TOPIC 2: The issue of sustainable security for indigenous, minority, and vulnerable populations.

I. Introduction to the Topic

The issue of indigenous populations is of great significance on an international level. With approximately 370 million indigenous populations encompassing more than 90 countries around the world. These indigenous populations are so critical yet vulnerable at the same time. Although they take around 80% of the remaining biodiversity in the world, indigenous populations undergo economic challenges such as poverty, as well as political and social marginalization from majority groups and central governments. Issues regarding indigenous populations more so often are national issues as they reveal the underlying power asymmetries in favor of the central government. The issue of security for indigenous, minority, and vulnerable populations is prevalent in many parts of the world, all playing different implications in our global society. There are examples of key issues in the fourth section of this report.

II. Definition of Key Terms

Indigenous population: An often small number of population originating naturally in a place: native. They are social and cultural groups who share ties with ancestors that have inhabited the specific region. Examples include but are not limited to the Lakota in the U.S., the Inuit in the Arctic, Saami in northern Europe, the Aborigines in Australia, and the Maori in New Zealand. Indigenous populations are one of the main stakeholders in this issue.

Minority population: An ethnic, religious, or linguistic group of people consisting of less than half of the population in the state. Minority groups are often the victims of some form of persecution, oppression, discrimination, and/or marginalization as a result of economic and social inferiority in our technology-driven society. Minorities do not always have to be numerical, as power asymmetry in social positions can also determine groups to be minorities. Examples include but are not limited to American Indians and Pacific Islanders.

Vulnerable population: Vulnerable populations experience greater risk factors because of numerous determinants, such as but not limited to age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status.

The term vulnerable population encompasses a wide range of population who are in some way affected by an issue.

III. Key Stakeholders

Indonesia: Indonesia is a major representation of a government struggling to address the issues regarding its indigenous population. Approximately 50 to 70 million people in Indonesia are classified as indigenous population, inhabiting almost all provinces in the country. The vast number of indigenous population faces widespread poverty as a result of unemployment and lack of recognition. Indigenous people of Indonesia also face problems such as losing their rights to their own land and natural resources to the state without legal consent. Due to the marginalization, indigenous populations in Indonesia also lack access to healthcare, infrastructure, and education services, which in return impede the people's ability to eradicate inequality. The issues of indigenous population in Indonesia is a complex guiding point to research as its implications are on international, regional, and national levels.

Canada: With 1.8 million indegenous population, the Canadian government faces multiple challenges regarding the security of indigenous people. The indigeneous population suffers from different life threats, such as unemployment, lack of health care, and high infant mortality.

China: China is an important stakeholder to research regarding the issue of ethnic minority populations. The country's persecution and discrimination against the Uyghur ethnic minorities, such as imprisoning, forced restrictions, and forced labor is life-threatning to them.

U.S.: The United States has long faced challenges with the issue of indigenous populations in the country. The problems arising within the Native Americans include but are not limited to lack of resources leading to unemployment and poverty, poor standards of living, lower rates or education, violence against females, breach of voting rights, exploitation of natural resources, and lack of healthcare. Although these issues sound very distinct and separate, they all root from some form of inequality or imbalance of power.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Poverty: Higher percentage of indigenous populations, compared to that of majority populations, is reported to live below the poverty line. This is a result of disparities in factors such as but not limited to education, health care, property rights, discrimination, and socioeconomic vulnerability.

Hunger: Indigenous minorities often do not have access to healthy food and clean water as a result of poverty or other inequality issues. Food is an essential part of life, and the lack of access to such a basic human need makes the population more vulnerable and difficult to make progress in their development.

Climate change: Climate change and environmental sustainability can be an interesting lens to look at the issue of indigenous, minority, vulnerable populations. Indigenous populations are one of the first stakeholders to face the direct impacts of climate change as the marginalization has pushed them to live less with developed infrastructure and more with natural landscapes. These factors make minority populations vulnerable to problems such as natural disasters and diseases.

Gender Equality and Female empowerment: Females in indigenous populations face discrimination and disempowerment against their gender. They become extremely vulnerable populations due to their gender and the socioeconomic status of being indigenous. Indigenous women have less access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities. They also face forms of discrimination and violence.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1994	First and Second International Decades of the World's Indigenous Peoples
2007	Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2007	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2007	Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
March, 2008	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
September 22 and 23, 2014	UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Poverty: As minorities and indeginous populations often don't receive the same opportunities as the majority populations do, they suffer from life threatening poverty. Their access to resources are exploited by the state and large industrial companies in order to meet the growing global demand, while not properly compensating the indigenous people. In order to solve this problem, governments can approach the issue in both political and economic standpoints. From the political standpoint, the government can initiate programs and policies that would enshrine the currently unrecognized rights of the indigenous population. This could look like but are not limited to providing accessible healthcare or education and ensuring rights to own property. On the other hand, the government should also provide fair job opportunities to the indeginous population which would not only help the indigenous people escape poverty, but also the markets in general as more workers produce more products and services.

Hunger: Minorities often do not have access to healthy food and clean water as a result of poverty or other equality issues. They often dwell on food that is dirty, innutritious, or even harmful to their body. In order to address this problem, governments and different non-governmental organizations can provide food that is nutritious and more fulfilling. Oftentimes, indigenous minorities would have their property and food, but the issue is the exploitation of those resources from other people, such as big companies or the state. Therefore, a solution to the hunger issues from a political standpoint can be protecting the legal rights to own property for indigenous populations.

Climate change: As indigenous populations often lack the scientific and technological advances that the modern majority groups have, combating climate change can be a challenging issue that can't be fought alone by the minorities. To address the issue of climate change, the majority populations must help in some way. This could include but is not limited to developing infrastructure that could lessen the impacts of natural disasters, building better water and sewage systems that can decrease the likelihood of catching waterborne diseases, and promoting clean energy use.

Gender equality and Female empowerment: Gender inequalities amongst indigenous populations arise as one of the threats to their prosperity. Hence, ensuring that women have the equal power as men is essential in order to provide security for these populations. To do this, governments, in the big picture, should develop policies in order to better protect the rights of indigenous women and to fight against the discriminations and violence they face. Indigenous women should also be provided as fair job opportunities as indigenous men do.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

The chair strongly recommends delegates to approach this issue with a broad scope of perspectives. It is recommended to deconstruct the issue into international, regional, national, and local levels in order to contribute to fruitful discussions with several points of analysis. It is also recommended to research a minimum of three different key example events related to the issue, as these will be the guiding points of interesting dialogue throughout the conference. Delegates should also keep in mind the theme of 'sustainable solutions' when writing their resolutions as this is the main focus of the conference. Delegates should research perspectives of other countries in the council as this will allow them to consider any countries with similar or opposing perspectives. This will help a lot during the lobbying and merging process of the conference.

VIII. Bibliography

Staff, DiversityInc. "The Biggest Issues Facing the Native American Community Right Now." *DiversityInc*, DiversityInc, 12 Nov. 2020, www.diversityinc.com/the-biggest-issues-facing-the-native-american-community-right-now/. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2019, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-xinjiang-uyghurs-muslims-repression-genocide-human-rights. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: A View from Indonesia." *Council of Councils*, 2014, www.cfr.org/councilofcouncils/global-memos/world-conference-indigenous-peoples-view-indonesia. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: Insights on Sustainability and Resilience from the Front Line of Climate Change - World." *ReliefWeb*, 25 June 2021, reliefweb.int/report/world/indigenous-peoples-food-systems-insights-sustainability-and-resilience-front-line. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"Challenges and Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples' Sustainability | DISD." *Un.org*, 2021, www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/04/indigenous-peoples-sustainability/. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"Major Group: Indigenous Peoples .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *Un.org*, 2017, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=750&menu=3170. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

"Indigenous Peoples." *World Bank*, 2021, www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples#1. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

Diaz, Clarisa. "Sustainable Food: How Indigenous Knowledge Can Help." *World Economic Forum*, 3 Dec. 2021, www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/12/sustainable-indigenous-food-systems/. Accessed 18 Oct. 2022.

IX: Additional Resources

China-Uyghur map

Map of the Indonesian indigenous populations

ETHNIC GROUPS IN INDONESIA