SPECIAL POLITICAL & DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

Topic: Political Representation of Ethnical Minorities

From the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Secretariat, it is my honor to welcome you all to the 8th edition of PeruMUN, the largest and oldest high school MUN conference in our country.

In PeruMUN we believe in creating the citizens our country needs. Citizens who don't only ask for change, but lead the way to change through innovation, creativity and diplomacy. We are committed to make this PeruMUN truly memorable. Expect high quality academic content, a competitive climate and distinguished experts from international organisations, who will provide insights on the topics addressed in each committee. At PeruMUN, delegates will have the opportunity to share ideas, contribute solutions and promote change, all of this in a supportive learning environment provided by our wonderful team of Directors, Assistant Directors and Moderators.

Our mission as Secretariat is to provide an international level experience and give you the tools to achieve academic and personal growth. We strive to do our best to close the ever expanding education gap through an equal opportunity environment, where delegates from different backgrounds can share their own experiences and enrich each other with their own cultural heritage.

As Secretary General, I hope PeruMUN will raise awareness on the different subjects that plague our country today, such as: corruption, gender inequality, domestic abuse and xenophobia. Furthermore, I hope that this newfound awareness can translate into change through concrete actions. As Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg have taught us, it is never too early to advocate for better policies and demand a response from our political representatives.

If I can assist you with further questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

We are excited to meet you and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Alessandra Pinto
Secretary-General
Peru Model United Nations 2019

United Nations Special, Political & Decolonisation Committee

Topic Area: Political Representation of Ethnical Minotrities

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the SPECPOL committee of PeruMUN 2019. My name is Nicolás Lamas and I have the honor to be your Director. Maria Fernanda Landazuri will be the Assistant Director for this committee and she is just as excited as me for this conference to start. We have very high expectations of you in committee and hope that you come up with innovative solutions and a big desire to debate.

I am currently studying Economics at Universidad del Pacífico and Maria Fernanda is a Marketing student at Universidad de Lima. Regarding my Model UN experience, I debated in high school for two years and I continue to participate in Model UN while in university. Both Maria Fernanda and I enjoy fast-paced conferences and value a lot those little details that make you stand out in the conference. Above all, our favorite part of Model United Nations is choosing which strategy to use in order to adapt to the constant change of the conference, always maintaining diplomacy and teamwork, something we hope to see reflected on your participation on these three days of intense debate. To mention a little more about us, we both have participated at international conferences like Harvard Model United Nations.

We expect to see delegates filled with energy and willingness to work with each other, while keeping in mind the importance of respecting each country's sovereignty and acting diplomatic at all times. Both of us appreciate leadership and teamwork, so we hope to see those traits during the negotiations and drafting process.

We are excited to meet all of you and engage on a fruitful debate. Hopefully, the committee will be able to pass a resolution that solves the problem in question. If you have any doubts regarding the committee, study guide or anything regarding PeruMUN 2019, please do not hesitate to send us a mail. We will gladly answer all your questions.

Good luck delegates!

Nicolas Lamas

Nicolás Lamas
Director, SPECPOL
Peru Model United Nations 2019

INTRODUCTION

Understanding how electoral systems impact ethnic minority representation is crucial when it comes to analyzing, evaluating and establishing democracies. Gallagher, Laver & Mair (2011) tell us exactly why electoral systems matter: because they are a vital characteristic of democracy, and their structure has a significant impact on how democratic governments function. In this sense, it is always a topic of debate when we talk about whether the electoral system design can or should align with a particular value or goal – and whether this evaluation could then establish scaffolds for more democratic electoral models (Raabe 2012). In itself, attaining comprehensive representation for ethnic minorities has significant implications for democracy (Moser 2008). The link between electoral systems and minority representation is, without a doubt, a good notion to begin with in this type of discussion – examining ethnic minority representation in particular narrows the scope of that discussion.

The ethnical composition of each country's society is changing towards a more diverse population. One of the challenges coming forth out of these changes is the integration of ethnic minorities as active citizens of society (Fukuyama, 2006). When ethnic minorities are not present in political institutions this sends a message of exclusion to both majority and minority groups. Hence, the proportional representation of ethnic minorities – also called descriptive representation – has an important symbolic meaning (Phillips, 1995). Descriptive representation refers to an equal share of ethnic minority groups in political institutions as compared to society. The extensive attention and established quotas for the political representation of women, shows the relevance of descriptive representation regardless of whether the interests of minority groups are represented by majority group members. Few people today would accept to be represented by men only, which was the case in many countries only a few decades ago (Wängerud, 2009; IPU, 2015).

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as the Fourth Committee, was created in 1993 in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 47/233, with the main objective of addressing significant political matters, such as self-determination, decolonization and other international security concerns. SPECPOL originally assessed issues that the First Committee (DISEC) was not able to handle, but it was given other topics to address and a broader overall scope due to its success in addressing the Palestine Question, among others.

In its current role, the Fourth Committee can be viewed as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) entrance door, since the questions discussed at the Security Council are often assessed earlier by SPECPOL not only because the committee's approach is broader in terms of international security, but also because it allows all United Nations (UN) member states to be heard before the question reaches other UN instances. This explains the fact that although SPECPOL's resolutions are not binding, they are still very appealing, since they reflect the opinion of the majority of countries regarding substantive matters.

When the United Nations was created, there were 750 million people living in territories that were non-self-governing. However, the Charter of the United Nations, also included provisions calling for recognition of the rights of inhabitants of territories administered by its Member States. It called for these Member States to aid in the establishment of self-governance through the development of free political institutions, as well as to keep in mind the political aspirations of the peoples.

The Charter also created the international trusteeship system. This system allowed for the administration and supervision of territories placed under the control of the United Nations by Member States wishing to grant independence to their colonial possessions. These "Trust" territories were administered by the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

Hoping to speed up the process of decolonization, the General Assembly passed Resolution 1514 (XV), also known as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Declaration stated that all peoples have the right to self-determination, and that immediate steps should be taken to end colonialism unconditionally.

On 27 November 1961 the General Assembly created the precursor to the modern Special Committee via Resolution 1654 (XVI). This Resolution established a Special Committee of 17 Members to examine the application of the Declaration and to make recommendations on how to better implement it.

HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Most societies are stratified into racial, ethnic and cultural groups. The usual denomination given to them is "minorities" (or "majorities", as the case may be). These minorities are distinguished from stratification by classes, while they have distinctive lifestyles that can be traced to cultural traditions of another society; their members can often belong to different social classes and are aware of existing as a separate group from the rest of the population. The criteria for establishing group membership may be physical appearance, common origin in another country or region, language, culture or possession of a distinctive lifestyle. Racial, ethnic and cultural minorities are subordinate groups or whose position is vulnerable to subordination. The term majority applies to racial, ethnic and cultural segments of the population that enjoy a higher rank and a situation of greater security.

Contemporary Europe, Eastern and Western alike, is characterized by the presence of ethnic minority groups concerned about the protection of their rights and interests. This concern is motivated by an actual or perceived inequality of treatment between the majoritarian ethnic group of the state and its ethnic minorities, and allegations of both de jure and de facto discrimination are commonplace.

The participation of persons belonging to minorities in public matters and in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the country in which they live is, in fact, essential to preserve their identity and fight against its exclusion from society. It is necessary to create mechanisms that ensure that minority groups are reflected in public institutions, such as National parliaments and public administration organisms, including the police and the judiciary so that people belonging to minorities are represented and have a voice in the decisions that affect or affect the territories or regions in which they live. Participation must be active, not merely symbolic, and recognize, for example, that minorities are often underrepresented and that maybe their concerns are not answered.

Discrimination
Discrimination on grounds of race, color or ethnicity is a violation of human rights, and States have an affirmative obligation to prevent, punish and remedy it. Fundamental to the principle of non-discrimination are the rights of members of racial, ethnic and national minorities to equality before the law and the equal protection of the law.

In recent years, government actions have proven to be insufficient to stop increasing manifestations of racism in many European countries. Troubling signs include the growing prevalence of overtly racist speeches by political leaders; the electoral success of political parties espousing racist attitudes in some countries; the continuing systematic discrimination and racially-motivated violence against particularly vulnerable minorities, and the rising incidence of xenophobic behavior, discrimination, and expressions of racism (including racist violence) towards migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Representation within national parliaments and assemblies is generally seeing improvements

Proportion of female Members:

🇬🇧	29.4% (increase from 21.8% in 2010)	2015
	41.7%	2011
	34.9%	2011
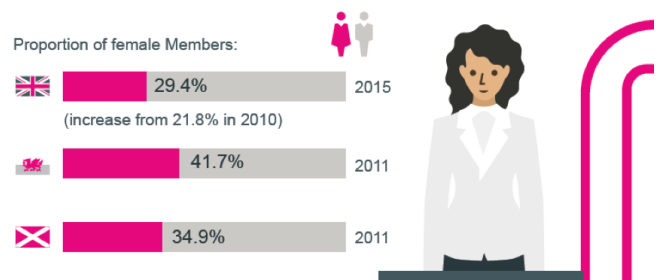
States should sign, ratify, and bring their domestic legislation and practice into compliance with all relevant international instruments providing for equality, non-discrimination, and protection of the rights of minorities. Although European constitutions uniformly prohibit discrimination and guarantee equality, many governments have yet to translate these constitutional promises into domestic implementing legislation. At a minimum, states should adopt: Comprehensive legislation expressly prohibiting racial discrimination in all spheres of public life, including but not limited to education, employment, health care, housing, social services, and access to citizenship and goods and services, and ensuring adequate, judicially-enforced criminal, civil and administrative sanctions for violations. In this regard, all remedies should be accessible and well-publicized, and legal assistance and appropriate reparation should be available for victims.

Policies to combat discrimination and promote the rights of minorities must commence with political will at the highest levels of government. Senior officials must acknowledge publicly and often that racism is a pervasive problem for majority society and that discrimination is unacceptable, illegal, and will not be tolerated. In designing, implementing and evaluating policies to combat and prevent discrimination and to protect the rights of minorities, governments must meaningfully involve members of minority groups at all stages.

Education
African, Asian and other ethnic minority students face a persistent gap in obtaining university offers compared to Caucasian applicants, even when their exam performance is not taken into account. Data published by the UCAS admissions service showed that, even after adjusting level A scores, ethnic minority students are marginally less likely to receive offers of places, while Caucasian students with similar grades have more success in getting offers. The analysis suggested that, although the gap in successful requests from ethnic minorities is narrower than previous measures, a small but stubborn gap in success rates persists. This is important because in order for ethnic minorities to have a better political representation, they must have access to good quality education that is free from discrimination.

CURRENT SITUATION

Mechanisms of political representation
There are at least three systems of political representation that qualify as descriptive and are currently in use worldwide: (1) Proportionality, (2) Quotas, (3) scarcely preserved or dedicated. Each mechanism is different but not necessarily exclusive. However, they point to relatively different political correction horizons. There are also other possibilities, not necessarily exclusive of these mechanisms, but which could potentially be complementary, such as the cases of indigenous parliaments and the representation of autonomous indigenous territorial spaces.

Proportional representation allows generating a political response to the problem of underrepresentation much better adjusted to social reality, since it makes evident the deficiencies of political representation when there is a predominance of power, class or the hegemonic presence of clearly dominant social sectors. Proportionality rests on the assumption that it is possible to represent politically, social, ethnic, gender or other segmentation politically in the relevant political instances in which a society or social space is composed. A second assumption that derives from the previous one is that it is possible to determine the proportions that make up such society or social space. If these two assumptions are verified then this mechanism would promote balanced candidacies that would reflect the real content of society. A crucial disadvantage of this mechanism is that in a few cases it is possible to establish the exact proportions into which society or social space would be divided. This would imply that the case of classical underrepresentation or overrepresentation could perfectly occur and therefore do not make any type of correction in the system.

Indigenous People
A good case study when talking about quota mechanisms is the Peruvian case. In the last decade, the Peruvian State has encouraged the participation of groups with less political presence (women, indigenous people and youth) in the formal representation spaces. Guaranteed representation mechanisms, such as native quota, can secure a fixed number of positions destined for a minority in an instance of representation, or a position in the lists that are running, as is the case in Peru. The addition of this ethnic quota has been an affirmative measure taken by the State to promote political representation of the indigenous population. This system favors the representation of the indigenous population when their demographic weight is major in a given constituency. In the Peruvian case, a politics quota is adopted in the provincial constituencies with significant presence of native communities and native population. What characterizes, in principle, these representation mechanisms is that they aim to facilitate the emergence of leaderships and candidacies from underrepresented sectors, such as these populations.

In principle, as the native quota policy applies, it would be reasonable assume that greater electoral participation of indigenous people would generate a

higher percentage of elected indigenous authorities and that, in addition, these authorities would be able to represent this population. However, quantitative measures, limited yet suggestive, show us that although participation has been gradual and positive, it is still very low. This is the case of the quantifications made on the basis of surnames with indigenous ancestry, which indicate that there is an increasing number of provincial authorities with "indigenous surnames", but that in total the percentage is not very significant. While today the indigenous population can vote massively and run for elected office and named, it would seem that this achievement still does not translate into levels significant indigenous political representation, effective channeling of demands and opinion and participation in public decisions that the affect. There is much debate about the progress of this participation in the local level and about weaknesses and heterogeneity in the results.

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Gypsy Community
Gypsy people find enormous difficulties in renting real estate, either in the free market, or through real estate agencies. These barriers to find housing have their origin, in most cases, in the prejudices of the owners and the pressures of future neighbors. Discrimination usually occurs when, without recognizing the racist motivations of their acts, they affirm that the property already has tenants or they have decided not to rent it anymore.

On the other hand, some educational standards, apparently neutral in origin, may imply indirect discrimination, especially when taking into account only the social characteristics of the population majority. Moreover, there is either a collective omission of the gypsy reality and culture in pedagogical materials, educational curricula and textbooks, or a transmission of a negative image of said community. The lack of attention to cultural diversity is also found in many educational centers of all levels, which have a general tendency towards unification regarding the

transmission of information and knowledge, the family relations model, complementary services such as dining room or transportation, etc. In addition, there are prejudices and stereotypes in numerous education professionals, who manifest themselves in an unequal treatment of gypsy students.

In addition, there are numerous indications of the existence of social prejudices that have caused the violation of the right to equality in the administration of justice. In similar circumstances, they are usually condemned more frequently than non-gypsy people, as well as serve a time of superior sentence. On the other hand, victims are not usually fully aware that they have suffered discrimination, not being aware of their rights in the matter, nor of adequate mechanisms to use the judicial system.

The "programmed tribes" of India
In India there are 461 ethnic groups that are officially called "programmed tribes," which are considered the country's indigenous peoples. In continental India, the programmed tribes are known as Adivasi's, which means indigenous peoples. With an estimated population of 84.3 million, they comprise 8.2 percent of the country's total population. There are, however, many more ethnic groups that would qualify for programmed tribe status but are not officially recognized. The total number is estimated to be 635 tribal groups. The highest concentration of indigenous people is found in the seven states of northeast India and the so-called "central tribal belt", which extends from Rajasthan to West Bengal.

India has a long history of indigenous people movements aimed at asserting their rights. This Asian giant has several constitutional laws and provisions, such as the Fifth Program for continental India and the Sixth Program for certain areas in the northeast of the country, which recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to land and self-government. However, laws designed to protect indigenous peoples have numerous deficiencies and their application is far from satisfactory.

Indigenous peoples in China
China officially proclaims a unified country with a multiple ethnic composition, and all ethnic groups are equal before the law, says the Chinese chapter of the report. In addition to the Chinese majority, the government recognizes 55 ethnic minorities within its borders. According to the sixth national census of 2010, the population of ethnic minorities amounted to 113,792,211 people, or 8.49 percent of the country's

total. However, there are still 'unrecognized ethnic groups' in China, with a total of 734,438 people, according to the 2000 census. Most of them live in the southwestern regions of Guizhou, Sichuan, Yunnan and Tibet. Officially recognized ethnic minority groups have rights protected by the Constitution, which includes the establishment of autonomous regions, local government and the right to their own language and culture. The ethnic autonomous region comprises about 60 percent of the Chinese territory.

However, the Chinese government does not recognize the term "indigenous peoples" and representatives of ethnic minorities do not identify themselves as indigenous. In fact, they rarely participate in international meetings related to indigenous peoples' issues, to clarify the chapter on China of the IWGIA report. Therefore, it has not been clearly established if minority ethnic groups in China should be determined as indigenous peoples. The Chinese government voted in favor of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations but, before its adoption, it had already officially declared that there were no indigenous peoples in China, which means that the declaration does not applies to the most populous country in the world.

UN Past Actions

To ensure the effective enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the international conventions related to human rights, a number of committees have been established in order to monitor the progress made by member States and to ensure that they fulfill their obligations. The following Committees are particularly important for protecting the rights of minorities:

- The Human Rights Committee, which oversees the implementation of the Covenant International Civil and Political Rights (see also chapter III, section A, supra, particularly with regard to its article 27)

- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which oversees the application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which oversees the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Forum on Minority Issues
In 2007, the Human Rights Council, through Resolution 6/15, established the Forum on Minority Issues to have a means of promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues concerning persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The Forum provides organizations with specialized knowledge of the work of the independent experts specialized on minority issues, and identifies and analyzes optimal practices, problems, opportunities and recommendations to continue applying in order to stay in line with what's stated in the United Nations Declaration on Minorities. The independent experts specialized on minority issues serve as the basis for the Forum's work and it helps preparing its annual meetings and reports, which are all included in the set of recommendations the forum publishes year after year It is also expected that the Forum contributes to the work of the The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which seeks to improve cooperation between international mechanisms, UN bodies, specialized agencies and UN funds and programs related to the promotion and protection of rights of individuals who belong to minorities.

Universal Periodic Review
In 2006, the General Assembly approved resolution 60/251 and decided that the Human Rights Council would conduct a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the fulfillment of each Member State on its obligations and commitments toward human rights. All the Member States of the United Nations will be subject to that review every four years. The review, which is a lot like an exam, is based on three reports: one made by the State itself and two made by the OHCHR, which is namely a compilation of information from the United Nations (reports of bodies created under treaties, special procedures and other official documents related to the UN) and a summary of contributions made by the interlocutors and several other stakeholders (NGOs, national rights institutions humans, academic institutions and regional organizations). For the preparation of these three documents, United Nations entities can: i) advise the

States, in an advisory capacity, on the form of manuals on how to prepare the reports; ii) send communications to the OHCHR and/or draw attention to the publications of these entities made by the OHCHR, which will be taken into account when preparing the reports of the United Nations, and iii) send information to the interlocutors and stakeholders, including NGOs, for the preparation of their contributions.

BLOC POSITIONS

The following are suggestions for bloc positions and grouping within the committee, as well as suggestions for potential research. These are not the only possible bloc positions but should be treated off as a starting point for your research and an insight into how the committee could progress.

The first group of countries consists of those in favor of minorities having a political representation and respecting different ideologies and beliefs. However, not everyone agrees on the importance of the same minority groups and can look for different and incompatible solutions. The majority of Europe and members of the OECD belong to this group.

The other group of countries, mostly from the Middle East or least developed countries, are those that are against minorities having political representation, or that do not consider this issue as a priority. In many cases this happens because of a conflict of religious beliefs or because of gender discrimination rooted in the culture of the country.

It is important that your proposals and solutions are related to the policy of your country and that you do a good research so that you do not work with countries that do not share your policy!

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMAs)

1. Should minorities have the right to form political parties in an organiSed and legal way?
2. Do women and men have equal access to mechanisms or organizations that are representative of minorities, such as NGOs that work to promote minority rights?
3. Is there a particular neutral framework or space for dialogue between minority representatives and the government? Is there room for the United Nations in the country to promote the establishment or strengthening of such dialogue?

4. Are minority groups recognized in the country? If so, are they recognized through any specific legal or policy framework?
5. Is a reform in the education system necessary to increase the political representation of minorities?
6. How can minorities increase their access to information about public policies and the decisions taken regarding them, especially when these minorities do not participate in decision-making?

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