

**Forum:** The Third General Assembly

**Issue:** Measures to protect loss of indigenous culture across the world from globalization.

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**Position:** Deputy Chair

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## **Introduction**

Indigenous peoples are custodians for a great deal of the world's linguistic and cultural diversity. Despite their massive contributions to society, indigenous peoples have endured tremendous suffering due to discrimination and marginalization, of which they are still subjected to in current times. A contributing factor to this issue is the question of globalization. Globalization is a process that is rapidly increasing its predominance and impact on the world. In some ways, globalization has the capacity to lend itself to cultural homogenization therefore eradicating cultural diversity significantly. Their languages and cultures, of which constitute for a large amount of the world's linguistic and cultural diversity, continue to be threatened to the extent of extinction.

As the severity of these issues has progressed, governments around the world have recognized this issue and efforts are being made to mitigate it. From land claims settlements to constitutional amendments, governments around the world are taking measures towards addressing the concerns of the indigenous peoples and implementing procedures to take action.

Indigenous peoples today stand at the crossroads of globalization. In many ways, indigenous peoples challenge the fundamental assumptions of globalization as they do not follow the belief that humanity will benefit from a consumerist society. Indigenous peoples are acutely aware, from their own tragic experience with loss of indigenous culture, that consumerist societies grow and prosper at the expense of other parties.

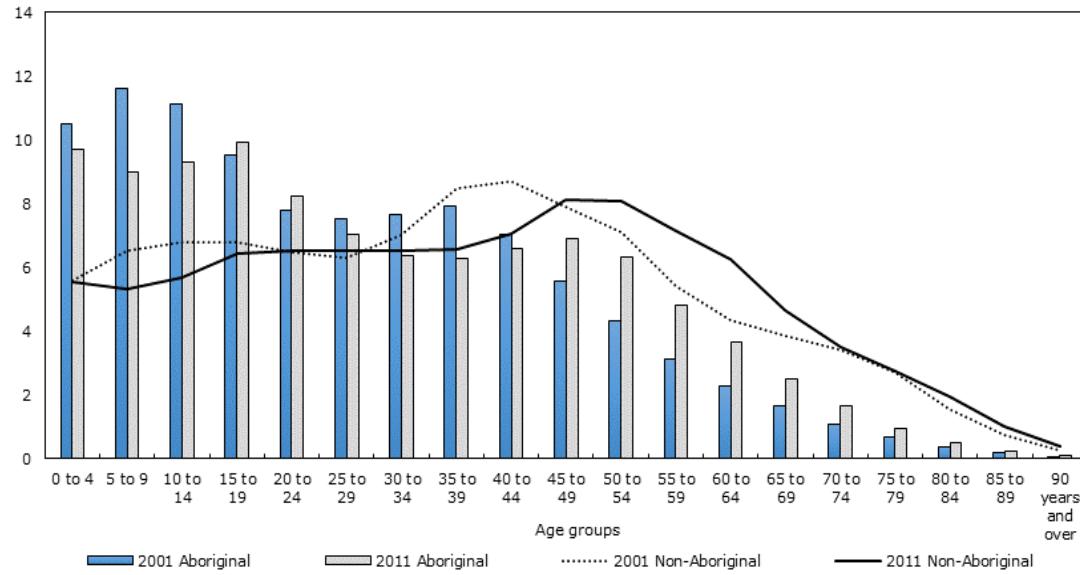
In the Andes and Southeast Asia, where the majority of indigenous peoples live, flows of private foreign investments have increased by as much as 10000 percent in recent years, judging from the

statistics published by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This money is the indubitable source of wealth for some people. However, this growth is occurring at the expense of many indigenous cultures and societies.

Furthermore, another example of the impact of globalization on indigenous cultures resides here in the United Arab Emirates. Before the establishment of the United Arab Emirates in 1971, the nation formerly known as the Trucial States differed greatly in culture compared to the culture today. Camels were once an integral part of the culture as they were used for trade, travel, transport, food and clothing. Due to globalization, modern transportation has replaced this aspect of the Emirati culture and heritage.

**Chart 1**  
**Percent distribution of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal population by age group, Canada, 2001 and 2011**

percent



**Note:** Data have been adjusted to account for incompletely enumerated reserves. Only reserve communities that were enumerated in both census years (2001 and 2011) were included.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2001 and National Household Survey 2011.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Agriculture

The practice of farming, with specific reference to the harvesting and cultivation of crops and livestock. Agriculture plays a significant role in economic development as it constitutes a large amount of global imports and exports.

### **Conflict-Resolution**

A methodology in which two opposing entities cooperate in efforts to reach a rational and logical compromise that satisfies both entities.

### **Constitutional Amendments**

To amend a constitution, law or policy in a way that modified or reinforces it.

### **Consumerist Society**

A society in which is heavily influenced by consumer goods and the materialistic aspect of life.

### **Cultural Diversity**

The existence of variation in cultural belief systems within a society.

### **Cultural Homogenization**

A byproduct of globalization in which members of distinct cultures slowly become less interconnected to their distinct cultural beliefs and conform to a predetermined, mainstream set of belief systems that makes all peoples uniformly similar.

### **Demographic**

A particular sector or subsection within a generalized population.

### **Ethnic Cleansing**

The mass genocide of members of a particular ethnic or cultural group with the aim of eradicating that particular demographic of the global population.

### **Fatalities**

The deaths of individuals as a result of war or disease.

### **Globalization**

The process of growing interaction and integration amongst individuals within communities and societies in order to interdependence and interconnectedness of global economies, cultures, communities and societies.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

Peoples who have distinct social and cultural belief systems with ancestral ties to the land in which they habituate.

### **International Monetary Fund**

A global organization that was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression. It serves the purpose of building internationally used frameworks for economic strategy.

### **Land Claims Settlements**

The pursuit of a recognized territorial ownership of a group or individual by a second group or individual.

### **Land Privatization**

To sell or auction land, of which was previously publicly owned, to entities in the private sector.

### **Less Economically Developed Country (LEDC)**

A country that is not sufficiently developed in terms of its economic activity and stability.

### **Maasai Ethnic Group**

An ethnic group that originated in the East African region, specifically Kenya, in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. The two most prominent languages spoken within this ethnic group are Swahili and English, however Afrikaans is also a somewhat commonly spoken language within the group. It currently has a population of 430,000 peoples, most of which live in Kenya.

### **Marginalization**

The treatment of a group of peoples in an unequal manner based on pre-assumed stereotypes and astigmatisms directed towards that group of peoples.

### **More Economically Developed Country (MEDC)**

A country that is sufficiently developed in terms of its economic activity and stability.

### **Nomadic**

A lifestyle in which members of the community do not have fixed habitation and are constantly traveling and migrating from one location to another. There are four classifications of nomadic lifestyle: hunter-gatherer, pastoral, tinker and trader.

### **Political Tension**

When there is potential capacity for turmoil and conflict between two nations due to difference in political points of view and political resistance between the two entities.

### **Private Foreign Investments**

A personal or commercial investment that is made by a private entity in a foreign country.

### **Ratify**

To make a legal document such as treaty, agreement or contract that is made valid by formally signing it.

### **Social Cohesion**

The strength of interconnected relationships between individuals and communities within a society.

### **Societal Fragmentation**

The absence of interconnected relationships between individuals and communities within a society therefore causing separation and segregation of individuals and communities within a society.

### **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Goals created by the UN after the duration of the millennium development goals elapsed with aims to guarantee a more sustainable future of good quality for all by addressing major, pressing modern-day issues.

### **Legislation**

The legal process of establishing laws and policies.

## **Key Issues**

### **Change in Lifestyle**

The ongoing process of globalization has led to significant changes in lifestyle both domestically and internationally. Globalization reinforces modern systems that minimize the value and prevalence of culture and the continuity of ancestral traditions. Modern transportation, housing and domestic ways of living have transformed from diverse lifestyles varying in different cultures into a homogenous way of

living in which all members of society are becoming uniformly similar. Previously, different cultures around the world had distinct ways of living that made for a unique variety of cultural communities and societies. Whether it be food, languages, religions or overall traditions, each culture had a unique set of values and lifestyle systems that were to be followed within their cultural community. This fueled a culturally rich and diverse world in which there was a variety of communities and societies. In current times, this sense of diversity has substantially diminished and become an insignificant aspect of life to many around the world.

#### *Emirati Culture and Heritage*

As briefly mentioned in the introduction, the culture and heritage in the United Arab Emirates has notably changed in terms of prominence and belief systems. Decades ago, the United Arab Emirates followed nomadic traditions such as hunting for food and using camels for many aspects of living. Likewise, housing, clothing and other material necessities were made solely from human motor skills such as carpentry and sewing whereas mass production and technology is heavily used in current times. This reduces the need for learning the fundamental skills that contribute to the United Arab Emirates' nomadic culture and heritage, which has deteriorated in its prevalence over the years.

### **Social Issues**

There are many social issues that people belonging to indigenous cultures face as a result of globalization. Cultural diversity is a significant aspect of a functioning society as it dispels stereotypes and generalized astigmatisms directed towards minority indigenous cultures. This helps to encourage the establishment of an open-minded society that does not have underlying, subliminal tendencies that may be discriminatory towards these cultures. Similarly, diversity of cultures is important in developing a multi-perspective society that is interconnected. Without cultural diversity, there will be a divide amongst communities and a lack of social cohesion. Due to globalization, the diversity of indigenous cultures is decreasing rapidly which lends itself to these further societal issues.

#### *Lack of Awareness and Education*

One key issue that contributes to the loss of cultural diversity within the international community is the fact that education and public awareness is not utilized as a tool to prevent it occurring in future generations. The longevity and continuity of indigenous cultures can be ensured through teaching their belief systems to the youth population in order to increase awareness about indigenous cultures that are in the minority. By doing so, the youth population will become increasingly culturally aware of minority indigenous cultures therefore they can carry on the traditions and legacies of those cultures.

### Economic Issues

There are also some economic issues that will be faced by individuals and governments due to this rising issue. Firstly, globalization is a contributing factor to the reinforcement of stricter immigration laws. This makes it increasingly difficult for members of minority cultures to find employment. Due to this, members of minority cultures are forced to conform to cultural homogenization in order to be uniformly similar to the societal norm. This reduces the diversity of cultural representation and diversity, therefore contributing to the issue. Secondly, governments also face economic issues as a result of decreased cultural diversity. Cultural diversity and representation in governments allow for multi-perspective approaches which improves political efficacy and problem-solving strategies for global issues. Similarly, cultural diversity in the government setting can reduce political tension and improve communication in terms of conflict-resolution. This in turn will strengthen the peaceful union of nations across the globe.

#### *Andes and Southeast Asia*

In recent years, the flow of private foreign investments in the Andes and Southeast Asia have increased up to 10000 percent. This economic change is beneficial towards upper-class members of society due to their wealth. However, this has a negative impact on minority indigenous cultures who live in this region as it consists of LEDCs, which is a large demographic as 95% of the world's indigenous peoples live in LEDCs. Therefore, there is a large quantity of the population who are of the middle and lower class, many of which will be members of minority indigenous cultures as they account for a large demographic of the population for this region.

#### *Maasai Ethnic Group in East Africa*

The constant dominance of globalization in society is directly tied to the loss of cultural diversity over the decades. A specific example of this is the Maasai Ethnic Group in East Africa which is currently facing the threat of extinction. This group is a population of semi-nomadic peoples who are indigenous to Kenya and Northern Tanzania in the East African region. They have distinct traditions and practices within their culture however the practice of these traditions has decreased over the years due to globalization in the modern world. Throughout the past several decades, members of the Maasai Ethnic Group have transitioned into more mainstream occupations, mainly farming and agriculture. This as well as lifestyle changes and reduced proximity to their home country has led to the cultural homogenization of a significant percentage of peoples who were previously a part of this culture. In 1989, the Maasai Ethnic Group had a population of 956,000 people. As of 2021, this number has since been reduced to 430,000 peoples.

## **Innovation**

Innovation is a primitive aspect of life as it leads to the evolution and development of society. Loss of cultural diversity reduces the ability of the human population to strengthen skills and understand multiple viewpoints and perspectives which allow the capacity to develop critical-thinking and problem-solving strategies which can be applied to rectify global issues. This is because it is important to interact with peoples of different backgrounds in order to gain these new outlooks on different concepts. Without cultural diversity, societies would be homogeneous therefore all members of society will follow a uniformly similar way of thinking. This poses a barrier for innovative thinking therefore creating a society that is fundamentally stagnant.

## **Legal Systems**

The reinforcement of legal systems plays a role in the protection of indigenous cultures in order to ensure cultural diversity in the international community. If legal systems are not set in place to promote cultural diversity, then it will not be difficult for parties who oppose cultural diversity to indulge in acts of violence and hate crimes towards minority indigenous cultures, hence leading to a state of international crisis and terrorism.

### *Lack of Legal Involvement*

The implementation of laws and policies that protect minority indigenous cultures within international legal systems are fundamentally lacking and minimal if not nonexistent. This is because governments do not view this issue as one that should be considered an extreme priority. Due to this, there are many unethical actions of other parties that have been done in the past in order to jeopardize the existence of indigenous cultures without technically breaking any laws. An example of this is land privatization and how it is used to force ethnic groups out of their homes causing separation of cultural communities.

### *Corrupt Governments*

Historically speaking, there have been instances in which corrupt governments have incited actions against minority indigenous cultures that have raised the question of whether or not they are acting within the law. For instance, the former Kenyan President Moi called for the mass genocide of the Maasai Ethnic Group with the motivation of ethnic cleansing. Instances such as these lead to the loss of cultural diversity and are cause for concern pertaining to the obligation of world leaders to behave in an ethical manner.

## **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

### *Large Corporations*

Large-scale corporations and businesses are involved in this issue due to their significant contributions to the ongoing process of globalization. They instigate innovation and advancements across many industries including medicine, technology and engineering of which lend themselves to the establishment of a modernized world. Their views on this subject matter is that globalization is highly beneficial due to its ability to widely improve global economic activity and efficacy. Therefore, they are in support of globalization as the impact of globalization on indigenous cultures and indigenous peoples is not of the concern of large corporations as their objectives focus solely on economic development and profit achievement.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

Indigenous peoples are involved in this issue directly as they are subject to the risk of extinction. The key issues revolving around the loss of cultural diversity affects indigenous peoples as their cultural identities are being lost due to globalization therefore they are facing a crisis as a community of displaced persons. Their views on this subject matter is that they advocate for the protection of their rights as indigenous peoples and the advocate for the preservation of their cultures in order to ensure their continuity and longevity in future generations. Therefore, they are against the process of globalization as the impact of globalization in their cultures places them at a position of severe disadvantage.

### **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Non-Governmental organizations are involved in this issue as they account for a substantial amount of the initiation of realistic and feasible solutions towards this issue. The nature of non-governmental organizations is to advocate for and implement calls to action on humanitarian causes such as these therefore they are opposed to the ongoing process of globalization. Their views on this subject matter is that globalization creates unethical scenarios for a considerable demographic of the international population due to the fact that it creates disadvantages for this demographic of people that compromises their quality of life and their sense of security in their identities. However, these organizations, despite their non-governmental stance, are still businesses nonetheless therefore they reap personal benefits from globalization. Due to this, they do stand to gain advantages from globalization although they are opposed to the issues it creates from a humanitarian perspective. Therefore, they are somewhat against the process of globalization as the impact of globalization on indigenous cultures and indigenous peoples goes against their integrity as an organization although they do benefit from it.

### **The United Nations**

The United Nations are involved in this issue as they are fundamentally responsible for the assurance of international peace and justice to protect all people from discrimination and unethical challenges. The key issues that revolve around this subject matter are relevant to the purpose of the

United Nations. Therefore, they are in a position to mitigate the situation in an optimal manner by minimizing the negative impacts on all parties involved and maximizing the positive impacts on all parties involved. In some ways, their views on this subject matter are rather neutral. They are not opposed to globalization in a general viewpoint as it is beneficial towards economies and the majority of communities and societies around the globe. However, they are opposed to the damage that globalization causes towards minority indigenous cultures, but not the process of globalization itself. Therefore, they are somewhat against the process of globalization pertaining to indigenous cultures in the sense that they hope to implement solutions that allow for globalization to occur without negatively affecting indigenous cultures and for globalization to continue while coexisting with cultural diversity.

### Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
1913	British colonization of Kenya	The Maasai Ethnic Group was separated and many members migrated to Tanzania. The separation of the Maasai Ethnic Group into two separate entities caused many to disassociate themselves from the culture therefore there was a decline in the population of the Maasai Ethnic Group.
1940s-1950s	Establishment of wildlife parks and reserves in Kenya.	This restricted the availability of land in Kenya for the Maasai people, which forced many of them to become increasingly disconnected to the culture and eventually completely unassociated to it, causing further depletion of its population.
1980	Agriculture takes over the land of the Maasai Ethnic Group.	Due to globalization, there was an increased demand for agricultural products therefore more land was needed for farming and agricultural practice. This forced many peoples from the Maasai Ethnic Group out

		of Kenya and Tanzania therefore becoming less connected to their culture. Hence, the population of the Maasai Ethnic Group further declined.
<b>1991</b>	Land privatization and claims in Kenya.	Land privatization became prominent in Kenya due to the development of the Kenyan economy as a result of globalization. This led to the loss of over 500 square kilometers of land therefore forcing members of the Maasai Ethnic Group to flee their land as it is being stolen from them. This causes many members of the Maasai Ethnic Group to stop practicing the traditions of the culture as they no longer have the capacity to do so.
<b>1992-1997</b>	President Moi initiates ethnic cleansing in Kenya.	In efforts to achieve globalization of the Kenyan economy, former president of Kenya, President Moi, initiated killings of the Maasai Ethnic Group. This was done to achieve ethnic cleansing of Kenya in hopes to allow for greater capacity of economic growth due to agriculture.
<b>2010</b>	The establishment of the 2010 United Kingdom	This act ensured the security of indigenous peoples and the preservation of indigenous cultures through amplifying security and prominents of laws in order to allow members of indigenous cultures to feel safe and protected within society. Furthermore, it ensured the accommodation of indigenous peoples to help them live in peaceful coexistence with modernized

		societies and cultures that contrast to their indigenous beliefs and lifestyles.
2016	Diversification of school curriculums in the United Arab Emirates.	This ensured an increase in the awareness and education of the youth population regarding different cultures around the world. Therefore, the continuity and longevity of indigenous cultures was assured, thus preventing future loss of cultural diversity. The United Arab Emirates is a heavily modernized country that has been subject to substantial and continuous globalization over the decades. However, legislative actions have been implemented, such as this one, in order to maintain a balance between globalization in modern society and preservation of indigenous culture and heritage.

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

#### Cultural Diversity Efforts in the United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is a nation that is famously known for its social cohesion and a population that is ethnically and culturally diverse. The United Arab Emirates was able to achieve this feat due to its integration of cultural and moral education within its school systems. In recent years the Ministry of Education within the United Arab Emirates has mandated student learning of Emirati culture and heritage in order to preserve old traditions and carry on the legacy of past generations to future generations. Additionally, the Ministry of Education within the United Arab Emirates ensured the provision of diversified educational curriculums which includes 17 different educational models in order to accommodate the ethnicities, cultures and nationalities and students, thus promoting diversity and inclusivity. Also, the provision of moral education allows students to develop the psychological capacity that will enable them to become good global citizens and productive members of the international

community and society. This feat can be accomplished within the integration of these educational curricula and systems as they promote psychological intelligence in terms of the intellectual capacity for emotions such as empathy, tolerance and open-mindedness. This in turn will encourage future generations to explore different cultures and ensure that they are not lost, therefore promoting cultural diversity and the protection of indigenous cultures.

### **The British Red Cross**

The British Red Cross is an international charity organization based in the United Kingdom that is dedicated towards advocating for humanitarian causes. In 2010, the United Kingdom Equality Act was introduced in which legislative policies were established that would protect the rights of indigenous peoples and preserve indigenous cultures. This includes the prohibition of discrimination in the workplace against members of minority indigenous cultures. On a more wide scale level, these policies secure the rights of peoples belonging to indigenous cultures through ensuring the reinforcement of laws that protect their rights. This in turn strengthens the legal system so that indigenous cultures can be sufficiently protected and preserved. This is a significant effort that has been made to protect indigenous cultures from the risk of being lost. This is because the ratification of these legislations and legal policies will help to rectify this global issue as it implements the necessary calls to action that will enable the preservation of indigenous cultures and cultural diversity.

### **Possible Solutions**

#### **Promoting Education and Awareness on Culture**

It is imperative that the youth population is educated on indigenous culture across the globe in order to ensure that this demographic of the global population is culturally aware. This will ensure the continuity and longevity of the prevalence of culture within future generations therefore helping to rectify the issue of cultural diversity loss.

#### *Celebration of culture*

Encouraging the celebration of cultures and cultural diversity will promote the narrative of educating the youth population on different cultures. This will ensure that minority indigenous cultures are not lost regardless of the globalization of modern society in the future. Therefore, it will become more feasible for globalization to continue to occur without having a negative impact on indigenous cultures and their prevalence in the international community and society.

#### *Cultural integration in the educational system*

The integration of cultural learning in the educational systems around the world will ensure that indigenous cultures are not being lost or forgotten in future generations of the human population. This call to action has become increasingly necessary over the past few decades as globalization became increasingly prominent in the modernized society. Therefore, the initiation of cultural learning in the classroom will enable a way of student learning that fuses futuristic values with cultural awareness, therefore preserving indigenous cultures and protecting them from loss of cultural diversity.

### **Reinforced legislations**

It is imperative that the reinforcement of legislative policies continues to occur as it will promote the peaceful coexistence of indigenous peoples and modernized societies. By implementing ratifications that protect the rights of indigenous peoples, the preservation of indigenous cultures can be assured and the risk of cultural diversity loss due to globalization will be reduced. For example, the reinforcement of legal policies pertaining to land privatization will prevent the takeover of indigenous land. Therefore, indigenous peoples will not be forced to flee their indigenous land and the culture will not be fragmented, which is a considerable contributing factor to the loss of indigenous cultures.

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