



Canadian High Schools Model United Nations Conference

CAHSMUN

Vancouver, British Columbia | March 2nd to 4th, 2012

UNESCO

Promoting Empowerment | Haifa Declaration | Indigenous people and world heritage sites

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Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Welcome from the Dais	1	Dear delegates of the UNESCO Executive Board,
Writing Position Papers	2	It is my utmost honour to cordially welcome you to the 2012 Canadian High School Model United Nations. My name is David Chen and I will be your Director for this year's conference. Currently a junior in the International Baccalaureate program at Mulgrave School, I was the founder of Mulgrave's Model United Nations club and currently serve as the Secretary General of the club. I have led my school's delegation to numerous conferences in the Lower Mainland and will be attending Berkeley Model United Nations a week after the conclusion of CAHSMUN. Outside MUN, I enjoy swimming, cross-country, basketball, soccer, badminton, and volunteering. I am a member of my school's choir and play both the saxophone and the piano. As an avid debater, I recently participated in the 83rd session of British Columbia Youth Parliament. I am looking forward to serving as the Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board and meeting you all at CAHSMUN 2012.
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On behalf of the entire dais, I would like to welcome you to the UNESCO Executive Board. We look forward to an amazing conference full of fantastic debate. The dais will strive to make CAHSMUN 2012 an unforgettable time. If you have any questions or just want to chat about the upcoming conference, please feel free to contact any one of us.

Sincerely,
David Chen
Director of the UNESCO Executive Board
CAHSMUN 2012

Writing Position Papers

What are Position Papers?

Position papers are a reflection of the preparation that delegates put towards a Model UN conference. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, NGO, or expert role. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee.

CAHSMUN will reward awards to delegation with the best position paper in each committee. In order for your position paper to be eligible for awards, please follow these guidelines:

- You must submit your position paper to your committee's email no later than February 24, 2012;
- Length cannot exceed two pages;
- The font must be Times New Roman, between 10 and 12 points;
- The margins must be one inch on all sides;
- The file format must be PDF or Word (.doc and .docx);
- Each topic is clearly segregated; and
- No national symbols (e.g. flag, coat of arms) can be displayed on the position paper.

Double Delegates will only need to submit one version of their position paper.

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The following is a sample of an acceptable position paper.
(Courtesy of the National Model United Nations Conference)

Delegation from
The United Mexican States

Represented by
(Name of College)

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: the Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoing Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its National Program for Human Rights or the Plan Puebla Panama. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

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The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an institutional reform of the United Nations is crucial in enhancing durable peace in Africa. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee Background

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized branch of the United Nations (UN) created with the intention of fostering peace, security and international collaboration through education, science, and culture in order to promote the UN's chartered goals. In essence, UNESCO serves as a key means to bridge the gap between the diverse cultures of the world. Indeed, UNESCO is composed of 193 member states of UNESCO with national and regional offices spanning all across the globe. UNESCO dates back to the founding of the UN itself, in 1945, and since then, it has contributed to major achievements both in its history and in recent times.

In the course of UNESCO's existence, ancient monuments from 81 countries including Greece, Italy, Indonesia, Egypt and Cambodia have been preserved thanks to the works of UNESCO. In addition, UNESCO has served to protect, preserve and promote the cultural expressions of minorities and indigenous people through its work. The preservation of these cultures has provided the opportunity for continued scholastic and scientific studies. One of the greatest accomplishments of UNESCO is its continued efforts in promoting equality between women and men. In 1995, UNESCO held the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In it, a slew of steps were outlined that was meant to be the model for international, national, provincial/state, and municipal policy making. A very brief example would include empowerment in personal decisions, participation in decision communal discourse, integration into mainstream society and much more.

More recently, UNESCO has encouraged ameliorated access to schools in its member states. Through training of educators, mapping school districts, establishing information systems, implementing higher education, and creating emergency plans, UNESCO has provided assistance to countries such as Afghanistan, Egypt, the Dominican Republic.

As of 2011, UNESCO boasts of 936 World Heritage sites, the majority of which are cultural or indigenous in nature. UNESCO hopes to continue to build on this number with the further inclusion of minority or indigenous cultural sites.

For many years to come, cultural monuments preserved by UNESCO will serve to symbolize not just ancient histories but also the validation of the international community on the importance and appreciation of culture and diversity around the globe. Through educational as well as cultural advancement, and increased understanding of other peoples, UNESCO hopes to one day end all wars, but for now, this is a task to be done block by block, nation by nation.

Topic One: Promoting Empowerment through Universal Access to Information

Today, if we examine the apogee of human development, we can bear witness to the birth of a new era. An era in which for the very first time, skills, wealth, and culture are forming the bases of preferences rather than the old kinship of physical locations and blood ties. The new structures of knowing are far outpacing the ability of traditional governments, institutions, all kinds of entities to process and respond to information.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) places great importance on the availability of mass communication around the globe and has strived to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image.” Over the years, UNESCO has placed great value on and vigorously defended the freedom of expression, media freedom, media pluralism, and media development. The Information For All Programme (IFAP) was set up in 2000 by UNESCO to encourage governments across the world to harness the opportunities of the information age to create equitable societies through better access to information.

Back in the 20th century, people’s access to information was limited to news outlets on televisions and the resources available at their disposal. The age of technology and globalization has brought a sharp influx of information readily available to all those with an access to the Internet. In 2003, 800 megabytes of information were produced for each person on earth, well over 90 percent of it is estimated to be created in digital format. These trends suggest that within a decade, information will be widely available in digital form. Universal access to all of the world’s information is technologically possible now with the advent of digitization.

Universal Internet access holds great promise for:

Significantly increasing the speed of achieving universal based on the achievement of universal access to Information, Communication Technologies (ICTS) and appropriate content and applications.

Decreasing poverty around the world through the linkage of access to ICTs.

Opening up global markets through Internet commerce to any individual or entity that can gain access to the internet and to online communications tools.

Enabling transparency in governance.

Increasing the spread of democratization through more civic discourse and citizen involvement in government.

Allowing the participation of people living in remote villages in economic and social progress, and permitting the aforementioned people to make informed decisions on issues that affect them. These include managing water-distribution in a village to standing for local elections and having access to lifelong learning opportunities.

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The chief concern in regard to gaining universal access of information is the economic cost. Not only is this true, it is also true that the larger concern lies in paying for the infrastructure to access these digital materials and paying authors for their work.

Although most nations have focused their attention on the Internet as the new chapter of Information access, it is important to note that many developing nations lack the necessary infrastructure to deliver information to rural areas. In the developing world, only 21 percent of the population has access to the Internet with the lowest in Africa at 9.6 percent. A mere four percent of women in Arab countries have access to the Internet. The lack of infrastructure to support broadband in these nations has forced many to use mobile phones in order to browse the Internet; a prime example of this phenomenon is Egypt where 70 percent of Internet users, nearly 25% of the population, access the Internet through their mobile phones. Even those with access to Internet can suffer from low-bandwidth and weak signal, making browsing elaborate, styled pages all but impossible. Further affecting the drive to empower people through a universal access of information is the number of illiterate citizens in developing nations. There are one billion illiterate individuals in the world, and two thirds of them women. The average adult literacy rate in Africa is 31 percent and although radios and televisions are an effective tool in spreading information to illiterate individuals, in particular women, most state owned television and radio broadcasters in developing countries do not reach rural districts.

As a result of the lack of information access in rural areas, people do not know how to distinguish between rumors and facts and often just blindly follow the elite of their community, such as political leaders, gang leaders or government officials.

On the other end of the spectrum, many nations are intentionally limiting their citizens' ability to access information. These measures often create distrust among the people towards the government. One example highlighting this is the mass panic in China during the Fukushima Nuclear Meltdown. A misplaced rumor had people believing that salt, not iodide could protect them from nuclear radiation. Fearing that their government was not acting in their interest, most ignored the government's warnings that salt was useless against radiation and rushed to supermarkets to purchase salt, causing salt prices to skyrocket and stockpiles to dwindle.

Technology has made the goal of achieving empowerment through universal access of information more realistic than ever in our era. Information and communications technology (ICT) has been lauded by many as a catalyst in achieving all Millennium Development Goals (MDG), reducing poverty, and improving the quality of life in developing countries. Having said this, delegates should keep in mind that technology is a double-edged sword; it can transform unequal power relations by empowering the poor but it can also further exacerbate the situation should the technology fall into the wrong hand. Technology cannot create gender equality, or end poverty, but it can be a tool for social action and positive social change.

Universal access to information and knowledge lies in UNESCO's mandate. UNESCO has strived to forge an enabling environment to facilitate and open up avenues for universal access of knowledge and information. UNESCO places great importance on the implementation of a free public communications framework that is nondiscriminatory to all voices and reserves adequate space for undistorted, substantive forms of information, dialogue, and debate. As an international organization, UNESCO's work has been undertaken through cooperation and solidarity. It is of paramount importance that members of the UNESCO executive board reach a consensus on the topic of empowerment through the Universal Access to Information and aim for a brighter future.

Questions to consider

What countries need assistance from the international community in order to achieve a universal access to information?

What model of communication should be implemented to insure that those with disabilities can also benefit from universal access to information?

How can rural, poorly educated communities be more involved in the process to gain access to unbiased information?

How can the international community support international, local or regional projects that aim to spread information to the masses? (ie a community radio station)

In what ways can gender equality be achieved when it comes to universal access of information?

Topic Two: Implementation of the Haifa Declaration

Why a Haifa Declaration: A Brief History

In order to understand the Haifa Declaration, its significance, its base of support, its agenda, and subsequently its implications for the international community, in particular the Middle East, it is important to understand the history between Jews residing in Israel and the Israeli Arabs; Arabs living in Israel as citizens.

50 years ago in 1948, during the Arab-Israeli war, an estimated 711 000 to 735 000 Arabs were either expelled or forced to flee from their homes in Israel and in areas that had once belonged to neighboring states but was then occupied by Israel. This great exodus has become known as Nakba (the Catastrophe), to many Arabs living on both sides of the Israeli border. The exact number of Arabs forced to exile is certainly up for much contention. In this regard, one's allegiance to one's country may inherently produce a biased response. For example, an Israeli government official may claim a lower exiled number while an Israeli Arab citizen may claim a higher exiled number. But for the purpose of the Haifa Declaration, the most important fact is what has become known as Nakba. Because of this incident, much Arab Israeli long to be reconnected with their friends, family, and community that has now been divided. Although the State of Israel over the years has permitted some Arabs to return to Israel, the feeling amongst Arab Israeli is that they are not satisfied and feel that more should be done.

In response, the Arab Israeli, in 2002, created a forum for public discussion and debate. The result of the past 10 years is a document known as the Haifa Declaration.

Overview of the Haifa Declaration

The Haifa Declaration is a document which can be seen in two parts. The first part contains the sentiments of the Arab Israeli while the second part is a rectification of these sentiments through policy demands. The title of the document itself, the Haifa Declaration, is indicative of the sentiments felt by the Arab Israeli. Accordingly, this section will be divided into two sections, (1) the sentiments of the Arab Israeli, and (2) the policy demands as reflected in these sentiments.

The sentiments should not be taken lightly as these give insight into the reasoning and motives behind the policies set forth. Throughout the declaration, two common themes are brought up repeatedly. The first is the condemnation of what, in the Arab world's perspective, is Israel's unfair treatment of Arabs living in Israel. In fact, the declaration calls Israel undemocratic for its partial treatment of Arab Israelis. They feel underrepresented and targeted by the institutions of the state. The second recurring theme is the feeling that the government is actively pursuing and acting on an agenda of divide and conquer. In regards to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), within the declaration it claims that women are being discriminated upon and that youths are not taught their culture's narrative (the Arab world's perspective on historical events) but are taught the Jewish Israeli's narrative of history. The fear here is that the youth of the Arab Israeli are being divided from their history through of education.

The declaration proposes several policies that the Arab Israeli hopes to implement. Even if UNESCO does not have the power to implement some of these policies, steps can be taken to enable another committee to more easily implement such policies.

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Here is a truncated list of policies the Haifa Declaration proposes: ending the marginalization of women in various fields especially labor and education, changing the prevailing social structure, creating a government plan to encourage a society of social solidarity among all members, recognizing injustice against the Palestinian people through Israel's establishment, making Arabic and Hebrew the two official languages, encouraging multiculturalism, guaranteeing the right to cultural autonomy and others.

Note that the policies above are only some of the policies mentioned in the Haifa Declaration. There are more within the declaration.

Modern Developments

The policy demands of the Haifa Declaration will very much require the cooperation of Israel. Although Israel has shown some signs that it will cooperate there are certain policies and sentiment of the Haifa Declaration that Israel would cringe to and even feel insulted by. Supporters of Israel are generally supportive of Israel's stance but unlike Israel, some of these countries are more willing to compromise if the results meant a bold (emphasis intended) progress towards peace and stability in the Middle East. In order to ultimately achieve the two state objective set by the Haifa Declaration, creative methods are necessary in order to not touch Israel's legislative branch. This is where UNESCO can be a powerful means to that goal by setting short term actions and objective.

Modern Developments, the Haifa Declaration and UNESCO

Recently, a much less controversial Haifa Declaration has been promoted in the International Women Leaders' Conference Science, Technology and Innovation Education and Training for Women and Girls (linked below). The language of this Declaration is much less confrontational, much more agreeable, and focuses to a large extend on women's right and their value within a society. Within this scope, much recognition was brought in with regards to women such as science and technology, education and training in science, innovation, empowerment, the media, communication, gender equality, and representation. Within this Haifa Declaration, recommendations are made to various institutions and organizations through a variety of methods meant to promote women in society. Such examples include investing in research to understand better the gender gap in science and technology and strategies for closing such a gap. Another recommendation includes involving more women in policy-making, decision making and the likes in governance and institution where appropriate. In terms of careers, the declaration recommends that discrimination against women be taken seriously and steps be taken to counter gender-stereotype. Culturally, the declaration encourages the formulation of policies that addresses gender discrimination, particularly for women and girls.

Precisely so, the Haifa declaration in the International Women Leaders' Conference Science, Technology, and Innovation Education and Training for Women and Girls takes into account the multifaceted nature of UNESCO in addressing problems in the least controversial language. Unlike the earlier Haifa Declaration that deals with Israel and the Arab world, this one focuses on solely on the improvement of women.

It is not inconceivable that this declaration could possibly be passed in its whole with perhaps some adjustment if warranted.

Ending thoughts



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The Haifa Declaration proposes many policies, some of which are controversial while others should be agreeable to most everyone such as improved education and gender equality. UNESCO is powerful multifaceted means for the declaration such as the one in the International Women Leaders' Conference Science, Technology, and Innovation Education and Training for Women and Girls

Thoughts to Consider

Of the many policies that encompass the two forms of the Haifa Declaration, consider which policies found in the declaration would be more acceptable to a majority and which policies might be adjusted and/or updated to suit a country's particular position. Also consider which policies could garnish near unanimous support and make a point to include such policies into the resolution.

Topic Three:

Involvement in and consideration of the interests of indigenous people in the selection and maintenance of world heritage sites

“Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. Places as unique and diverse as the wilds of East Africa’s Serengeti, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Baroque cathedrals of Latin America are just countless examples of our world’s rich heritage.

What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified by 186 state parties) , adopted by UNESCO in 1972.” (UNESCO-World Heritage, 2011)

UNESCO’s World Heritage mission is to:

- Encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage.
- Support state parties to the Convention to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the World Heritage List.
- Promote state parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites.
- Help states parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training.
- Provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger.
- Support states parties’ public awareness-building activities for World Heritage conservation.
- Encourage participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage.
- Encourage international cooperation in the conservation of our world’s cultural and natural heritage.

Currently, there are 936 UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in 153 nations. Of these World Heritage Sites, a significant number are located in the territories of the indigenous people or areas in which the indigenous people have rights of ownership. It is estimated that there are roughly eighty to a hundred of these sites. The vast majority of them are labeled as “natural sites,” with zero reference to indigenous culture or the existence of the indigenous people in the justification for inscription. Such labels often result in the classification of the indigenous people as “squatters”, “poachers” or “encroachers” on their own lands. This is due to the fact that natural heritage sites are usually treated as untenured “wilderness” areas, where human intervention and use – with the exception of tourism – is either prohibited altogether or subjected to tight restrictions, regulations and permits.

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As a result, the indigenous population's traditional land management practices were often treated as threats to the heritage site and the aforementioned populations were denied access to natural resources critical to their livelihoods, survival and health. In certain cases, indigenous peoples were forcefully removed from the natural inhabiting sites.

World Heritage Sites where indigenous people were not consulted during the selection process and subsequently excluded from the management and decision-making process includes the Western Ghats in India, the Trinational de la Sangha in Central Africa, and the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya). All three of these sites were submitted for selection in the previous year. The absence in consultation of indigenous peoples in the selection process of World Heritage sites has resulted in the ways of life of indigenous people being irreversibly affected. Examples of such effects include, but are not limited to land tenure systems, social, economic, and cultural rights. To further exacerbate the indigenous people's plight, economic benefits like tourist income from World Heritage Sites are rarely if ever shared with the original inhabitants of these sites.

"The declaration of protected areas on indigenous territories without our consent and engagement has resulted in our dispossession and resettlement, the violation of our rights, the displacement of our peoples, the loss of our sacred sites and the slow but continuous loss of our cultures, as well as impoverishment. It is thus difficult to talk about benefits for Indigenous Peoples when protected areas are being declared on our territories unilaterally. First we were dispossessed in the name of kings and emperors, later in the name of State development and now in the name of conservation" (WPC Closing Plenary, 17 September 2003, Statement by Indigenous Peoples)

United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

PART III Article 12

Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature, as well as the right to the restitution of cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free and informed.

PART III Article 13

Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of human remains. States shall take effective measures, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, to ensure that indigenous sacred places, including burial sites, be preserved, respected and protected.

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, more commonly known as The World Heritage Convention differentiates between cultural heritage on one hand and natural heritage on the other. This process has been criticized for being far too simplistic. As a result of these criticisms, UNESCO has tried to soften the dichotomy between "culture" and "nature" by merging the selection criteria. During the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee in Cairns, Australia in 2001, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia proposed the establishment of the World Heritage Indigenous People Council of Experts (WHIPCOE).



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This initiative was taken in response to complaints raised by indigenous people over their lack of involvement in the development and implementation of laws, policies and plans for the protection of their knowledge, traditions and cultural values which apply to their ancestral lands, within or comprising sites now designated as World Heritage properties. However, although this proposal gained significant interest from member states and a workshop was held in Winnipeg, Canada in the same year, nothing came to fruit.

The number of indigenous sites on the World Heritage list is likely to increase in the future and the United Nations General Assembly has recommended that UNESCO should intensify efforts to recognize indigenous heritage as heritage of humanity under the framework of the World Heritage Convention (UNGA, 2005, para15). It is of paramount importance that the UNESCO Executive Board members work together to come up with a plan that will place emphasis on the involvement and consideration of the interests of indigenous people in the selection and maintenance of world heritage sites.

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Topic One

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Conference Rules

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 1 – Date of Meeting

The bodies of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall meet every year in regular session.

Rule 2 – Delegations

The delegation of each Member State shall consist of no more than two representatives in any committee.

Rule 3 – Duties of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall act as the highest presiding officer and shall direct the staff of all bodies. The Secretary-General may designate an officer of the Secretariat to act on his or her behalf.

Rule 4 – Duties of the Chairman

The Chairman, as a presiding officer acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the committee, enforce the rules of procedure, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. The Chairman shall rule on points of order and may propose motions to the committee. Motions shall be addressed by the Chairman upon his or her discretion. The Chairman shall accept, approve, and introduce draft resolutions to the committee.

Comment: Working papers will be submitted to the Director of each committee, who will provide stylistic and substantive edits. Working papers will be introduced to the floor at the discretion of the Director; delegates no longer move to introduce a draft resolution.

Rule 5 – Invitation to a Moment of Silence

Immediately upon the opening of the meeting, a Member State may move to observe a moment of silence.

Comment: The purpose of the moment of silence may not be directed towards a single event. For example, a delegate may dedicate a moment of silence to those affected by famine, but may not dedicate it to those affected by the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.

Rule 6 – Provisional Agenda

Each committee shall order the provisional agenda provided by the Secretary-General. A proposed agenda shall include all topics provided in the provisional agenda. A simple majority is required to approve an agenda order. A speakers list shall be established for the purposes of discussing the order of the agenda. Motions to set the agenda will be voted upon in the order in which they were received.

Rule 7 – Amendment to the Agenda

A committee may change the order in which it considers topics. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the agenda. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

Comment: A motion to amend the agenda will only be entertained after a topic has been closed and all related substantive matters have been put to a vote. A Member State may not move to amend the agenda during substantive debate.

Rule 8 – Quorum

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed or a procedural vote to be taken when at least one-quarter of the Member States are present.

Rule 9 – Speeches

No Member State may address a committee without the explicit consent of the Chairman. Member States shall address the committee in the order of the speakers list. The Chairman shall call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chairman shall establish a time limit on speeches upon the opening of the meeting and may entertain motions to amend the time limit. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the time limit. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

Comment: Delegates may speak as often as they wish, but each country may only appear once in the active speakers list. For Member States with two delegates, courtesy dictates that only one delegate shall address the floor during substantive and procedural speeches.

Rule 10 – Questions to the Speaker

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may inform the Chairman that he or she will accept questions from the floor. At such time, the Chairman will recognize two Member States to pose substantive questions to the speaker in regards to the preceding speech. The speaker shall have the remaining allotted time to answer both questions.

Rule 11 – Yields

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may yield his or her remaining time to another Member State. The subsequent speaker may not yield any additional time. Representatives may not yield to another representative of the same Member State.

Rule 12 – Closing of the Speakers List

The speakers list may be closed at any time upon the majority vote of the Member States present and voting.

Comment: When a speakers list is exhausted, debate automatically ends and the committee automatically enters into voting procedure.

Rule 13 – Reopening of the Speakers List

The speakers list may be reopened upon a motion from an Member State as long as there are active speakers on the speakers list at the time of the motion. The Chairman shall entertain one speaker in favour and one opposed to this motion. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

Rule 14 – Right of Reply

If a speaker has impugned the national integrity of another Member State or Observer, or the personal integrity of another representative, the Chairman may allow that Member State or representative appropriate speaking time to exercise the right of reply.

Comment: The delegate must submit a written statement to the Director at the conclusion of the remarks in question, explaining why a right of reply is warranted. The Director will approve or reject the right of reply; if approved, the Director will ask the delegate to read the same written statement to the committee.

Rule 15 – Point of Order

A Member State may rise to a point of order to bring attention to the Chairman an error in the execution of the rules. The representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Comment: Delegates should allow the courtesy of letting the speaker finish before rising to a point of order; nonetheless, we recognize the need to interrupt the speaker. The point of order will be the only point recognized at CAHSMUN in order to reflect the actual United Nations procedures as much as possible and to reduce the frequency of filibustering. If a delegate wishes to rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry or a point of personal privilege, he or she should communicate privately with the Director.

Rule 16 – Appeal of the Chair

A Member State may appeal a discretionary ruling of the Chairman. The representative may explain the nature of the appeal and the Chairman may explain the basis of his or her ruling. A simple majority is required to overturn the discretionary ruling of the Chairman.

Comment: A “Yes” vote means that the delegate wants to overrule the decision of the Chairman, whereas a “No” vote means the delegate agrees with the discretion of the Chairman.

Rule 17 – Suspension of the Meeting

A Member State may move to suspend the meeting for a specific amount of time. A simple majority is required to suspend.

Comment: Suspensions are used for caucusing and breaks between sessions. Based on his or her judgement of the committee's progress, the Director may suggest an alternative amount of time for the suspension. In order to reflect actual United Nations procedures and to reduce the frequency of filibustering, all suspensions will be "unmoderated." Provisions for moderated debate is set out in Rule 18.

Rule 18 – Moderated Debate

At any point after a draft resolution has been introduced, a Member State may move to enter moderated debate on a draft resolution. The motion to enter moderated debate must specify the draft resolution. A simple majority is required to pass this motion.

Comment: During a moderated debate, the speakers list is temporarily suspended and the Director will identify each speaker from those wishing to speak. During a moderated debate, the discussion may only pertain to the draft resolution in question and should be used for clarification and discussions of amendments in a more structured setting.

Rule 19 – Closure of Debate

A Member State may move the closure of debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize only two Member States opposing the closure to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion, and if passed, the Chairman shall declare the topic closed.

Comment: When debate is closed on a topic, the committee immediately goes into voting procedure and consider all draft resolutions and amendments on the floor. Motions to close debate are generally ruled dilatory until there has been substantial discussion on the topic.

Rule 20 – Adjournment of Debate and Reconsideration

A Member State may move to adjourn debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize two Member States in favour of and two against to speak. A simple majority is required to pass this motion. If this motion passes, the body will begin discussion on the following topic on the agenda without deciding on the adjourned topic.

A Member State may move to reconsider a topic that has been adjourned. The Chairman shall recognize one Member State in favour of and one against to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion.

Comment: Adjournment of debate is used to end discussion on a topic without voting and move on to the next item of the agenda. If an adjourned topic is approved for reconsideration, it shall be placed as the following topic on the agenda after the discussion on the current topic expires.

Rule 21 – Adjournment of Meeting

A Member State may move to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the body at the next scheduled date. A simple majority is required to adjourn the meeting.

Comment: This motion can only be used during the last committee session and during the closing ceremonies.

Rule 22 – Resolutions and Amendments

Resolutions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman, who shall circulate copies to Member States upon approval. No resolutions or amendments shall be voted upon unless copies have been distributed to the body.

Comment: All working papers must be submitted to the Director, who may provide substantive and grammatical edits on the paper and return it to the authors before approving it to be a draft resolution. The number of sponsors and signatories must add up to 20% of the quorum of the committee or five Member States, whichever number is greater. Sponsorship indicates support for and agreement with the working paper or amendment. A signatory does not necessarily support or agree with the document; this Member State simply wishes the document to be discussed. Working papers, as they are unofficial documents of the committee, will not be distributed by the Director and cannot be referred to in speeches.

Rule 23 – Voting Rights

Each Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote.

Comment: Observer delegations may note on procedural motions but not on substantive matters. Member States with two representatives still have one vote.

Rule 24 – Presence

A Member State who is “present and voting” shall only cast an affirmative or negative vote in substantive matters. A Member State who is “present” may choose to abstain in substantive matters. All Member States may only vote in the affirmative or the negative in procedural matters.

Rule 24 – Method of Voting

All motions, draft resolutions and amendments, unless specified in the Rules of Procedure, require a simple majority to pass. If a vote is equally divided, that motion, draft resolution, or amendment fails. A two-thirds majority is required for certain motions. Abstentions do not count as votes for the purposes of determining a simple or two-thirds majority. All votes shall take place by a show of placards.

A Member State may request a roll-call vote on a draft resolution or amendment. The roll-call vote shall take place in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, beginning with the Member State who requested the roll-call vote. Unless a Member State is “present and voting”, each Member State may choose to vote “yes”, vote “no”, or abstain. (continued on next page)

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All Member States may also choose to “pass” and when the Member State is called upon a second time to cast a vote, the representative may only vote in the affirmative or the negative. A roll-call vote is granted upon request and does not require a decision from the body or the Chairman. At the discretion of the Chairman, Member States may explain their vote (yes, no, or abstain) after a roll-call vote. Sponsors to the draft resolution or amendment may not explain their vote after a roll-call vote.

Rule 25 – Conduct during Voting Procedure

Once the Chairman announces the beginning of voting procedure, the meeting room shall be closed and remain closed for the duration of voting procedure. Proper decorum shall be observed by Member States. Member States may only speak upon the Chairman’s request for points or motions.

Rule 26 – Amendments and Divisions of the Question

Amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman before the commencement of voting procedure and shall be entertained first for each draft resolution. If there are several amendments under consideration, those that are “friendly” shall be automatically incorporated into the draft resolution without a vote. The Chairman shall order the “unfriendly” amendments in the order of most destructive to least destructive. A simple majority is required to approve “unfriendly” amendments.

After the incorporation of amendments, A Member State may move to divide certain operative clauses of the draft resolution. The intent of such a division is to highlight the operative clause(s) in question.

1. The Chairman shall recognize two speakers in favour of and two speakers against such a division. A procedural vote will take place to determine if the body wishes to proceed with such a division.
2. If the procedural vote passes, the body shall then consider the placement of the clause(s) in question in a substantive vote. If this vote passes, the clause(s) will be placed in the Annex of the draft resolution. If this vote fails, the clause(s) will be discarded.
3. If the procedural vote fails, the clause(s) in question will remain in the main text of the draft resolution and no further vote will take place on the motion.

Only operative clauses can be subjected to amendments and divisions of the question. Member States may only divide entire operative clauses.

Rule 27 – Voting on Draft Resolutions

Draft resolutions for a topic shall be considered in the order in which the Chairman had recognized them as official documents of the body.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

Motion	Purpose	Debate	Vote	Explanation
Point of Order	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	
Appeal the Decision of the Chair	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority	Applicable to the Chair's discretionary decisions
Suspension of the Meeting	Recess for a defined period of time	None	Majority	Go into unmoderated caucus
Moderated Debate	To discuss the clauses of a draft resolution	None	Majority	Moderated debate is only applicable once DRs are on the floor
Closure of Debate	To conclude topic by entering into voting procedure	2 con	2/3 rd	End discussion on current topic
Adjournment of Debate	To conclude topic without voting	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Should only be used on the final day
Reconsideration	To reopen debate on an adjourned topic	1 pro/1 con	2/3 rd	The reopened topic will be placed next on the agenda
Adjournment of Debate	To conclude the conference for the year	None	Majority	Can only be used during the last committee session
Division of the Question	To consider clauses in question separately from the rest of draft resolution	Part 1: 2 pro/2 con Part 2: None	Part 1: Majority Part 2: Majority	Motions will be voted upon in the order of most destructive to least destructive
Roll Call Vote	Vote by roll call instead of a show of placards	None	None	Automatically granted
Set Speakers Time	To set the time allowed for speeches	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Default is 60 seconds - should only be moved upon the suggestion of the Director
Close/Reopen the Speakers List	To alter the status of the speakers list	None	Majority	When closed, no additional Member States will be added and if the list exhausts, committee enters voting procedure
Adoption of the Agenda	To approve the agenda for the committee	None	Majority	Motion should include the order for all topics under consideration

DIVISION OF THE QUESTION: A VISUAL EXPLANATION

