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GA4

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Wesgreen International School
Model United Nations

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Welcome note:

Dear delegates,

Jana khalid, Haya Alkhalidi and Harsheen are very excited to welcome you all to WESMUN 2025, especially you delegates who have been chosen to be part of the GA4 committee. Us chairs promise to do our very best to make your WESMUN 2025 country a very memorable one. We wish that you delegates come very prepared in order to speak up and have very heated strong debates about your countries stance. Defend your , attack other countries and not staying silent will help you have a good time. we hope that you delegates have a very good time writing your position paper (you wont) and attending our committee.

Decolonization is one of the dedicated subjects that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly deals with. As one of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, the Fourth general assembly is devoted to a wide range of political issues as it was founded in 1993 containing 193 member states. Furthermore, It's focused on decolonization, UN peace-preserving efforts, tackling peaceful uses of outer space, and the promotion of human rights. It considers agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly and prepares recommendations and draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the General Assembly plenary.

Decolonization is a primary focus of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly. The committee plays a pivotal role in addressing the lingering effects of colonialism by overseeing matters related to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted in 1960. It actively monitors the situation of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs), promoting self-determination and assisting in the decolonization process. The Fourth Committee's work is critical to advancing global peace, justice, and development, ensuring that nations under colonial rule have the opportunity to attain sovereignty and independence.

Once again, The chars of GA4 are very excited to meet you all, preside over this committee and hope that each delegate will engage in debates and discussions that will take place.

TOPIC 1

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF FORMERLY COLONIZED NATIONS TO ACHIEVE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The question of development in the formerly colonized countries was raised on the international scene and has been receiving attention ever since these countries are striving to put an end to any remaining vestiges of colonialism and embrace the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals serve as a universal agenda for the fight against poverty, the promotion of education of decent quality and the enhancement of economic growth as a general trend. Yet, in terms of these goals, formerly colonized areas often encounter suitable challenges. Colonization left behind varied patterns of structural inequalities, weak governance systems, chronic resource and spatial exploitation and dominated poles which lack developed productive structures.

For most governments, the case is how they can build the institutions that will help solve these issues in a meaningful way. International development assistance has over time been geared at supporting these efforts, but criticism has emerged regarding the poor allocation of resources and the absence of focused solutions toward particular country settings. Developmental aid has traditionally been influenced by geopolitical factors and not so much by the need to strengthen the promoted former colonies. The consequences of this inequity have resulted in a state of reliance that restricts their capacity to achieve the goals on their own.

Even with these obstacles, the United Nations has made great progress in helping formerly colonized nations to strengthen their capacities. For example, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the creation of mechanisms for South–South cooperation have helped to provide strategies for filling the resource gaps as well as encouraging peer cooperation. Likewise, regional institutions have been active in mobilizing partnerships and creating avenues for the previously colonised nations to articulate their interests. An instance is the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) which aims at facilitating increased economic integration and development of domestic industries.

The joint efforts by the UN and its affiliates to enhance education, health, and introduction of technology have equally been encouraging. Educational systems of various countries are reported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to have been focused on capacity enhancing efforts in light of education as a game changer for sustainable development.

Likewise, the initiatives developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have also pursued providing financial resources and policy counsel to governments seeking to implement the SDGs.

But a lot more needs to be accomplished for these countries concerning uprooting systemic barriers and providing level playing fields. Hence, it is very important that the root causes of inequality are understood and that international aid allocations depend on needs and not strategic interests. Thereby, the fullest capacity of formerly colonized nations can then be enhanced and constructively contributed towards global, sustainable development through a collaborative and inclusive approach.

ANALYSIS:

Bolstering the capabilities of previously colonized countries to the extent that they would be able to attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) means the fact of the matter involving the systemic chain of issues bestowed upon them during colonial times, as well as their having equal access to resources, opportunities, and partnerships, should be sorted out. In fact, the SDGs for most of these countries imply a way out of the inequalities that have been so deeply entrenched in them; however, it is a tough game to beat and, of course, the main problems are the institutions, economy, and social aspects that have to be dealt with.

Economic structures emerging from the colonial system which favored resource exploitation for the benefit of the motherland and not for sustained development within the colonies themselves, is a big issue in this regard. This has poised the country to be reliant on the production and exportation of primary goods, therefore, rendering these formerly colonized nations very susceptible to market changes that could lead to economic losses, and additionally, they are constrained in their capabilities to broaden their economies.

The fragile institutional systems that these nations got from their colonizers, in turn, make the formulation of efficacious policies very problematic, on the other hand, these countries are still under-resourced, therefore, weak institutional governance and poor implementation of policies have been experienced.

The work to solve these problems has so far been both successful and marked with challenges. For instance, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other initiatives led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been used as tools for the reinforcement of resource mobilization and capacity-building in these countries. Nevertheless, the inequitable distribution of aid and the superimposed geopolitical interests have frequently curtailed the potential of these programs to the extent that the countries have come to depend on outside help instead of thriving on their own.

The importance of education and human capital in sustainable development cannot be overemphasized; this is evident from the UNESCO supported programs. Besides the gain of dreaming and gainful jobs, it is equally about skill acquisition and thus allowing people to be the force behind innovation and economic growth. Furthermore, regional interaction tools like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) spread the pitch that shows the eventuality of formerly colonized countries joining hands and strengthening each other's economies thereby laying a basis for shared prosperity.

Nevertheless, no matter what is done, these barriers remain in place. To ensure real change, we have to tackle the root causes of inequality, which include things like trade imbalances and the fact that the global decision-making platforms are only accessible to a few. Moreover, international aid should be given according to the level of need and not political or strategic interests, while the collaboration should focus on empowering the recipient nations to achieve self-reliance. A cooperative relationship and an inclusive approach can prove to be extremely effective for countries that were previously under empires to achieve the SDGs, thus a more equitable and sustainable global future in this way

HISTORY:

The history of building the capacity of formerly colonized countries to achieve sustainable development is deeply intertwined with the broader struggle for independence and equality. Colonization, which began in the early 15th century, created an established system in which colonial powers prioritized economic interests. There is an economy that depends on raw material export Minimum industrial development and social inequality that still exists to this day.

Decolonization process, especially after World War II, has become the first step towards self-determination for many countries. However, independence often occurs without the support needed to create a stable government or economic system. Formerly colonized countries inherited deeply unequal trade relations. Limited access to education and poor infrastructure This puts these countries at a disadvantage in implementing sustainable development. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 provided a platform for these nations to advocate for equity, leading to initiatives such as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1960.

The pursuit of development goals gained momentum in the late 20th century with the introduction of international frameworks aimed at promoting global cooperation. The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 was followed by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Many formerly colonized countries face challenges due to The uneven distribution and lasting effects of colonial policy.

Efforts to address these differences include creating regional initiatives, such as the African Union, and frameworks, such as the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), which focus on improving infrastructure. Trade and Governance This, combined with increased South-South cooperation and resource sharing, can be achieved despite these advances. But there are also systemic challenges. With many countries still struggling to achieve full economic sovereignty and equal representation in global decision-making processes.

The history of these countries underscores the need for targeted international support and structural reform to dismantle the inequalities that have perpetuated colonialism. By solving these systematic problems The international community can strengthen countries. formerly colonized countries to achieve sustainable development and participate in a more equitable world.

SUBTOPICS:

- How colonization shaped political, economic, and social systems in former colonies.
- Strategies to promote fair resource distribution and enhance inclusive economic participation.
- What role should international organizations play in mitigating structural disparities in these countries?
- How can formerly colonized nations overcome the lasting economic imbalances caused by resource exploitation?
- How can the international community strike a balance between assistance and sovereignty?

RESULTION QUESTIONS:

- How can international organizations like the UN, IMF, and World Bank reform their approaches to better address the specific needs of formerly colonized nations?
- What strategies can ensure the fair distribution of resources to promote equitable development?
- What measures can governments implement to strengthen weak governance systems and promote institutional reform?
- To what extent should former colonizers offer reparations or financial support to address the legacy of exploitation?
- What principles should guide partnerships between colonizing nations and their former colonies to promote equality and peace?

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TOPIC 2

Erasing The History of Colonization; A Positive Or A Negative?

One of the most complicated periods in world history is the legacy of colonization.

Colonizing powers exploited human labor and natural resources while imposing their domination on nations all over the world. They changed political systems, economies, and cultures. Colonialism's effects can still be felt today in the fight for self-determination in formerly colonized countries. In recent years there have been discussions and the growing calls to remove or change the colonial history, including historical narratives, place names, and statues. Activists believe that in order to destroy the injustice and recover, these initiatives are essential. However, such measures could be also reveal lessons about strength, resistance, and resiliency included in the past.

The United Nations has continuously promoted decolonization, and in 1961 it established the Special Committee on Decolonization to aid in the downfall of colonial regimes. The United Nations now understands that resolving the effects of colonization is essential to accomplishing equality, human rights, and sustainable development. Through programs like the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and frameworks like the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages, the organization emphasizes the value of fostering peace while conserving disadvantaged histories and cultures.

The colonizing powers became strong industrialized governments while their colonies remained underdeveloped and in poverty, creating a global system of inequity. These power ties continue to shape global frameworks and trade agreements. Because they were founded by the same nations that had ruled many colonial empires, organizations like the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund are a reflection of these differences.

The remains of colonization are still very much felt today. An increasing understanding of the need for unity is shown in initiatives to address these legacies, such as giving back stolen possessions, protecting indigenous languages, and offering development assistance. But these initiatives frequently encounter disagreement, reflecting the persistent complexity of decolonization.

ANALYSIS;

The main and underlying issue that fuels the controversy regarding removal of colonial history is found at the concepts complex intersection with civil society, culture and memory, on a global level. Activists claim that erasing colonization-related signs and stories can help people overcome trauma, deconstruct prejudice, and achieve equality some scholars, however, argue that forgetting of any such abusive history leads to counterproductive elimination of learned social injustices, sustained ignorance and even deteriorations of true attempts towards seeking any kind of reconciliation. the issue under discussion can be acquired as a multifaceted question of identity, memory, and justice.

The positive reason that can be given for removing colonial references is based on an understanding of the fact that the presence of fragments in spaces trivializes oppression and continues to exclude those communities in the present time. These include statues or monuments, pin or place names, which have quite a negative impact on people as they are a reminder of colonialism oppression. Societies, therefore, are capable of erasing these representations, and at the same time reconstructing the perception of the public domain, writing new history and supporting the self-worth of the excluded minority. Furthermore, erasing colonial parts might let states reimagine themselves with freeing and multicultural agendas, rather than imperialistic ones.

On the other hand, critics note that such erasures strip the past clean of colonial history and can contribute to the general amnesia. Failing in understanding the simplest ways of colonization will be to envisage both its impact and the outcome those impacts continue to throw in the contemporary globe geopolitics, economy and society at large. Erasing or redesigning certain aspects or history can lead to limiting the potential of critical thinking, especially if colonial exploitations consequences - in form of systemic inequality - are taken into consideration. in avoiding their erasure, these histories could be used to better reintegrate and recontextualize them in a way that can open up further conversations and understanding of society's past behaviors.

Techniques of erasing colonial power might also potentially wipe out the voice of the colonized people who fought hard to counter subjugations. As seen over and over history, stories of past struggles and the fight against prejudice may be forgotten if history is redacted to one narrative and eliminated completely. For example, colonial archive and colonial artifacts regain their importance in understanding the nature of power, relation and reading the processes by which subaltern communities sustained their existence. To maintain such histories, therefore provides a comprehensive account of human existence under colonization.

The suggested strategy for interacting with colonial past does not exclude its criticism, but rejection in its entirety. it is possible to both achieve reconciliation when trying anew at how the colonial narratives are being taught, commemorated, and being explained and not let the history to be forgotten. When different subjugated groups bring their voices into discourse, societies are then able to question the social trends without necessarily regressing to the history books. Speaking of the public domain, new monuments, plaques that frame colonial symbols instead of their dissemination can appear there.

Finally, the signs of colonial history removal or preservation depend on the part played in society. This creates the need to question whose accounts are heard, and which histories remembered in debates. When it's based on colonization, erasure it is not sufficient in eliminating inequality; it requires other means of working through the structure of injustice that colonization has created.

Last but not the least, the erasing or insignia of colonial history in society can be removed or preserved based on the role that it has to play. This pushes the requirement to ask whose voices are given attention, and whose histories are recalled in arguments. The change that erasure achieves when based on colonization is not enough to eradicate inequality; there is need to use other methods to deal with the structure of injustice that colonization has put in place.

HISTORY:

Throughout history, colonization has played a significant role in shaping countries by altering their economies, political arrangements, and cultures. Colonialism refers to occupying and taking control of another country, proclaiming it as its own, while distributing settlers among the indigenous people of an area. It all began in the 15th century when Spain and Portugal began constructing military and trading bases outside Europe. Other countries, such as Russia, the Netherlands, Britain, Belgium, France, and the United States, utilized power and imposed control worldwide (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2024).

Towards the end of the 19th century, a large proportion of the world was divided between the leading colonial powers, which were taking advantage of other countries' resources. Although colonization holds many detriments, it provided medicine, education, and industrialization. A great instance would be the continent of Africa, which faced many colonial powers over periods. When invading, the colonial powers of Europe had no intention of industrializing (ICSNC,2024). Yet, it damaged Africa on all scales, such as economically, and politically, shortage of natural resources, and the deaths of indigenous people (TRALAC, 2024).

SUBTOPICS:

- How colonialism shaped global political, economic, and cultural systems.
- Preserving colonial history as a source of lessons about resistance, resilience, and strength.
- The exploitation of human labor and natural resources by colonizing powers.
- Preserving colonial symbols to understand past struggles and resilience.
- Balancing acknowledgment of injustices with cultural reconciliation

RESULTION QUESTIONS:

- Is erasing colonial history an effective way to address historical injustices?
- Does removing colonial symbols and narratives help marginalized communities reclaim their identities?
- How can UN-backed initiatives, such as UNESCO programs, support the removal of colonial symbols?

- How can the UN encourage member states to balance historical preservation with the need for justice and equity?
- Can justice and reconciliation be achieved without symbolic acts like erasing colonial history?

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