American Model United Nations
General Assembly Fourth Committee

GA Fourth/II/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Fourth Committee

The General Assembly Fourth Committee,

Supporting the pursuit of independence by Colonized Countries and Peoples,

Seeking to foster a global spirit of international cooperation in achieving the goals of the Third and Fourth International Decades for the Promotion of Decolonization,

Reaffirming the right of all peoples to self-determination as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Desiring to promote preservation of all cultures for future generations,

Strongly opposed to the significant lack of progress in decolonization and implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples,

1. Encourages the committee to join together to create a council of diverse countries for Voices of Indigenous and Colonized Entities (VOICE):

(a) Encouraging the United Nations to invite representatives from Non-Self Governing Territories’s (NSGT) to observe United Nations General Assembly meetings, especially those regarding their states or decolonization;

(b) Recommending an advisory committee consisting specifically of the 55 nations formerly on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories already removed from this list and considered to be officially decolonized by this body to aid current Non-Self-Governing Territories and each other in their efforts to maintain independence;

(c) Maintains the sovereignty of current Member States and acknowledges that they have a better understanding of their citizens and inhabitants;

(d) Specifies asking the 17 NSGTs what they need instead of recommending solutions from the status of a self governing territory;

(e) Reminds and calls upon all Member States to fully respect the maritime rights of non-self-governing territories as outlined under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Treaty (UNCLOS);

2. Calls upon the General Assembly and the Member States of the United Nations to focus on centering the voices of the colonized and the formerly colonized when considering matters regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories and colonial affairs;

3. Further calls upon all member states of the United Nations to consider that independence consists not only of government independence, but also economic independence;

4. Recommends Member States put efforts to consider the many migrants left behind in the wake of decolonization by;

5. Recommendations for accommodating this suggestion include:

(a) Providing special status to nationals of newly independent states living abroad, either in the originally colonizing nation or some other state;

(b) Creating avenues for nationals of the colonizing nation to return to their country of origin without straining the infrastructure of the newly independent nations. This committee suggests that programs for return will be negotiated with the colonizing nation;
(c) Partnering with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in order to solicit recommendations for preventing the inhabitants of newly independent nations from becoming second-class citizens of the world, with an emphasis on preventing passport discrimination which continues to plague the daily lives of many refugees;

6. Encourages Member States with greater resources work to aid refugees, victims of colonial violence, indigenous and colonized peoples, and others harmed by ongoing neocolonialism and imperialism through humanitarian aid, without compromising the sovereignty of newly independent states, through:

(a) Grants funded by former colonial states to be redistributed amongst colonized nations;

(i) A need for the global community to work together in addressing the harmful legacy of colonialism;

7. Draws the attention of the committee to the issues of tourism as a source of neocolonialism or dependence of former and current non independent territories:

(a) Advising relevant Member States to partner with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to expand their diversity of industry to avoid the economy of their country relying on tourism, which Covid-19 has shown is a volatile economic endeavor by;

(i) Requesting funding from international economic organizations may be a viable way for impoverished territories to access funds to build infrastructure and give government loans or tax breaks to new small businesses;

(ii) Partnering to work towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)1, 9, 10, and 11 to create long term economic growth that is not harmful to the environment and promotes social mobility and any infrastructure that lifts people out of poverty;

(iii) For countries that are in a state of transition or are not able to diversify their economy, the United Nations may recommend ecotourism as a viable alternative, since it depletes fewer natural resources;

8. Supports a temporary patent waiver on Covid-19 vaccines and therapies to allow for:

(a) Formerly colonized nations to not be put at risk of further economic imperialism from the pharmaceutical industries requiring economic powers as payment for vaccines;

(b) Currently colonized states and Non-Self Governing Territories to put their focus on self-determination instead of having to find ways to pay exorbitant prices for vaccines;

(c) No colonizing nations, formerly or currently, to use vaccines as a way of neo-colonization or reinforcement of colonization;

9. Encourages nations to work with NSGT’s to provide cultural assistance in pulling away from colonial influences on cultures seeking decolonization, with other special consideration towards newly free nations:

(a) Recommends local museums to include;

(i) education on museums;

(ii) archival techniques;

(iii) advisement from other countries;

(iv) stipulates a two way relationship for how other cultures preserve their heritage to create a means for students to gain access to these educational means, in a purely educational sense with no inherent obligations;

(b) Cultural heritage showcases to be encouraged;

(c) Establishment of national archives within specifically non-decolonized territories with special reservations for recently decolonized nations as well;

(i) Specific preservation of native languages;

(ii) Recommends establishing international scholarships, provided by Member-States or NGOs focused on it, for students from colonized territories pursuing research on marginalized and colonially impacted powers with special priority to newly decolonized and NSGT student representatives;
(d) Encourages either the return of all cultural artifacts, or fair compensation for them as determined by fair agreement between the two parties;

(i) Cultural artifacts are to be defined as any object of significant traditional or historical importance which was removed from its nation of origin by a ruling colonial power;

(ii) Fair compensation is to be an amount agreed upon by the artifact’s nation of origin and the nation currently possessing the artifact;

(iii) Fair compensation includes both compensation from world heritage and United Nations funds on behalf of the territories to the countries returning the artifacts, as well in the case of a failure of return, monetary compensations from the states still holding the cultural aspects too to the territory or decolonized nation on a agreed upon amount between them;

(iv) Stipulates a program for a staggered return of artifacts and possible sharing program to ensure that current powers are not hurt in the effect of cultural preservation;

(e) Requests additional support for the preservation of the cultural legacy of all current and former colonial nations to encourage UNESCO to consider a UNESCO pre-colonial Heritage Sites subsection under the UNESCO Heritage Sites, in order to recognize the unique cultural and historical legacy of colonized nations with a specific focus on African States to increase representation of African nations;

(f) Encourages the return of cultural items to their original location as long as the artifacts will be properly preserved in their original cultural heritage. Proper preservation institutes insurance that the object will not erode but still allows for objects to be stored in preferable traditional spaces;

10. Strongly recommends Member States work together to ensure equal access of development resources to these NSGTs in order to empower these territories to come into independence with adequate resources and stable footing by recommending a non partisan advisory board to accomplish the following:

(a) Encouraging the awarding of said aid independent of conditionality, as conditions can stand in the way of the formation of a comprehensive government and economy, specifically calling for allowing countries to choose their form of government no matter the preferences of larger powers so as long as it is decided by the people, only allowing for two exceptions;

(i) The recipient of the aid must not be actively seeking to oppress ethnic minorities within the territory;

(ii) The recipient must use the funding with the purpose of moving towards removal from the list of NSGTs;

(b) Setting and evaluating goals annually in hopes of reaching zero territories on the current list of non-self governing territories by using the reports required under Article 73e of the United Nations Charter to evaluate the allocation of aid and adjusting its distribution annually;

(i) Further recommends the formation of a United Nations based database with the purpose of collecting information in these reports and tracking trends in:

(ii) Economic or social activity;

11. Recommends that administering powers hold regular referendums within NSGTs on the status of their sovereignty, keeping with the United Nations principles of self-determination as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

(a) Proposes the structure of referendums held within these territories be carried out in accordance with the following framework;

(i) Referendums should be held at least once every 4 years;

(ii) Referendums should be overseen by United Nations observers in order to ensure free and fair elections;

(iii) In the case of a 51% majority vote in favor of independence, a transitional period of two years should begin before the territory is granted full independence;
(iv) The transitional period should be overseen through a joint administration between local authorities, the current administering power of the territory, and the United Nations;

(v) These transitional governments should be tasked with creating a constitution for the territory, determining the future relationship between the territory and the former occupying state, and organizing free and fair elections for the territory’s future governance;

12. Calls upon administering powers to ensure protection of the environment and natural resources within non-self governing territories:

   (a) With an emphasis on;

      (i) The maritime resources and aquatic habitats;
      (ii) Non-renewable resources;
      (iii) Forests and undeveloped lands;

   (b) Encourages administering powers to create a plan for the conservation of the above listed natural resources;

   (c) Recommends action towards restoring any environmental detriment to the NSGTs during their non self governing time;

   (d) Encourages administering powers to create action plans outlining the development of economic and environmental sustainability to ensure the future viability and stability of non-self-governing territories, whether that future is as independent states or if they continue under their current form of administration.

Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 10 / Abstain: 9