United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs, Slovenia

The country of Slovenia, located on the east side of Europe, have a modest size population with just over twenty million. The country has made in recent years appropriate and correct amounts of support toward the aid of indigenous peoples in cases concerning mental health, healthcare and wellness. A clear example of the assistance is the important signing of documents including the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous peoples. The aid will further aid the Slovenian indigenous population to establish rights exclusively for the minority to set a level of standards to the treatment of those involved and also to make efforts to get international recognition.

Once ruled over by many different countries, the later independence of Slovenia showed important development in those years. The country has underwent a decisive and rapid transformation an agricultural to an industrial society, with our economy proving to be one of the strongest in Europe. Moreover, the nation has developed and appointed rights to further aid the population. With this decision, measures have been taken such as the appointment of free health care by the government for all of Slovenia’s citizens. In addition, complete coverage of costs are provided to children and certain illnesses and conditions. Although, escaping the problem is no always possible. Healthcare services are limited due to the fact of providers in which organized locally but still lack to numbers to enable continuously accessible services and attention. In addition, most citizens are unaware of the newly available services that could treat many basic illnesses present in the nation.

The agreements to the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous people certainly aided the development of Indigenous peoples in Slovenia. Not alone has it set a bar of respect toward the minority but also empowers recognition of the problem and letting it be known that it must be solved. The country has many desires to solve Indigenous mistreatment. The Slovenian Constitution not only grants the basic civil rights including universal suffrage and freedom of religion, but also guarantees a position of representation at the national level. In addition, the establishments of councils such as the Council for Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment protects those involved from discrimination and indirect discrimination and harassment and encourages equal treatment in occupation and employment.

The President of Slovenia, Danilo Turk, emphasized at a United Nations conference on the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Declaration of rights of Indigenous People that 1the indigenous population is one of the least understood peoples in history, and that the declaration is a key instrument in international human rights law. Mr. Turk further emphasized the necessity to “better implement the right to full and effective participation”, which would act as a method of “empowerment” for both the indigenous peoples and the whole society.

In the topic of Climate change, land ownership and environment protection of resources, Slovenia has well placed itself in the discussion. More than fifty percent of Slovenian land consists of forestry, making Slovenia the “greenest” country in Europe. Therefore, the country’s position on environment is of very high importance. The protection of this environment have placed many programs to prohibit the destruction of the forest and their contents.

Land is pasted on by inheritance from family. This rules has been historically used up to the modern day. Since then, it has determined land distribution in Slovenia and has been a tradition that helped limit land fragmentation. Such traditions have encouraged the formations of heritage sites all along the Slovenian area. Properties include the 2[Škocjan Caves](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/390) (largest known underground chambers), [Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1363) (small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling), [Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1313) (mining sites for mercury). Therefore, the preservation of heritage sites plays an important role in the country’s will to encourage Indigenous rights.

*1Non-Governmental Liaison Services on the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the declaration of rights of Indigenous people, https://www.unngls.org/index.php/un-ngls\_news\_archives/2012/332-commemoration-of-the-fifth-anniversary-of-the-un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples*

*2World Heritage sites in Slovenia, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=&searchSites=&search\_by\_country=slovenia&region=&search\_yearinscribed=&themes=&criteria\_restrication=&type=&media=&order=country&description*