SOCHUM

Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee

Committee: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural (SOCHUM)

Committee Topic: Preventing the Decline in Cultural Heritage Among Isolated Countries

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It is a pleasure and excitement for us to welcome you to the 25th Edition of SPIS MUN event. You've been assigned to the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Heritage (SOCHUM), which is concerned on social and humanitarian issues such as human rights. Congratulations for choosing or being assigned to this committee, where diplomacy, innovation and strategic thinking come together to make a solution for protecting the cultural heritage of isolated countries. During the sessions we invite you to debate with your meaningful dialogue and respect the different perspectives. We are confident that with teamwork they will rise to the circumstances assumed in the debate. Your chairs will be Haeun Lee as a director, Nicolas Rodriguez, as your moderator and Emilia Cantú, as your secretary.

Good luck! We know that you will do your very best!

If you have any doubt, contact us:

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Sincerely,
Haeun Lee

I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Commission of SOCHUM issues related to fundamental human rights in the international community. SOCHUM was established in 1945 as a reaction to establish the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Third Committee promotes and enforces basic freedoms and ideals that should be applied by the entire international community, such as the right to life, expression of cultures, freedom of political participation, protection of children's rights, and promotion of social development, among many others. SOCHUM derives its legitimacy from the original Charter of the United Nations and operates with the goal of designing peaceful solutions to issues within the broad spectrum of social, humanitarian and cultural complications in the international community.

SOCHUM is social and a humanitarian with cultural affairs, in the entity it is in charge of protecting, monitoring and identifying countries or places where human rights are being violated for some reason. This Committee is also interested in the protection of children and women so that they do not suffer any type of discrimination. SOCHUM aims to guarantee the elimination of racial discrimination, ensuring social and humanitarian responsibility as a primary issue, and finding solutions to conflicts to achieve harmony and human dignity.

Cultural heritage is a fundamental aspect of identity, tradition, and history. The preservation of cultural heritage is enshrined in international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 27) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). However, many isolated countries—whether due to geography, political barriers, or economic limitations—face challenges in protecting their cultural heritage. The decline of cultural heritage in these nations leads to social fragmentation, loss of indigenous traditions, and identity erosion.

While UNESCO is primarily responsible for cultural preservation, the Third Committee (SOCHUM) addresses the human rights and social dimensions of this issue. This includes protecting minority rights, indigenous heritage, and the cultural identity of marginalized communities. Given the increasing threats from globalization, armed conflict, climate change, and economic struggles, SOCHUM must take a leading role in advocating for the protection of cultural heritage as a human rights issue.

II.   HISTORY OF TOPIC

Human committees created Cultural Heritage, which has been passed down by generations. Some photographs, of films, and examples of crafts are paintings and given carvings, manuscripts, cultural scientific heritage collections, which means historical objects, and that is why cultural heritage is a very significant part of who we are and what makes us who we are. Cultural property is a powerful tool in determining what is remembered and what is forgotten or obscured.

Cultural heritage in isolated countries deserves preservation for local communities and for future generations. Heritage consists of historical buildings, which are repositories of ancient cultures, knowledge and lifestyles, unfortunately, many of them are in danger.

In recent decades many of them have been abandoned by their owners, and they are now in danger of disappearing. In order to help policy identify suitable conservation strategies, this study helped to investigate the attitude of different categories of owners and the community, to collaborative approaches for the conservation of the most representative.

Geographical isolation has served as a safeguard for cultures and traditions. Isolated communities have been shielded from external influences, and with this difficult situation some of them have been able to preserve their unique customs, languages, and practices for generations.

These cultures become living museums of human history, providing insights into ancient ways of life that might otherwise have disappeared. Isolated regions frequently have been exhibiting. Because the distance between countries affect the isolated communities and also create a diversity of languages, belief systems, and artistic expressions.

This cultural diversity adds richness to the global tapestry of human civilization, but the cultural heritage is destroyed by the sheer rate of change. The important aspect is to improve the understanding of the vulnerability and the advantages of cultural heritage in the green transition, the green transition is an ecologically sustainable economy. Consequently, there's a risk of changing old cultural landscapes, natural cultural heritage, and building environments characteristic of our time. It's very important that we begin our cultural history with us into the future, by taking cultural heritage into account, but also using it as a source of knowledge.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

Isolation has played a big role in the development of culture throughout the world. When groups of people are isolated from others, they tend to develop their own unique traditions, customs, and beliefs because they have challenges with communication and with trading and because their main focus is surviving; take the case of the Rohingya people whose cultural heritage was nearly wipe out from earth after the genocide committed against them, they have lost their Great Mosque Aung Mingalar among many other buildings, but not only they architectural items, aso their embroidery, pottery, basketry and many other crafts. The Mosque of Mosul is another great example of near destruction.
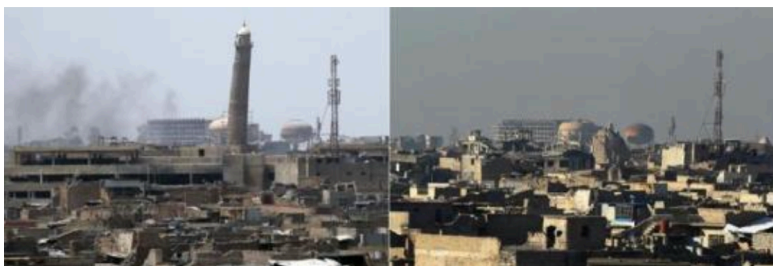
El minarete lde la gran mezquita, el 18 de junio, tres días antes de su destrucción, y el paisaje de Mosul, después (Ahmad Al-rubaye / AFP)

Isolation can lead to the preservation of traditional cultural practices, as people are less likely to adopt foreign customs. The preservation of cultural heritage in isolated countries is a difficult challenge and multifaceted issue. Some of the tribes of the Amazon rainforest have some characteristics in the cultural practices and spiritual beliefs that are a result of their isolation from outside influences. Unfortunately, these nations face numerous challenges that put their cultural treasures at risk. Climate change which produces the destruction of historic sites and monuments through rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. As isolated countries often struggle to allocate sufficient resources for cultural heritage preservation and management. Terrorism and conflict is another cause of the disappearance of this heritage and also pose a significant threat, as cultural heritage sites are vulnerable to destruction and looting.

Furthermore, the digital divide hampers efforts to preserve and promote cultural heritage in the countries affected. Limited access to technology and digital platforms makes it difficult to share their cultural riches with the world.

Ethical concerns also arise, particularly regarding the use of location-based data, which can lead to exploitation of cultural heritage sites. If intensify cultural heritage existing initiatives inequalities. Also, not managed natural disasters in for instance inclusive earthquakes manner, and then hurricanes it are will some only serve the two threats that can cause damage or destroy cultural heritage sites. Furthermore, the COVID-19 has also contributed to these challenges.

Despite these obstacles, there are opportunities for progress. Empowering local communities to take ownership of cultural heritage preservation and management can make a significant difference.

Leveraging digital innovation can also help promote cultural heritage and provide access to isolated sites.

International collaboration, partnership with organizations and experts can provide valuable support. Sustainable tourism practices can also support local economies as well as enhance the preservation of cultural heritage.

However, addressing cultural heritage preservation in isolated countries requires many approaches of collaboration, innovations, and inclusiveness. We can protect and celebrate the cultural treasures of these nations for future generations by working together.

IV. UN Action and Resolutions

The United Nations should be appreciated. Since the very active year in 1954, their hague efforts to safeguard the cultural year heritage 2003 in the isolated countries and UNESCO convention the international community has formulated important legal tools for protection of cultural property.

In recent years, the UN has adopted several resolutions which recognize heritage, for example, to the UN safeguard Security the Council cultural Resolution 2347 of 2017 has paid attention to the issue of cultural heritage and its destruction by terrorism and conflict. Also, the UN adopted the resolutions general 71/254 Assembly (2016) and 73/133 (2018) which are aimed at protecting cultural heritage in the territories occupied by the state and supporting the process of repatriation of cultural objects.

In order to achieve these goals, a number of UN agencies have been collaborating. UNESCO's World Heritage Centre has been doing an excellent job in the protection of cultural sites across the world,while their intangible cultural heritage programme has been making efforts to preserve the traditions and cultures.

Natural disasters also threaten cultural heritage, and the UN office for disaster risk reduction is involved in protecting them. The UN is not only talking with policies and resolutions, however; it is walking the walk as well. They're aiding preservation projects in Timbuktu, Mali, and other remote areas.

Cultural heritage is also a matter of emergency assistance, in combat zones such as Syria and Iraq. Countries such as Bhutan and Nepal have successful sustainable tourism initiatives that offer ways to preserve and promote cultural heritage as they help local economies.

What is really encouraging is the restoration of cultural property to its countries of origin by the international community as a whole. Their work is a stark reminder of how vital this cultural history is —and how critical it is that we preserve it for future generations. Hands must be put into action to preserve as much as possible.

In all, the UN has an admirable commitment to protecting cultural heritage in less accessible countries. In their work, they remind us that regardless of ideology and perspective, we are all human beings sharing the same existence and deeply connected to our cultural ancestry.

V. Essential Questions

1. How can access to cultural heritage in isolated countries be increased for tourists and local communities?

2. Which are the strategies that can be used in the international promotion of the cultural heritage of isolated countries?

3.Which technologies in preservation of culture are being addressed?

4. What can be the leading forces in the isolated countries regarding the protection of cultural heritage?

5.What should guide the preservation of cultural heritage in isolated countries?

6.How can conflict between cultural interests and economics be used in the preservation of cultural heritage?

7.How can partnerships improve things by being established between international organizations and isolated countries?

8. Which are the benefits and challenges that international collaboration brings?

VI. Conclusion

Unlike many isolated countries, their cultural heritage faces challenges, but they also present opportunities for the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity.

Some of the challenges include being susceptible to destruction and looting, economic and resource limitations, access and dissemination obstacles, and tourism and globalization risks. However, these events can also be opportunities for the preservation of cultural authenticity, sustainable development through cultural tourism, cultural exchange and international cooperation, and strengthening of identity and social cohesion. Is going to ensure not only community participation, international cooperation, and technology help in preservation and dissemination across the globe, but at a more systemic level

This recommendation entails: strengthening legislation and policies to safeguard cultural heritage; investing in local education and training; encouraging international cooperation and cultural exchange; developing sustainable plans for cultural tourism.

SOCHUM also recommends sustainable, respectful collaboration of cultural authenticity, if shown progress and value today, will pay tribute to the cultural heritage being preserved in the isolated countries. By addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities, we can protect and promote the cultural wealth of these countries for future generations.

VII. References

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