

**Committee:** Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Issue:** The economic and social activities affecting the interests of people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories

**Student Officer:** Ermioni Gounopoulou

**Position:** Deputy President

## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ermioni Gounopoulou, I am 16 years old, and I am currently attending the IB1 at the Anatolia College of Thessaloniki. This is my first time attending the ACGMUN and my seventh time attending a MUN conference. This year, I am honoured to serve as the Deputy President of the 6th ACGMUN Economic and Social Council.

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to the 6th ACGMUN and congratulate you on your decision to participate in the conference. The MUN conferences are a great way to expand your horizons, get involved in global issues, make new friends with common interests, and most importantly, have an impact on the world's controversial matters.

This study guide will provide you with useful information about the first topic of the agenda which is "*The economic and social activities affecting the interests of people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.*" Non-government territories are currently an important part of our modern world and they can be drastically affected by the economic changes and social reformations in our world. More specifically, these territories can be prone to political instability, the rival claims of neighbouring states, and in some cases denial of their search for self-rule, a fact that causes conflict and uncertainties within the nations. The purpose of this document is to use it as your guide to help you understand the important aspects of the issue and to help you organise your research. However, you are all highly encouraged to also expand your research further by visiting the links provided at the end of the study guide or any other sources that you may consider useful.

It is understandable to feel overwhelmed by this procedure, but I can assure you that your work will be paid off! Of course, if you have any questions concerning the following study guide or the conference, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is [ermionigioun@gmail.com](mailto:ermionigioun@gmail.com). I am sure that we will all enjoy the process to the fullest!

I can not wait to meet you all,

Ermioni Gounopoulou

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Non-self-governing territories are considered to be the regions where the citizenry has not yet fully achieved self-government. These types of territories have always been a part of our world since the very early years of the evolution of societies, especially since the economically powerful countries started exploring other lands and forming colonizations. These territories, during the period of decolonization in the years 1945-1946, were counted and closely inspected by eight Member States - Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. 72<sup>1</sup> Territories were first listed under their administration, which they considered to be non-self-governing from which eight became independent before 1959.

As the years kept passing, the number of non-self-government territories kept decreasing since they were able to be declared independent due to the international relations among countries or the actions taken and implemented by these territories. In 1963, the Assembly approved a revised list of 64 Territories to which the 1960 Declaration on Decolonization applied.

The list included the two remaining Trust Territories at that time meaning that they were non-self-governing territories placed under an administrative authority by the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, a fact that from the beginning highlights the importance of such territories for international relations; The list started off limited and added The Comoro Island in 1972 and New Caledonia in 1986 and from 1960 to 2002, 54 Territories attained self-government.

There are now 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories that can be found in Africa, the Atlantic, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific. Due to the way that these regions operate and the antiquated governing structure that they have, they are particularly regarded as fragile territories. As a result, they are vulnerable to the economic and social changes that occur in the rest of the world because these changes may result in political, economic, and disagreements about who should rule, which in turn causes other issues within the territories such as questions about the sovereignty and legitimacy of these regions. The Western Sahara conflict, a Spanish province that was conquered by Moroccan and Mauritanian forces in 1975<sup>2</sup> and is still experiencing significant difficulties, is currently one of the most significant concerns with the non-self-governing areas.

For all the above reasons and because of the responsibility of member states to take care of all the areas and territories and because of the important disadvantages that changes in global economic and social aspects can have, it is vital

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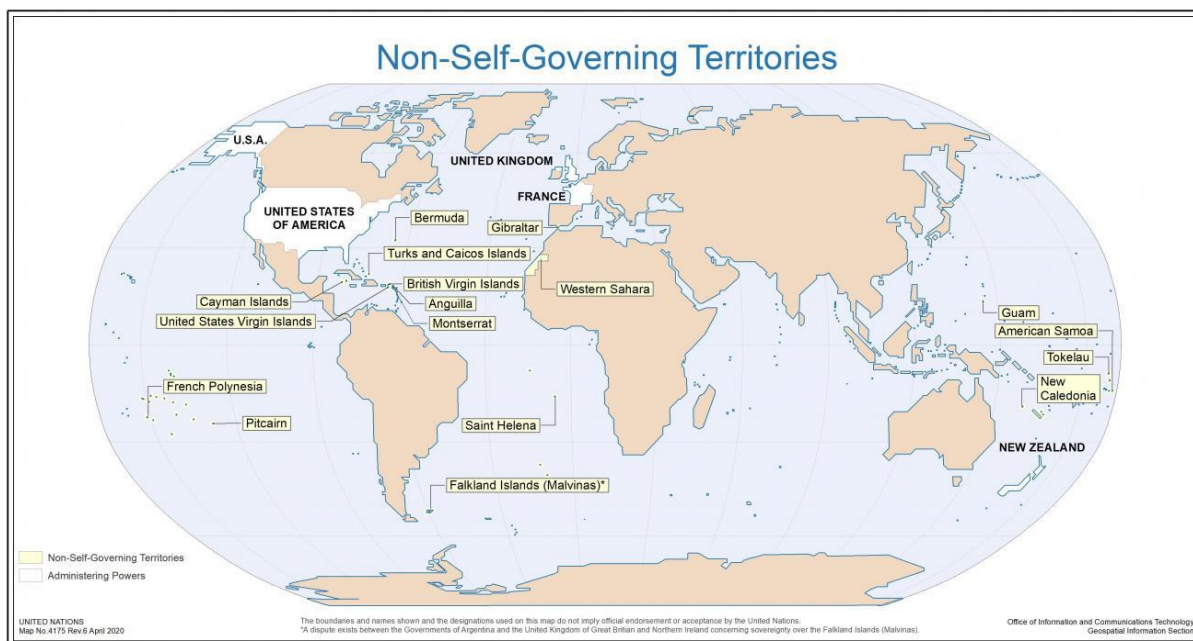
<sup>1</sup> "List of International Days and Weeks." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>.

<sup>2</sup> Arab Center Washington DC. "The Polisario Front, Morocco, and the Western Sahara Conflict." *Arab Center Washington DC*, 8 July 2021, <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-polisario-front-morocco-and-the-western-sahara-conflict/>.

that the UN work all together to improve the situation and make the living and political condition of people acceptable.

Figure 1: Map showing the current Non-self-Governing Territories,2020<sup>3</sup>

### DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS



**Non-self-governing territories (NSTGs):** Under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government"<sup>4</sup>

**Colonization:** "Colonization can be defined as a process of establishing foreign control over target territories or peoples for the purpose of cultivation, often by establishing colonies and possibly by settling them"<sup>5</sup>

**Decolonization:** "the process in which a country that was previously a colony (= controlled by another country) becomes politically independent"<sup>6</sup>

**Economic inequalities:** "Economic inequality is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society. It is a concern in almost all countries"

<sup>3</sup> Figure 1: "Non-Self-Governing Territories | The United Nations and Decolonization." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsgt>.

<sup>4</sup> "Non-Self-Governing Territories | The United Nations and Decolonization." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsgt>.

<sup>5</sup> "Colonization." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 20 Jan. 2023, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonization>.

<sup>6</sup> "Decolonization." *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/decolonization>.

around the world and often people are trapped in poverty with little chance to climb up the social ladder.”<sup>7</sup>

**Social Inequalities:** “Social inequality refers to differential access to and use of resources across various domains (e.g., health, education, occupations) that result in disparities across gender, race/ethnicity, class, and other important social markers.”<sup>8</sup>

**Economic barriers:** “Obstacles that make it difficult for a firm or a territory to enter a given market. They may arise naturally because of the characteristics of the market, or they may be artificially imposed by firms already operating in the market or by the government.”<sup>9</sup>

**Legitimacy:** “Legitimacy is commonly defined in political science and sociology as the belief that a rule, institution, or leader has the right to govern.”<sup>10</sup>

**Sovereignty:** “Sovereignty is a political concept that refers to dominant power or supreme authority. In a monarchy, supreme power resides in the "sovereign", or king. In modern democracies, sovereign power rests with the people and is exercised through representative bodies such as Congress or Parliament.”<sup>11</sup>

**More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs):** “ These are the countries that, based on their economy, are considered to have more developed economies than others and have their quality of life and standard of living which is usually better than that of the LEDCs. According to the United Nations, these are the USA, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and all the countries of Europe.”<sup>12</sup>. MEDCs enlarge the gap between stronger and weaker territories, a fact that applies and impacts the territories examined in this study guide as well.

**Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs):** “These are the countries that, based on their economy, are considered to have less developed economies than others. According to the United Nations, these are mostly the countries in Africa, Asia (except Japan), Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania (except Australia and New

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<sup>7</sup> “Key Topics.” *IZA World of Labor - Home*, <https://wol.iza.org/key-topics/economic-inequality>.

<sup>8</sup> “Department of Psychology.” *Social Inequality - Department of Psychology*, <https://psych.la.psu.edu/research/social-inequality>.

<sup>9</sup> “Barriers to Entry.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/barriers-to-entry>.

<sup>10</sup> “Legitimacy | The Princeton Encyclopedia of Self-Determination.” *Princeton University*, The Trustees of Princeton University, <https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/516>

<sup>11</sup> “Sovereignty.” *Legal Information Institute*, Legal Information Institute, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sovereignty>.

<sup>12</sup> “More Economically Developed Countries.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/more-economically-developed-countries/476297>.

Zealand).<sup>13</sup> The financial state of the different countries has a great impact on the issue of non-self-governing territories as they can have an impact on economic, financial and social aspects.

**Economic Growth:** "Economic growth is an increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another."<sup>14</sup> This is the element which we are trying to achieve for non-self-governing territories.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical Information

As previously mentioned, colonisation and expansion of one member state to a new land started being an observed political action after the 15th century when Europe experienced an intellectual and economic revival, known as the Renaissance, that laid the foundation for the subsequent expansion of European culture throughout the world. This started happening through the exploration of the available lands in the world mostly focusing on the continents of America and Europe. More specifically, Portugal was the first state that was considered to be the first to form colonies during Europe's Age of Discovery in the 15th century. Over the centuries the phenomenon of colonisation started being even more noticeable and it worked as an indicator that on a global scale, there would be more economically and socially powerful states and areas, which in our case are the member states being in administrative control of NSGTs areas and less economically and socially powerful states areas, which are the one under the control of other states. In other words, the idea of colonisation highlights the idea of power in economic, financial and political aspects.

Colonization is based on two major elements: exploitation and settlement. Large-scale immigration as a result of religious, economic, or political concerns is referred to as Settler colonialism. Trade and business, including the export of products and even the slave trade, are aspects of exploitation colonialism. The idea of colonising other areas saw a great and noticeable increase during the early 1700s and most specifically between the 1830s and the 1840s because of the Industrial Revolution, an age where mechanical and technological improvements were made, and thus, the equipment for exploring such as ships of food conservation measures was improved and member states were able to further discover and gain more areas. The Industrial Revolution started off in Britain and then moved to the other European and non-European territories, a fact that can possibly justify the noticeable majority of the UK as an administrative power in 10 active NSTGs.

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<sup>13</sup> "Less Economically Developed Countries." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/less-economically-developed-countries/476290>.

<sup>14</sup> Roser, Max. "What Is Economic Growth? and Why Is It so Important?" *Our World in Data*, 13 May 2021, <https://ourworldindata.org/what-is-economic-growth>

However, even in previous years, the problems of non-self-governing territories concerning economic, social, political and civil aspects would be alarming but frequently, hard to combat due to the political happenings and economic incentives. To understand the implications of colonisation, it is first important to closely examine its characteristics. With the term “colonised” area we refer to areas, territories or in some cases, whole states where: there is political and legal domination over an alien society, there are relations of economics and political dependence and exploitation between imperial powers and the colony exists. However such characteristics within a territory often occurred from forced entry into a territory and its population a fact that later led to alteration or destruction of the indigenous culture and patterns of the social organization invaded or the domination of the indigenous population by representatives of the invading society.

After the Industrial Revolution, the phenomenon of colonization continued taking place, with the last official formally established NSGTs being in French Polynesia with France taking again the administrative power again after some years in 2013 which will be further analysed in the “Major countries and organisations involved” section. Even before 1946, when more than 72 NSGTs existed, the international community started observing differences in the governing and way of ruling by the different administrative powers such as the US or the UK. To be more analytical, there were states that treated these territories in a way that they valued some of their cultural characteristics and ideas, while others did not and they often turned to military and violent intervention.

Even today, out of the 17 legally recognised NSGTs, some of them have a high degree of self-government such as Gibraltar while others are still under foreign military occupation (as is the case for Western Sahara) a fact that arouses criticism about what effective and feasible actions have been taken by the UN and the different security bodies.

Therefore, we understand that even though there might be positive incentives behind a state colonizing an area, Colonization is an aspect that can be seen through many political lenses: both positive and negative and political and economic implications should not be overpassed.

### **Advantages and Disadvantages of Colonialism**

It is believed colonialism may have both advantages and disadvantages. Governments in the past made investments in trade, infrastructure, and the spread of scientific and technological knowledge. In certain instances, they promoted human rights norms from the West, supported literacy, and planted the roots for democratic institutions. With colonial authority, certain former colonies, like Ghana, saw improvements in nutrition and health, and colonial European settlement has been connected to several developmental successes. Even said, those achievements were frequently accompanied by coercion and forced assimilation, and colonialism's numerous aftereffects are still up for debate.

Economic instability, ethnic conflict, and human rights violations are all effects and alarming disadvantages of colonialism that can last much beyond the time when one group ruled a region. The disadvantages that were observed in the past can be seen today in our examined territories as the aftermath and our main concerns are based on the economic fragility of them and their problem of working as separate and independent units in the economy, in the social and cultural issues and in labor market. As a result, they can't have a major role in the political happening and affairs

### **Different Colonialisms and recent conflicts**

- **African Colonialism**

Colonial rule did not survive very long and arrived late in Africa. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, European colonial powers invaded Africa. In large part, it was over by the 1960s. In "Colonialism in Africa," the impact of this time on African history is examined. While colonial rule presented opportunities for certain Africans, it posed threats to others. For African historians, reconstructing the intricate patterns of this era is a huge problem. The interest in Africa's colonial past has risen and fallen in recent years. Colonialism concerned not only the deeds of the Europeans but also those of the Africans and what they believed.

- **Atlantic and Caribbean Colonisation**

European nations like Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, and the Netherlands founded colonies throughout the Caribbean and the Atlantic during the 16th and 17th centuries. Economic factors including the need for new trade routes and the exploitation of natural riches propelled the colonization of the Caribbean and Atlantic. These colonies had a tremendous economic influence since they produced wealth for the European powers and served as a source of low-cost labor and raw resources. The emergence of the global economy and the development of European capitalism were both aided by the exploitation of the colonies. The establishment of the Caribbean and Atlantic colonies had a significant economic impact. The wealth generated by the colonies contributed to the development of European economies and laid the foundation for the modern global economy.

- **Pacific Colonisation**

The colonisation of territories was noticeable during the years in the Pacific region, which can be understood from the fact that six out of the nowdays 17 active NSGTs belong to this area. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, settlers came to the Pacific Islands from all over Europe. The islands were mostly ruled by the Japanese, Americans, and British by the turn of the 20th century. Some of the islands were able to achieve independence, while others remained unincorporated territories, reflecting their colonial heritage. For example, the island of Guam, also a part of Micronesia, was

ceded to the US by Spain in 1898. Captured by the Japanese in 1941, it was retaken by the US three years later and today remains, along with Saipan and other neighboring islands, an unincorporated US territory.

### Western Sahara Issue

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Morocco both assert competing claims to sovereignty over the Western Sahara region, which has been the subject of a protracted territorial dispute in Africa (SADR). Formerly a colony of Spain, the Western Sahara attained independence in 1975, but the state's sovereignty was quickly challenged by Morocco and Mauritania. This sparked the Western Sahara War, a battle that lasted until a cease-fire was reached in 1991.

Since that time, the Western Sahara conflict has not been settled, with Morocco occupying most of the region and the SADR, who is acknowledged by the African Union as the rightful representative of the Sahrawi people, controlling a minor portion in the east. Though progress has been slow, the United Nations has been trying to negotiate a settlement to the conflict. The fight over the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination is one of the key problems at its core.

The SADR and its supporters contend that the Sahrawi people should be permitted to vote in a self-determination referendum because they have the right to determine their own political future. On the other side, Morocco asserts that the Western Sahara is a natural extension of its borders and has suggested granting the region autonomy within the confines of the Moroccan state.

Given that the region is thought to contain considerable mineral, oil, and gas deposits, the Western Sahara problem has also had important economic ramifications. International involvement in the conflict has resulted from this, with some nations supporting Morocco and others the SADR. Also, Polisario Front, a politico-military organization striving to end Moroccan control of the former Spanish territory of [Western Sahara](#), in northwestern Africa, and win independence for that region was also established because of the dispute.

The Western Sahara issue is a complicated and protracted territorial dispute that encompasses opposing assertions of sovereignty and the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination. The dispute continues to be a source of tension in the region and has important economic ramifications. International interests are also involved. Though progress has been slow, the United Nations has been working to find a peaceful resolution to the war. It can be a great example of what economic and social challenges NSGTs can be facing.

### 1945-now



The Economist

Figure 4: map showing the western sahara area



After the WWII Member States decided that it was time for them to take matters into their own hands in all aspects of the world: from economic to social and civil issues and emphasised on topics that would enhance the international cooperation. This is why, they focused their attention on the issues that concerned territories and power and most specifically, on the non-self-governing areas .

As previously mentioned briefly, these territories were enumerated and carefully examined during the decolonization period in the years 1945–1946, and 72 areas were initially listed under their administration. Of these, they regarded eight to be non-self-governing, and eight of these territories became independent before 1959. The number of non-self-governing territories decreased over time as more and more were able to achieve independence as a result of developments in world politics or decisions made and carried out by these territories. A new list of 64 Territories to whom the 1960 Declaration on Decolonization applied was accepted by the Assembly in 1963.

The list began with a small number of territories and later included The Comoro Island in 1972 and New Caledonia in 1986. From 1960 to 2002, 54 Territories attained self-government. From 1945 until now, despite the positive and progressive development on the issue, which stems from the rapid decrease of such territories in number, the aforementioned challenges that concern issues such as political unrest, neighboring governments' competing claims, and occasionally a refusal of their own efforts to achieve self-government still continue to exist.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

Especially in the 21st century , the challenges that these territories face were even more noticeable, with the current political and social happenings such as the COVID-19, a pandemic that lasted approximately two years from 2020-2022 , that revealed and made these areas' already-existing vulnerabilities and difficulties worse.

The pandemic's effects on non-self-governing regions' economics have been among its most serious ones. Many of these areas have a substantial reliance on the tourism industry as well as other sectors that have been adversely harmed by the outbreak. The local population has experienced severe hardship as a result of the loss of revenue and the fall in economic activity, which also jeopardizes the long-term stability and prosperity of these territories.

The pandemic's effects on the provision of vital services, like healthcare, have been particularly significant. It has been challenging for many non-self-governing regions to respond to the epidemic successfully due to their lack of infrastructure and resources. Their already fragile economies have been significantly burdened by the low capacity of their healthcare systems, which has made it challenging to provide proper care for people who have been infected by the virus. What is more, the lockdowns and limitations put in place to stop the virus's spread have restricted these territories' capacity to conduct political and diplomatic affairs and have interfered with the activity of civil society organizations and other entities that are essential to promoting their rights and interests.

TERRITORIES TO WHICH THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES CONTINUES TO APPLY (AS OF 2016)				
TERRITORY	LISTING AS NSGT	ADMINISTERING POWER	LAND AREA (SQ.KM.) <sup>1</sup>	POPULATION <sup>1</sup>
<b>AFRICA</b>				
WESTERN SAHARA	SINCE 1963	II	266,000	586,000
<b>ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN</b>				
ANGUILLA	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	96	15,700
BERMUDA	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	53.35	65,187
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	153	28,200
CAYMAN ISLANDS	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	264	58,238
FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) <sup>10</sup>	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	12,173	2,500
MONTSERRAT	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	103	5,000
SAINT HELENA	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	310	5,765
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	948.2	36,689
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS	SINCE 1946	UNITED STATES	352	105,080
<b>EUROPE</b>				
GIBRALTAR	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	5.8	33,140
<b>PACIFIC</b>				
AMERICAN SAMOA	SINCE 1946	UNITED STATES	200	55,170
FRENCH POLYNESIA	1946-1947 AND SINCE 2013	FRANCE	3,600	271,800
GUAM	SINCE 1946	UNITED STATES	540	159,358
NEW CALEDONIA	1946-1947 AND SINCE 1986	FRANCE	18,575	268,767
PITCAIRN	SINCE 1946	UNITED KINGDOM	35.5	39
TOKELAU	SINCE 1946	NEW ZEALAND	12.2	1,411

Figure 2-3: Table with data about the current Non-self-Governing Territories<sup>15</sup>

### Sovereignty and legitimacy as major problems

The loss of **legitimacy** and proper **sovereignty** that results from having the right to self-determination denied to them is one of the most important issues facing non-self-governing areas. The right to self-determination is one of the basic human rights recognized by the United Nations Charter. Non-self-governing regions are generally perceived as illegitimate and their sovereignty is regularly contested since they lack the ability to decide on their own future.

The inability of non-self-governing territories to manage their own resources is a significant problem. The colonial power or the state in charge of governing the region frequently maintains control over its natural resources and decides how to use them without consulting the local populations. It also makes it more difficult for them to exercise their sovereignty because the non-self-governing areas become dependent on the colonial power or administering state. Another significant issue for non-self-governing areas is the absence of control over their own security. They frequently fall short in protecting their population adequately and are open to dangers from without.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A very important aspect of the issue are the [SDGs](#) and the [MDGs](#). In 2015 the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development voted upon the sustainable development goals and more specifically upon goal no.10 which aims to reduce

<sup>15</sup> Figure 2-3: *Welcome to the United Nations*. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/leaflet\\_-\\_english\\_june\\_2017.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/leaflet_-_english_june_2017.pdf).

inequality within and among countries by the year 2030. The goal emphasizes all aspects of inequalities such as sex, race, ethnicity, and religious inequalities but it also focuses on income inequalities and economic inequalities among the residents of each country. More specifically, the goals that can be related to our issue are goal no. 1 that highlights the needs to diminish the percentages of poverty in the world, goal no. 10 that supports the decrease of inequalities and most importantly, goal no.8 that “promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth”<sup>16</sup>

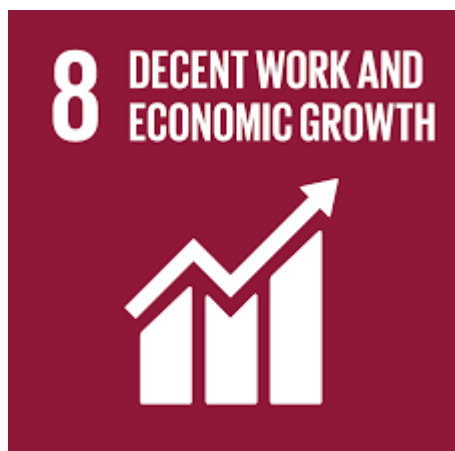


Figure 5: sdg no.8<sup>17</sup>

The Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization urged a redoubled effort to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories in achieving the SDGs, taking into account the need for increased cooperation to address the problems particular to the Territories. UN representatives also emphasized the Territories' unique susceptibility to climate change. Walton, committee chair Alfonso Webson remembered that the Committee had emphasized the significance of encouraging the economic and social sustainable development of the Territories after the adoption of the SDGs. He said that the last seminar's findings had indicated that several of the Territories were now much more economically and environmentally vulnerable as a result of climate change. He urged further efforts to improve organizational capability, sound governance, and economic sustainability. Decolonization, according to a message from UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the seminar, is still in its early stages and cannot move further until Non-Self-Governing Territories are able to solve a number of economic, social, and environmental issues. He stressed the significance of putting the SDGs into action for Territories dealing with issues like drinking water shortage, access to healthcare, economic diversification, and climate change.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### United Kingdom

Currently, out of the seventeen recognised by the UN non-self-governing territories, ten belong to the United Kingdom, a fact that indicates her significance if her in the economic and social issues impacting in these territories that we are examining. They

<sup>16</sup> “Sustainable Development Goal 8.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 29 Jan. 2023, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goal\\_8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goal_8).

<sup>17</sup> Figure 17: “Goal 8 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/SDG8>

are part of the overall sixteen British Overseas Territories (BOTs), also known as the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and they are historically and constitutionally belonging to Britain. Throughout the years, there have been cases where the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain refused to transmit information about important non-self-governing territories under their control such as Southern Rhodesia, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia. Based on her major role in NSTGs and the need to protect these areas, the UK is expected to take an even more active role in their economic and social protection of them.

## France

France is considered to be the administrative power in two non-self-governing territories: French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Concerning French Polynesia, from 1947-2013 it had its own government and legislative chamber, and thus it was considered and recognized as a Polynesian "overseas country" (autonomous territory) of the French Republic. However, after a UN resolution and a discussion of it, this territory was again registered under the power of the French government. France presents herself as "committed to continuing working with the Government of French Polynesia to support the political, economic, and social development of the territory,"<sup>18</sup> according to the statement. Currently, the country has a political agreement which ensures the participation and representation of the different ethnic groups which can set an example for the other administrative powers of NSGTs and organisations that are focusing on decolonisation and global economic and social prosperity

## USA

USA is another major actor in the issue of NSTGs and their financial and general well-being as they currently have three non-self-governing territories under their administrative control known as the United States Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa and to understand her power, less than 200 years ago, USA was in charge of a total of thirteen territories. Generally, in the last few years, the USA has actively taken part in numerous meetings held by the UN and has been taking decisions based on the belief that political, economic and social advancement of the dependent people and their achievement of self-government should be attained within the framework of the Charter of the UN. USA's focus on human freedom and its way of ruling her areas based on the human right of freedom is very important, considering also their economic and global power.

## Algeria

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<sup>18</sup>"Un Reinscribes Polynesia on List of Non-Self-Governing Territories, France Calls It 'Blatant Interference.'" *National*, <https://www.nationalia.info/new/9863/un-reinscribes-polynesia-on-list-of-non-self-governing-territories-france-calls-it-blatant>

Geographically, Algeria is a territory that is next to Western Sahara, an NSGT that has been facing alarming problems with its administrative power and is also next to Morocco. Since 1975<sup>19</sup>, when the Spanish military and residents left the area, Algeria has backed the independence of the entire Western Sahara. One of the few Arab League nations to do so is this one. It has helped the "Polisario Front," a group striving for independence in this region. When the UN discusses the instability that non-self-governing territories may bring to the international community, it should take into account the problems that have been brought between Algeria and Morocco as a result of the West Sahara issue.

### **The Department of Political Affairs, Decolonization Unit**

The Decolonization Unit of The Department of Political Affairs, was first established in 1945 along with chapter XII. The organization's principal duties include preparing annual working papers on each of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list and monitoring political, economic, and social changes in each of those 17 Territories. Additionally, it offers political advice to the C-24, which we will examine in more detail in the next sections on visiting missions to Territories, as well as for yearly regional seminars that alternately take place in the Pacific and the Caribbean and bring together representatives of the Territories, the C-24, administering Powers, and other interested parties. Finally, it seeks to spread knowledge about the issue using internet platforms or other means.

### **The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**

Resolution 690 of the Security Council from April 29, 1999<sup>20</sup>, created the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Its main objective is to aid in conversations between parties that might result in a political resolution. The mission also keeps watch over the ceasefire area to ensure that the parties uphold their commitments and don't take any steps that would undermine the situation or jeopardize the UN process.

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established in 1965 to assist nations in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable human development, a method of economic growth that emphasizes raising citizens' standards of living while protecting the environment and natural resources for future generations. More than 170 nations and territories are included in this, which also contain NSGTs. Thus, it is a group that addresses several pressing issues that the world is currently struggling with, and it can be found to help overcome the difficulties these regions face.

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<sup>19</sup>"Political Status of Western Sahara." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Jan. 2023, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political\\_status\\_of\\_Western\\_Sahara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_status_of_Western_Sahara).

<sup>20</sup>"Minurso Peacekeeping." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minurso>.

## The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

One of the five regional commissions under the control of the UN Economic and Social Council is the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It was created to promote economic ties between the region and other parts of the world while also boosting economic activity in Asia and the Far East. Nine Associate members and 53 Member States, largely from Asia and the Pacific, make up the commission. The commission's members also include nations from Asia and the Pacific, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Following the official UN documents, ESCAP has accepted several Non-Self-Governing Territories as associate members of its Special Body on Pacific Island Developing.

### BLOCS EXPECTED

**1st Bloc:** More MEDCs countries and it is recommended that in these blocs there are the states that have Non-self-governing territories under their control i.e France, USA and UK. Of course, the general relationships among the states have to be taken into consideration and especially for our topic, after the research of the delegates.

**2nd Bloc:** More LEDCs countries and it is recommended that these are the countries that do not have non-self-governing territories under their control and are geographically close to these areas or their economic activity is affected by them. Of course, the general relationships among the states have to be taken into consideration and especially for our topic, after the research of the delegates.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

These are some of the events/dates that are going to be further expanded

Date	Description of event
1607	The foundation of the first colony at Jamestown, Virginia
1945	The Trusteeship Council was established
1946	A/RES/66 was conducted and the first official count of NSGTs took place
7 October 1960	The Declaration of Decolonization was conducted
22 November 1965	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was first established by the Security Council

29 April 1991	The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was founded
1 March 1992	The Department of Political Affairs was founded (DPA)
1 November 1994	The Trusteeship Council suspended its operations a month after the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory.
24 January 2000	A/RES/54/91, a document that requested the annual observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was conducted
February 2015	UN report “ What the UN can do to assist Non-self-governing territories” was conducted by the UN Secretary-General
1 January 2016	The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were established by the creation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### [A/RES/66\(I\)](#)

Along with other important articles and decisions that were established during the years 1945-1946, which were considered to be the improvement of the aftermath that the Second World War had created, resolution A/RES/66(I) was agreed and voted on by the General Assembly. It is an important resolution as it highlighted the way for more actions to be taken and implemented in the aspect of decolonization and independence. More specifically, in accordance with Article 73e of the Charter, it supports Regional Conferences of Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and wants to improve information transmission. It was also the first formal resolution on the aspect that first counted the 72 primary territories.

### [A/RES/1514\(XV\)](#)

In its fifteenth session, in 1960, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 1514, popularly known as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which acknowledged the independence of nations and peoples subject to colonial control.

### [A/RES/54/91](#)

A resolution written in December of 1999 and requested the annual observance of the “Week of Solidarity” with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and implemented the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It was a document that mostly focused on the “raising awareness” aspect of the issue.

### [UN report “ What the UN can do to assist Non-self-governing territories”](#)

Written in 2015, under Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories have the obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of these Territories, further constructive measures of development and cooperate with the United Nations and other associated international bodies in this endeavour, when and where appropriate. The following is a select list of United Nations bodies that offer assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **C-24 Regional Seminars ( which focus on eradicating colonialism)**

Since the 1990s, regional seminars have been held throughout the Caribbean and the Pacific by the Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) to assess the progress made in carrying out the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The General Assembly requested the C-24 "conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars" in a number of its resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (most recently in its resolution 72/111, para. 8 (f)).

The regional seminars are designed to give the C-24 access to the opinions of non-Self-Governing Territory representatives, experts, members of civil society, Member States, and other stakeholders who can help the C-24 identify policy trajectories and



realistic means that can be pursued in the UN decolonization process. The seminar's discussions are anticipated to help the Special Committee develop a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as suggestions for how to improve assistance programmes for the Territories from the United Nations system and the larger international community.<sup>21</sup>

### **Trusteeship Council**

The Trusteeship Council was formed by the UN Charter as one of the principal UN bodies, and it was given the responsibility of overseeing the management of Trust Territories put under the International Trusteeship System. The International Trusteeship System's primary objectives were to support the development of Trust Territory citizens and their gradual transition to self-government or independence. The five permanent members of the Security Council—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States—make up the Trusteeship Council. To the degree that all Trust Territories have achieved self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining other nearby sovereign countries, the objectives of the Trusteeship System have been achieved. In accordance with the Charter, the Trusteeship Council has the authority to review and discuss Administering Authority reports on the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories, as well as to examine petitions from and conduct periodic and other special missions to Trust Territories in consultation with the Administering Authority.<sup>22</sup>

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Free Association**

People who live in non-UN-recognized nations, or in our case, in NSGTs, would be acknowledged worldwide as a sovereign nation with sovereignty over its political affairs if they joined a free association. They would also continue to have a clear relationship with the nation they were united with, particularly in the field of defence. The international agreement between the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the United States has already established this. In exchange for defence access to social services and grants for the residents of these regions, these people would grant some operating rights to their former respective governments. These governments work in collaboration with the states that have administrative control over a territory and thus ensure the balance between the area as its own and the area in relation to the governing power. However, in order to guarantee the effectiveness of this arrangement, oversight procedures and international agreements like the ones already in place would be essential. All

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<sup>21</sup>“C-24 Regional Seminars | The United Nations and Decolonization.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/regional-seminars>.

<sup>22</sup> “Trusteeship Council.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/trusteeship-council>.

member states with administrative authority must compromise and accept the idea of free association as a political guide to lessen the economic, civil, and social fragility of these territories, which at present have about 2 million citizens, in order for diplomacy to succeed and reach a consensus.

### **Establishment of an effective International legal framework**

The establishment of an international legal network that recognizes the sovereignty of states and Non-Self-Governing Territories is one potential answer. By doing this, the committee would guarantee that disagreements over a Territory-legitimacy State's or sovereignty would be governed by existing international law and that certain concerns over the disadvantages and economic and social inequalities of NSGTs would not be ignored by the international community. This legislative framework might be built on prior initiatives to address the problem, such as various resolutions, and it ought to place particular attention on the labour market's implications and the vulnerability that NSGTs have therein. By doing this, we might ensure that disputes over similar matters would decline and that everyone living in the world's various territories could live in a sustainable environment. A neutral governing authority, respecting sovereignty, and adhering to previously established international laws are just a few ways to do this. Additionally, other international legal frameworks could be adopted in relation to securitization, the non-intervention rule, or the economic and social advantages that each region should have.

### **Creation of new powerful organisations, treaties and NGOs**

As seen in the previous sections of the guide, in the 21st century there are numerous active organisations, treaties and NGOs that, based on the legal agreements and the established frameworks that have been agreed on by the UN or other politically active bodies, try to minimize the issues of colonization and the different economic and social inequalities among different states and territories such as ESCAP and UNDP. However, the establishment of new ones is always endorsed as new organisations could focus on different subtopics of the resolution of the issues: from sending economic help to raising awareness among people from all around the world. Many actors could help in the establishment of such organisations, with the most important being the World Bank Group (WBG) and, International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as the countries and states that are governing these territories or the countries that are financially stable to help these territories economically. Through the necessary subsidies and therefore, through the creation of new UN bodies or organisations, the international community would be more aware of the current situation and the issue could be viewed in different and more innovative ways.

### **The idea of “autonomous regions”**

Currently, 122 nations have autonomous areas, including China's pro-independence provinces, France's several territories, Denmark's Faroe Islands and Greenland, the United States Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The usage of autonomy in nations with comprehensive legal systems may serve as an example of how to resolve internal political disputes. In order to maintain their rights to economic, social,

and civil benefits, NSGTs, like those in the Western Sahara instance, need the freedom to express their rights while also being assured of the geographical integrity, unity, and sovereignty of the state. If a system of political organization accords particular powers to autonomous entities that are either delegated to or shared with the central government while still being under its authority, the system can be regarded as autonomous.

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