

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

UNITED NATIONS FOURTH COMMITTEE

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COLONIZATION THROUGH THE RIGHT TO A REMEDY AND REPARATIONS

People around the world have been finally receiving the proper remedy and reparations from the impact of colonization. The United Nations has worked for human rights around the world, and since its founding, has been engaged in decolonization processes around the globe. When the United Nations was formed after World War 2, 72 Non-Self-Governing Territories and 11 Trust Territories were identified as under the control of administering authorities. The Special Committee on Decolonization, or C-24, was established in 1961 by the General Assembly and is devoted to the issue of decolonization. A/RES/1514 affirmed that the resolution provided for the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The UN Charter established the Trusteeship Council and assigned to it the task of supervising the administration of Trust Territories placed under the International Trusteeship System. The main goals of the International Trusteeship System were to promote the advancements of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. The Trusteeship Council suspended its operations on November 1st, 1994, after the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory. Today, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and 0 Trust Territories remain, and some remedy has been offered to the people living there.

The Czech Republic has dealt with a lot of colonialism and its struggles. It mainly dealt with the Holocaust, and many territories were confiscated by Nazi or Communist regimes. The first, post-war Czech restitution law covering private property was passed in 1991 (Law No. 229), amended in 1994 (Law No. 116), and included farmland and artworks confiscated between 1938-1945 and between 1948-1989. The law initially required both Czech citizenship and permanent residence, but those restrictions were eliminated in 1994. When restitution was not possible, compensation was to be offered.

The Czech Republic strongly suggests that the Trusteeship Council be reactivated for the purpose of data analysis regarding colonization. While there are no more trust territories, people in them still have not gotten their remedy and reparations. These people may have moved out of that territory or lost their citizenship and therefore have not been tracked down. The Council would track these former citizens down, and by utilizing funds either from member states or the UN, these people will get what they are owed. Compensation would be either in the form of reinstatement of private property or cash payment.