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the United Nations in addressing the critical interlinkages between health, trade, finance and economic and social development.

The General Assembly also recognized the importance of maintaining, within the United Nations development system and with respect to the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 2011 of 20 September 2007 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and resolution 72/276 of 22 December 2009 on draft interlinkages resolution.

Further, both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) annually address the special challenges facing the Territories in implementing and implementing sustainable development and request United Nations entities, including national and regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and coordination appropriate programming of assistance to the non-self-governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories.<sup>2</sup>

The crisis brought about by the pandemic was recognized by the General Assembly through affected Territories made for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This is also the case for the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The time is more appropriate than ever before for the efforts so important to the Territories in the homeland of Sir William Arthur Lewis, who in 1959 won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his contributions in the field of economic development.

The Assembly has consistently recognized the crucial importance of many of the challenges faced by some Territories and has affirmed that such efforts must be made through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, by the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Territories.

The Special Committee has been given a clear mandate by the General Assembly to continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.<sup>3</sup>

For this reason, the broad participation of the Territories' delegations is central to the objectives of the Commission as it will allow us to hear first-hand information about the challenges and solutions faced to face the extraordinary times the pandemic has brought about in the Territories and the world at large.

Excellent!

Dissemination of delegates:

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/20, preamble, paragraph 2 and 4.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/27, preamble, paragraph 11 and paragraph 11.020, resolution 70/17, preamble, paragraph 2 and paragraph 2.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/20, preamble, paragraph 4.

<sup>5</sup> For example, see conclusions and recommendations of the 2014 Human Rights Council (para. 33 (c)).

<sup>6</sup> For example, General Assembly resolution 66/10, para. 3 (c).

Ladies and gentlemen,

The first responsibility will have during this session will be also an opportunity to reflect on how the cooperation and assistance provided to the international community, particularly in the area of health care, can be strengthened.

The experience gained and lessons learned from the pandemic provide the basis for promoting and encouraging future endeavours, and strengthening the global system for the future and addressing all challenges.

All relevant stakeholders, including the administrative bodies, the bodies of the United Nations, and the international and regional organizations, have a shared responsibility to play.

We are confident that the recovery will be swift and sustainable. We encourage you all to take full advantage of the time for open and fruitful cooperation.

Thank you.

<sup>7</sup> For example, General Assembly resolution 74/29, para. 11.  
<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 74/29, preambular paragraph 11.