

*The American University in Dubai's Model United Nations
presents
the
General Assembly's*



THIRD COMMITTEE (C3)

Background Guide

Welcome Letter

Distinguished delegates,

It is our honor and pleasure to introduce you to the 6th edition of the American University in Dubai Model United Nations. This year has been a very tough one with very unexpected and overwhelming circumstances. However, we hope that we will be able to bring you a wonderful experience and a little change of scenery to your routine.

As your chairs, we hope to guide you through the workings of this committee and the debate that follows along with it in the best way that we can. We will use the experience we have gained over the years in order to make your experience as smooth as possible. It is our duty to support you every step of the way.

For this conference, you will be delegates in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which focuses on social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. As part of the main organs of the United Nations, C3 is one of the main six committees at the General Assembly. Considering C3 is part of the General Assembly, this means that all 193 member states of the of the United Nations are able to attend its sessions and yearly meetings.

Given the nature of the committee, it deals with a vast majority of issues. Those may include protection of children, refugees, and indigenous civilizations. In addition, the committee promotes criminal justice, the right to freedom, and the right to self-determination. Therefore, keep in mind, before and during the conference, that your duty as delegates is to provide the solutions that will help the most amount of people possible.

Should you ever need anything, do not ever hesitate to contact us at any time and we will help you and answer your questions in the best way we can.

All the best,

Moderators of Committee 3 - General Assembly.



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Topic 1: The Review of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Introduction

According to the United Nations, indigenous peoples are defined as “inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment” (United Nations, n.d.). Indigenous peoples represent a minority within the dominant societies they live in. They tend to live by very unique standards and have a very distinct set of characteristics that make them fit under a “minority” group (United Nations, n.d.). Like many other minority groups, indigenous peoples seek recognition in the societies they live in. Further to that, they seek equal treatment and the right to live by their own rules.

Unfortunately, the United Nations has classified indigenous peoples as one of the most “disadvantaged and vulnerable” groups of people all over the world (United Nations, n.d.). For centuries, the rights of indigenous peoples have been violated. This ultimately led to a global effort to establish the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In addition to the establishment of the Declaration, the United Nations has formed many other efforts in order to help the indigenous peoples in the best way they can to continue the effort of maintaining and recognizing their rights as groups of people in society.

Nevertheless, despite numerous global efforts, indigenous peoples remain to struggle with the maintenance of their rights. Hence, this calls the United Nations to review ways in which it can further improve its system and operations in a way that would possibly eliminate future problems that minority indigenous groups face on a daily basis in order to provide them with a much better standard of living.

History

In September of 2007, the General Assembly established the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) officially under the United Nations. The Declaration was established for the sole purpose of providing clear standards on the rights of indigenous peoples all over the globe. Furthermore, the Declaration was set to extend and elaborate on already-existing human rights laws in order to ensure the protection of these peoples (United Nations, n.d.).

The global effort of establishing the Declaration first began in 1923 in Geneva before the United Nations was even formed. Chief Deskaheh of the Haudenosaunee people of North America made his way to the League of Nations to demand that his people have the right to live

under their own laws in order to protect their traditions and values (United Nations, n.d.). Similar journeys that represented many other groups were taken after the 1923 incident. Others, like T.W. Ratana, traveled to see political leaders in nations all over the globe (United Nations, n.d.).

In 2000, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in order to ensure more efficiency and betterment when discussing indigenous rights and issues (United Nations, n.d.). One of the Forum's goals is to raise awareness regarding the issues that indigenous peoples face regularly. In addition, the Forum is required to promote the integration of discussed points within the entirety of the UN system (United Nations, n.d.).

Analysis

In order to best tackle this issue, it is very important for the United Nations to further revise the Declaration itself. Considering that, until today, indigenous peoples face such drastic violations to their human rights, it is very important that the United Nations not only works on pushing forth the international system to implement points in the declaration, but to also push forth revising the Declaration in order to tackle points that may not be as efficient as they should be. For example, article 42 in the Declaration states all parties that are responsible for maintaining the rights of indigenous peoples all over the world (UNESCO, 2017). Given the current situation, especially with the negligence of certain parties, the Declaration is in need of revision in order to better hold parties responsible in a more efficient manner that will ensure that no more rights are violated.

There are currently over 476 million indigenous peoples all over the world – spread out over 90 different countries, across many continents (World Bank, n.d.). Their life expectancy is, on average, 20 years lower than the life expectancy of non-indigenous groups worldwide. To put it into numbers, they make up 15% of the global extreme poor (World Bank, n.d.). They comprise a very vulnerable group of people that is extremely prone to poverty, diseases, and other conflicts.

While global efforts to protect the rights of indigenous peoples are on a rise, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done as their rights cannot keep waiting. With global crises, such as the coronavirus, continuously putting their lives at risk, the global community must come together in order to ensure that they are doing all that they can to protect these people, regardless of their differences in culture, religion, ethnicity, etc.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. Do any new entities need to be formed under the UN in response to this agenda?
2. What points in the Declaration need to be rewritten, removed entirely, or added?
3. Does the Declaration accommodate all cultures and religions of all indigenous peoples globally?
4. How can host nations better their efforts in ensuring that indigenous groups in their state are accommodated for appropriately?

Starter Sources

- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>



Topic 2: State-Enforced Internet Shutdown(s) in Times of Domestic Conflict

Introduction

Placing restrictions on Internet access is continuously growing (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). Highly steered by political forces and national security concerns. Internet shutdowns have become the norm in many countries (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). The United Nations cuts off users from Internet access with no justification, including violation of the intellectual property rights law, which states that all countries within the UN maintain Internet access regardless of political unrest (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). An Internet shutdown maybe limited to smartphone mobile Internet, or wired broadband that usually connects a desktop or both simultaneously (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). Reasons given for shutting down the Internet were often first said to be to respond to law and order concerns but they only grew with time. Internet shutdowns are a premeditated disruption of Internet or electronic communications, making them completely inaccessible for specific area, often to keep the flow of information under control (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). Internet shutdowns are a disproportionate reaction which often only hides rather than solves a conflict and can result in severe collateral damage (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019).

History

Internet shutdowns began in Egypt in 2011, where the government shutdown the Internet to break up communications among protestors. Since then authorities mainly for political reasons have used Internet shutdowns (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019).

In Myanmar is one of many to impose a mobile Internet shutdown in conflict between two states Rakhine and Chin which began on June 21st 2019 (Myanmar: End World's Longest Internet Shutdown, 2020). Myanmar has enforced the longest Internet shutdown across the world with claims that it has been a yearlong shutdown (Myanmar reimposes internet shutdown in conflict-torn Rakhine, Chin states: telco operator, 2020). After a few months the Internet shutdowns were reintroduced and extend till August 20th, with the Myanmar government having security concerns, claiming they will restore Internet service once they are certain there are no threats towards the public or breaking the telecommunications law (Myanmar: End World's Longest Internet Shutdown, 2020). Internet shutdowns in Myanmar have affected media outlets to deliver news to the people of Myanmar, most recently the unawareness of the Myanmar people regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Myanmar people did not know to quarantine till it was too late (Myanmar reimposes internet shutdown in conflict-torn Rakhine, Chin states: telco operator, 2020). Journalists in Myanmar have stated that Internet access in essential to communicate and deliver news to the people of Myanmar (Myanmar: End World's Longest Internet Shutdown, 2020).

Recently, state-enforced Internet shutdowns have occurred the most in India. On August 4th 2019, the state of Jammu and Kashmir were cut off from the Internet, to prevent unrest the Internet has remained cut off, more than 7 million Kashmiris still remain offline (I'm living through the longest internet shutdown in history – here's what life's like for Kashmiris like me, 2020). A total of 178 state-enforced Internet shutdowns in Kashmir in 2016, when protests broke out in Kashmir, the Internet was shutdown for 133 days (I'm living through the longest internet shutdown in history – here's what life's like for Kashmiris like me, 2020). Over the past several years the Software Freedom Law Center, the global tracker for Internet shutdowns has been overrun with calls of shutdowns across the country in India, whilst India is the fastest growing Internet market they too are the world's leaders in cutting access to the Internet amongst it's population (Shutting down the Internet — how, when, where it has been happening in India, 2019).

Analysis

Regardless of the all around archived impacts of web shutdowns on the economy, social insurance, and opportunity of articulation of a nation, governments are progressively utilizing these strategies around the world (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). This pattern is just developing and is of extraordinary worry to specialists, common society and web clients (Policy Brief: Internet Shutdowns, 2019). The second more inescapable force is web shutdowns, which are as a rule aimlessly forced across India (Shutting down the Internet — how, when, where it has been happening in India, 2019). Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules in 2017, have legitimized the intensity of implementing a total web shutdown. This adds up to a lopsided encroachment of the privilege to discourse and the option to know. India remains as a worldwide special case having the most elevated number of shutdowns in 2016 followed by struggle zones, for example, Iraq and Syria.

More than a quarter of a year back, 18,000 individuals and around 100 associations marked a request called 'Keep Us Online' requesting that the administration open a meeting on this issue. The legislature has additionally said over and over in Parliament that it does not have any official measurement or information on the quantity of shutdowns (I'm living through the longest internet shutdown in history – here's what life's like for Kashmiris like me, 2020). The strategy to deal with web restriction currently is continuing with mystery, which is causing colossal harm to common freedoms and to the web economy (Shutting down the Internet — how, when, where it has been happening in India, 2019).

Questions a Resolution must Answer

1. Is Internet access a human right to all people and essential for everyone?
2. Is Internet access crucial to deliver news across media outlets?
3. Is a complete Internet shutdown necessary to enforce the law within a country?
4. Should state governments have the power to enforce Internet shutdowns?
5. What type of justification should be presented to the UN to enforce a complete Internet shutdown?

Starter Sources

- <https://www.internetsociety.org/policybriefs/internet-shutdowns>
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rakhine/myanmar-reimposes-internet-shutdown-in-conflict-torn-rakhine-chin-states-telco-operator-idUSKBN1ZZ0LC>



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