



IMSMUNC'19



**United Nations
General Assembly**

BACKGROUND GUIDE

IMSMUN 2019

Background Guide

Letter from the Executive Board

Using this space to familiarize you all with the committee and the expectations of Executive Board we would like to mention some important points.

As a delegate of a country you should have thorough knowledge of your country especially with regards to the agenda at hand. However, your scope should not just be limited to earlier actions taken by your country rather you shall try to formulate your decisions and stance in accordance with earlier actions and foreign policy of your country.

This background guide has been prepared just for you to gather the basic understanding of the Agenda and keeping this in mind you should extend your research further it.

At the end of these three days of wonderful debate with dexterous MUN'ers we expect you to come up with a meticulous conclusive document.

You may contact any of the Executive Board Member without any hesitation whenever you need our help on the Provided E-mail Ids.

We believe that you all will come geared up with apt knowledge and understanding of the agenda, full of confidence, zeal and enthusiasm and set highest standards of debate, deliberation, negotiation and consensus building. You can contact any of the Executive Board members without any hesitation whenever you need our help on the Provide E-mail Ids. Once again, we welcome you and wish you best of luck.

Regards

Executive Board

Tushar Sangwan

President

tusharsangwan@yahoo.in

Anahita Sawhney

Vice President

SUGGESTED PATTERN FOR RESEARCHING

Researching and understanding the United Nations and the Committee/Council being simulated –Its Mandate, including understanding historical work done on the agenda. Research on the allotted country. Understanding its polity, economy, military, culture, history, bilateral relations with other countries, ideological position on various other relevant issues related to the agenda etc.

Comprehending the Foreign Policy of the allotted country. It includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by the country on the agenda. It further includes studying past actions taken by the country on the agenda and other related issues –specifically analysing their causes and consequences.

Reading the background guide thoroughly. Researching further upon the agenda using the links given in the guide and from other sources such as academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, blogs etc.

Policies adopted by different blocs of countries (example: NATO, EU etc.) and major countries involved in the agenda. Including their position, ideology and adopted past actions.

Characterizing the agenda into sub-topics and preparing speeches and statements on them. It is the same as preparing topics for the moderated caucuses and their content. Preparing a list of possible solutions and actions the UNSC can adopt on the issue as per your country's policies.

Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information/allegation you are going to use in committee and keeping your research updated using various news sources.

ACCEPTED EVIDENCES AND PROOFS IN COMMITTEE

1. News Sources: a. REUTERS – Reuters articles, which clearly makes mention of the fact or contradict the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (Also please note, that Reuters may not be accepted by other member nations)

B.State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,

- i. RIA Novosti (Russia)
- ii. IRNA (Iran)
- iii. BBC (United Kingdom)
- iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China)

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the GA

a. UN Bodies like the SC, GA, HRC, etc.

b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.

c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted as proof, but may be used to gather general information or for clarity on certain topics.

4. Europa.eu:

Being a committee on EU all the reports of Europa.eu is going to be considered valid.

UNGA Committee Overview

Introduction

Following the Second World War, the UN was formed to act as a deliberative and co-operational forum for Member States to better prevent the outbreak of future hostilities. The General Assembly, one of the six principal organs of the UN created under the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), was created to act as the wholly representative and deliberative arm of the organization. The large variance in the scope of its mandate led the General Assembly to allocate its work among six committees that would allow each to focus on a specific theme.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

In accordance with the Charter, the General Assembly is comprised of 193 UN Member States, as well as a number of Observer States and non-governmental organizations. All main General Assembly committees begin their annual session in mid-September, following the drafting and allocation of agenda items by the General Committee to each specific committee, according to theme and content. Relevant reports of the Secretary-General are issued just before each corresponding agenda item, followed by an allotted time for questions for clarification or analysis. As is the case for all General Assembly committees, the First Committee adopts draft resolutions on each agenda item and a report to the General Assembly Plenary. Based on this, the Plenary then adopts, either through a vote or by consensus, the draft resolutions as recommended in the committee report.

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) is the largely ceremonial head of the General Assembly, elected each year by a simple majority to a one-year nonrenewable term. The PGA's duties are to facilitate Plenary sessions by directing discussion, managing the administration of meetings, and enforcing the General Assembly Rules of Procedure. The PGA does not preside over all six General Assembly committees separately; rather, Chairs and Vice Chairs are the facilitators of individual committees. The PGA also performs executive duties such as meeting regularly with the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, and the President of Economic and Social Council; communicating with the press and the public; and organizing high-level meetings for certain thematic issues.

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The DISEC committee was established by the United Nations to serve as a forum for representatives from all UN member countries to debate issues of disarmament and security in an environment of equality. This committee takes measures necessary for the prevention or the reduction of international hostilities and conflict on matters that are not discussed by the United Nations Security Council. As stated in the UN Charter, the DISEC Committee is actually called upon to "consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security" (Chapter IV, Article 11).

However, unlike the Security Council, DISEC does not have the power to impose sanctions or to authorize armed interventions. As a preliminary organ, DISEC serves as the first level of discussion for most recent issues in the disarmament and security sphere, thus setting programmatic directions and giving more freedom to states to fully develop their positions.

DISEC's resolutions function as "raw material", a constitutive basis for General Assembly resolutions is submit recommendations to the Secretariat or the Security Council. The DISEC Committee is comprised of all member states of the United Nations, each having one vote. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority vote.

Engaged in the DISEC Committee consultations, you will have a unique opportunity to actively participate in formulating the global security agenda, contributing to better understanding and providing recommendations and solutions to various forms of international conflicts, disarmament and other security policy related matters.

For further reading: www.un.org/ga/first/index.shtml

NOTE- This back ground guide is an amalgamation of various research papers, articles, studies and UN resolutions (Links for which are mentioned at the end). It does not contain personal views of any of the Executive Board members and also cannot be used as a proof for any statement made by a delegate in the committee.

Agenda: Rights of indigenous people in Non-Self-Governing Territories

The delegates should focus on gathering information on:

1. Status of Education in non-self-governing territories (NSGT).

2. Economic condition
3. Rights of people on resources of NSGT.
4. Military Establishments
5. Autonomy in governance / self-dependence.
6. Right to self determination

Non-Self-Governing Territories

MEANING

In the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a Territory “whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government”.

In 1946, several UN Member States identified a number of Territories under their administration that were not self-governing and placed them on a UN list. Countries administering Non-Self-Governing Territories are called administering Powers. As a result of the decolonization process over the years, most of the Territories were removed from the list.

It urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the Administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories.

It also urged all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Taken from (<https://www.un.org/en/events/nonselfgoverning/>)

Background

Chapter XI of the UN Charter - the Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories - provides that Member States administering Territories, which have not attained self-government recognize "that the interests of the inhabitants of these Territories are paramount" and accept as a "sacred trust" the obligation to promote their well-being.

To this end, administering Powers, in addition to ensuring the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples, undertake to assist them in developing self-government and democratic political institutions. Administering Powers have an obligation to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information on the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories under their administration.

In 1946, eight Member States - Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States - enumerated 72 Territories under their

administration which they considered to be non-self-governing. Eight became independent before 1959.

Transmission of information by the administering Power was discontinued for 21 Non-Self-Governing Territories for various reasons. In some cases, such as Greenland, Alaska and Hawaii, the General Assembly accepted the cessation of information; in others, the decision was taken unilaterally by the administering Power.

In 1963, the Assembly approved a revised list of 64 Territories to which the 1960 Declaration on Decolonization applied. The list included the two remaining Trust Territories at that time (Nauru and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands); the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which information was transmitted under Chapter XI of the Charter (article 73e), including the Territories administered by Spain; Namibia (then referred to as South West Africa); and those Non-Self-Governing Territories about which no information had been transmitted, but which the Assembly had deemed to be Non-Self-Governing - namely the Territories under Portuguese administration and Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The list was further expanded in 1965 to include French Somaliland (now Djibouti) and Oman. The Comoro Islands were included in 1972 and New Caledonia in 1986.

From 1960 to 2002, 54 Territories attained self-government. At present, there are 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining.

To access the full article visit :

<https://www.un.org/en/events/nonselfgoverning/background.shtml>

United Nations for Decolonization

- *GA and decolonization*

Past General Assembly resolutions reaffirmed the determination of the UN body to eradicate colonialism and its support for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination and requested the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the C-24, including by regularly transmitting information on economic, social and educational conditions, as well as political and constitutional developments in the Territories.

- *C-24 or Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples*

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples (also known as Special Committee on Decolonization or C-24) was established in 1961 by the General Assembly; it is guided by the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 1960, and subsequent resolutions on decolonization. The Committee, comprised of 29 members, holds one annual session, an annual regional seminar (which is organized alternatively between the Caribbean and the Pacific regions), reports to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and takes action on approximately 12 resolutions under 5 General Assembly agenda items. The C-24 also participates in the annual session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The 29 members of the Special Committee are Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syria, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. The latest country to join the C-24 was Nicaragua, the host country of this year's regional seminar on decolonization.

- *Decolonization Unit*

The Decolonization Unit, part of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations, advises the leadership of the Department on decolonization issues, supports the Special Committee on decolonization by preparing annual reports on all 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs); informational material; the annual Regional Seminar and 'Visiting Missions'.

- *ECOSOC*

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) annually considers an agenda item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" at its coordination and management meeting, usually held in July of each year. At this meeting, the ECOSOC takes action on the draft resolution entitled "Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations" which is submitted by the Chair of the Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24).

Major Countries Involved

New Zealand

New Zealand is the administering power of one NSGT; Tokelau. Although Tokelau is considered a NSGT, some attributes of Tokelau's situation may not apply to other NSGTs. As, although it was a colony for 150 years, there had been no physical presence of a colonizer there, therefore New Zealand, the administering power, is seen either as a protective influence, or a source of material improvement.

These forms of support can be seen, for instance, when Tokelau and New Zealand set up an International Trust Fund to provide Tokelau with an additional source of revenue for recurring budgetary and development expenditure in 2000. The fund enhanced the quality of life of the people by providing Tokelau with an additional, independent source of revenue. In terms of self-determination, Tokelau and New Zealand took steps to formulate a treaty that would turn Tokelau from a NSGT to a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand, in November of 2004. Besides the treaty, a United Nations sponsored referendum on self-determination took place. The measure was short of the two-thirds majority required for it to pass. A repeat referendum took place in October of 2007, again narrowly failing to approve self-government. This time the vote was short by just 16 votes; only 3%.

France

France is the administering power of two NSGTs; New Caledonia and French Polynesia. In terms of French Polynesia, controversy and criticism has been directed at France due to the nuclear tests that were conducted by the nuclear testing facilities in the Tuamotus. Although such facilities greatly increased the region's revenue and employment, Tahiti, the most populated island in French Polynesia, was exposed to 500 times the maximum accepted levels of radiation. The French government pledged to provide aid for a number of years to compensate for this. Overall, both French Polynesia and New Caledonia benefitted economically due to France, but in terms of self-determination, France is not keen to be moving towards such a step. As, the UN resolution (A/RES/67/265) affirmed that the people of French Polynesia had the right of self-determination, however France disapproved of the resolution.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is the administering power with ten NSGTs, including: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks-and- Caicos, Gibraltar, Pitcairn and the Falkland Islands. They are the parts of the British Empire that have not been granted independence.

Most of the inhabited territories are internally self-governing, with the UK retaining responsibility for defense and foreign relations. Moreover, the UK does provide economic aid, as it has aided in economic development in the Caribbean; increasing trade and improving living conditions.

United States

The US is an administering power to three NSGTs; American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands. As mentioned earlier, the United States is keen on keeping some of its colonies for military purposes; Guam is the given example. The U.S. does, however, provide certain rights to its colonies; American Samoa, for instance, has about 32,000 non-citizen U.S. nationals. As under U.S. law, among the territories, 'only persons born in American Samoa and Swains Island are non-citizen U.S. nationals.' American Samoans are under the protection of the U.S., with the ability to travel to the U.S. without a visa.

Right to Self Determination

Self-determination has two aspects, internal and external. Internal self-determination is the right of the people of a state to govern themselves without outside interference. External self-determination is the right of peoples to determine their own political status and to be free of alien domination, including formation of their own independent state. However, independence is not the only possible outcome of an exercise of self-determination.

In international law, the right of self-determination that became recognized in the 1960s was interpreted as the right of all colonial territories to become independent or to adopt any other status

they freely chose. Ethnic or other distinct groups within colonies did not have a right to separate themselves from the "people" of the territory as a whole. Today, the right of groups to govern themselves is increasingly intertwined with human rights norms, in particular the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. While no right to secession has yet been recognized under international law, it is possible that such a right may be accepted in the future as an exceptional measure, if a distinct group of people is systematically denied the right to participate in the government of the state or if individuals within such a group suffer systematic and gross violations of human rights that make their participation in that state impossible.

The Political Status of Non-Self-Governing Territories

This article shall serve as an example to understand the political situation in NSGTs, The purpose of including this article is to make you understand how case studies can help you in grasping knowledge of the situation.

Contention surrounding politically non-self-governing territories is amplified due to internal differences. Referendums are often the result of potential changes in the status quo. For instance, "In March 2013, the autonomous government of the Falkland Islands organized a referendum as to whether the territory should remain a British Overseas Territory. With a 92% turnout, 99.8% of Falkland Islanders voted to maintain that status; only three islanders favored changing it." Complications arise when a non-self-governing territory become too dependent or have two or more different states going back in forth for authority. Like with the Falkland Islands located south of Argentina, not only the United Kingdom but Argentina claims authoritative responsibility to the territory. This dispute is historic, "to challenge Britain for control of the Falklands, which Argentina invaded then lost during the 1982 war." Analyzing the status of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, it's crucial to address the costs of both Argentina and Great Britain as the administrative powers. Particularly, how that fits into the mold of Falkland islanders; no matter the population their rights are protected and a priority of the United Nations. The narrative of Western Sahara is different, located at the northwest tip to the African continent, surrounded predominantly by Muslim N. Africa faces internal issues as a non-self-governing territory. Morocco, Western Sahara's neighbor to the east has recently been very active in conversation surrounded the stability of the territory.

With much of resource extraction located in various parts of Africa, the progression of self-determination needs to be expedited in accordance to many for Western Sahara.

Influence in the region of N. Africa is another faces Western Sahara and a change status as politically non-self-governing territory. For example, UNGA SPECPOL committee seventy-first session was built around a tone of "Despite Diminished Violence, Peace Still Does Not Prevail in Western Sahara: While the people of Western Sahara no longer went to bed with the sound of bombs and gunfire in their ears every night, they still did not live in peace." Sovereignty, and autonomy are two concepts that shape identity even for non-self-governing territories seeking self-determination. Gibraltar located in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, geography and contention like the Falkland Islands, makes this territory a priority for many. In the case of Gibraltar, Spain and the UK (authority power) have a dynamic relationship over this pivotal location. Gibraltar along the Strait of Gibraltar, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Due to such implications, the UNGA at its third meeting of the seventy-first session highlighted Gibraltar as a hot ticket item for the agenda.

Property rights

In accordance with the UN charter, and further elaborated in resolutions developed from the reports made by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, the Administering powers are

accountable for the sustainable usage of the NSGTs' natural and marine resources, and to preserving resources that make up the cultural heritage of many of the indigenous inhabitants. The UN also maintains that it is the right of the inhabitants of the NSGTs to in the future control the usage of natural resources.

Sociocultural issues

Many of the inhabitants of the NSGTs have the impression that the administering Powers act superior. They feel that issues with racism and discrimination persist in dividing their society. There is arguably some evidence for this partiality in New Caledonia whereby the government organizes a census that also considers ethnicities, contrary to the rest of France where the legal system forbids it¹⁵. The NSGTs are characterized by a separate culture from their administering Power, and the administering Powers are bound by the UN charter (chapter XI) to take all the necessary steps to preserve this culture. Most of the NSGTs can be recognized as indigenous people, meaning that they live in a specific location, the territory is their ancestral home and they have a unique culture or language.

Status of education in NSGT and development of educational facilities

https://www.jstor.org/stable/2293078?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

What the UN can do to assist NSGTs

<https://www.un.org/en/events/decolonization50/pdf/What%20the%20UN%20can%20do.pdf>

IMPORTANT LINKS

Declaration Regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories (Article 73)-
<http://www.un-documents.net/ch-11.htm>

UN at 70: How far have we come in decolonization?
<https://dppa-ps.atavist.com/un-at-70-taking-stock-of-decolonization>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gacol3320.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/en/events/nonselfgoverning/resources.shtml>

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents>

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/ga>

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/workingpapers>

<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/xpSearchResultsM.xsp>

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents/ecosoc>

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&p=Right+to+self+determination&f=&c=Resource+Type&c=UN+Bodies&sf=&so=d&rg=50&fti=0>

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/286344?ln=en>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gacol3320.doc.htm>

<https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199228423.001.0001/acprof-9780199228423-chapter-14>

Youtube :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a8tAXstFto>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kseiXCHw394>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kseiXCHw394>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kseiXCHw394>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAsUX1FwXlk>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ZQ-SuhvQAeQIR5tHJGGmQ/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBhqf4AOwp4>

Important Resolutions and Official UN documents and Press releases:

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2002/gaspd238.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/1996/19961009.gaspd85.html>

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3813062?ln=en>

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1656561?ln=en>

<https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/72/317>

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-committee-focuses-on-sdg-needs-in-non-self-governing-territories/>

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Support_to_Non-Self-Governing_Territories_by_the_specialized_agencies_and_international_institutions_associated_with_the_United_Nations