The socialist Republic of Vietnam contains over 50 different native groups, each with their own culture and language. Acknowledging that many of these tribal people are marginalized and cast out by our society, we seek to change how they live and operate in a positive manner. Recognizing that many of these people have a poorer than average access to healthcare, a high susceptibility to mental health issues, and a greater chance of contracting certain diseases, an international reform is paramount to a positive change in the native way of life.

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

Healthcare is the cornerstone of a proficient civilization. It keeps its citizens healthy, and allows them to contribute to society in a positive manner. Without proper access to healthcare, indigenous people are not only in a poorer state of living, but also in some cases unable to work, and thus lead impoverished lives. Vietnam recognizes this, and encourages an improvement in accessibility to healthcare for indigenous people. However, due to their differing views on medicine, a compromise must be made. We suggest a balance between native healing methods and modernized ones. This balance must also be instituted in a way that is respectful to their culture and their heritage. Only then, will they truly get the healthcare they deserve. Unfortunately, due to the current lack of healthcare, diseases are more easily spread within indigenous living areas. Tuberculosis is one such disease. In certain native areas the presence of tuberculosis is magnitudes higher than that of the average population. In some cases, it was found to be approximately 35 times higher. Furthermore, mental health has also been impacted. Due to their experiences with colonization, racism, cultural and ethnic marginalization, tension between traditional and western values, and limited access to resources and information they are at a much higher risk of developing a mental health disorder. By allowing indigenous people the healthcare they deserve, we can prevent such widespread affliction, and significantly improve their quality of life. As it stands, this is a human health crisis on a massive scale, and needs to be addressed immediately.

In 2007, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since then we have taken many actions to ensure that our indigenous people are properly represented and cared for properly. We have applied a policy of equality, solidarity and mutual support among the various ethnic communities and prohibited all acts of ethnic discrimination and division. At the General Assembly in November, we are prepared to not just fight for the health and wellness of our indigenous people, but also for those of other countries.

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

Indigenous peoples face many problems. Land rights have been among the most pressing of these issues for quite some time. After the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007, many of these issues were addressed. However to this very day, indigenous peoples are discriminated against in various ways.

Among these ways is the direct consequence of climate change on indigenous lands. Owing to their dependence upon, and close relationship with the environment and its resources, climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by vulnerable indigenous communities. Many of these issues have been addressed previously, including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment. Furthermore, lack of government regulation on big corporations plays a large part in the rapid climate change affecting our planet. The Republic of Vietnam recognizes that in order to reduce the effects of climate change, global industrial reform must be initiated.

On another front, large companies also pose a danger to indigenous people through the extractions of natural resources. Many of these people have native land that contains many rich deposits of minerals such as oil and gold. Large companies seek to remove and in some cases evict indigenous people from their land for these reasons. This is large in large part due to their inability to represent themselves within many of the world's political and legal systems. The Republic of Vietnam believes that indigenous rights, especially those to their lands, should be protected against encroachment from large companies. However, if indigenous people were to be given this full legal structure, there would be much conflict between corporations and government. Thus, a balance must be reached. These corporations are an essential part of the economy, and they should not be forbidden from utilizing these resources, should an agreement be made. Furthermore, if an agreement is made, the integrity of native land will have to be kept preserved. If industry is to be conducted within reach of indigenous people, pollution or damage to the land must not be tolerated. We must give the same care to indigenous people that we show to any other citizen.

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

Among indigenous people worldwide, poverty is rampant. Largely due to discrimination and marginalization, indigenous people face the effects of government spending cuts, natural disasters, and globalization to an even greater degree than the average citizen. This ultimately causes a steep increase in poverty rates among indigenous people. The Republic of Vietnam recognizes this, and suggests that certain steps be taken to improve the situation.

Firstly, we must address the root of much poverty, debt. Impoverished people, are often trapped in a never ending cycle of debt. Due to the large interest rates on the high-risk loans, low-income people frequently end up paying back their loan with little to no money left for basic necessities such as rent or food. This results in said low-income person returning to take out yet another loan, thus completing the cycle. This ‘debt trap’ is essential to understanding possible solutions to the problem at hand. The Republic of Vietnam believes that in order to resolve or reduce poverty within the indigenous population, we need to take into consideration debt forgiveness programs, as well as supplemental income programs in specific cases. Furthermore, poverty reduction strategies need to be adopted under national and international law. After financial assistance is given, we must also give the indigenous people proper representation. With this, they will be able to represent their own interests better in matters that will dramatically affect their own financial state. Lastly, proper education needs to be implemented into indigenous settlements, so as to give them the tools they need to succeed.

Ultimately, these solutions suggest one thing. In order to resolve the poverty crisis in the indigenous population, as well as numerous other issues, the disparity between indigenous and non-indigenous people must be diminished. Although past attempts at assimilating indigenous people have been met with such failure that the word itself has been stigmatized, the indigenous people should be encouraged to interact with the civilization around them. If they we are to give them better lives, they should be supported by infrastructure, by education, by self-sustaining economy. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is open to many suggestions; however we think that real change will come from long-term solutions such as this one. Only then will the lives of indigenous people worldwide be free of strife and poverty.