



**LISBON INTERNATIONAL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE**

2019







SUMMARY

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Introduction

Dear delegates, this is the Study Guide for the HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE on the **'The Decolonisation of Portuguese Colonies'** which will be simulated during the first edition of Lisbon International Model United Nations Conference, in the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon, from the 29th to the 31st of March 2019.

As you probably know, MUN is a simulation of the United Nations (UN) that is done at a high school and university level. MUN aims to educate participants about civics, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. In MUN, students participate as "delegates" from the UN Member States and simulate UN committees. From this experience, you will not only get involved and debate today's pressing current issues, but also be given a chance to broaden your world view and knowledge of international relations and the UN, allowing you and all delegates to develop critical thinking and soft skills whilst discussing the most amazing topics that are on our International Agenda nowadays (and hopefully make new friends from all across the world!).

Before the Conference it is very important to investigate the position of the country you will represent on the topic that will be discussed. For that, we advise you to not only look for multiple media sources that refer to your countries position, but also to look for official documents of the government, past declarations (either at the UN or official statements) and the International Alliances/Opposition the country will face in the Committee (remember that lobbying with other Member States is also part of the MUN experience).

Furthermore, do not forget to pay attention to the relation of the country's official position/diplomatic speech and the real interests it has behind that position (States and their representatives are not always crystal clear with their interests, try to read in between the lines of the diplomatic speeches!). In order to have a great performance (which we are sure you all will) it is imperative to understand the relation between the speeches you will give as a representative of that State and the interest you will pursue in the final Resolution. If you understand the position of your country and its interests, this will be a very easy task.

Moreover, the final goal for the committees during the Conference is to get a majority to vote in favour of a resolution that hopefully creates real, effective and creative solutions



for the topic discussed. As a delegate of a Country, your personal goal should be that the Resolution you support and that integrates your State's goals for that committee should be the one approved. We remind all of you that the solutions presented on the Final Resolution should be applicable in the real world, within the limits to the UN power and innovative (think outside of the box!). It is always a good idea to see what other passed resolutions the UN has passed on that topic. Additionally, try integrating in specific clauses UN offices/departments/services or International NGO's that could help reach that specific goal.

We know that probably by now this experience may sound very overwhelming, but **don't worry!** We assure you that during the committee sessions this will all feel very natural and remind you that nobody expects that everything is absolute perfect. MUNs are, above all, a learning space for everyone.

Next, we will briefly explain the structure of this Study Guide. It begins with an introduction to the committee and to the topic of the debate. You will have some information about its history and current situation, as well as some guidance towards the different possible approaches. As such, you should read it with close attention, so that you know the directions that the debate might take.

It also addresses some key terms that you need to keep in mind, which will provide all Delegates some definitions that we all agree on, making sure that everyone is on the same level in terms of concepts and interpretations. With this, it is guaranteed that the debate does not end up discussing only the definition of certain expressions and words and the committee can therefore address the core issues of the topic. We advise you to also use these terms in your speeches to make sure it stays clear to other delegates and on topic.

The bloc positions intent to reflect a certain tendency that countries located in certain geographical areas tend to form, influenced by its surrounding neighbours. As such, you should see what position the country you represent adopts, as well as the ones taken by its neighbours, so that you can see which would be more open to cooperation for a possible Draft Resolution.

After that we list the issues the Draft Resolutions should address. These are some of the most important points and issues that your Draft Resolution should try to present solutions to. Lastly, you have the further research chapter, which consists on some suggestions and





advice to help you prepare for the Conference, and the further reading and bibliography, where you can find some links to help you do your own research!

Please note that this is **only** a study guide. This does not include the comprehensive research on the topic, it is not enough by itself to prepare you to debate. You will have to do your own research, not only on the topic, but also on the position that your country takes on the matter.

Having all of that said, we sincerely hope that this will be a memorable experience and that you have an amazing time learning about international issues that affect our society. Above all else, this event is an opportunity to meet people with the same interests (they are all curious and passionate about MUN and they all have creative and empowering ideas to make the world a better place!). Last but not least, don't forget to have **FUN and enjoy the Conference!**

Sincerely,

Lisbon International MUN Team



Meet your chairs

Ivy Natalie Shiechelo

I am Bachelors of Law Graduate from Nairobi, Kenya. I am currently undertaking my studies in the Advocates Training Programme so as to be admitted to the Kenyan bar. My current interests lay in International law and Alternative Dispute Resolution, in particular, mediation and arbitration.



LisboMUN 2019 will be my first MUN in Portugal and I look forward to interacting with you all as well as learning from all of you. This is especially taking into consideration the contents of the Historical Crisis Committee: Decolonisation. With the challenges concerning self-determination from colonialists having become increasingly pressing, the decolonization committee's

responsibilities have increased dramatically over the years.

See you in Lisbon!

Angelina Ferreira



My name is Angelina, and I shall be your Co-Chair.

I spoke a bit of Portuguese at home when I was small. Then I have almost forgotten the language. Now striving hard to speak my four languages appropriately and trying to learn a fifth one. Born and raised in Macau, I am currently studying BA Translation and Interpreting in Beijing and doing Erasmus in Paris.

“So far the most meaningful study guide I have ever written.”





Tara Parmar



Hi! My name is Tara Parmar, and I will be the director of the Historical Committee. I am a student at the Erasmus University Student in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. There I am doing a double major in International Law and International Relations.

Apart from my sporadic dedications to the world of MUN, I spent my time playing hockey, ice skating, or simply reading a book.

We are going to have lots of fun, and I look forward to meeting you!

Xx



DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC

THE DECOLONISATION COMMITTEE (C-24): INTRODUCTION

At the time of the formation of the United Nations, about a third of the world's population was under colonial rule ("The United Nations and Decolonization - History", 2018). Under the United Nations Charter, various provisions looked into the achievement of decolonization. Article 73 and 74 provided for member states to uphold the right of self-determination. The Charter obliges administering powers to recognize that the interests of dependent territories are paramount ("The United Nations and Decolonization - History", 2018). They also have the onus to agree to promote social, economic, political and educational progress in the Territories.

The Special Committee on Decolonization, also known as C-24, was established in 1961. It was established by a General Assembly **Resolution 1514 (XV)** ("The United Nations and Decolonization - Committee of 24", 2018). It is therefore a sub-organ of the United Nations General Assembly.

The committee's role is to champion for the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It works closely with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs as well as with the General Assembly in providing recommendations ("Decolonization | Department of Political Affairs", 2018).Annually, the committee makes recommendations on the relaying of information to mobilize public opinion in support of the decolonization process. It also hears from elected representatives of non-self-governing territories. The Declaration provided a clear picture towards the anti-colonialism movement (Mittelman, 1976).

The committee is composed of 24 members.





Definition of Key Terms

- **Colonisation** - The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area (Oxford dictionary).
- **Decolonisation** - The act of freeing a country from being dependent on another country by allowing them to self-governing.
- **Retornandos** - African colonized people, formally Portuguese, who were treated as foreign invaders, and the Portuguese colonials



INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND ON THE ACQUISITION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES

In 1884-1885, the Berlin conference was the main foundation towards the effective administration of Portuguese rule in various African countries. At the conference, Portugal's claim to its colonies was immensely supported by Great Britain (Eduardo de Sousa Ferreira., 1974).

Portuguese Colonial History

In 1420, Henry the Navigator was chosen by the Pope to join the Order of Christ. After receiving this honour, Henry the Navigator encouraged maritime exploitation with the objective of expanding Christianity to the different continents, especially Africa. The Portuguese Navy then began exploring the world, taking over the lands they reached. Up until 1974, the Portuguese still had control over: Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Timor-Leste and São Tomé e Príncipe – of which the Portuguese tremendously affected their colonies politically, economically, and socially.

The Start of the Colonial wars

According to Cabecinhas and Feijo (2010, 30), “Colonialism—defined as the conquest and control of land and goods— it is not a European invention but an old and pervasive feature of human history.” However, in the history of colonialism, there seems to be a consensus that European countries were the most active colonial actors during the past few centuries, engaged in the conquest, control, and exploitation of most of the globe. The partition of Africa did not create a set of uniform colonies each resembling the other in a constitutional stereotype. On the contrary, the establishment of colonial rule was varied and pragmatic. The differences were to be found not only between empires, but also within empires (Birmingham, 2009).

In the phrase of time, Ghana was first to be thought to be ‘ready for independence’ in a way that other colonies were not, at least not in the eyes of the Europeans who wanted to keep a tight control over the course of events (Birmingham, 2009). But Ghana has set an agenda that all Africa was listening to on wireless that could pick up news of the ‘African revolution’ from





stations as far away as Cairo, beyond the reach of colonial censorship. Rather than determined by lawyers of the old Gold Coast convention who had set the movement in train, the speed of change was determined by young school-leavers with unlimited ambition and self-confidence. (Birmingham, 2009; Holland, 1985). Ghana was granted independence in 1957 (Birmingham, 2009).

Portuguese Colonial Wars

By the early XX century, colonial campaigns in Africa had become increasingly 'modern'. Colonial powers were forced to commit larger bodies of troops for conquest or to suppress rebellion, as the British had to in the Second Boer War or the Italians did in their conquest of Libya. Some of this was due to the fact that in many - but not all - places the technological gap between European armies and native forces had shrunk considerably, mostly with the proliferation of quick-firing rifles (Vandervort, 2015). Most of this change was brought on by the evolution of Africa's tactics and strategy. They had abandoned pitched battles and had instead adopted methods of guerilla warfare. In this fashion, the Boers (in South Africa), the Herero and Nama (in German South-West Africa), the Moroccans, and the Libyans all enjoyed considerable success against their opponents before their eventual respective defeats (Vandervort, 2015). Several factors can explain Lisbon's refusal to come to terms with the 'winds of change' that had swept Africa since the late 1950s, from the belief of its decision-makers that Portugal lacked the means to conduct a successful 'exit strategy' (Oliviera, 2017).

The colonial wars, throughout the XX century, in Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique were consuming more or less 50 per cent of the Portuguese government budget, with the objective of maintaining peace and to continue prospering the countries. The Portuguese army, while apparently not losing, foresaw little prospect of a clear-cut victory.

This 'postcolonial period' started after World War II, when the liberation movements gained ground. This decolonization was one of the turning points in the history of the post-war world. It captured the imagination of a new generation of idealists who enthusiastically proclaimed their belief in racial equality and individual liberty (Birmingham, 2009). By the 1960s, amongst all of the African colonies had gained independence and the Portuguese was the only European empire that had not collapsed. One of the priorities of the resistance movements



was to rewrite history to overcome the Eurocentric perspective and decolonize people's minds.

The era of colonial wars is generally considered to have ended following the conclusion of the Portuguese Colonial War in 1974 (de Moor & Wesseling, 1989).

Post-colonial Period

The last colonial empire collapsed thirty-five years ago. The Portuguese was the most enduring European empire and the last one to fall (Cabecinhas & Feijo, 2010). The empire only finished in 1975, a time usually already considered as 'postcolonial'. The dissolution of Portugal's African empire was every bit as brutal and nasty as many other imperial endgames, and the managing of postcolonial relationships was also fraught with incidents and misunderstandings (Oliveira, 2017). The Portuguese Army considered the 1961-74 war, which they labelled as the Colonial War or Overseas War, the most negative event in the Portuguese history. This event was evoked by about 10 percent of the Portuguese participants. The same event was evoked by about 36 per cent of the Mozambican participants, who labelled it the War of Liberation, War of Resistance, or Armed Struggle. In contrast to the Portuguese, Mozambican participants considered the impacts of the war predominantly very positive since it led to independence (Cabecinhas & Feijo, 2010).

After the Carnation Revolution, the decolonization process provoked a huge migration movement from the former African Colonies to Portugal, both of Portuguese colonies as well as of African colonized people (Cabecinhas & Feijo, 2010). These African colonized people, formally Portuguese, were now treated as foreign invaders, and the Portuguese colonials (retornados) also experienced strong hostility from the metropolitan Portuguese.

About two decades after the decolonization process, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa, CPLP) was established, to formalize a post-imperial relationship between Portugal and its former colonies (Cabecinhas & Feijo, 2010). The original intention of farsighted colonialists to terminate formal political control over specific colonial territories and to replace it by some new relationship did not necessarily mean independence was later made obvious (Hargreaves, 2014; Oliveria, 2017). Neither France nor Britain, at the end of the Second World War, envisaged a general lowering





of flags. But both, it will be argued (though not until later, Belgium, Spain or Portugal) did set out to change political relationships - to substitute collaboration for force or, council for control.

For about twenty-five years there was a 'period of mourning', where speaking about the Colonial War and the decolonization process was taboo. Only recently have people started to speak more easily about these issues and the revival of interest in the 'old times in Africa' has translated into bestseller publications (novels, photo books of a lost Africa) and even soap operas (e.g. Jewel of Africa) (Cabecinhas & Feijo, 2010).

The ambivalent appreciations of dissolution of the empire should not give the impression, however, that the memory of the colonial breakup was a burning issue in Portuguese politics. In fact, as one historian has perceptively observed, Portugal's imperial hangover turned out to be remarkably 'mild': unresolved issues related to the decolonization process were very much present in the political agenda, but not to the point of threatening the stability of the newly restored democracy. The parties who dominated the political landscape until the 1990s have all been in favour of the independence of the African colonies (Oliviera, 2017).

CARNATION REVOLUTION 1974: A PEACE COUP AND DISSOLUTION OF EMPIRE

Happened in 25th April 1974, the name Carnation Revolution (Portuguese: Revolução dos Cravos) comes from the act that the coup d'état itself was a peaceful one and that carnations were put into the muzzles of rifles and on the Army Uniform to celebrate the end of dictatorship. 25th April is now a national holiday known as the Freedom Day (Dia da Liberdade).

Portugal had been run by the authoritarian dictatorship of Estado Novo or literally the 'New State' for more than 40 years since António de Oliveira Salazar was named to be the Prime Minister (in office 1932-1968) (Lewis, 2002). Marcelo Caetano served as the succeeding PM until the Carnation Revolution sparked off.

The Portuguese Colonial War which began in 1961, was consuming as much as 40% of the Portugal's annual budget (Abbott & Volstad, 2013). The war itself had already extended to the second decade, and it seemed there was no political solution or end in sight. Thousands



of young men left Portugal in order to avoid conscription. On the other hand, for the ethnic Portuguese of these colonies were increasingly willing to accept independence.

In fact, most of the European countries withdrew their colonies shortly after WWII. Thus, the Portuguese regime was not favourable among the international community. Whereas domestically, a loosely-allied, lower-ranked, left-leaning organisation Armed Forces Movement (Movimento das Forças Armadas; MFA) was formed in early 1970s within the army and started planning a coup d'état to end the Estado Novo as well as the War.

For that, Caetano carried out the new Decree Laws (Decretos-Leis n.os 353, de 13 de Julho de 1973, e 409, de 20 de Agosto) (Leite Pinto, 2016). in order to cut down military expenses and increase the number of officers. The MFA captains opposed (A Guerra Colonial na Guiné/Bissau (07 de 07)). By early 1974, signals of rebellions were seen. There was an unsuccessful attempt in 16th March, made by the MFA.

In April, the MFA decided to make another attempt. This time, there were 2 signals of military coup.

The first was when the *Radio Emissores Associados de Lisboa* broadcasted the song "E Depois do Adeus" by Paulo de Carvalho (Portugal's entry in the 6 April 1974 Eurovision Song Contest) at 22:25, 24th April 1974. This was to alert the rebel captains and soldiers to start mobilising.

The second signal came on 25 April 1974 at 0:20. The private commercial radio station *Rádio Renascença* broadcasted "Grândola, Vila Morena" by Zeca Afonso. The singer himself was an influential folk musician and political singer who was banned from the Portuguese radio at the time. It was also a signal for the MFA members to begin taking over the strategic points throughout the country (Watson, 2015). At 3:00, according to the "Operations General Plan" (Plano Geral das Operações), the military operation started.

In six hours, the Caetano regime relented.

At 11:45, the MFA had taken over the country, and declared that "the time for national liberation has arrived!" Despite the fact that MFA had repeatedly warned the people to stay safe at home, thousands of Portuguese took to the street to support the MFA and celebrate the final freedom. At one of the gathering points, the Lisbon flower market, carnations which were richly stocked were put into the muzzles of rifles and on the uniforms of the army men





— and it was the image that was shown to the world ("Frontline Diplomacy: The Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training", 2007): No violence, and the people supported.

At 19:00, PM in office Marcelo Caetano surrendered.

In the beginning, when the image of Carnation Revolution was shown, it shocked Europe, as Cold War was at its peak, and carnation itself is a symbol of socialism (International Socialist congress, Paris 1889). The Western bloc was so afraid that Portugal would turn into a Communist country, but instead, Portugal was then dominated by the centre-left social democratic Socialist Party (Partido Socialista; PS) (Almeida, n.d.) and the centre-right liberal-conservative Social Democratic Party (Partido Social Democrata; PSD) (Colomer, 2003).

SITUATION OF THE FORMER COLONIES

One of the direct consequences of the Carnation Revolution was the withdrawal of its colonies. Immediately followed by the Carnation Revolution, hundreds of thousands of Portuguese in Africa left the colonies before its independence. By the end of the 1970s, over a million Portuguese citizens from Portugal's African territories ("Dismantling the Portuguese Empire", 1975). A significant percentage of these returnees were deeply rooted in the former colonies (marriage and/or have been living for generations). These returnees were known as the retornados (from the Portuguese verb "retornar", to return).

Angola

For exactly 400 years, Portuguese Angola, or sometimes referred as Portuguese West Africa was a Portuguese colony. With its Angolan War of Independence began in 1961, Angola was finally decolonised in 1975 (Miller, 1988).

According to Alvor Agreement (January 1975), the power was handed over to the coalition formed by the three largest nationalist movements: People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola; MPLA), National Liberation Front of Angola (Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola; FNLA), and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola; UNITA).



However, this coalition quickly broke down (Rothchild, 1997). The Angolan Civil War began on 11th November 1975, the day when Portugal left. It was a power struggle between the two former nationalist movements: MPLA and UNITA, in addition to either direct or indirect intervention of powers such as the United States, Soviet Union, Cuba and South Africa (Rothchild, 1997). Angola was then in turmoil for decades ("Angola– Independence Struggle, Civil War, and Intervention", 2018).

The Civil War ended in 2002. However, the general situation in Angola remains desperate due to post-war humanitarian issue (Oliveira, 2015).

Cape Verde

Without direct armed conflict, Portuguese Cape Verde gained its independence simply by negotiation (Lloyd-Jones & Pinto, 2003).

In August 1974, an agreement was signed in Algiers, Algeria between the Portuguese government and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (Partido Africano para a Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde, PAIGC), recognising the right of independence of Cape Verde. PAIGC and Portugal signed an agreement providing for a transitional government composed of Portuguese and Cape Verdeans in December 1974.

Cape Verde gained its final independence on 5th July 1975.

Guinea-Bissau

The Portuguese Guinea, or the Oversea Province of Guinea (from 1951), began its Guinea-Bissau War of Independence in 1963. After a year of the declaration of independence on 24th September 1973, a few months after the Carnation Revolution, on 26th August 1974, an accord was signed in which Portugal agreed to remove all troops by the end of October and to officially recognise the Republic of Guinea-Bissau government controlled by the PAIGC (Lloyd-Jones & Pinto, 2003).

Full independence to Guinea-Bissau was granted on 10th September 1974. This marked an end of the 11.5-year-long armed conflict and the establishment of present day Guinea-Bissau.





Mozambique

To the present-day Mozambique has become a Portuguese colony since the end of the 15th century, it is often known as Portuguese East Africa or Portuguese Mozambique. As one of the participants of the Portuguese Colonial War, Mozambique began a guerrilla campaign against Portuguese rule since September 1964. After Portuguese ruling of more than four centuries, Mozambique gained its independence in 1975 (*CD do Diário de Notícias - Parte 08, 2007*). just like other former Portuguese colonies, becoming the People's Republic of Mozambique shortly thereafter (Abbott & Rodrigues, 1998).

Mozambique fell into a civil war two years later. Just like Angola, the Mozambican Civil War was also the result of local conflict as well as the polarising effects of the Cold War (Schwartz, 2010). The fight of ruling power between the Liberation of Mozambique (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique; FRELIMO) and insurgent forces of the Mozambican National Resistance (Resistência Nacional Moçambicana; RENAMO) lasted 15 years (Alex, 1997).

Despite the fact that the Civil War ended in 1992, the country remained as one of the poorest nations in the world.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Being a Portuguese colony since 1470, Portuguese São Tomé and Príncipe was spared from a civil war as well. In 1972, a nationalist political party of Marxist ideology, the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe/Partido Social Democrata; MLSTP/PSD) was created by exiles in Equatorial Guinea with the intent of creating an independent nation. Independence was granted on 12th July 1975.

São Tomé became one of the first African countries to undergo a democratic reform, in 1990.

East Timor

The country was known as the Portuguese Timor until 28th November 1975 (Dunn, 2003), when the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Frente Revolucionária de Timor-Leste Independente; Fretilin) declared independence. In fact, Portugal had abandoned



its colony immediately after the Carnation Revolution, civil war between different East Timorese political parties broke out shortly after (Jolliffe, 1967).

Nine days after the independence, East Timor was invaded by Indonesia on 7th December 1975. Many massacres took place (Dunn, 1983). On 17 July 1976, Indonesia formally annexed East Timor, declaring it as its 27th province and renamed it as Timor Timur. It was occupied until 1999 when the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET, UNSC Resolution 1272) had taken over in 25th October 1999 (UNSC /RES/1272, 1999). With the help of the United Nations act of self-determination, Indonesia relinquished the control of East Timor. Final independence was restored in 20th May 2002.

East Timor was also the first new sovereign state of the 21st century (Cristalis, 2009).

Macau

Portuguese Macau was the first and last European colony in China (Dillon, 2017). Unlike other former colonies, Macau was in the hand of the Portuguese until the end of the century: 20th December 1999.

After the Carnation Revolution, Portugal offered the People's Republic of China the retrocession of Macau in late 1974 (Chan, 2003). However, China declined the offer at that time as Hong Kong was still under British rule. In January 1975, Portugal recognised the PRC as the sole government of China (Chan, Lo & Chan, 2010). Followed by a district autonomy period (1976-1988) (Hao, 2011), instead of an integral part of Portuguese territory, Macau was considered to be an 'overseas province', as put in the Portuguese Constitution 1976.

According to the 1987 Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration, Macau was a "Chinese territory under Portuguese administration" (Macao SAR, 1987). 1987. Macau was then entered the transition period (1988-1999). Full sovereignty was transferred to the PRC on 20th December 1999, marked the end of 422 years of Portuguese history in Macau, as well as the end of the Portuguese overseas empire.

Macau is now one of the two special administrative regions (Bowman, 2001) of China, to be governed under a "one country, two systems" policy (Landler, 1999).

Today, there are also intergovernmental organisations, such as Community of Portuguese Language Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa; CPLP; occasionally known





as the Lusophone Commonwealth) (*Africa South of the Sahara 2003*) created in 1996, with Lusophone nations across four continents in achieving multilateral communication and mutual cooperation.

Passed UN resolutions on decolonisation

The United Nations has managed to pass a number of resolutions based on decolonisation, specifically regarding Portugal. These resolutions are elaborated on below. The current Historical Committee simulation (your committee) is not in any way obliged to follow the same course as the UN has taken in these resolutions. As a matter of fact, one should think of possible differentiating manners resolutions could be set up or different outcomes.

Resolution 1514 (1960): “Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples”.

The General Assembly

Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples, and of universal respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing the passionate yearning for freedom in all dependent peoples and the decisive role of such peoples in the attainment of their independence,

Aware of the increasing conflicts resulting from the denial of or impediments in the way of the freedom of such peoples, which constitute a serious threat to world peace,

Considering the important role of the United Nations in assisting the movement for independence in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories,



Recognizing that the peoples of the world ardently desire the end of colonialism in all its manifestations,

Convinced that the continued existence of colonialism prevents the development of international economic cooperation, impedes the social, cultural and economic development of the dependent peoples and militates against the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Affirming that peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law,

Believing that the process of liberation is irresistible and irreversible and that, in order to avoid serious crises, an end must be put to colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith,

Welcoming the emergence in recent years of a large number of dependent territories into freedom and independence, and recognizing the increasingly powerful trends towards freedom in such territories which have not yet attained independence,

Convinced that all peoples have an inalienable right to complete freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty and the integration of their national territory,

Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;

And to this end Declares that:

1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation.
2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
3. Inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence.





4. All armed action or repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely their right to complete independence, and the integrity of their national territory shall be respected.

5. Immediate steps shall be taken, in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.

6. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. All States shall observe faithfully and strictly the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the present Declaration on the basis of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of all States, and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and their territorial integrity.

Resolution 1654 (1961): “The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”.

Recalling the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of that Declaration,
Recalling in particular paragraph 5 of the Declaration providing that:
“Immediate steps shall be taken, in Trust and Non- Self-Governing Territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom”,

Noting with regret that, with a few exceptions, the provisions contained in the aforementioned paragraph of the Declaration have not been carried out,



Noting that, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Declaration, armed action and repressive measures continue to be taken in certain areas with increasing ruthlessness against dependent peoples, depriving them of their prerogative to exercise peacefully and freely their right to complete independence,

Deeply concerned that, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 6 of the Declaration, acts aimed at the partial or total disruption of national unity and territorial integrity are still being carried out in certain countries in the process of decolonization,

Convinced that further delay in the application of the Declaration is a continuing source of international conflict and disharmony, seriously impedes international co-operation, and is creating an increasingly dangerous situation in many parts of the world which may threaten international peace and security,

Emphasizing that inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence,

1. *Solemnly reiterates and reaffirms* the objectives and principles enshrined in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;
2. *Calls upon* States concerned to take action without further delay with a view to the faithful application and implementation of the Declaration;
3. *Decides* to establish a Special Committee of seventeen members to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly at the present session;
4. *Requests* the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;
5. *Directs* the Special Committee to carry out its task by employment of all means which it will have at its disposal within the framework of the procedures and modalities which it shall adopt for the proper discharge of its functions;
6. *Authorises* the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters, whenever and wherever such meetings may be required for the effective discharge of its functions, in consultation with the appropriate authorities;
7. *Invites* the authorities concerned to afford the Special Committee their fullest co-operation in carrying out its tasks;





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8. *Requests* the Trusteeship Council, the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the specialized agencies concerned to assist the Special Committee in its work within their respective fields;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with all the facilities and the personnel necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.



POINTS THE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

The resolutions should address the following, but not limited to;

- a. The definition of borders after the decolonisation process.
- b. The measures that the members of the Decolonisation Committee will put in place to further their withdrawal while working closely with Portugal.
- c. A possible transition period (after Carnation Revolution)
- d. A Proper exit plan for Portugal.
- e. The economic and political aspects as a result of the decolonisation





Further reading and bibliography

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