based sexual and reproductive health survey. The survey, which will be rolled out in 2020, will provide the information needed to produce a more targeted response to the current sexual and reproductive health needs of the population; will facilitate responses to disasters in line with international, regional and national commitments; and will allow for reporting on key indicators for the International Conference on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

73. UNFPA is currently facilitating the preparation of technical guidance and assistance for the British Virgin Islands on the development of a population situation analysis and a population policy for 2020. The population policy will focus on a set of population goals and targeted interventions and strategies to reduce population-related impediments to achieving the Government's medium- and long-term economic and social objectives. Both the population situation analysis and the population policy will serve as benchmarks for national population planning and policy, strategies and programmatic interventions and will inform planning for disasters.

## **K. World Meteorological Organization**

74. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) provided the information set out below.

75. The 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories are among those most threatened by natural disasters, such as cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes and storm surges, including coastal inundation, tsunamis, droughts and floods. Most of those hazards are related to the weather or the climate and many are highly influenced by seasonal and inter-annual climate variability, in addition to the projected significant impact of human-induced climate change.

### **American Samoa**

76. American Samoa is highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards such as tropical storms and cyclones, floods, landslides and storm surges. The Pago Pago weather forecast office provides weather, water and climate data to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the year, including forecasts and warnings that protect lives and property and improve the national economy.

77. The Pago Pago weather forecast office collaborates with the WMO Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres – the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres in Nadi, Fiji, and Honolulu, United States of America – to provide advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and cyclones in the South-West and Central Pacific.

78. American Samoa is also a member of the Pacific Meteorological Council, which comprises the heads of the national meteorological services of members of the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The Council works in collaboration with WMO to develop strategies to support the advancement of meteorological and related services in the Pacific and to provide an open forum for

its members to discuss and collaborate on the needs of Pacific island countries and Territories with respect to weather and climate services and related issues.

#### **Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Monserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands**

79. The Caribbean region is highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, floods, landslides and storm surges, and has suffered numerous significant impacts in the past.

80. The Caribbean Meteorological Organization is a specialized agency of CARICOM that coordinates joint scientific and technical activities related to weather, climate and water-related sciences in 16 English-speaking Caribbean countries and Territories.

81. The Miami Hurricane Centre, a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre of the WMO Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre, provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea.

82. Over the past year, WMO has supported the development of hydrometeorological services in the Caribbean through a project on strengthening hydrometeorological and early warning services in the Caribbean. The core objective of the project is to strengthen and streamline regional and national systems and capacity with regard to weather forecasting, hydrological services, multi-hazard impact-based warnings and service delivery for enhanced decision-making. The project draws on lessons learned from the regional assessment of national early warning systems during the 2017 Caribbean hurricane season that was conducted by WMO and the secretariat of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative.

#### **Bermuda**

83. Bermuda is sometimes exposed to natural disasters, such as tropical storms, hurricanes, floods, landslides and storm surges. Weather and climate-related services are delivered by the Bermuda Weather Service.

84. The Miami Hurricane Centre provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and hurricanes in the North Atlantic.

#### **French Polynesia**

85. French Polynesia is very exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as cyclones and tropical storms, floods, landslides, large waves and storm surges, including coastal inundation. Coastal erosion by waves, storm surges and coastal inundation can also affect turtle habitats.

86. Météo France Polynésie Française provides forecasts and warnings to the Territory, working with the Directorate of Civil Protection to support a range of sectors, including fishing, pearl farming, tourism, sports and aviation. French Polynesia is a member of the Pacific Meteorological Council.

87. Climate change is causing bleaching and acidification, which subsequently degrade corals and can destroy the physical barrier sheltering the islands. Successive bleaching episodes can lead to a decline in the number of lagoon fish and thus of the entire tropical marine food chain. French Polynesia has experienced seven coral bleaching episodes in the past 20 years.

88. Rising sea levels are also likely to accelerate the deterioration of these islands, which are particularly vulnerable to both temporary and permanent changes in sea



level. If the rises in sea levels are gradual, healthy corals could continue to grow and possibly follow the water level, but degraded corals would be incapable of doing so. Climate change also increases the risk of saltwater contaminating groundwater supplies, leading to freshwater scarcity.

89. The Nadi Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre (a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre of WMO) provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and cyclones in the South-West Pacific.

### **Guam**

90. Guam is highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as tropical storms and cyclones, floods, landslides and storm surges.

91. The Guam Weather Forecast Office provides 24/7 weather, water and climate data to the public throughout the year, including forecasts and warnings that protect lives and property and improve the national economy. Guam is a member of the Pacific Meteorological Council.

92. The Tokyo Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre (a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre of WMO) provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and cyclones in the North-West Pacific.

### **New Caledonia**

93. New Caledonia is highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as tropical storms and cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides and storm surges.

94. Météo France Nouvelle-Calédonie provides forecasts and warnings to the Territory, ensuring the safety of people and goods and services for sea, land and air transport, agriculture, tourism, industry and leisure. New Caledonia is a member of the Pacific Meteorological Council.

95. The Nadi Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and cyclones in the South-West Pacific.

### **Tokelau**

96. Tokelau is highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as tropical storms and cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides and storm surges. Tokelau is a member of the Pacific Meteorological Council.

97. The Nadi Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and cyclones in the South-West Pacific.

### **United States Virgin Islands**

98. The United States Virgin Islands are highly exposed to natural disasters, in particular hydrometeorological hazards, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, floods, landslides and storm surges, and have suffered in the past from numerous significant impacts.

99. The Miami Hurricane Centre provides advisories and bulletins containing up-to-date, first-level basic meteorological information on all tropical storms and hurricanes in the North Atlantic.