**Indigenous Affairs: The Philippines**

The Philippines is beginning to become more concerned with the economical, political and safety issues affecting our indigenous people. As a country we are estimated to have fourteen to seventeen million indigenous people. This rapid increase in poverty growth has created high interest to investigate the matters of our domestic citizens. Philippines in collaboration with the United Nations have been working hard to increasingly take on projects concerning our indigenous people.

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

The Philippines notices the many factors affecting the indigenous people such as the imbalance of medical delivery, poor access to healthcare and the increasing number of indigenous patients. The Philippines has embraced the indigenous people act in coordination by the United Nations to actively help and support our indigenous people. There is a large discrepancy between the population of the Philippines access to medical service. The Philippines is aware of the tuberculosis epidemic that still is affecting the country. The airborne disease still remains one of the most deadly illnesses. Tuberculosis greatly affects areas where poverty persists and to the population of our indigenous people. The inequality healthcare causes the indigenous people of the Philippines to suffer much worse from the lack of medical assistance given. The Philippines and the United Nations are striving to control the disease and find methods to cure it while respecting the culture of the indigenous people. Youth mental health is another issue facing the indigenous people of the Philippines. The Philippines believes we can help future generations by implementing aid to communities in poverty to promote a better life and positivity for the youth. The Philippines indigenous people infant mortality rates are rated globally among the highest at ninety six per one thousand births. This factor has become a major priority for the Philippines and United Nations to address by improving healthcare for women and families struggling in poverty. The indigenous people of the Philippines injury rates are substantially much higher than the general population. The general assembly is actively preparing indigenous peoples for natural disasters so in the event they will be much less susceptible to injury. The indigenous people of the Philippines often are unable to help themselves in the event of a disaster while receiving very little support. The Philippines is still working to create a better healthcare system for our indigenous people and future generations.

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

Philippines recognizes and acknowledges the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people addressing lands territories and natural resources. The general assembly is in coordination with the united nations and the indigenous people of the Philippines to result in a fair and legally committed agreement. The indigenous people lack a voice and are misrepresented when establishing and creating solutions. The Philippines understands this issue and will attempt to resolve this by further helping indigenous people receive proper education. This implement in the system will help future generations concerns be heard and create a healthier relation between both parties. The Philippines community based programs protect indigenous people from legal land seizure. Migrants can continue exercising tenure rights in specific protected areas if occupied for at least five years. The Philippines further enabled the co-management of communities to display their continued cooperation with the indigenous people. The Philippines recognizes indigenous peoples rights to claim ownership of land and natural resources for ancestral domains while creating a strong legislative foundation for the rights of indigenous people. The Philippines will face obstacles concerning which lands belong to which party.Legal settlements will not be finalized until both parties are in consent. There are a number of concerns indigenous communities have raised about protected-area management boards(PAMBS). Participation with PAMBS is impeded by the citizens lack of involvement concerning their roles and responsibilities. Often meetings require education the people do not have, and are difficult to travel to due to limited resources of transportation. These obstacles will further cause discrepancy in the participation with the National Integrated Protected Areas Act. The indigenous people contribute little to climate change due to their simple lifestyle living from natural resources found in their land. The Philippines will have to reach a settlement with the indigenous people on matters of the extraction and ownership of natural resources. Natural disasters are prone to the Philippines and often affect our indigenous communities the worst. The United Nations and the Philippines are working hard to help the indigenous people adapt to the climate change consequences. The Philippines is still striving to collaborate with our indigenous people to provide a sustainable future.

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

The involvement of the United Nations with the Philippines have created a foundation for the solution containing indigenous rights. The Philippines goal is to create a movement empowering indigenous people to have their voice be heard. At the world conference of indigenous people the Philippine indigenous leaders addressed certain concerns pertaining the outcome document. The Philippines government will continue to support the Indigenous People Act and will attempt to resolve agreements with the militarization. The Outcome Document is an accurate representation of the Philippine government recognition of indigenous peoples rights. The United Nations with accordance with the Philippine government agency held a conference to listen to indigenous peoples concerns and to have these issues addressed by the agency. The Philippine government and nonprofit organizations distribute grants to indigenous people. This funding should help to establish indigenous communities and further their education and economy. The Philippines have worked together with indigenous people to create self thriving communities. The community of Cordillera has a Genuine Regional Autonomy due to the cooperation and of indigenous leaders and the Philippine government. The indigenous committee reflected upon mistakes and experiences from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in the southern Philippines to create a better community. The Philippine government will continue to work with the indigenous people to resolve various issue of poverty in order to develop their communities further.