*Topic 1:* Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health and Wellness

In this topic, delegates are focusing on three main issues- tuberculosis, mental health and child and infant mortality for Indigenous peoples. Tuberculosis is a disease that mainly affects those living in poverty. In most Indigenous communities, there are higher rates of Tuberculosis. For example, the Inuit who live in Canada are roughly 150 times more likely to get Tuberculosis than the non-aboriginal peoples living in Canada. Likewise, compared to the non-indigenous population, indigenous youth suffer from more likely occurrences of mental illness. One example is, again, among the Inuit youth whose suicide rates are 11 times higher than the rest of the Canadian population. The last issue delegates are focusing on is infant and child mortality among indigenous peoples. Percentages for child and infant mortality are often higher for indigenous peoples. For example, in Latin American infant mortality for indigenous children is 60% higher than the rate for non-indigenous children. This issue is very important because there are many problems in the world, and among them, many seem to be more extreme for indigenous peoples. All delegates in the General Assembly must come together to come up with a resolution to reduce depression, child mortality rates, and tuberculosis cases among indigenous peoples. Many attempts have been made by the United Nations to solve this issue. The United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples was created to eliminate human rights violations towards indigenous peoples. The World Health Organization has held various initiatives that are focused on improving the health of indigenous peoples. The World Health Assembly has also passed many resolutions to try and tackle these health issues.

China is a unified country where they see all ethnic groups as equal. China has the largest population of indigenous people at around 130 million people. The government recognizes 56 ethnic minority groups within its country. My country is very relevant to this issue as we have the largest population of indigenous people in the world (around 1/3 of the indigenous population is located in China)[[1]](#footnote-1). China voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). China is also a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) which has passed many resolutions and created many initiatives to combat all of the health problems indigenous people’s face. China has made many past efforts to combat the issue of health regarding Indigenous peoples. We have expanded our outreach to indigenous peoples and hope that other countries can follow in our footsteps.[[2]](#footnote-2)

China urges countries to create a better support system for teenagers battling mental health in school so they can easily have access to help. The causes to this issues are that the governments involved are not focusing on these indigenous groups and instead focusing on the rest of the population. Indigenous peoples are not given the same standard of health care as the non-indigenous population in most countries. There have been many past actions to try and combat this issue but it has not been completely resolved because it is a complicated issue. All delegates must take into consideration of how to treat the indigenous peoples while still being respectful of their culture and heritage. China proposes that all governments should expand their country’s health systems to provide health care to their indigenous peoples. These systems provide immediate help to those in need and provide treatment for the pressing diseases such as Tuberculosis and Malaria. China also proposes that all governments should give the indigenous peoples the same health care plans as the non-indigenous population to promote equality among all citizens. China’s president, Xi Jinping has visited many ethnic regions and impoverished regions to see the situation himself.[[3]](#footnote-3) China urges all other nations to do the same so they can see what is really needed of these community members.

*Topic 2:* Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Among the 70 countries where indigenous people are located, they rely on nature and natural resources to provide their essential needs such as food and shelter. Since climate change is getting worse, this causes food shortages and shortages of supplies which worsens the health of indigenous people. This causes all of the indigenous people in that affected region to relocate or gain access to new modern technologies to combat this issue. But since most indigenous peoples aren’t wealthy or live in poverty, it would be very difficult to relocate or afford new technology. This is an important issue because it is causing so many indigenous people to have to relocate and it makes them feel helpless as they have never faced a problem like this before. It causes many of them to migrate and they have to find new places to hunt and fish so they can survive. Many past actions have been made to try and solve this problem but one issue that many people face is that indigenous people are often misrepresented or not thought of during the process of making the decision. Many policies have been made in the past by the UN that offer human rights and other factors to indigenous people. There are also many International organizations such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues which discusses and resolves matters that affect the rights directed to indigenous peoples. Another is the United Nations Climate Change Conferences and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which assesses the progress when dealing with climate change. Non-Governmental Organizations exist to enhance the rights of indigenous peoples and provide them with the human rights and resources they should have. They also help indigenous communities to develop while preserving their natural resources.

China has helped to enhance the economy of many indigenous communities. They have developed roads and railways coming in and out of these communities so these people could access the other parts of the country or relocate easily, if necessary.[[4]](#footnote-4) In the case of climate change, the new infrastructure will provide a way for Indigenous people of China to find a new place to live in an easier way. In 2015, the economic growth rate of the various provincial Indigenous communities in China were higher than the national average.[[5]](#footnote-5) China has worked hard in the past to grow these communities economically so they would be more stable in the future. [[6]](#footnote-6)

The main cause of this issue is climate change and how it affects the natural resources that are critical to the indigenous people. But, the main issue for Indigenous peoples is the misrepresentation of their people during the decision making process. One solution to the problem is conservation. We can conserve our ecosystems so Indigenous peoples can also conserve their values and culture. Another solution that China proposes is to make sure that the Indigenous groups are being properly represented in the decision making process by having members of these groups come and share what they would like to see happen and what would be the most suitable for their community. China also believes that Indigenous people should get an equal vote in the decision making process so it can benefit their community more. In the past, China has invited officials from Indigenous communities to various events and decision making processes and urges other countries to do so as well.[[7]](#footnote-7)

*Topic 3:* Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

Indigenous people have been mistreated and discriminated against for decades. These indigenous communities are very poor. For example, in Canada half of the Canadian Indigenous children live in poverty. Education plays a large role in this. Governments spend way less money on education and school for Indigenous peoples than they do for the non-indigenous population. This is an important and pressing issue because it is leaving more and more indigenous people to live under the poverty line. This is more severe than the non-indigenous population. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established to represent the indigenous people in our world and create resolutions to help combat this issue. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was made in 2007 to set an example all people should follow regarding treatment towards Indigenous peoples. Some non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations have engaged in this issue. This issue is very relevant to China as China has the largest population of indigenous people in the world.[[8]](#footnote-8)

China believes that all governments should implement the same schooling and education systems for both the indigenous population and the non-indigenous population. Countries need to improve their funding for tertiary education. China believes that people should stop discriminating against the indigenous population and grant them the same health care, education and human rights as the rest of the population receives. China has had many past actions to try and combat this issue. Since 1990, there has been a global goal to halving the global poverty population. Together as a nation, we have achieved this goal and China is responsible for three-quarters of this achievement. China put 680 million people over the poverty line between 1981 and 2010 and has significantly reduced their poverty rate from 84% in 1981 to now, 10% in 2016.[[9]](#footnote-9) Although China’s success will be hard to do again for the next billion people, China urges the other countries to follow in their footsteps and lead their country into economic stability for their indigenous population.

China proposes that all government take the total funding of non-indigenous peoples education and indigenous peoples education and divide it equally among everyone so everyone has an equal chance to get the education that they deserve. China proposes that each country that put its indigenous people into residential schools apologize and give each family that suffered from this a repayment or an opportunity for a new education. China proposes that more food banks be set up to distribute food to those in need of it. China proposes to create more shelters and homes where indigenous peoples living in poverty can go to if they are living in crowded or dangerous conditions. As you can see, there are many small efforts that can help the impoverished indigenous community so much. But in the bigger picture, by growing the economy and creating more job opportunities, this will help to create an even lower poverty rate worldwide.

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