

Malaysia

United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

Wyoming High School

Malaysia, a representative democracy, comes to this session of the United Nations General Assembly proud of the steps we have taken to protect and accommodate the Orang Asli people of Malaysia, understanding of the immediate steps that must be taken to ensure domestic and foreign protection of cultures, and faithful in the United Nations system in that this global catastrophic process of deterioration can be partially alleviated within the walls of this committee.

Seeing as each nation is considered sovereign under the Charter of the United Nations, it is not within the purview of this committee to establish rules of how to govern a nation's people, or to take action against regimes that do not recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. It is in the power of, and in the best interest of, this committee to construct strict recommendations that allow nations of similar cultures and geographic locations to create policies related to the issues described in the context of this committee, that is, issues surrounding indigenous health, land rights, and economic development.

Every nation on the planet is unique, having each developed socially, economically, and politically different from any other. That recognized, many geographic locations have experienced similarities in their development, faced parallel problems in their decision making, and have been challenged by similar external and internal factors throughout their lives. Thus, it is our contention that a conglomeration of these individual nations into groups that conjointly attempt to solve issues surrounding indigenous affairs would be beneficial for a variety of reasons. Understanding every state's individual characteristics, the grouping of these diverse yet homogenous views may yield solutions distinguished to a certain cultural background and geographic location. Malaysia would look favorably upon collaborating with other esteemed South Asian nations to author solutions to this worldwide issue. Yet another notable reason why this grouped theory would be beneficial is that it allows groups of nations, who by virtue of geography and development share similar issues surrounding health, land rights, and economics, to share their national experiences, and the experiences of their people. This could also yield benefits beyond the topics of this committee, as geopolitics are an issue stretching far beyond the issues of indigenous peoples.

However, as to not be overly generalistic, specific actions need to be taken to address the issues laid out in the topics of this committee. Malaysia comes to this session of the General Assembly with three key suggestions: recognition, protection, and development. Malaysia hopes to promote recognition of the issue, for many member nations often abuse and fail to comprehend the existence of indigenous peoples. The second key solution is not only the guaranteed protection of native lands, but protection of the environment and climates in which these lands exist. It is not until every nation commits to necessary and realistic climate change measures that indigenous lands will be protected. The third and final measure that must be taken is the development of native cultures. Through the use of economic tools such as subsidies and microloans, this assembly should promote economic sustainability among indigenous populations by encouraging government intervention.

Malaysia is a country of rich history, sophisticated culture, and a diplomatic nature. We recognize it is the job of this most honorable committee to bring together all nations of the world to not only recognize, protect, and develop minorities, but also to celebrate each of their unique cultures and beautiful details. Through the use of a geographic grouping method and the aforementioned steps of recognition, protection, and development, sovereign nations will have the opportunity to rejoice in and respect the cultures and wishes of their indigenous populations.