***Representing Represented by***

**Ecuador John Abbott College**

**United Nations General Assembly on Indigenous Affairs**

In 2016, as the world becomes more and more accepting of all peoples, it is easy to forget, especially in more privileged areas, how neglected certain minorities are. In fully developed countries, it becomes almost second nature to ignore indigenous peoples because there are long-standing systems in place, which allow governments to sit idle. Indigenous people are often secluded, and they aren’t all over the media, so it is difficult to find any information on their quality of life unless someone goes looking for it. Ecuador has a rather high Indigenous population, and feels that they have been mistreated across the globe for far too long. There are too many nations at risk of disappearing, especially in the Amazon area across South America. Ecuador voted in favour of the UN Declaration in the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, but obviously that wasn’t enough.

Ecuador believes in the equal treatment and protection of all human beings. Currently, this is not the case. Indigenous people are suffering from physical, and mental health issues, their land and culture is being stripped away, and many of them can’t afford or do not know how to do anything about their situation. They are under-represented, they are not getting proper education, and the government systems currently in place have failed them time, and time again. There are over 370 million indigenous people in the world, and they are one of the most impoverished, marginalized, and frequently victimized people anywhere.

There are currently regulations in place hoping to aid this population, which Ecuador has voted for and supported consistently, but there has been no significant improvement in the indigenous position over the years. However, the delegation of Ecuador recognizes that this is a complex subject with many facets to explore. Many countries with large indigenous populations cannot afford to take care of them properly or enforce their protection. It is difficult to establish trust when for so many years over 370 million people have been given reason not to trust anyone outside their private circles who tries to lend a helping hand. There have been several occasions when these people were taken advantage of. That is why Ecuador believes this subject is of the utmost importance. It is true that this is a complex issue, but it is not without solution. Indigenous peoples have been mistreated long enough to deserve our greatest efforts to solve a problem that some people think is unsolvable.

Ecuador believes in the power and justice of the United Nations. The delegation of Ecuador has always supported the rights of Indigenous peoples and urges the assembled delegations of the UN to act on their obligation to right this wrong. As a supporter of protecting our planet and its inhabitants, Ecuador looks forward to offering its support in the effort to find a way to re-establish connections with, and aid indigenous peoples by establishing laws to protect their culture, and working with them, rather than behind their backs to solve their issues as well as our own. Financial support from wealthier countries is a good place to start supporting indigenous people. Ecuador also believes that their knowledge could be invaluable in preserving the environment, and sees a bright future where we can maintain amicable relations in order to move forward.

*Delegate: Victoria Dunlop*

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