



25.05.2016 – Sam Nujoma’s first President was not sworn in until 1989. There are still 17 remaining territories that are non-self-governed around the world.

In a vast political reshaping of the world, more than 80 former colonies comprising some 750 million people have gained independence since the creation of the United Nations. At present, [17 Non-Self-Governing Territories](#) (NSGTs) across the globe remain to be decolonised, home to nearly 2 million people. Thus, the process of decolonisation is not complete.

Finishing the job will require a continuing dialogue among the administering Powers, the [Special Committee on Decolonisation](#), and the peoples of the territories, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions on decolonisation.

During the [International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of NSGTs](#) (25-31 May) the United Nations urges administering Powers to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples to their land and resources.

[Chapter XI of the UN Charter](#) - the Declaration regarding NSGTs - provides that Member States administering territories, which have not attained self-government recognise *"that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount"* and accept as a *"sacred trust"* the obligation to promote their well-being.



A boy plays with his homemade wooden toy truck in Malaita, Solomon Islands, one of the world's remaining 17 non-self-governing territories.

Did you know?

The [17 Non-Self-Governing territories](#) lie within Africa, the Atlantic and Caribbean, Europe, and the Pacific and Indian oceans. The UK is the administration Power for ten of those non-self-governed territories, accounting for a total population of 238,840 – whilst three are governed by the U.S, two by France, one by Spain and one by New Zealand.

UNRIC's Related links

- [International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories](#)
- [Special Committee on Decolonisation](#)
- [Chapter XI](#)of the UN Charter

Photos

One: 1989 - Swearing-in ceremony of Namibia's new President Sam Nujoma/ UN Photo

Two: [What the UN can do to assist non-self-governing territories](#)

Three: UN Photo/ W. Stone