

Committee: UNGA Special Session on Indigenous Affairs  
Topic: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness  
Country: Bahrain

## ENSURING THE WELLBEING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES GLOBALLY IN REGARDS TO HEALTHCARE

An indigenous person is defined as someone who has specific rights due to ancestral connection to a sector and whose culture is varied from someone who is a majority in the political sphere.<sup>1</sup> There are an abundance of indigenous peoples present in the modern world. Despite their large quantity and diversity in cultures, indigenous communities are known to be ostracized. These people face a barrier in health that is not present for non-indigenous people.<sup>2</sup> An estimated fifteen percent of the population of Bahrain is made up of indigenous people.<sup>3</sup> The native Arab Bahraini people are mainly composed of Shia people originating from tribes such as the Abdulqais, the Tamim, and the Rabia.<sup>4</sup> Seeing that aboriginal people often face more prominent obstacles in health than those of other cultural groups, Bahrain has been involved in promoting and promulgating rights of these peoples. Bahrain voted towards adopting the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007. The UNDRIP is a paramount document towards the wellbeing of indigenous peoples as it promotes the universal rights that indigenous peoples possess, such as the right to good health. The totality of the population has had access to healthcare in Bahrain since 1995. Because they are not native to the region, Bahrain also does not face the same struggles with major illness that plague indigenous people in other areas: tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. Indigenous people in Bahrain are also technically competent. Due to these factors, Bahrain ranked in the top spot for the human development index among all Arab countries.<sup>5</sup>

Seeing that access to healthcare in remote, impoverished areas is unavailable, Bahrain believes that transportation to hospitals and care centers need to be improved. By implementing aerial tramways in areas where indigenous and impoverished people are not able to access care, the amount of people able to successfully and safely reach a medical professional will increase. In some areas, tramways are already used for business such as mining or tourism, and these cables can easily be extended towards areas with high concentrations of impoverished indigenous people. By innovating and supplying firsthand access to health centers, the problem of mistreatment and ongoing disease can be eradicated at the source. In addition, since the tram works both to and from medical centers and villages, caregivers can regularly use this transportation to visit large quantities of indigenous people and administer care at little inconvenience to diseased people. In areas where rocky terrain is present, roads or terrestrial transportation can be time consuming, tumultuous, or even lethal. Bahrain believes that the best

and most effective way to secure transportation to landlocked impoverished villages is to implement aerial tramways.

Due to the fact that many illnesses, physical and mental, are left untreated due to lack of diagnosis and lack of treatment, Bahrain wishes to implement our Test plus Care (T+C) program. Through this, medical officials will administer multitudes of tests to ensure that indigenous people are not at a higher risk locally for any one disease or mental detriment. When a problem ailment is located, the source of it will be removed. This can deal with removing social stigmas or even physical barriers. After people are tested, they will be treated using simple cures that do not require the person to alter their life just to receive treatment. Better environments for indigenous peoples will be gradually implemented, and aboriginal cultures will be celebrated through local governments. This plan is the only way to ensure that the problems shrouding the health of indigenous people are stopped forever instead of just being treated forever.

Many indigenous infants are lost due to poor infant and prenatal care. Bahrain thinks it is essential to aid mothers in the fight against child mortality by ensuring they are provided with proper prenatal care. Up to two thirds of newborn deaths could be stopped if proper care officials were present to aid in labor.<sup>6</sup> Bahrain wishes to implement the Care for Survival Plan (CFSP) in order to help limit the amount of children and mothers lost at birth due to improper care. This program will send trained representatives to village center to train women to be able to safely deliver a child. By doing this, women will be able to help other women with proper care to ensure that necessary procedures and precautions are taken. This will be extremely effective as it will not only save an astounding number of lives, it will also increase community ties and education levels. Indigenous cultures and customary practices will be recognized. Every infant has the ability to survive under Bahrain's plan of action.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.indigenouspeople.net>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs326/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Bahrain.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.salam-dhr.org/?p=593>

<sup>5</sup> <http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/documents/s17291e/s17291e.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs333/en/>

Committee: UNGA Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

Topic: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change Impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Country: Bahrain

## PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE LANDS AND RESOURCES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous people are more likely to be dependent on land and natural resources than non-indigenous people, therefore they will be the group that is affected by climate change most harshly. Climate change is a critical aspect towards any type of development or betterment of indigenous peoples' lives. These people are facing more extreme effects of climate change and they are facing them sooner than the rest of the globe.<sup>1</sup> Sea levels rising, water contamination, deforestation, rising temperatures, droughts, heat waves, hurricane intensification, and arctic dissipation, and a plethora of environmental problems are all disastrous effects that will be seen in the future due to climate change.<sup>2</sup> Though climate change is an already paramount, persistent problem, its effects can be minimized or delayed. Due to the fact that the Kingdom of Bahrain is a low lying island nation, we are in sever threat of the doings of global warming. Bahrain has taken actions with the global community against climate change because of this. Bahrain ratified the major treaties against climate change, the Paris and Rio accords under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and 2016.<sup>3</sup> Bahrain is active in sustainable development affairs in all sectors of the issue.<sup>4</sup> Bahrain supports the UNDRIP which deals with many problems towards indigenous peoples, including climate change. This document is related to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) which advocates for indigenous peoples' rights.<sup>5</sup> Bahrain recognizes climate change as an issue towards everyone, but specifically indigenous peoples.

The best way to aid indigenous people globally and protect them from the effects of climate change is to prevent climate change at the source. A solution that is able to restore forest habitats and prevent global warming is the implementation of genetically modified trees in areas throughout the world. There is new innovation in science that suggests that various types of plants, specifically trees, would be able to be genetically modified in order to increase their carbon uptake. Through enhancing photosynthesis from the very cells that make it occur, a fifty percent increase in productivity is expected. Trees could also be modified to increase carbon storage through roots and into soil. This is a natural way to ensure that carbon emissions will be countered and climate change will cease. In addition, indigenous people can be utilized to plant these GM trees. This will help provide jobs to impoverished indigenous people and also help these peoples restore their land. This is a way to allow for modern aboriginal people to get involved firsthand in the fight against climate change and to have a say in whether or not they

wish to take the steps necessary to combat habitat destruction. This is the beginning of indigenous people claiming back their rightful land.

In order to allow for the representation of indigenous people personally, Bahrain sees it fit to implement our Generate and Implement Jobs program (GI Jobs) in order to promote indigenous people in the professional and government sectors. We will generate jobs that are specifically tailored towards the skills and needs of certain indigenous people. Then, these jobs will be implemented with native people working them. These jobs will deal with land and resource degradation, as well as creating ways to combat climate change that aren't detrimental towards indigenous people. This plan will work better than any others because it guarantees representation for indigenous people as well as environmental protection.

Emissions from cattle livestock have proven to be more abundant and more damaging than the emissions from the entire transportation business throughout the world. The UN has identified cows as the biggest threat to the environment. In addition to emissions, the cattle industry is also responsible for widespread deforestation and over consumption of water. Bahrain believes it is necessary to call for nations to decrease cattle farming and instead put an emphasis on other animals. No other livestock oriented animal produces the same detrimental effects to the balance of the natural world as the cow. Even though it is a drastic measure to cut back on cattle usage, it is necessary to help stop the effects of climate change that so negatively hurt indigenous peoples. To ignore this large scale agricultural problem is to ignore and make a mockery of climate change. In this state of crisis, anything that can stop climate change must be implemented.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/indigenous-peoples-and-climate-change>

<sup>2</sup><http://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>

<sup>3</sup>[http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/convention/status\\_of\\_ratification/items/2631.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/status_of_ratification/items/2631.php)

<sup>4</sup><http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/countr/bahrain/natur.htm>

<sup>5</sup><http://undesadspd.org.dnnmax.com/IndigenousPeoples/DeclarationontheRightsofIndigenousPeoples.aspx>

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## CREATING A DEVELOPED AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WORLDWIDE

Indigenous peoples have a heinous history of genocide, racism, displacement, and discrimination. Indigenous people compose an estimated fifteen percent of the world's impoverished population.<sup>1</sup> Indigenous peoples are adversely affected by climate change, lack of education and healthcare, and government indifference. In order to achieve better rights for all indigenous people, Bahrain— along with the global community— has taken action to grant improved rights to all indigenous factions globally. The Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues <sup>2</sup>, supported by Bahrain, proved to be a major step towards the discussion and prevention of major issues plaguing indigenous peoples. Bahrain also is a part of the UN organ, the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations which deals exclusively with human rights issues related to indigenous peoples.<sup>3</sup> Bahrain also supports extensive primary education, as we have seen an increase in schooling for all children. Bahrain also provides access to healthcare for every person.<sup>4</sup> The country of Bahrain strongly agrees with the empowerment and inclusion of all indigenous peoples in order to improve their socio-economic status.

One way to be sure that all education is being maximized is to implement electric shock learning. This new innovation is a relatively painless treatment where stimulation is applied to different areas of the brain to assist and promote higher levels of education. Known as Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (TDCS) <sup>5</sup>, this practice is able to positively affect the cognition of a person of any age. The effects of TDCS are thought to last twelve months and does not alter the brain, it simply stimulates it to allow for higher learning and memory. By making this technology available to indigenous peoples, it can be inferred that their learning ability will become improved and the education they do receive will not be wasted. Unlike other plans, this electroshock will cut back the amount of time needed for education, allowing working or busy kids and adults the option to spend shorter amounts of time on their education, yet still learning as much—if not more— than regularly practiced education.

The only way to provide economic empowerment to indigenous peoples is through education and employment. By increasing economic development and aiding indigenous people in creating small businesses, poverty among indigenous peoples will be eradicated at the source. Much like within Bahrain, a greater attention on making sure people are technically competent. Jobs in

government will be created so that indigenous people will effectuate their proper needs and job skills.

Indigenous people need to be recognized in all aspects of their lives. Bahrain sees to the implementation of better representation in schools for indigenous people with heritage and cultural days. These days will ensure that children are in control of their own perception of their history. This will promote prosperity and peace, and will lead to a decrease in mental illnesses in children later in life, and will increase quality of education for indigenous people. This will ensure that there is a cultural understanding, and is the only plan that will help create better conditions that will ease the complications of every other issue relating to indigenous communities.



<sup>1</sup>[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/rule-of-law--justice-and-security/human-rights/empowering\\_indigenous\\_peoples1.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/rule-of-law--justice-and-security/human-rights/empowering_indigenous_peoples1.html)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>

<sup>3</sup><http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/indigenous.html>

<sup>4</sup><http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/documents/s17291e/s17291e.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/9040654/Electric-shock-treatment-improves-academic-performance.html>