

## **Resolution**

### **UNPO XV General Assembly**

#### **On the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goal 16**

- *Whereas* the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 requires all member states of the United Nations “to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”
- *Whereas* in September 2014, the people of Scotland were able to freely and peacefully hold a referendum on their international status;
- *Whereas* in November 2016, the people of the District of Columbia, were able to hold a referendum on statehood with the United States of America and have seen this referendum lead to a vote on statehood in the US House of Representatives;
- *Whereas* in November 2018, the people of New Caledonia, were able to freely and peacefully hold a referendum on their international status;
- *Whereas* in November 2019, the people of Bougainville, a former UNPO member, were able to freely and peacefully hold a referendum on their international status;
- *Whereas* the above-referenced cases represent the handful of positive instances within the past six years where self-determination issues have been freely put to a vote;
- *Whereas* in other circumstances, agreements on the self-determination of unrepresented nations and peoples or attempts to have a vote on such self-determination have been consistently frustrated;

#### **Therefore we, the XV General Assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO),**

1. *Congratulate*, the governments of the United States of America, United Kingdom, France and Papua New Guinea for facilitating such expressions of the desires of their constituent nations and peoples;
2. *Urge* the international community to recognize that such forward-thinking actions present the best opportunity for the full realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including in particular SDG Goal 16 to *promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies* and to support more such efforts in the future;

3. *Express* our heartfelt congratulations to the people of Bougainville, former UNPO members, and invite them to participate in the UNPO's XVI General Assembly celebrating its 30th Anniversary and to share their experiences with it;
4. *Further express* heartfelt congratulations to the people of the District of Columbia for their successful vote on statehood at the US House of Representatives and deep hope for the successful furtherance of the campaign for statehood;
5. *Condemns* the use of the criminal justice system in Spain against the non-violent self-determination movement in Catalonia and demands the implementation of international and European human rights standards in Spain;
6. *Expresses* significant concern at the lack of progress in the implementation of the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and, indeed, the repression of human rights activists and democracy defenders, including members of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), that seek the full implementation of that accord and *calls* for the immediate cessation of the militarization in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the criminalization of political and human rights activists as well as the release of those arbitrarily arrested and detained in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
7. *Supports* a peaceful resolution of the Indo-Naga issue which is just, long lasting, honorable and acceptable to both the sides, *calls upon* the international community to appeal to India to fulfill its commitments in the framework agreement on the Indo-Naga issue, and *urges* India to repeal acts such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and the Disturbed Area Act which overly militarize the situation facing the Naga people;
8. *Urges* the United States of America to enable the people of Guam, and in particular the indigenous Chamorro people, to hold a plebiscite that would enable them to express their desires as it relates to self-determination;
9. *Calls on* the government of Ethiopia to re-engage in dialogue and negotiation, release detained political leaders, and set a reasonable and expeditious date for the postponed elections;
10. *Urges* the United Nations, African Union and their respective member states to support the people of Western Sahara and the fulfillment of the promise of a referendum and recognition of the decolonization of Western Sahara.