The Topics: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness - Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change Impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources - Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

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

In today’s world, there are approximately 370 million indigenous people that live in more than 70 countries worldwide. Indigenous people, more often than not, experience isolation from many essential government services. Access to healthcare, education, food, and water are generally limited, creating a deficit in educated people and healthy individuals. Indigenous people also face dangers from illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Indigenous women in particular can be extremely vulnerable to these health problems, since they are often victims of manmade conflicts and natural disasters. Women are also often denied access to education, property, and economic resources at higher rates than the men. However, women play a vital role in the lives of many indigenous communities. As the primary caretaker of the family’s health and wellness, it is of great importance that the woman receives good healthcare and education so she can continue helping others. With the help of many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), many countries are able to diagnose and treat diseases using western medicines and treatments. If treatments for tuberculosis and malaria, for example, were more widely available, survival of these diseases would be much more likely. To better protect our population from disease, the Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo shall require all registered citizens to be vaccinated. If the person is not registered, doctors and nurses provided by the government will travel to indigenous communities to vaccinate those who have not yet been inoculated. There will be no exceptions to not being vaccinated for these diseases. If a person has a fear of needles, we will try to provide nasal mists for the lethal diseases.

The indigenous youth can be supported and encouraged in their homes, schools, and communities by having a strong support network readily available for youth in need of assistance. Suicide is one of the leading causes of teenage death in the Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo. To prevent suicide among the youth in the Congo, suicide clinics shall be stationed among the country, specifically around the indigenous communities. It is vital that our youth becomes engaged with other youth so their thoughts become more positive. Studies have shown that more active youth develop less of a chance of depression and suicide than those who isolate themselves from other youth. It is also crucial to make the negative stigma for indigenous people disappear. Currently, the stigma for indigenous people is generally negative and needs to be changed immediately. We need to inform the new generation of youth that there is nothing wrong with being indigenous, we need to reverse the stigma. If we change the views of indigenous people in the youth, they will then share their views with their future children and future generations.

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

Indigenous people live in over 70 countries worldwide, generally in remote places where climate change and natural disasters are most devastated. Today, most indigenous people rely on nature and natural resources to make their housing, food, or clothing, which suffer the consequences of climate change. As climate change worsens, indigenous peoples’ housing, food, and clothing suffer the most. The current debate over climate change is shown by two points of view: pessimistic announcing that humanity will have to face extreme catastrophes, and the optimistic view arguing that humanity has overcome greater obstacles. The Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo recognizes these issues and plans to solve them as quickly as possible. For the land rights of indigenous people, we pledge to make sure each indigenous community has rights to their own land, as they are allowed to do as they please with it. A new Congolese law has set up extraordinary measures to recognize and protect the land rights of indigenous peoples. Without land ownership, many indigenous people work as day laborers on the farms of their non-indigenous neighbors, where the non-indigenous neighbor often pays them in the form of old clothing or unwanted household utensils. Traditionally, national parks in Congo have been well-maintained, especially compared to protected areas in surrounding countries. Before the war, parks were largely funded by fees collected from tourists, there is hope that returning tourists will boost conservation in our country. Tourists will, and already are, return to the Congo for our beautiful scenery and culture. We can assure that our country is extremely safe and that tourists continue to provide positive feedback.

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

Indigenous people are among the most marginalized groups in the world, constantly facing discrimination and hardship. This discrimination and hardship is often the result of generations of systematic and social racism, targeted genocide, and a radical and sudden shift in ways of living. Indigenous communities are among the poorest in the world because of the discrimination and hardships they face. Despite being one of the world’s poorest countries, the way of life is much cheaper than it is on richer countries. Our average GDP is $484; however, the way of living is much, much cheaper than in other countries. We are constantly improving our economy, as shown by our GDP constantly improving. We are constantly testing new technologies and hope to have a bigger presence in the world. We, as a country, plan to help those in need receive aid such as food and other necessities to live their lives as others would. We are currently working with big NGOs such as UNICEF to help the less privileged people throughout the Congo. We are aiming to have a strong and healthy population soon, and that can only be done through the support of each other. We as a country are working to unite with each other to build relationships that have not existed in the past. With the help of other NGOs, we are working to relocate citizens who has been moved because of natural disasters and wars. We are also working on vaccinating our citizens to insure the safety and health of our people. We are working with NGOs to vaccinate everyone for lethal diseases such as malaria. Together, if we are all vaccinated we will have a smaller mortality rate from this horrible disease.