



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2023

Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law

March 23-25, 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2023 and the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Plenary! My name is Ashley Drop (she/her) and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the GA Plenary. This will be my third time as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I have served as the Director for the International Law Commission at SRMUN Charlotte 2022 and as the Director for the Human Rights Council at SRMUN Atlanta 2022. In May 2022, I graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Economics, a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science, and a Minor in Communication. I currently work in New York City at a management consulting firm. Our committee's Assistant Directors are Kathryn Caudill (she/her) and Katie Reese (she/her). After attending five SRMUN conferences as a delegate, Kathryn is excited to join us for her first time on SRMUN staff as your Assistant Director. Kathryn recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science as well as Spanish Applied Language, a minor in Criminal Justice, and a certification in Business Spanish. She is now pursuing a degree in law. Katie is also joining SRMUN staff for the first time, after participating as a delegate in past conferences. Katie is currently a senior at her college/ university, pursuing a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. Upon graduation, Katie aspires to attend law school with the hopes of becoming a civilian-contracted attorney in the military.

The UNGA is comprised of all 193 Member States of the UN, and provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues. The UNGA acts as the chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law. The overarching mission of the UNGA is to recommend diplomatic and multilateral solutions to issues involving peace and security, human rights, development, international law and justice, and social, economic, and political unrest.

By focusing on the mission of the GA Plenary and the SRMUN Charlotte 2023 theme of "*Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Stabilizing Developing Economies Amid Global Political Unrest
- II. Addressing Systemic Discrimination and Inequity Towards Indigenous Societies

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2023. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 3, 2023, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Kathryn, Katie, and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the GA Plenary. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Director-General Chantel Hover, Assistant Directors Katie Reese and Kathryn Caudill, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the General Assembly Plenary

The United Nations (UN) was formed on October 24, 1945, after the end of World War II, to “maintain international peace and security, give humanitarian assistance, protect human rights, and uphold international law.”¹ On that day, representatives from 50 Member States (Poland later made 51) met at the UN Conference on International Organization in California, where the UN Charter was ratified.² The Charter created six main bodies: (1) the General Assembly, (2) the Security Council, (3) the Economic and Social Council, (4) the Trusteeship Council, (5) the International Court of Justice, and (6) the UN Secretariat.³ The six bodies were created with different purposes and intents, with specified topic focuses ranging from security to economic issues, and with individually tailored procedures for voting, leadership structure, and budgetary arrangements.⁴ The UN General Assembly (GA), one of the original six bodies created by the UN Charter in 1945, serves as the main policy-making forum, composed of 193 Member States, each having an equal vote.⁵ The UNGA comprises of six main committees: (1) the Disarmament and International Security Committee, (2) the Economic and Financial Committee, (3) the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, (4) the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, (5) the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, and (6) the Legal Committee.⁶ These committees each have their own agendas and can pass resolutions to be directed to the UNGA Plenary; however, they all must report to the UNGA Plenary, which can then formally pass the resolution sent and decide on the logistics necessary to achieve the resolution’s goals.⁷ Member States are permitted to have representation on each of these committees.⁸ The UNGA meets annually with sessions lasting from September to December where agenda items are discussed and transformed into resolutions.⁹

The six main committees under the UNGA Plenary have a broad range of functions and responsibilities over international issues. The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) conducts operations over disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community.¹⁰ Additionally, the First Committee seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.¹¹ The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) handles issues relating to economic growth and development, such as macroeconomic policy questions, financing for development, sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, eradication of poverty, operational activities for development, agriculture development, food security and nutrition, information and communications technologies for development, and global partnerships.¹² The Third Committee (Special, Humanitarian, and Cultural) administers agenda items that relate to a range of social, humanitarian affairs, and human rights issues.¹³ The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) operates over issues including: decolonization, atomic radiation, questions relating to information about the UN and its actions, peacekeeping operations and special political missions, committees dedicated specifically for Israeli and Palestinian affairs, and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.¹⁴ The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) is responsible for budgetary and administrative matters.¹⁵ Finally, the Sixth Committee (Legal) is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly.¹⁶

¹ “History of the United Nations,” *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un>.

² “History of the United Nations,” *United Nations*.

³ “About Us,” *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us>.

⁴ “Main Bodies,” *United Nations*, accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/main-bodies>.

⁵ “Workings of the General Assembly,” *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>.

⁶ “About the General Assembly,” *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>.

⁷ “Plenary vs. Committee Meetings,” *United Nations*, accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/model-und-nations/plenary-vs-committee-meetings/>.

⁸ “Main Committees,” *United Nations*, accessed July 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>.

⁹ “Workings of the General Assembly,” *United Nations*.

¹⁰ “Disarmament and International Security,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>.

¹¹ “Disarmament and International Security,” *United Nations*.

¹² “Economic and Financial Committee,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>.

¹³ “Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Issues,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>.

¹⁴ “Special Political and Decolonization,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/index.shtml>.

¹⁵ “Administrative and Budgetary Committee,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/index.shtml>.

¹⁶ “Legal,” *United Nations*, accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/index.shtml>.

It is within the UNGA Plenary itself that major statements, such as topic or agenda proposals, are made, broad-ranging debates are conducted, and major decisions such as discussion and adoption of resolutions for a conference are conducted.¹⁷ All associated committees to the UNGA Plenary, including the six primary UNGA committees, are allowed to make recommendations to the Plenary but are not allowed to make any decisions on its behalf.¹⁸ Of the six primary committees that were adopted by the UNGA, some work with independent organizations or with other UN committees.¹⁹ Most decisions made by the UNGA Plenary must pass with a simple majority vote, whereas matters relating to international peace and security must pass with a two-thirds majority vote.²⁰

The UNGA is responsible for setting and maintaining a regular budget and a peacekeeping budget for the UN.²¹ The regular budget is used for operations outside of peacekeeping, such as special political missions, efforts to ensure international implementation and compliance with sanctions adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and much of the Plenary's human rights monitoring and advocacy work.²² The budget is supplemented in two parts: assessed contributions, which each Member State is to pay according to the UN Charter, and voluntary contributions, which is left to the discretion of Member States.²³ Specialized agencies have their own budgets that are not determined by the UNGA.²⁴

As the primary policy making body of the UN, the UNGA has passed numerous resolutions to address a variety of global issues within the scope of its jurisdiction.²⁵ The UNGA adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000 that defined UN fundamental values, furthered peace and disarmament, set a framework to eradicate poverty through development, and created a plan to protect the global environment.²⁶ Five years later, at the 2005 World Summit, the Millennium Declaration's goals were evaluated and a new resolution, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, was adopted.²⁷ This new resolution focused on topics ranging from genocide prevention to global peace.²⁸ In 2015, the UNGA adopted the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda, which contains 17 global goals addressing an array of international issues.²⁹ In the 76th session of the UNGA, 295 resolutions were passed and its main committees.³⁰ Some resolutions were passed by acclamation to meet the goal of consensus building, such as resolution A/RES/76/166 on The Right to Food.³¹ The resolutions passed in the 76th session ranged from road safety, financing of missions and committees, creating a post-traumatic stress disorder framework, and discussing regional concerns such as peace in Central and South Asia.³² The 77th session of the UNGA opened on September 13, 2022.³³

¹⁷ "About the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

¹⁸ "Plenary vs. Committee Meetings," *United Nations*.

¹⁹ "Main Committees of the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

²⁰ "Rules of Procedure," *United Nations*, accessed July 16, 2022.

[https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml#:~:text=\(a\)%20The%20General%20Assembly%20shall,by%20lot%20by%20the%20President](https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/plenary.shtml#:~:text=(a)%20The%20General%20Assembly%20shall,by%20lot%20by%20the%20President).

²¹ "About the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

²² "The UN Budget," *Better World Campaign*, accessed July 16, 2022. <https://betterworldcampaign.org/resources/briefing-book-2022/united-nations-budget>.

²³ "United Nations Charter," *United Nations*, accessed July 16, 2022, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>.

²⁴ "The UN Budget," *Better World Campaign*.

²⁵ "About the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

²⁶ United Nations General Assembly Agenda Item 60, *Millennium Declaration*, A/RES/55/2, (September 18, 2000).

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/559/51/PDF/N0055951.pdf?OpenElement>.

²⁷ United Nations General Assembly Agenda Items 46 and 120, *2005 World Summit Outcome*, A/RES/60/1 (September 18, 2000). <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/487/60/PDF/N0548760.pdf?OpenElement>.

²⁸ United Nations General Assembly Agenda Items 46 and 120, *2005 World Summit Outcome*.

²⁹ "About the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

³⁰ "Resolutions of the 76th Session," *United Nations*, accessed July 18, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/76/resolutions.shtml>.

³¹ "Resolutions of the 76th Session," *United Nations*.

³² "Resolutions of the 76th Session," *United Nations*.

³³ "Workings of the General Assembly," *United Nations*.

I. Stabilizing Developing Economies Amid Global Political Unrest

Introduction

The stability of both economies and domestic political functions or political effectiveness have shown throughout history to be closely tied to one another's success or downfall.³⁴ The relationship seems to be impacted in both directions: low economic growth often leads to political unrest, and political instability or unrest often leads to slow or stagnant economic growth.³⁵ In turn, this lack of growth means slower economic development relative to those unhindered by political instability, and a status within a stratum of development denoted by the United Nations (UN) as Least Developed Countries, or LDCs.³⁶ LDCs are often extremely vulnerable to economic and environmental crises according to UN data.³⁷ Empirical data has shown that stability or instability with one side - the stability of the economy or the political security of the state - often leads to similar results for the other. It is important to note that this phenomena is not limited to Member States that are not classified as LDCs, and can affect any and all Member States that have any form of political structure and an economy. With this in mind, it is therefore the duty of the UN to monitor what can be a mutually unfavorable relationship between unstable political climates and low economic growth in LDCs and other Member States in order to foster sustainable growth for all.

History

In the 1960s, the international concern for how economic stability in one Member State affected the political and economic sphere on a regional and/or global level resulted in a call from Member States across the world for the creation of a UN body specifically focused on the challenges and opportunities in international trade and development.³⁸ This concern was brought before the United Nations General Assembly (GA), and in 1964 the GA established the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a permanent intergovernmental body that would meet and address current and future economic concerns.³⁹ In more recent years, UNCTAD has developed strategies that center around encouraging participation within the global market with trade liberalization.⁴⁰ With the development agenda in mind, in 2000 the tenth UNCTAD conference developed and adopted a strategy to address how the globalization of the world economy required a different approach for LDCs than had been used in the past.⁴¹ The strategy highlighted how different crises and Member States require different levels of participation by UN management teams, and called for the research and plan development necessary to ensure there was a way for these approaches to be varied as well.⁴² Multilateralism, nationalism, and the developing understanding of how an unstable political landscape can drastically affect developing Member States' economies are key focuses for the UNCTAD today, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through to current recovery efforts.⁴³

This recognition of the complex way in which domestic economies and political instability relate has been exemplified by key political shifts in history. A major event that showcases this is the dissolution of the Soviet

³⁴ Phillip Barrett and Sophia Chen, "The Economics of Social Unrest," *International Monetary Fund*, August 2021.

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2021/08/economics-of-social-unrest-imf-barrett-chen.htm>.

³⁵ Alberto Alesina, et al., Political Instability and Economic Growth, *Journal of Economic Growth*, September 1992, 1-50, https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/4553024/alesina_instabilitygrowth.pdf;jsessionid=E2827F5195EE7F2AC3A8AD456461AD62?sequence=2.

³⁶ "Least Developed Countries (LDCs)," *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, accessed September 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html>.

³⁷ "LDC Identification Criteria & Indicators," *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, accessed September 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/ldc-criteria.html>.

³⁸ "UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)," *United Nations System Documentation*, accessed September 15 2022. <https://research.un.org/en/docs/unsystem/unctad>.

³⁹ "UNCTAD," *The United Nations Office at Geneva*, Accessed January 12, 2023.

<https://www.ungeneva.org/en/organizations/unctad#:~:text=It%20is%20a%20permanent%20intergovernmental,economy%20more%20fairly%20and%20effectively>.

⁴⁰ "History" *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, accessed October 8, 2022. <https://unctad.org/about/history>.

⁴¹ "History" *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*.

⁴² "History" *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*.

⁴³ "History" *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*.

Union in 1991.⁴⁴ The dissolution of the Soviet Union sent such economic shocks through different Soviet Republics and Member States, that it heavily influenced UN policy decisions for the decades following it, with an explicit recognition by UN bodies of the global consequences of such a political upheaval in any Member State, but particularly those with larger economies or populations.⁴⁵ In the case of the Soviet Union, although the crisis might have started with domestic political and economic problems, it ultimately became a global issue as some Member States attempted both intervention and isolation of the Soviet economy, both before and after the Soviet Union's disbandment.⁴⁶ While this destabilization of both economy and politics was centralized in the Soviet Union, the UN recognized that the causes of its international economic shocks was relatable to many other crises in developing Member States and LDCs, and could potentially affect even more economically stable Member States.⁴⁷ This also influenced the projects of UNCTAD, and the body turned its previously narrowed focus on LDCs and developing Member States to also include how economies of all Member States had become globalized in a relatively short period of time.⁴⁸

Actions Taken by the United Nations

Overall, LDCs are expected to see an average economic growth percentage of 4.1 percent.⁴⁹ This is a decrease in growth percentage from 2021 —a year that saw 6.7 percent in growth.⁵⁰ This significant decrease is chiefly attributed to the COVID-19 global pandemic and ongoing job recovery efforts.⁵¹ In addition to the effects of COVID-19, developing Member States and LDCs are also being affected by four other categories: debt burdens, the export marginalization, energy poverty, and their increased vulnerability to climate and environmental crises.⁵² It is with these focal points that UNCTAD addressed the UNGA during their 2022 conference to call for a plan with international cooperation to readdress these issues and how they can be mitigated and eventually solved.⁵³ The largest attention was bestowed on the topic of debt forgiveness for LDCs and developing Member States, as this factor contributes primarily to the lack of funds for critical domestic infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, and schools, which then impacts public trust and approval in their political leaders and government structures.⁵⁴

In response to these issues, the GA passed resolution A/RES/75/225 in December 2022, titled “Towards a New International Economic Order.”⁵⁵ This resolution focused on “the increasing debt vulnerabilities of developing countries, the net negative capital flows from those countries, the fluctuation of exchange rates and the tightening of global financial conditions.”⁵⁶ The resolution called on Member States to strengthen cooperation in making international trade agreements that were more equitable, non-discriminatory, and inclusive of political systems and economies of all sizes and strengths.⁵⁷ Noting the constraints on economic and sustainable development that have

⁴⁴ John Toye, “UNCTAD at 50: A Short History,” *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*, June 2014. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osg2014d1_en.pdf.

⁴⁵ John Toye, “UNCTAD at 50: A Short History,” *UNCTAD*.

⁴⁶ The Russian Crisis, *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, UNCTAD/IRRS/002, October 1998, <https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/poirrsd002.en.pdf>.

⁴⁷ John Toye, “UNCTAD at 50: A Short History,” *UNCTAD*.

⁴⁸ John Toye, “UNCTAD at 50: A Short History,” *UNCTAD*.

⁴⁹ “World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2022,” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, May 18, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-as-of-mid-2022/#:~:text=The%20developing%20countries%2C%20as%20a,sustainable%20recovery%20from%20the%20pandemic>.

⁵⁰ “World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2022,” *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.

⁵¹ “COVID-19 Continues to Disrupt the Global Economy as Extreme Poverty Rises,” *United Nations: Global Humanitarian Review*, November 29, 2021, <https://humanitarianaction.info/article/covid-19-continues-disrupt-global-economy-extreme-poverty-rises>.

⁵² “Four Key Challenges Facing Least Developed Countries,” *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, April 4, 2022, <https://unctad.org/news/four-key-challenges-facing-least-developed-countries>.

⁵³ “UNCTAD At the General Assembly 2022,” *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, September 16, 2022. <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-general-assembly-2022>.

⁵⁴ “Four Key Challenges Facing Least Developed Countries,” *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*.

⁵⁵ “General Assembly Takes Up Second Committee Reports, Adopting 38 Resolutions, 2 Decisions,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*, December 14, 2022. <https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12482.doc.htm>.

⁵⁶ “General Assembly Takes Up Second Committee Reports, Adopting 38 Resolutions, 2 Decisions,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

⁵⁷ United Nations General Assembly resolution 225, *Towards a New International Economic Order, A/RES/75/225*, December

been exacerbated by COVID-19 on LDCs and developing Member States in particular, the resolution also noted the aid it would give if Member States and financial institutions would provide more liquidity in the international financial system.⁵⁸

Supporting this theme, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States noted that without taking into consideration the hardships that COVID-19 has left on LDCs, people within these states suffer from low economic growth potential as they are, by a grand majority, reliant on agriculture for their trade.⁵⁹ Critical infrastructure in modern states, such as access to the internet, are still only available to approximately one-fifth of the population in all LDCs.⁶⁰ Insufficient and ineffective domestic resources, which can be exacerbated by an unstable domestic political climate, often turn into an economic dependence on foreign investments for LDCs.⁶¹ This in turn subjects the people living within these developing States to being vulnerable to global trade market shocks.⁶²

While interests of global security amid political unrest are typically discussed amongst the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the effects of the unrest are well within the bounds of GA attention and the committees under the its purview.⁶³ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which operates under the GA, has found that a lack of access to necessities, or governmental distress in a Member State, are likely to lead to conflict or even violence as distrust and skepticism of the government rises.⁶⁴ For example, South Sudan has faced extreme poverty as a result of long term conflict and Haiti has faced structural inequality as a result of governmental instability.⁶⁵ The ECOSOC President Collen V. Kelapile finds that issues such as these are best combated with institutional collaboration in order to best address their complexity and take advantage of the vast amount of UN resources available.⁶⁶

To further combat the issues caused by this link, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) works to fix the issues of development in times of crisis in the efforts to stabilize socio-economic conditions within Member States by implementing local development programs.⁶⁷ Recently, the UNDP published a report on the situation in Myanmar after a coup d'etat of the government, which, combined with the after effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, found an 18 percent annual economic contraction that could cause up to half of the population to plummet into poverty.⁶⁸ The poverty gap and its distance to the standard poverty line in Myanmar - has more than tripled since the political unrest, moving from 5.2 percent in 2017 to 18.5 percent in 2022.⁶⁹ The UNDP found risks of increased poverty especially in female-headed households due to a higher risk of unemployment by women as a result of gender biases and inequality.⁷⁰ Negative effects have also been observed in both the education and public health sectors.⁷¹

Increased poverty and security challenges stemming from government instability act as barriers to the time dedication and prolonged, stable, financing both sectors need to properly function and contribute to the Member State's economy.⁷² The UNDP found that 4.5 percent of the GDP of Myanmar prior to COVID-19 would need to be allocated to addressing these issues.⁷³ The GA highlighted the Myanmar situation with recommendations for a

30, 2020. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/380/18/PDF/N2038018.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁵⁸ United Nations General Assembly resolution 225, *Towards a New International Economic Order*, A/RES/75/225.

⁵⁹ "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*, accessed October 8, 2022. <https://www.un.org/ohrrls/content/about-least-developed-countries>.

⁶⁰ "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*.

⁶¹ "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*.

⁶² "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*.

⁶³ "Conflict prevention means tackling economic, social, institutional drivers of strife," *United Nations*, November 16, 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105942>.

⁶⁴ "Conflict prevention means tackling economic, social, institutional drivers of strife," *United Nations*.

⁶⁵ "Conflict prevention means tackling economic, social, institutional drivers of strife," *United Nations*.

⁶⁶ "Conflict prevention means tackling economic, social, institutional drivers of strife," *United Nations*.

⁶⁷ "Breaking the Cycle of Fragility," *United Nations Development Programme*, accessed October 8, 2022. <https://www.undp.org/crisis/breaking-cycle-fragility>.

⁶⁸ "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*, December 1, 2021, <https://www.undp.org/publications/impact-twin-crises-human-welfare-myanmar>.

⁶⁹ "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷⁰ "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷¹ "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷² "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*.

⁷³ "Impact of the twin crises on the human welfare in Myanmar," *United Nations Development Programme*.

multifaceted approach to addressing the issues faced with the passage of A/RES/75/287 in 2021, titled “The Situation in Myanmar.”⁷⁴

Another GA-reporting body, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) works with the GA, ECOSOC, and many other GA commissions and committees to ensure the meeting of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while also creating economic stability.⁷⁵ For example, UN DESA implemented the Economic Analysis and Policy Division (EAPD) which monitors global macroeconomic trends and generates advice for international policy coordination across Member States and UN bodies alike.⁷⁶ The EAPD specifically leads research on economic challenges in Member States in conflict and/or are LDCs.⁷⁷ To address these specific issues the EAPD provides specific development projects based on the situations at hand in order to increase research, training, and intercommunication between UN bodies and Member States.⁷⁸

Case Study: Afghanistan

Following the military coup of Afghanistan by the Taliban in 2021, 23 million Afghan people now face unprecedented levels of severe hunger and malnourishment, the loss of salaries and jobs, as well as the plummet of their currency.⁷⁹ These effects of the Taliban takeover have led to a global lack of confidence in the economy of Afghanistan, limiting borrowing and trading - essential elements for a stable economy.⁸⁰ In a cyclical fashion, an unstable economy makes it even harder for its contributors to have funds readily available for everyday necessities all the while the prices for these necessities continue to rise.⁸¹ These conditions have caused Afghanistan to enter into a state of universal poverty.⁸²

In order to meet the demands of the SDGs, particularly that of SDG eight, the promotion of “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all,” the UN has taken action to stabilize the economy of Afghanistan in order to prevent the total collapse of the Member State.⁸³ In 2021 the UN sought an appeal in order to provide funding of USD 4.5 billion, which is the largest funding appeal to date.⁸⁴ Thus far, Member States such as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Qatar, and the United States of America have made pledges toward this amount and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) declared in March 2022 that a total of USD 2.4 billion was pledged in total across 41 Member States.⁸⁵ In November 2022, the President of the GA spoke at its 77th session calling on all Member States to join the cause and contribute to this fund, noting that two-thirds of the Afghan population are hungry, narcotics have been thrust at the forefront of the State’s economic sector, and that any dialogue to reverse this and engage in counter-terrorism dialogue would require the cooperation of both Member States and the Taliban.⁸⁶ The GA emphasizes that the funds raised for this aid would be issued as a “stop-gap” measure against what on this course

⁷⁴ United Nations General Assembly resolution, The Situation in Myanmar, *United Nations General Assembly*, A/RES/75/287, June 18 2021. <https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/5089151.85928345.html>.

⁷⁵ “Department of Economic and Social Affairs,” *United Nations*, accessed October 8, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/desa/about-us>.

⁷⁶ “Economic Analysis,” *United Nations*, accessed December 13, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/key-issues/policy.html>.

⁷⁷ “Economic Analysis,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁸ “Economic Analysis,” *United Nations*.

⁷⁹ “Afghanistan economy in ‘freefall’, threatening to take entire population with it,” *United Nations*, December 19, 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1108372>.

⁸⁰ “Afghanistan economy in ‘freefall’, threatening to take entire population with it,” *United Nations*.

⁸¹ “Afghanistan economy in ‘freefall’, threatening to take entire population with it,” *United Nations*.

⁸² “Afghanistan economy in ‘freefall’, threatening to take entire population with it,” *United Nations*.

⁸³ “Goal 8,” *United Nations*, accessed September 16, 2022. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

⁸⁴ “Afghanistan economy in ‘freefall’, threatening to take entire population with it,” *United Nations*.

⁸⁵ “U.N. seeks record \$4.4 billion for Afghans struggling under Taliban,” *PBS NewsHour*, March 30, 2022.

⁸⁶ “PGA Remarks at the General Assembly plenary meeting on the situation in Afghanistan,” *General Assembly of the United Nations*, November 10, 2022. <https://www.un.org/pga/77/2022/11/10/general-assembly-plenary-meeting-on-the-situation-in-afghanistan/>.

will become a universal famine, with funds going directly to humanitarian aid and the distributing officials and their salaries, as well as basic programming and procurement costs, and fuel.⁸⁷

At that same 77th session, the GA passed the resolution, “The Situation in Afghanistan.”⁸⁸ Through 72 detailed clauses, the GA identified and provided suggestions for recourse in response to the relevant developments in Afghanistan, such as the continuing political and policy shifts in the Member State, the destabilizing security situation within and potentially coming from Afghanistan, the need for regional cooperation measures, human rights abuses and humanitarian assistance needs, economic development, donor coordination and aid effectiveness measures, counter-narcotics focuses, and UN mission support.⁸⁹

Working towards these goals, the UNDP launched a parallel fund, “The People’s Economy Fund” as an access point to those in Afghanistan who urgently need funds as a result of the ongoing financial freeze placed on the Taliban regime, i.e. the temporary constraint placed on making any transactions with any bank account, used infrequently by Member States or the international community as a form of sanction.⁹⁰ The freeze was not only placed on funds belonging to the previous Afghan government, but on funds that were pledged by other Member States to Afghanistan as aid for development purposes.⁹¹ The funds were frozen due to a non-recognition of the Taliban by the international community and the economic and political uncertainty caused by the drastic and sudden change in governance.⁹² The UN also created a strategy, to be led by the UNDP, titled the Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI).⁹³ ABADEI’s mandate is to foster community economic resilience specifically by aiding vulnerable populations and micro-businesses.⁹⁴ The UNDP also helped micro-businesses by providing grants and temporary basic income to vulnerable populations.⁹⁵

Some sanctions by the UNSC against Afghanistan have been lifted to relieve the outsized economic burden on the basis of humanitarian aid.⁹⁶ This temporary relief was determined to not be in violation of any provisions of the UN that deny help to the Taliban, as millions of people were left vulnerable and could not be ignored.⁹⁷ These provisions were set out in SC resolution S/RES/ 2615 in 2021 as an exception for humanitarian relief.⁹⁸ The SC is further monitoring the use of these funds through OCHA.⁹⁹ This is to ensure they are being used solely for economic assistance relief programs by taking reasonable steps to monitor for diverted, misappropriated, or misused funds.¹⁰⁰ The provision of the funds by other Member States is also being monitored.¹⁰¹ In September 2021, the Secretary General of the UN stated that 160,000 farmers had received livelihood support, and that over 36,000 displaced

⁸⁷ “Afghanistan: UN launches largest single country aid appeal ever,” *United Nations*, January 11, 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109492>.

⁸⁸ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*, October 21, 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103632>.

⁸⁹ United Nations General Assembly resolution a/77/340-S/2022/692, *The Situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, September 14, 2022. https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/220914_sg_report_on_afghanistan_s.2022.485.pdf.

⁹⁰ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*.

⁹¹ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*

⁹² “Security Council paves way for aid to reach desperate Afghans,” *United Nations*, December 22, 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1108642>.

⁹³ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*.

⁹⁴ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*.

⁹⁵ “\$667 million funding call to help Afghans through economic crisis,” *United Nations*.

⁹⁶ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*, December 22, 2021. <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14750.doc.htm>.

⁹⁷ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

⁹⁸ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

⁹⁹ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

¹⁰⁰ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

¹⁰¹ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2615 (2021), Enabling Provision of Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan as Country Faces Economic Crisis,” *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*.

people were provided core relief items and cash assistance through UN resolutions and subsequent actions working to stabilize the economy.¹⁰²

Conclusion

As research and data have shown, the co-dependent relationship between political stability and economic stability are more closely aligned than what may appear at first glance.¹⁰³ LDCs are most vulnerable to the negative potential of this relationship as they already suffer from poor domestic economic gains and often rely heavily on the global economy for imports and aid.¹⁰⁴ This can lead to harsh economic shocks that one of these Member States may have a hard time shouldering on their own, often leading to the discontent of their populations and ensuing political unrest.¹⁰⁵ It is the directive of the GA to monitor and keep abreast of current and potential instability across the globe, and to make specific recommendations to increase international political cooperation and aid in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields.¹⁰⁶ It is only through this ongoing cooperation that the GA and the UN system can hope to stabilize developing economies among political unrest, or vice versa.

Committee Directive

Economic stability and political unrest are inevitably and cyclically linked, meaning one issue cannot be addressed without the other. This link, especially under distress from political unrest, can lead to unmitigated rampant poverty that affects people's businesses, education, health care, and overall livelihood. These economic impacts lead to government distrust and further political and economic challenges as people suffer, feeding back and exacerbating the ongoing economic and political unrest. Furthermore, LDC Member States are already at a disadvantage when trying to stabilize their economy in times of unrest. As delegates conduct research, they should find solutions that are not only beneficial to stabilizing political unrest, but economic solutions that can promote stability in everyday life for the people affected. Delegates should bear in mind the pre-established committees, task forces, and databases and work to expand current programs and frameworks addressing these issues. What would be an effective method of stabilizing the economy and political climate simultaneously? How do the additional challenges and lack of adequate resources of LDCs factor into the applicability of potential measures? Is there a way to not only stabilize but successfully aid in economic growth during times of political unrest?

¹⁰² "Secretary-General's press remarks on Afghanistan [as delivered]," *United Nation*, October 11, 2021.
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2021-10-11/secretary-general's-press-remarks-afghanistan-delivered>.

¹⁰³ "Least Developed Countries (LDCs)," *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.

¹⁰⁴ "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*.

¹⁰⁵ "About Least Developed Countries," *United Nations*.

¹⁰⁶ "Functions and Powers of the General Assembly," *General Assembly of the United Nations*, accessed December 22, 2022.
<https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>.

II. Addressing Systematic Discrimination and Inequity Towards Indigenous Societies

Introduction

There are an estimated 476 million indigenous peoples across the globe, populating over 90 countries and preserving over 4,000 unique ancestral languages.¹⁰⁷ While indigenous peoples only make up five percent of the world's population, they make up 1/3 of the world's rural poor.¹⁰⁸ Much of this inequitable socioeconomic distribution can be linked to centuries of marginalization of indigenous peoples' autonomy and rights across the globe, and the General Assembly (GA) has prioritized recognizing and reversing this marginalization as a critical necessity across UN policy making and Member State discussions.

The United Nations (UN) categorizes indigenous peoples as "inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment [who] have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live."¹⁰⁹ The contrast of cultures between indigenous tribes and the larger, dominant society or Member State in which they live continues to uncover challenges and constraints on the plight of indigenous peoples to maintain their distinct cultural customs and exert the right to live within their communities and by their tribal traditions.¹¹⁰ Today, indigenous peoples report continued victimization of a multitude of harmful and discriminatory practices, such as facing violence and discrimination, eviction from their ancestral lands, and rejection of their cultures.¹¹¹ The UN has taken first steps towards addressing this situation, as seen with the creation of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples, and by holding specialized conventions working on strategic programs targeting the social, economic, and humanitarian needs and rights of indigenous peoples.¹¹² While progress has been made, the world continues to face a multitude of opportunities of improvement present to ensure the inequity faced by indigenous communities is eradicated.¹¹³

History

For centuries, indigenous peoples were free to develop their rich cultures, transformative farming practices, and overall societal infrastructure all while having the ability to govern their tribes without the influence of non-indigenous bodies.¹¹⁴ The first documented major disruption of this was in the 16th century, when colonizers traveled by land and sea to other areas around the globe, often in the pursuit of extracting various natural resources.¹¹⁵ As a result of what would then become centuries of colonialist practices, many indigenous communities irretrievably lost their land, were separated from the knowledge passing of their cultures, and had their sense of autonomy and right to self-governance stripped away.¹¹⁶ The lasting effects of colonialism are still present today and continue to oppress indigenous peoples on a global scale.¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁷ "Indigenous Peoples: Overview," *Amnesty International*, accessed January 3, 2023.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/>

¹⁰⁸ "Indigenous Peoples: Overview," *Amnesty International*.

¹⁰⁹ "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations," *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Indigenous Peoples*, accessed September 11, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html#:~:text=Indigenous%20peoples%20are%20inheritors%20and,societies%20in%20which%20they%20live.>

¹¹⁰ "Indigenous Peoples," *Amnesty International*, August 10, 2022. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/>.

¹¹¹ "Indigenous Peoples," *Amnesty International*.

¹¹² "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*, Accessed October 14, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html>.

¹¹³ Nesterova, Yulia, "Indigenous Peoples: Key Trends That Affect Their Development," *Impakter*. September 28, 2017. <https://impakter.com/indigenous-peoples-part-two/>.

¹¹⁴ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea." *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

¹¹⁵ "Indigeneity," *Bioneers*, 2022, Accessed October 16, 2022.

https://bioneers.org/category/indigeneity/?gclid=CjwKCAjwzNOaBhAcEiwAD7Tb6Bfdc21n5yT9X-rAoFfHjX9QD6F512A6C-feCqcr6FVeeY7iEw4U1xoCL9EQAvD_BwE.

¹¹⁶ Nesterova, Yulia, "Indigenous Peoples: Key Trends That Affect Their Development," *Impakter*.

¹¹⁷ Nesterova, Yulia, "Indigenous Peoples: Key Trends That Affect Their Development," *Impakter*.

The UN and history of indigenous peoples have had one prominent theme in common before the 1970s: disregard.¹¹⁸ In 1923, Haudenosaunee Deskaheh, Chief of the Iroquois people who were native to the land now known as Canada, traveled from his land to Geneva with the intention of defending the rights of his people to the predecessor of the United Nations, known as the League of Nations.¹¹⁹ Chief Deskaheh had been known for his activism in human rights for indigenous peoples, struggling to fight for the right of indigenous peoples to live on their own land under their own laws, to practice their own religion, and to generally live in their communities as they wish.¹²⁰ At the meeting with the League of Nations, he was denied any chance to speak.¹²¹ In the years following, many indigenous activists met the same fate.¹²²

It was not until the late 1970s that a mass global movement surrounding indigenous rights began to form.¹²³ Two major events took place in this decade. The first, a landmark resolution (Resolution 1589) passed in 1971 from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹²⁴ Resolution 1589 allowed indigenous peoples to submit cases of discrimination to ECOSOC, who would then support experts in the field as they conducted research.¹²⁵ Second, in 1977 a large group of indigenous peoples from the Americas traveled to Geneva for the International NGO Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Land with four main intentions: to “(1) reject the status of ‘minorities’ and claim that of ‘Peoples’; (2) call for revision of International Labour Organization Convention 107; (3) advocate for the creation of a UN working group to study the specific problems of Indigenous Peoples; and (4) call for the adoption of an international declaration on their collective rights.”¹²⁶ One year later, the same activist group traveled to Geneva again to advocate for recognition by the international community of their “linguistic, cultural, economic and territorial rights.”¹²⁷

Actions by the United Nations

In 1982, the first internationally-recognized group focused on aid for indigenous people was created: the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP).¹²⁸ The WGIP made way for indigenous people to address the UN directly on issues concerning their people.¹²⁹ This work gained enough momentum for the announcement of International Year of the World’s Indigenous People by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993.¹³⁰ Requested by indigenous organizations, this International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples was dedicated to establishing new partnerships between indigenous peoples and the international community.¹³¹ Specific areas of focus were human rights, environmental development, healthcare, and education.¹³² To aid the Year’s mission, the UNGA opened a Voluntary Fund to which Member States were encouraged to contribute.¹³³ The International Year of the World’s Indigenous People led to the International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, lasting from 1995 to 2004 and holding over the theme of “Indigenous People: Partnership in Action.”¹³⁴ The Voluntary Fund was kept open for discretionary support and the High Commissioner for Human Rights was named as Coordinator of the Decade.¹³⁵

¹¹⁸ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*, 2022, Accessed October 16, 2022. <https://www.docip.org/en/oral-history-and-memory/historical-process/>.

¹¹⁹ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹²⁰ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹²¹ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹²² “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹²³ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*.

¹²⁴ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*.

¹²⁵ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*.

¹²⁶ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*.

¹²⁷ “Historical Process at the United Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information*.

¹²⁸ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹²⁹ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹³⁰ “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹³¹ “Who Are the World’s Indigenous Peoples?,” *The International Year for the World’s Indigenous People. United Nations*, 1992, Accessed October 22, 2022. http://www.ciesin.org/docs/010-000a/Year_Worlds_Indig.html.

¹³² “Who Are the World’s Indigenous Peoples?,” *The International Year for the World’s Indigenous People. United Nations*.

¹³³ “Who Are the World’s Indigenous Peoples?,” *The International Year for the World’s Indigenous People. United Nations*.

¹³⁴ “First International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People (1995-2004) for Indigenous Peoples,” *Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) United Nations*, Accessed November 3, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/second-international-decade-of-the-worlds-indigenous-people/7276-2.html>

¹³⁵ “First International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People (1995-2004) for Indigenous Peoples,” *Department of Social and*

The UNGA expanded to a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People from 2005 to 2015.¹³⁶ This Second Decade proclaimed five new objectives, with the overarching theme of promoting non-discrimination values by including indigenous people in the creation of support programs and building out specialized programs that supported indigenous women and children.¹³⁷ The Second Decade encouraged full indigenous participation in all decision-making processes.¹³⁸ It worked to re-define development policies that kept respect for indigenous culture and language at the forefront of decision-making and enhanced accountability mechanisms regarding legal promises for the protection of indigenous people and the improvement of quality of life.¹³⁹ The previous Decade's Voluntary Fund was upgraded to a Trust Fund maintained by the UN Small Grants Programme.¹⁴⁰ Given the Trust Fund had fairly limited resources, it was only able to fund 151 of the total 4,110 project proposals submitted for its support.¹⁴¹ Most of the funding was allocated to areas of human rights and economic development.¹⁴²

In 2007, the WGIP worked in tandem with the UN Human Rights Council on reform of the WGIP make-up, and a long-term plan for the group's permanency and efficiency within the larger UN system.¹⁴³ The subsequent reform resulted in a restructuring of the WGIP and a subsequent name change of the newly reformed group to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).¹⁴⁴ With the input of EMRIP, in 2007 the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which underscored the basic right of Indigenous Peoples to *exist*, and followed with a comprehensive body of work extrapolating the meaning of freedom of existence.¹⁴⁵ This included but was not limited to the right of Indigenous Peoples: to teach and practice their cultural traditions and customs, to not be subjected to forced assimilation to surrounding cultures, to not be removed from their lands without their consent and just compensation, to have their ceremonial or otherwise valuable objects repatriated to their original tribes and/or communities, and to provide education in their own languages.¹⁴⁶ While initially there were four votes against the UNDRIP, all four opposing Member States have since reversed their position and adopted the Declaration.¹⁴⁷

In 2019 the UNGA, as advised by EMRIP, returned to their operational style of announcing themed dedication years with the introduction of the International Year of Indigenous Languages.¹⁴⁸ There are over 7,000 indigenous languages known around the world, and many are in danger of extinction.¹⁴⁹ Through their resolutions, policies, and now the dedicated Year, the UNGA has made clear their support of the right of every individual to communicate in their native language, recognizing it as a fundamental facet of one's culture.¹⁵⁰ The UN maintains that respecting indigenous languages are "crucial to identity, culture, health, governance, socio-economic well-being, spiritual

Economic Affairs (DESA) United Nations.

¹³⁶ "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹³⁷ "Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*, 2022, Accessed November 3, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/second-international-decade-of-the-worlds-indigenous-people.html>.

¹³⁸ "Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹³⁹ "Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁰ "Trust Fund for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/trustfundmain.html>.

¹⁴¹ "Trust Fund for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴² "Trust Fund for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴³ "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁴ "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁵ "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People," *Indian Law Resource Center*, Accessed December 29, 2022. <https://indianlaw.org/undrip/home>.

¹⁴⁶ "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," *Indian Law Resource Center*, Accessed December 29, 2022. https://indianlaw.org/sites/default/files/Declarations_Booklet_2012_LRSpreads.pdf.

¹⁴⁷ "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*, Accessed December 29, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>.

¹⁴⁸ "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples," *United Nations*.

¹⁴⁹ "Statement on the International Year of Indigenous Languages, 2019," *OHCHR, United Nations*, January 28, 2019. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2019/01/statement-international-year-indigenous-languages-2019#:~:text=of%20Indigenous%20Peoples,28%20January%202019,particularly%20critical%20to%20indigenous%20peoples>.

¹⁵⁰ "Statement on the International Year of Indigenous Languages, 2019," *OHCHR, United Nations*.

traditions, histories and philosophies” of indigenous communities.¹⁵¹ After adopting Resolution A/RES/74/135, the UNGA expanded the International Year of Indigenous Languages to a dedicated decade, thereby continuing the focus on the subject from 2022 to 2032.¹⁵² The goals stated at the Year announcement have translated to that of the Decade, noting the long-term needs of stated goal implementation.¹⁵³ While announced by the UNGA, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will lead the effort of the Decade in tandem with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).¹⁵⁴

Current Situation

On a global scale, indigenous peoples earn 18 percent less than their non-indigenous counterparts.¹⁵⁵ UN labor experts state that indigenous and tribal groups are three times more likely to face extreme poverty, and women are continuously “at the bottom of all social and economic indicators.”¹⁵⁶ According to the first global study on the economic status of indigenous peoples (conducted in 2014), the World Bank found indigenous peoples to be poorer than non-indigenous peoples in every Member State.¹⁵⁷ They were found as having higher rates of poverty per capita as well as being further below the poverty line than non-indigenous groups.¹⁵⁸ This study also found that the poverty gap between indigenous and non-indigenous groups to be persistent, and projected that the gap would continue to grow in multiple Member States.¹⁵⁹ The most prevalent growing poverty gap is within Latin American Member States, which hold eight percent of the world’s indigenous population.¹⁶⁰ This inequity stems from a multitude of factors including land and property right insecurities, climate change, and discrimination within health and education sectors.¹⁶¹

Indigenous women face the largest breadth challenges among indigenous peoples.¹⁶² With a population of 238 million, indigenous women and girls are disproportionately trafficked and experience violence at some of the highest rates globally.¹⁶³ Some Member States have found that up to 97 percent of indigenous sexual abuse victims have been sexually abused by a non-indigenous person.¹⁶⁴ This percentage is attributed in large part to legal loopholes that can be taken advantage of to exploit vulnerable groups.¹⁶⁵ For example, in some areas of the world, non-indigenous people cannot be prosecuted for crimes they commit on indigenous land.¹⁶⁶ Even when that is not the case, indigenous people report feeling that law officers and healthcare professionals are often uneducated on indigenous group culture, with indigenous victims routinely being grouped with “sex trafficking victims” or “youth” when seeking help or support, with their culture, language, religion, or traditions are not taken into account.¹⁶⁷ This practice has been accused of mimicking well-documented school programs that aimed to strip indigenous children of their culture and force western assimilation.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵¹ “Statement on the International Year of Indigenous Languages, 2019,” *OHCHR, United Nations*.

¹⁵² “Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵³ “Indigenous Languages Decade,” *UNESCO, United Nations*, accessed October, 23, 2022. <https://en.unesco.org/idil2022-2032>.

¹⁵⁴ “Indigenous Languages Decade,” *UNESCO, United Nations*.

¹⁵⁵ “‘Spectre of Poverty’ Hangs over Tribes and Indigenous Groups: UN Labour Agency | UN News,” *United Nations*, February 3, 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056612>.

¹⁵⁶ “‘Spectre of Poverty’ Hangs over Tribes and Indigenous Groups: UN Labour Agency | UN News,” *United Nations*.

¹⁵⁷ Hall, Gillette, and Gandolfo, Ariel, “Poverty and Exclusion Among Indigenous Peoples: The Global Evidence,” *World Bank Blogs. World Bank*, August 9, 2016. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/poverty-and-exclusion-among-indigenous-peoples-global-evidence#:~:text=There%20are%20about%20370%20million,3%20of%20the%20rural%20poor.>

¹⁵⁸ Hall and Gandolfo, “Poverty and Exclusion Among Indigenous Peoples: The Global Evidence,” *World Bank Blogs*.

¹⁵⁹ Hall and Gandolfo, “Poverty and Exclusion Among Indigenous Peoples: The Global Evidence,” *World Bank Blogs*.

¹⁶⁰ Hall and Gandolfo, “Poverty and Exclusion Among Indigenous Peoples: The Global Evidence,” *World Bank Blogs*.

¹⁶¹ Hall and Gandolfo, “Poverty and Exclusion Among Indigenous Peoples: The Global Evidence,” *World Bank Blogs*.

¹⁶² “‘Spectre of Poverty’ Hangs over Tribes and Indigenous Groups: UN Labour Agency | UN News,” *United Nations*.

¹⁶³ “Human Trafficking Victims: Indigenous Women Vulnerabilities,” *Collective Library*, Accessed September 28, 2021. <https://collectiveliberty.org/blog/human-trafficking-indigenous-women-vulnerabilities/>.

¹⁶⁴ “Human Trafficking Victims: Indigenous Women Vulnerabilities,” *Collective Library*.

¹⁶⁵ “Call for Inputs – Report on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls,” *OHCHR, United Nations*, March 18, 2022. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2022/call-inputs-report-violence-against-indigenous-women-and-girls>.

¹⁶⁶ “Human Trafficking Victims: Indigenous Women Vulnerabilities,” *Collective Library*.

¹⁶⁷ “Human Trafficking Victims: Indigenous Women Vulnerabilities,” *Collective Library*.

¹⁶⁸ “Human Trafficking Victims: Indigenous Women Vulnerabilities,” *Collective Library*.

In addition to higher rates of violence and abuse within indigenous communities, indigenous people also experience higher rates of mental and physical health issues, exclusion due to disabilities, and reduced quality of life.¹⁶⁹ Indigenous women are also much more likely to have worse maternal health outcomes than non-indigenous women.¹⁷⁰ This inequity is caused and perpetuated by various barriers such as: geographic impediments, low employment and income levels, as well as low access to food, water, and sanitation items.¹⁷¹ The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic greatly impacted indigenous communities, with many communities receiving minimal to no government aid in some Member States.¹⁷² Many communities took it upon themselves to prevent spreading the virus through “mask wearing and social distancing, holding virtual pow wows, showing public service announcement videos and closing public venues to visitors of the reservations.”¹⁷³ Along with these measures came traditional healing sessions and land-based healing methods.¹⁷⁴ Despite these preventative measures, high death rates swept these communities, resulting in a major loss of elders—the individuals who carry the most knowledge of their culture, language, and traditions.¹⁷⁵

The inequity seen in the quality of healthcare and support between indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples is alarming. Indigenous medical professionals are paving the way to offer a multifaceted approach to medicine.¹⁷⁶ Using a “culture meet care” principle, this new outlook on medicine examines historical colonial trauma and the intricacies of each indigenous group to adequately treat members of a community.¹⁷⁷ Dr. Johnson-Jennings, a Choctaw Nation Tribal Member, works “closely with community members, elders, and other knowledge keepers to inform and co-develop approaches and research.”¹⁷⁸ This method links westernized medicine with a groups’ history and traditions, allowing medical professionals to adequately treat a patient while respecting their culture.¹⁷⁹

Case Study: Indigenous Tribes of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG), a Member State with over 830 languages, 312 indigenous tribes, and a majority native population of 8.4 million, has a long history of colonization.¹⁸⁰ Native inhabitants of PNG arrived at the island 60,000 years ago and cultivated strong agricultural practices for themselves—practices that enticed Portuguese and Spanish navigators.¹⁸¹ PNG then spent the next few centuries rotating between colonial powers such as Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), Australia, the Netherlands, and Japan.¹⁸² At the turn of the 20th century, relations between Papuan indigenous tribes and British colonizers became especially tense as new plantations were opened and tribes were enslaved to operate them.¹⁸³ Colonizers sold off the abundant natural resources that came from PNG lands and significantly disenfranchised the indigenous tribes that relied on them.¹⁸⁴ At this time, members of indigenous tribes faced human rights abuses daily and could face death for protesting against colonial actions.¹⁸⁵ To combat blatant violations of human rights, the League of Nations granted PNG the status of a trust territory under Australia—meaning that Australia was made responsible for developing the State.¹⁸⁶ Today, this tactic is considered outdated and no longer used by the UN because it too closely replicates

¹⁶⁹ “Health for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Indigenous Peoples*, Accessed December 15, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/mandated-areas1/health.html>.

¹⁷⁰ “Shattering the Glass Ceiling for Indigenous Women,” *United Nations*, Accessed December 20, 2022.

<https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/we-are-indigenous-shattering-glass-ceiling-indigenous-women>.

¹⁷¹ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*, Accessed December 1, 2022.

<https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/we-are-indigenous-‘culture-meets-care’-essential-indigenous-healthcare-and>.

¹⁷² “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷³ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁴ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁵ “Health for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Indigenous Peoples*.

¹⁷⁶ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁷ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁸ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁷⁹ “Indigenous Healthcare and Revitalization,” *United Nations*.

¹⁸⁰ Kulesza, Patrick, “Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea,” *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

¹⁸¹ “History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics,” *Papua New Guinea*, Accessed December 20, 2022.

<https://www.papuanewguinea.travel/history>.

¹⁸² “History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics,” *Papua New Guinea*.

¹⁸³ “History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics,” *Papua New Guinea*.

¹⁸⁴ “Papuan Tribes,” *Survival International*, March 5, 2019. <https://www.survivalinternational.org/tribes/papuan>.

¹⁸⁵ “Papuan Tribes,” *Survival International*.

¹⁸⁶ “Australia, Trusteeship and New Guinea,” *JSTOR*, Pacific Affairs, University of British Columbia, 1963.

colonialism, and has been shown to be unsuccessful.¹⁸⁷ While Australia still provides financial support to PNG, their trusteeship ended in the mid-1970s.¹⁸⁸ Around this time Indonesia ratified the Act of Free Choice, which allowed the PNG population to vote on their territory's future.¹⁸⁹ The vote resulted in integration with Indonesia.¹⁹⁰

In 1972, PNG held its first election in centuries, electing Chief Minister Michael Somare as head of state.¹⁹¹ Somare pledged to help PNG attain independence, which he achieved in 1975.¹⁹² In that same year, PNG became a Member State to the UN.¹⁹³ While independent, Papuans in Indonesia still face gross human rights violations to this day.¹⁹⁴ The Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) has reported thousands of displaced people, rampant killing of children, and military violence against Papuans.¹⁹⁵ It has also been found that UN humanitarian aid is being obstructed by Indonesian military forces.¹⁹⁶ In addition to this ongoing battle, in 1988 indigenous peoples residing on the small island Bougainville (located off the coast of PNG) organized the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, and began their fight for sovereignty and the accompanying freedom of such status.¹⁹⁷ Island bodies of land, such as Bougainville, were often grouped together during the days of colonization due to their close proximity, regardless of any cultural or language differences.¹⁹⁸ In 1991, PNG granted Bougainville self-governing status after a vote of 98 percent in-favor of independence.¹⁹⁹ Today, the two nations are still working together to unwind their relations.²⁰⁰

According to the HRC, PNG has made efforts to develop post-independence autonomy, but still faces many challenges and opportunities ahead.²⁰¹ They have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals and plan to utilize that work to launch their own Vision 2050— a set of development goals PNG plans to reach by the year 2050.²⁰² They work closely with various NGOs and UN working groups related to indigenous affairs and development.²⁰³ PNG is also a founding member of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) framework, a conservation plan to stop deforestation in an effort to minimize the effects of climate change.²⁰⁴ However, according to the HRC's universal periodic review, PNG is failing to adequately address its human rights violations.²⁰⁵ The main concerns outlined in this review are PNG's inadequate access to basic healthcare, discrimination and violence against indigenous women and people with disabilities, and the continued extraction of natural resources at the expense of the safety and well-being of its citizens.²⁰⁶ The HRC has made suggestions of actions moving towards progress, such as PNG fully implementing the UNDRIP or ratifying the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention.²⁰⁷

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2754350?origin=crossref>.

¹⁸⁷ "Australia, Trusteeship and New Guinea," *JSTOR*.

¹⁸⁸ "Australia, Trusteeship and New Guinea," *JSTOR*.

¹⁸⁹ "Australia, Trusteeship and New Guinea," *JSTOR*.

¹⁹⁰ "Australia, Trusteeship and New Guinea," *JSTOR*.

¹⁹¹ "History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics," *Papua New Guinea*.

¹⁹² "History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics," *Papua New Guinea*.

¹⁹³ "History: From Ancient Ancestry to Modern Politics," *Papua New Guinea*.

¹⁹⁴ "Indonesia: Shocking Abuses Against Indigenous Papuans, Rights Experts Report || IUN News," *United Nations*, March 1, 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113062>.

¹⁹⁵ "Indonesia: Shocking Abuses Against Indigenous Papuans, Rights Experts Report || IUN News," *United Nations*.

¹⁹⁶ "Indonesia: Shocking Abuses Against Indigenous Papuans, Rights Experts Report || IUN News," *United Nations*.

¹⁹⁷ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea," *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

¹⁹⁸ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea," *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

¹⁹⁹ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea," *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

²⁰⁰ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea," *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

²⁰¹ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

²⁰² "Papua New Guinea: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform," *United Nations*, 2020, Accessed December 1, 2022. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/papuanewguinea>.

²⁰³ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

²⁰⁴ Bertazzo, Sophie. "What on Earth Is 'REDD+'?," *Conservation International*, March 28, 2019. <https://www.conservation.org/blog/what-on-earth-is-redd>.

²⁰⁵ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

²⁰⁶ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

²⁰⁷ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations

Conclusion

Creating equity for indigenous peoples is a vital part of creating an equitable global community.²⁰⁸ While various resolutions have been passed in the UN and there has been notable progress since its creation, there is still inequity plaguing over 476 million indigenous peoples around the globe.²⁰⁹ Member States such as Papua New Guinea serve as an example of what progress has been made and what critical challenges continue to lie ahead for indigenous peoples.²¹⁰ While keeping egalitarianism and cultural preservation at the forefront of their discussions, Member States will be tasked with addressing systematic discrimination and creating equity for one of the world's most vulnerable populations.²¹¹

Committee Directives

Centuries after colonization began, indigenous peoples continue to experience its lasting effects. Though work has been done to combat these issues, indigenous peoples still face a grim reality. While conducting research, delegates should consider the following questions: What are the root causes of health inequities and/or socio-economic inequities facing indigenous peoples versus non-indigenous people? How might these be addressed fairly, practically, and with inclusivity of all populations that have been affected? What existing legislation can be leveraged to improve the lives of indigenous people? What potential barriers may arise when searching for global solutions?

Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

²⁰⁸ "Indigenous Peoples," *Amnesty International*.

²⁰⁹ "Indigenous Peoples," *Amnesty International*.

²¹⁰ Kulesza, Patrick, "Indigenous World 2020: Papua New Guinea," *The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs*.

²¹¹ "Observations on the State of indigenous Human Rights in Papua New Guinea: Prepared for United Nations Human Rights Council," *Cultural Survival*.

Annotated Bibliography

I. Stabilizing Developing Economies Amid Global Political Unrest

“Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - United Nations Sustainable Development,” *United Nations*, Accessed December 27, 2022. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>.

A major discussion point that the GA committee will have to tackle is how to continue developing a Member State while keeping its development sustainable. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 focuses on creating peace, justice, and strong institutions. This article overviews the humanitarian portion of this issue that often gets lost among economic debate. Delegates will read through various facts and figures that paint a picture of what people in areas of political unrest are experiencing. This article outlines all of the goals to be met in SDG 16 and has numerous links for additional information.

“Enhancing Global Macroeconomic Stability with Sustainable Development Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,” *United Nations*, Accessed December 27, 2022. <https://developmentfinance.un.org/enhancing-global-macroeconomic-stability-with-sustainable-development>.

This article provides a succinct overview of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the most recent developments in its progress pre and post COVID-19. The global framework of the AAAA focuses on the finance of sustainable economic, social, and environmental practices. Details regarding what goals governments are expected to complete when they sign on to the Agenda are provided, as well as reference to and overarching outline of recent developments within the global economy and the AAAA’s respective views on the matter. This article may prove a fruitful starting point for delegates to explore the AAAA, with links specific to various facets of the agenda for more targeted research.

Mindaoudou, Aïchatou, “From Independence to Long-Term Stability: United Nations Efforts in Africa,” *United Nations*, September 2015. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/independence-long-term-stability-united-nations-efforts-africa>

In this article, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire, Aïchatou Mindaoudou, discusses the positive impact the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has had on creating long-term sustainability in Africa. The UNGA Charter of 1945 provided a tangible document for the peoples of Africa to leverage as evidence and justification for the right of self-government, self-empowerment, and self-determination. This led to further tools to begin to build a post-colonial society with the aid of the United Nations and various Member States. Mindaoudou reviews the first peacekeeping operation on the continent and the struggles and success that came with it.

“Education Under Attack.” *United Nations Children’s Fund*, Accessed December 21, 2022. <https://www.unicef.org/education-under-attack>

In this article, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) outlines the impact political unrest has on children, highlighting one of the main challenges as barriers to education. It discusses recommended solutions for rehabilitating schools and protecting access to education even amidst conflict. It also introduces the importance of the Safe Schools Declaration, a political commitment to protect schools and everyone in them during times of armed conflict. Delegates may benefit from this overview of how children are affected in times of unrest, as children are the future leaders of their society, who will bear the consequences and live with the lack of resources that reinforce a cyclical pattern of instability.

Rushing, Elizabeth, “Gendered Impacts of Armed Conflict and Implications for the Application of IHL,” *Humanitarian Law & Policy Blog*, June 30, 2022. <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2022/06/30/gendered-impacts-of-armed-conflict-and-implications-for-the-application-of-ihl/>.

Political unrest and armed conflict affect different genders in different ways. This article examines how all genders are impacted by war and the lasting effects it can have. Specifically, it highlights the necessity of practitioners of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to understand the differences in experience, trauma absorption, and opportunities across genders in different Member States in the hopes of supporting the application of IHL as successfully and with the highest positive impact possible. It discusses the progress that has been made in this sphere thus far, and where there is room for improvement. This article will provide a more in-depth understanding of how war can affect different communities, particular at the intersection of gender inequality, in order to ensure their solutions are as multifaceted as the issue at hand.

II. Addressing Systematic Discrimination and Inequity Towards Indigenous Societies

Shrinkhal, Rashwet, “‘Indigenous Sovereignty’ and Right to Self-Determination in International Law: A Critical Appraisal,” *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, SAGEjournals, March 15, 2021. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1177180121994681>.

The struggle for the right to self-determination and autonomous decision-making equal to that of non-indigenous peoples has been fought by indigenous rights activists for decades. In 1977, indigenous rights activists met with the United Nations to change their official title of “minority” to that of “peoples.” While only a singular word change, this article provides an in-depth explanation of why that change was so significant, and the challenging process it took to achieve it. Delegates may gain a better understanding of the concept of self-determination for indigenous peoples and the challenges faced in Member State overreach and control of the lives and culture of indigenous populations.

“Recommendations on Indigenous Women for Indigenous Peoples,” *United Nations*, Accessed September 28, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/mandated-areas1/indigenous-women/recs-women.html>.

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues highlights topics surrounding indigenous women as a priority in its annual sessions. Keeping true to its mandate of raising awareness and promoting the rights of indigenous people, the Permanent Forum works with the General Assembly to provide analysis and rationale to address the rights of indigenous women. This document includes every recommendation on indigenous women the Permanent Forum has made since 2001. It provides a glimpse into the evolution of discussions surrounding indigenous women and how the United Nations’ solutions have changed over time.

Lane , Rosemary, “UN/DESA Policy Brief #70: The Impact of Covid-19 on Indigenous Peoples | Department of Economic and Social Affairs,” *United Nations*, May 8, 2020. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-70-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-indigenous-peoples/>.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been very detrimental to indigenous peoples and their societies. This policy brief from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs outlines the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples while also going into detail on how it impacts indigenous elders and women. It overviews COVID-19 responses from various Member States and even makes recommendations to individual governments as well as United Nations entities for ways to improve their responses. This policy brief provides supplemental support for delegates looking for a better understanding on how COVID-19 is impacting indigenous peoples.

“Indigenous Peoples Central to Climate Action,” *UNFCCC International, United Nations Climate Change*, August 9, 2016. https://unfccc.int/news/indigenous-peoples-central-to-climate-action?gclid=Cj0KCQiAqOucBhDrARIsAPCQL1YTpCNmO5n326rtK_9pT6ihWYRYXZSZYPU4IQ-7r7TP0bFJadIB3J8aAoifEALw_wcB.

Climate change is a pressing issue for all communities around the globe, but it disproportionately affects indigenous peoples. This article from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) discusses the real threats to biodiversity and centuries-old agricultural practices that are the

pillars of indigenous cultures. When a climate crisis occurs, indigenous peoples face the same barriers non-indigenous peoples face, along with the already ever-present set of barriers they face on a daily basis. The UNFCCC has been working with indigenous groups to discuss the challenges they face and what solutions need to be created. The information in this article may equip delegates with a fuller understanding of how harmful actions such as deforestation can not only negatively impact indigenous groups, but the ecosystems their agricultural practices protect on a global scale.

“The Labour Situation of Indigenous Women in Peru: A Study,” *International Labour Organization, ILO Office of the Andean Countries*, 2016. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_546285.pdf.

The report provided here for delegates here is an insight to the discrimination and inequity Indigenous Women face in Latin America and more specifically in Peru. Indigenous Women as depicted within the background guide are a vulnerable population and the study provided here focuses on the situation as it was in 2016 and recognizes the importance of this marginalized group for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. Further, this study provides “recommendations on how to improve the rights and access of indigenous women in rural areas to decent work.”