Non-Self-Governing Territories

Under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations (http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-xi/index.html), the Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government". The General Assembly, by its resolution 66 (I) (http://undocs.org/A/RES/66(I)) of 14 December 1946, noted a list of 72 Territories to which Chapter XI of the Charter applied. In 1963, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/about) (also known as the "Special Committee on Decolonization" or the "C-24") approved a preliminary list of Territories to which the Declaration applied (A/5446/Rev.1 (http://undocs.org/A/5446/Rev.1), annex I). Today, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, as listed below, remain on the agenda of the C-24. Member States which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of such Territories are called administering Powers.

LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY REGION

TERRITORY	LISTING AS NSGT	ADMINISTERING POWER	LAND AREA (sq.km.)	POPULATION [i]
		AFRICA		
Western Sahara (nsgt/western-sahara)	Since 1963	[ii]	266,000	612,000
		ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN		
Anguilla (nsgt/anguilla)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	96	15,899
Bermuda (nsgt/bermuda)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	53.35	63,982
British Virgin Islands (nsgt/british-virgin-islands)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	153	33,595
Cayman Islands (nsgt/cayman-islands)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	264	71,105
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (nsgt/falkland-islands-malvinas) [iii]	Since 1946	United Kingdom	12,173	3,662
Montserrat (nsgt/montserrat)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	103	4,433
Saint Helena (nsgt/saint-helena)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	310	5,146
Turks and Caicos Islands (nsgt/turks-and-caicos-islands)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	948.2	49,309
United States Virgin Islands (nsgt/united-states-virgin-islands)	Since 1946	United States	352	105,413
		EUROPE		
Gibraltar (nsgt/gibraltar)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	5.8	34,003
		PACIFIC		
American Samoa (nsgt/american-samoa)	Since 1946	United States	200	49,710
French Polynesia (nsgt/french-polynesia)	1946-1947 and since 2013	France	3,600	279,550
Guam (nsgt/guam)	Since 1946	United States	540	153,836
New Caledonia (nsgt/new-caledonia)	1946-1947 and since 1986	France	18,575	268,500
Pitcairn (nsgt/pitcairn)	Since 1946	United Kingdom	35.5	42
Tokelau (nsgt/tokelau)	Since 1946	New Zealand	12.2	1,647

(Last updated: 9 May 2024)

[i] All data is from United Nations Secretariat 2020 Working Papers on Non-Self-Governing Territories, and for Western Sahara, from UNdata (http://data.un.org), a database by the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

[ii] On 26 February 1976, Spain informed the Secretary-General that as of that date it had terminated its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deemed it necessary to place on record that Spain considered itself thenceforth exempt from any responsibility of any international nature in connection with the administration of the Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory. In 1990, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization which remained to be completed by the people of Western Sahara.

[iii] 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).