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United Nations General Assembly – Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

Equatorial Guinea

With recent developments in environmental issues, proliferation of disease, as well the pre-existing issues of poverty and the mental health epidemic, the threat to the indigenous people of the world is substantial, and should be acted upon with the utmost gravity. As a nation proud of the experience and unwavering spirit of its indigenous population, Equatorial Guinea will look to implement policy intended to protect the rights of marginalized groups across the globe, and to ultimately improve or even save the lives of millions of people.

Equatorial Guinea's demographics are a result of thousands of years of displacement and settlement on the African continent, with the oldest group being the Bubi people, and the majority being the Fang. These groups make up 6.5 and 85.7 percent of Equatorial Guinea's population respectively. The colonial history of Equatorial Guinea is one plagued by exploitation of the nation's resources and people. This has stemmed out into the creation of many of Equatorial Guinea's current issues. Despite boasting the largest per capita Gross Domestic Product of any African nation, only half of Equatorial Guinea's population has access to clean water, and the nation has lowest rate of Polio vaccination in the world at 39 percent (World Health Organization). The main cause of these disparities between wealth and wellbeing is the way in which the Equatorial Guinean economy functions, as it remains very colonial in nature, with European and North American powers mostly contributing by harnessing the nation's abundant offshore oil reserves. This dependency has led to invisible progress for many people in Equatorial Guinea, and has added to tensions between indigenous populations, such as the Bubi, and the nation's administration who have permitted such economic movements.

As a part of the United Nations General Assembly, Equatorial Guinea will promote the expansion and improvement of existing policy aiming to protect indigenous economic and social rights, while also supporting the growth of new and innovative measures. Equatorial Guinea will support the implementation of programs aimed to open systems of dialogue with the people of indigenous groups on both a national and international level, such as those detailed in the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. Equatorial Guinea will also push for the international recognition of indigenous rights, as it is essential for nations to be aware and

accepting of their Indigenous populations in order to develop a framework to aid these groups. Recognizing the lack of access to healthcare and the immense burden that disease has placed upon indigenous populations, Equatorial Guinea will assist in fabricating a platform, funded by the World Health Organization and other NGOs, to provide low cost medication, vaccination, and professional medical care to indigenous populations, which will tackle issues such as the growth of Tuberculosis, Malaria, and other communicable diseases that blight indigenous groups.

Equatorial Guinea looks forward to convening with other members of the General Assembly to share ideas and compromise, and to create real change in the lives of millions of people who have found themselves sectionalized by political, economic, and social divides.