

Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee



SOCHUM

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INTERNAL MODEL

2017

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GREETINGS

Dear Delegates,

My name is Gabriela Lozano, a student of tenth grade, and I'm excited to welcome you to the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) at JMC's 2017 internal model. I've participated in around 7 UN models and I'm proud to mention that those moments have been the best experiences in my whole life. That's why I'm inviting you now to face this challenge and be prepared to learn important tools that'll help you feel more prepared and confident to live your future, because with activities such as this one, you not only gain more confidence in yourself, but you noticeably improve your oratory, critical thinking, cultural knowledge and your ability of finding viable solutions to real life problems.

Finally, delegates, don't you worry if this is your first time debating, I remind you I'm willing to help you at whatever you need, my mission as chair is guiding you to give the best you have, understanding others situations and becoming a world leader.

Remember:

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi

Cordially,

Gabriela Lozano – *President*

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COMMITTEE'S GENERAL INFORMATION



The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, or the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), focuses on issues dealing with fundamental human rights in the international community. SOCHUM was founded in 1948 in reaction to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

It promotes and enforces basic freedoms and ideals meant to be enjoyed by the entire world such as the right to life, the expression of cultures, the freedom of political participation, the protection of children's rights, and the promotion of social development, among many others.

SOCHUM operates with the goal of designing peaceful settlements for issues within the large spectrum of social, humanitarian, and cultural complications in the international community. This body does so by initiating studies that encourage the proposal of recommendations for the promotion of international cooperation and fundamental freedoms for all.

This forum is crucial for the formulation of ideas that can later be suggested to other UN bodies. While the resolutions passed in the

Third Committee are non-binding, this committee is useful for states to bring any discussion of international security to the floor.

Other committees that work in conjunction with the Third Committee are:

- the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- the Commission on the Status of Women
- World Health Organization
- United Nations Development Programme
- Human Rights Council
- United Nations Children's Fund
- the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
- the United Nations Environmental Programme

Through cooperative work with more focused bodies such as these, resolutions passed by the Third Committee can be implemented with a greater degree of success and efficiency. The Third Committee has been dedicated to the enforcement of fundamental human rights throughout the international community for over 60 years.

Actual President:

María Emma Mejía Vélez, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, was elected to chair the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural) on 13 June 2016

Ms. Vélez has been Permanent Representative since February 2014, prior to which she served as Secretary-General of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).



She was educated at the Universidad del Valle and the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana.

Information taken from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>

In the following links you can find more information on the commission and its past work:

- General information to the committee:
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>
- Information on past sessions:
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/archives.shtml>
- Press releases: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/pr.shtml>
- Commission's documents:
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/70/documentation.shtml>

MODEL TOPIC

SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN USA, THE REALITY OF DAPL

The indigenous peoples of the United States include a vast array of distinct groups that fall under the generally accepted designation of Native Americans, these include American Indians and Alaska Natives; also the people indigenous to Hawaii, or Native Hawaiians, who came from tribes, nations and communities with distinctive cultural and political attributes.

Dakota Access Pipeline

Dakota Access Pipeline or DAPLI is a proposed pipeline that would carry approximately 470,000 barrels of oil over 1,172 miles from North Dakota wells, through South Dakota and Iowa, ending at a shipping port in Illinois. The project was initially approved by the US involved in 2014, but has been met with several months of protest by activists and natives.



History:

There's been a lot of discussion about the pipeline protest at Standing Rock in North Dakota. For one, it's the longest-running protest in modern history. It's been going on for months with protestors camping out in sometimes freezing temperatures and engaging in violent clashes with law enforcement, who have used tear gas and water cannons to quell the demonstrations.

The protest started with just a few people in nearby Cannonball, North Dakota. Now estimates put the encampment between 1,000 and 3,000 people.

Many Sioux tribes have said that the pipeline threatens the Tribe's environmental and economic well-being, and that it has damaged and destroyed sites of great historic, religious, and cultural significance. The tribe has expressed concern over leaks because the pipeline passes under Lake Oahe, which serves as a major source of water.

Protests at pipeline construction sites in North Dakota began in the spring of 2016 and drew indigenous people, calling themselves water protectors and land defenders, from throughout North America as well as many other supporters, creating the largest gathering of Native Americans in the past hundred years.

In April 2016, a Standing Rock Sioux elder established a camp near the Missouri River at the site of Sacred Stone Camp, located within the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, as a center for cultural preservation and spiritual resistance to the pipeline, and over the summer the camp grew to thousands of people.

he protests have drawn international attention and have been said to be "reshaping the national conversation for any environmental project that would cross the Native American land."

In all the confrontations have been confirmed already 300 people injury and more than 487 arrested.



Controversy:

The controversy lies in the existence of interests from the different positions of each of the actors explained continuously:

Indigenous Communities:

Native Americans have been at the center of the opposition. The pipeline would travel underneath the Missouri River, the primary drinking water source for the Standing Rock Sioux, a tribe of around 10,000 with a reservation in the central part of North and South Dakota.

They are fighting to avoid a possible incident of leaks and ruptures at oil and gas pipelines, that could damage the tribe's water supply.

It rejected an earlier route that would cut across the Missouri River upstream from Bismarck, North Dakota, partly to avoid the risk of contaminating the state capital's water source. But it was remapped

downstream to the present contested crossing, where the Standing Rock Sioux says they'll be the ones who suffer in the event of a spill

They're not only defending the lands of native peoples, but also protecting everything that belongs to them.

At the beginning, the pipeline was supposed to be built north of Bismarck but was called off due to the 'potential danger' it held for the community. So what they decided was putting it at north where the Natives lives. This decision was outrageous for the natives, so they declared that the pipeline should not even be built because if this is moved over this station it is just over a main city, if it is transferred to another reservation and so on.



Government:

President Donald Trump signed executive actions to advance approval of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines this year, he has personal investments in the company managing the project, and

denying that climate change is taking place, uses military forces to suppress the protests in the country.

Government members says that native's actions deny private property rights and freedoms to the landowners who are near and adjacent to the Standing Rock Reservation and deny American citizens and businesses the energy they need to produce jobs and build a vital and healthy economy. Moreover, undertake such projects help to reduce foreign dependence on fossil fuels to power their economy and warm their homes.

Company: Energy Transfer

The ETP desires the pipeline to provide an outlet for oil to be transferred across the country and then sold to international countries and corporations. Dakota Access, LLC's planning applications argued that the pipeline improves the overall safety to the public and is a more reliable method of transport to refineries than rail or road.

It is the result of an extensive process that involved review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and regulators in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. It will be among the safest, most technologically advanced pipelines in the world.

This \$3.8 billion project crosses almost entirely private land, often already in use for other utility easements.



Some believe its completion will allow America to become more energy independent and better transport domestic oil from North Dakota to

Midwest and East Coast markets.

Environmental activists:

Activists from different countries say the pipeline would contribute man-made climate change by building up the country's oil infrastructure. They insist that fossil fuels need to be kept in the ground to protect the world from the worst effects of climate change.

Current Situation:

The project had been blocked by the Obama administration to consider its environmental risks, denying the company a permit to complete the pipeline late last year. But this has resurfaced since Trump said for the first time in December of 2016 (at his presidential campaign) that he was going to support construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and even more when early this year Signed an executive action to promote the completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company developing the pipeline, finished an important part of construction that included connecting two ends of the pipeline.

According to the latest news, the first oil was delivered through the pipeline on May, 2017. On June of this year, testing was completed and the pipeline became commercially operational.

Note: Some of the topic's information was taken from pages named in the support links.

Key points of debate:

- Indigenous rights violated
- The history of inequality for cultural minorities as indigenous people
- Interventions made by the international community (countries and NGOs)
- Possible environmental damage when developing such projects
- Economic importance in carrying out these big projects

Guiding Questions:

- What similar events do natives communities face in your country?
- What programs and campaigns have been created internationally to preserve and protect cultural minorities habitats and rights? Which new ones can be created?
- What strategies could be implemented to comply with the declaration of indigenous rights?
- How is it necessary for your delegation (economically and socially) to develop projects such as the DAPL or Keystone XL?
- What interests would most benefit to your delegation?
- How to avoid future oil spills in the area?
- What role do banks play in the project?
- What solutions could your delegation propose to address this issue?

Reliable Links:

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37181064>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37863955>
- <http://standingrock.org/history/>
- <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/its-time-for-dakota-access-pipeline-funders-to-decide-which-side-of-history-they-want-to-be-on/>
- http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session21/A-HRC-21-47-Add1_en.pdf
- <https://www.amnestyusa.org/standing-rock/>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>
- <https://dapipelinefacts.com/news-and-opinion/>
- <http://time.com/4548566/dakota-access-pipeline-standing-rock-sioux/>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56660#.WURpn2jhC00>

FINALS RECOMMENDATIONS

- First of all, keep informed about the topic to debate and the delegation to represent.
- Don't forget to manage an appropriate parliamentary and language procedure, likewise others help tools.
- Abstain from using untrusted pages on your research process, as well as social medias at the committee. Also, delegates shouldn't make use of plagiarism or floor messaging out of commission context.
- Google translate is going to be allowed at the debate course. Nevertheless, if any of you don't know how to say something, ask it to the chair, requesting a "point of parliamentary inquiry".
- Finally, if during or before the debate, you need any kind of guidance, ask, send your questions to the e-mail below.

As chair, I wish you luck to take on this very helpful experience, and I hope you to give all what you're willing to give.

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-Until the model, your president.