FORUM: GA4 Special Political and Decolonization Committee

QUESTION OF: Securing peoples’ right to self-determination

SUBMITTED BY: South Sudan

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Recalling* the goal of the United Nations specified in the United Nations Charter to ‘’develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace’’,

*Fully aware of* the previous disagreements and disputes over the conflicting definitions and legal criteria for determining which groups and individuals may legitimately claim the right to self-determination,

*Deeply concerned* about the lack of legal criteria and the previous global conflicts that arose due to the disagreements regarding the national self-determination of certain nations,

*Stressing the importance* of the 1942 Atlantic Charter, which represented the beginning of the movement aimed towards personal and national self-determination,

*Regretting* the lack of previous action taken by the international community to further ensure the right to self-determination,

*Stressing* the importance of Article 20 Paragraph 1 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights not only in Africa but also on the global scale, as all people shall have the unquestionable and inalienable right to self-determination and the power to independently determine their political orientation and pursue their personal development according to their own will,

1. Calls upon all states to respect the right to self-determination of all ethnic groups within their borders and encourage them to integrate in the existing society, without the need to separate from the higher authority;
2. Further invites all States to adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to ensure the preservation of national and cultural minorities ensuring their diversity, right to self-determination, ethnic, cultural and religious habits and to maintain their linguistic identity as stated in Article 1 of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;
3. Calls upon all nations that have not ratified certain treaties relevant to the question of self-determination and those mentioned in the perambulatory clauses to do so as soon as the political situation in those states is stable enough to do so;
4. Calls for the establishment of an ad-hoc committee named Special Committee on Self-determination with experts in the field of international law, which would:
   1. Conduct research in the areas where oppression is being practiced against certain ethnicities, cultures or nationalities by the government and determine its levels,
   2. Determine the ability of certain governments to protect their people from oppression in regard to their ability to self-determine,
   3. Write a report to be issued on the Convention on the Right to Self-Determination, further mentioned in clause 6, and possibly sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations to be discussed on the UN General Assembly;
5. Suggest that oppression practiced by the government or any other foreign force should be solved by:
   1. The Governments of the relevant states taking proper action to prevent the oppression,
   2. Helping with the formation of a new authority with the authorization of the Security Council if war atrocities are being committed in the conflict;
6. Recommends the establishment of the Convention on the Right to Self-determination in order to:
   1. Form an international treaty on the question of self-determination which would give legal ground to insuring self-determination,
   2. Try and solve the current disputes regarding the right to self-determination,
   3. Issue the report of the Come to an agreement regarding the definition of self-determination and the broadness of the term;
7. Deplores the unnecessary use of force and calls upon the international community to ensure the national minorities to:
   1. Achieve greater rights of expression of their culture, religion, language, nationality,
   2. If not satisfied under current government, form a regional government which works in cooperation with the national government to ensure the group's’ ability to self determine,
   3. As a last resort, separate from the greater authority through a democratic referendum recognized by the international community as legitimate;
8. Further calls upon the international community to pressure the states that do not grant the democratic means mentioned in clause 6 to do so;
9. Strongly encourages the formation of bilateral agreements between the government and self-determining authority:
   1. Before autonomy is reached, to smoothen the process of achieving autonomy in terms of:
      1. Reaching economic agreements and forming economic partnerships,
      2. Structuring political partnerships and alliances,
      3. Establishing strong diplomatic relations;
   2. After autonomy is reached, to prevent further disputes and endangerment of sovereignty and self-determination in terms of abidance to the agreements made in the previous sub-clauses;
10. Wishes to remain actively seized on the matter.