Indigenous Affairs

Morocco

**Overview**

Morocco is a growing country, and we wish to develop further our understanding of indigenous people. We are striving towards all inhabitants of Morocco having equal human rights. All citizens have opportunities for employment and education, including the indigenous. On 31 July 2001 King Mohamed VI recognised the Amazigh cultural identity. This has pushed us in the right direction for equality among indigenous people. We as a country have not recognized any Amazigh people and we will continue to remain silent.

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

In Morocco there are hospitals with mostly Western medicine, indigenous people are allowed to use their own medicine within these hospitals to respect their culture and heritage. TB and malaria will be treated with western medications when admitted to a hospital.

All Moroccan children have the right and duty to education and the parents should encourage it. Including indigenous children, therefore they can be supported by classmates and teachers. In religion, Indigenous culture is taught thus having something to relate to. Morocco has now begun teaching Tamazight in schools, therefore indigenous children will not go through depression.

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

In Morocco, indigenous have rights to parts of mining land. They choose not to use this land therefore Morocco can only do so much. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples guarantees indigenous peoples the right to be involved in decisions concerning their land. Cultural and heritage are closely linked to the lands of the indigenous therefore they should be involved in decisions concerning it.

Morocco is trying to develop itself as a country, therefore we needs things such as oil in the High Atlas Mountains near the Indigenous. There would be a disagreement if requested to not take oil from there because that is how Morocco is making profit.

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

In 2001, the King announced the Royal Institute for Amazigh Culture (IRCAM). The Administrative Council of the Institute consists of 32 members, some belong to the movement of indigenous. We are improving our educational system for them as well, therefore language is becoming more used bringing back their culture.

**Conclusion**

In Morocco, we are doing all we can to help our indigenous people have equal rights. We have been working on human rights as a country as well as developing economically so that we can have more resources to help these people.