



General Assembly Councils



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Protecting children's cultural identity in an increasingly globalized world.

Globalization, migration, and digital media give children access to cultures and ideas from around the world. However, this can sometimes cause children to lose connection with their own languages, traditions, and cultural practices. Delegates should discuss how schools, governments, families, and media can help children maintain their cultural identity while still participating in a modern global society. They should propose educational and media policies that protect cultural identity without limiting children's access to global opportunities.

Ensuring access to modern education without abandoning traditional knowledge and indigenous learning.

Modern education gives children important access to subjects such as science, technology, and global knowledge. However, traditional knowledge, indigenous languages, and culturally specific learning methods are often left out of formal education. Delegates should discuss how traditional and indigenous knowledge can be included in modern education without lowering educational standards. They should propose ways schools can combine internationally recognized education with local knowledge and learning traditions.



United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Preventing policies, disguised as “progressive”, from erasing cultural identity.

Some governments, in the name of “modernizing” or unifying a nation, have enforced restrictions on dress, language, or customs as part of a claimed path toward national progress. In practice, these policies often erase generations of cultural identity and suppress minority groups whose traditions differ from the dominant national culture, even as governments frame the measures as necessary for cohesion. It can be difficult to identify a clear line between legitimate development and cultural oppression, especially when governments defend such measures as essential to national unity. Delegates should define clear standards distinguishing development from suppression and design enforceable policies that prevent the erasure of cultural groups within larger societies.

Proposing solutions to the human rights violations caused by forced displacement and migration.

Mass forced displacement due to conflict, persecution, or disaster disrupts not only physical safety but also access to ancestral land, sacred sites, and the communal practices needed to sustain cultural identity. International law offers frameworks for physical protection and basic humanitarian aid, but rarely addresses the cultural loss displaced populations experience once resettled in unfamiliar environments. Host countries, meanwhile, must balance humanitarian obligations against resource and integration concerns. Delegates should look toward ensuring the physical safety of displaced populations while also addressing the cultural gap left by the loss of their homeland, through measures such as preserved religious spaces or community centers.



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Protecting cultural heritage from smart city development.

Smart cities use technology, automated systems, and modern infrastructure to make cities more efficient and connected. However, new developments can threaten historic buildings, neighborhoods, and public spaces that are important to a city's cultural identity. Delegates should discuss how cities can adopt new technologies without destroying important cultural heritage. They should propose planning policies that allow modernization while protecting historically and culturally significant areas.

AI and how to digitally preserve endangered languages and traditions.

Many languages and cultural traditions are at risk of disappearing as globalization causes dominant languages and cultures to become more widely used. Artificial intelligence can help record, translate, teach, and preserve endangered languages and traditions. However, using cultural information to train AI can raise questions about ownership, consent, and who controls this information. Delegates should discuss how AI can be used responsibly and propose safeguards to make sure communities remain involved in preserving their own cultural heritage.



United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Ensuring digital transformation benefits rural and traditional communities.

As governments and businesses move services such as education, healthcare, banking, and employment opportunities online, rural and traditional communities can struggle to keep up. Limited internet access, digital skills, and infrastructure can prevent these communities from benefiting from technological progress. Delegates should identify the main barriers preventing rural populations from participating in the digital economy. They should propose policies that encourage modernization while making sure rural and traditional communities are not left behind.

Balancing rapid urbanization with affordable housing and community identity.

Rapidly growing cities often require new housing, transportation, and infrastructure. However, development can also cause rising housing prices, displacement of long-term residents, and the loss of historic neighborhoods and community identity. Delegates should discuss how cities can continue to grow without making housing unaffordable or destroying important communities. They should propose urban planning policies that balance economic development with affordable housing and cultural preservation.



Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN)

Developing economic models that represent and protect traditional economies and businesses.

Current measures of development tend to focus on manufacturing and markets while failing to incorporate traditional small and family-based businesses, traditional crafts, and community-based economies that support millions of people globally. As states industrialise and pursue foreign investment these traditional economies are often replaced or underfunded, resulting in a loss of culture and income. Cultural sustainability indices have been proposed as an alternative measure, but remain almost absent from policy. Delegates should recommend either new economic models or additional measures to account for cultural sustainability alongside economic development to preserve traditional businesses and economies.

Utilizing heritage as an economic asset.

For many countries, heritage and cultural tourism contribute significantly to the national economy. Heritage sites are often underfunded relative to infrastructure or industry, leaving them poorly maintained or at risk of decline. When heritage sites attract major investment, there is also a risk of over-commercialisation, which can strip a site of its cultural or historical value. Delegates should recommend sustainable financing of heritage, including public-private partnerships or heritage funds, that provide adequate funding for the preservation of heritage while limiting the effects of over-commercialisation that erode their cultural and historical significance.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Reducing marine pollution in an effort to protect coastal cultures.

Coastal and island states, including Japan and many small Pacific island nations, hold a deep connection to the sea, which provides food, trade, and cultural continuity through fishing and maritime traditions passed down for generations. Rapid industrialisation and technological growth have brought rising levels of oil spills, industrial waste, and plastic pollution that threaten to degrade marine ecosystems and the customs tied to them. If left unaddressed, pollution could permanently damage fisheries that entire coastal and island communities depend on. Delegates should identify the main sources of marine pollution, from industrial discharge to plastic waste, and propose coordinated international measures to reduce and eliminate them.

Protecting environment oriented cultures from industrial development.

Indigenous and rural communities often hold a strong cultural, spiritual, and historical relationship with natural features such as rivers, forests, and mountains, which form an integral part of their traditions and identity. As nations pursue industrial and infrastructure projects for economic growth, these landscapes are frequently altered or destroyed without meaningful consultation with the communities whose identity is intertwined with them. This severance can erode centuries-old relationships between people and their environment even as national economies grow. Delegates should propose legal agreements and consultation requirements that ensure community consent and environmental protection when infrastructure is planned near culturally significant landscapes.



International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Determining state responsibility for environmental damage caused by large-scale development projects.

Large development projects such as mining, major infrastructure, and energy projects can create economic growth but may also cause deforestation, pollution, and damage to ecosystems. In some cases, this environmental damage can cross borders and affect neighboring countries. Delegates should discuss when a state should be legally responsible for environmental damage caused by projects within its territory, including projects operated by private companies. They should work toward clear legal standards that balance a country's right to develop with its responsibility to prevent environmental harm.

Defining legal responsibility for climate change damage affecting vulnerable states.

Small island nations and other vulnerable countries face serious effects from rising sea levels, extreme weather, and other consequences of climate change. Many of these countries argue that states with historically high emissions should be responsible for helping cover the damage they experience. However, determining exactly who should be legally responsible for specific climate-related damage is difficult. Delegates should debate how international law could address this issue and whether vulnerable states should receive compensation or other forms of support.



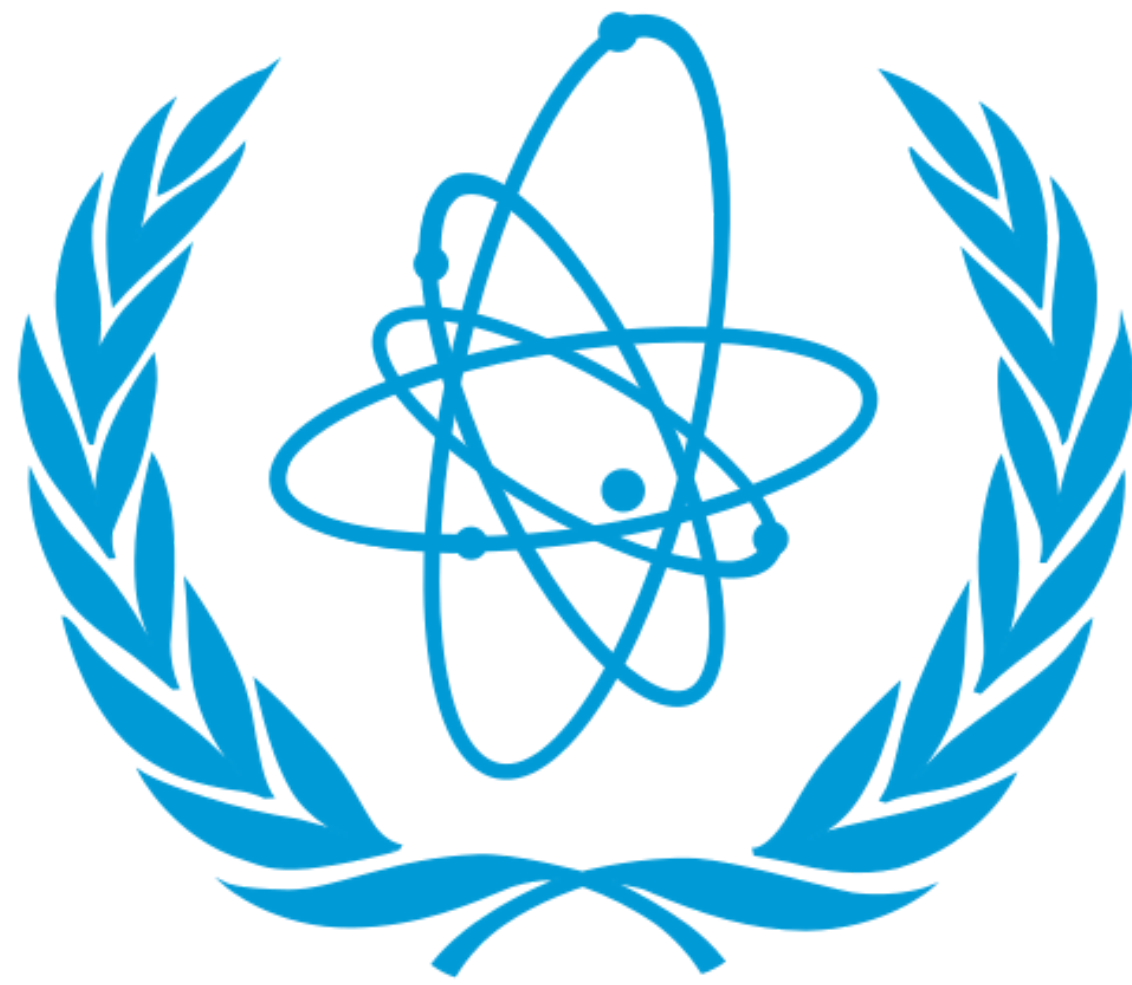
World Health Organization (WHO)

How countries should deal with future pandemics while respecting cultural and religious practices.

Future pandemics may require measures such as quarantines, vaccination programs, and limits on large gatherings. However, these measures can sometimes interfere with important religious and cultural practices, such as communal prayers, funerals, or pilgrimages. Delegates should discuss how governments can protect public health without unnecessarily restricting cultural and religious traditions. They should propose practical solutions that allow health measures and cultural practices to work together.

Mental health support for teenagers and young adults using traditional methods.

Teenagers and young adults are increasingly facing stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges, partly due to social media pressure and rapid technological change. While professional treatment is important, some young people may not have access to it or may feel more comfortable with traditional and community-based forms of support. Delegates should explore how methods such as community support, mentorship, and culturally based practices can complement modern mental health services. They should propose ways governments can make mental health support more accessible and culturally appropriate for their youth.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Addressing the cultural and environmental legacy left behind by nuclear testing on indigenous lands.

Numerous nuclear weapons tests were conducted on indigenous lands during the Cold War and beyond, often without informed consent or adequate warning of the risks involved. These tests caused irreversible environmental damage, the permanent displacement of thousands of people, and multi-generational health impacts and loss of life. Many affected communities have received minimal formal recognition or compensation for this legacy. Delegates should consider how this history should shape future nuclear weapons policy, propose reparative measures such as environmental remediation or compensation for affected communities, and establish monitoring standards so future testing does not endanger additional indigenous populations.

Promoting nuclear energy while addressing cultural fear and historical trauma.

Communities affected by nuclear weapons testing or catastrophic reactor accidents, such as Chernobyl and Fukushima, often carry entirely legitimate fears of nuclear power, viewing it as an extension of past suffering rather than a path to progress. Despite this, nuclear power remains one of the safest and most efficient low-carbon energy sources available, and is likely to be a key part of the future energy landscape. For historically affected communities, technical safety arguments alone are not enough; genuine acknowledgment of past harm is required. Delegates need to propose communication strategies and safeguards that address this history while building public confidence in nuclear energy's future role.



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Rebuilding post-conflict societies with emphasis on restoring their original cultural heritage.

After a large-scale conflict there is often an intense drive to rapidly rebuild physical infrastructure, which can lead reconstruction efforts to overlook cultural heritage, historic districts, and religious structures damaged or destroyed during the fighting. Reconstruction that prioritizes speed and modernization may physically rebuild a society while failing to restore the cultural continuity that existed before the conflict. Successful post-conflict recovery instead requires reconstruction plans informed by local historical and cultural context rather than a one-size-fits-all modernization model. Delegates should recognize the importance of restoring cultural heritage alongside physical infrastructure, so rebuilt societies remain culturally intact rather than only physically modern.

Balancing protection measures with cultural preservation.

Countries prone to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, or hurricanes, are often encouraged to rapidly modernise infrastructure to protect lives and property, yet this can come at the cost of demolishing historic or culturally significant structures that have stood for generations. Balancing the urgent need for disaster preparedness with the long-term value of cultural preservation requires careful planning rather than treating the two as competing goals. In many cases, historic structures can be retrofitted or reinforced to meet safety standards without demolition, though this often requires additional funding and technical expertise. Delegates should propose infrastructure policies that strengthen disaster resilience while protecting and maintaining culturally and historically significant sites.



Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Post-colonial nations' rights to reclaim cultural and ancestral artifacts.

Significant cultural and religious heritage is now held in foreign private and public collections resulting from unequal treaties and looting during the colonisation of many lands. Countries of origin often claim this cultural and religious heritage to be part of their culture and history, and continued external ownership contributes to a colonial relationship. Holders of the heritage often give reasons including lack of infrastructure in the country of origin, political instability or safety in the country of origin, as well as questions around title and ownership after so many decades. Delegates should consider whether restitution is compulsory, conditional, or case-by-case and recommend frameworks that consider historical justice along with preservation, safety, and long-term ownership of the heritage.

Addressing the cultural consequences of decolonization disputes.

Territorial disputes resulting from colonial decisions often split a group that shares a common ethnic or cultural identity across multiple states or combine different ethnicities within one disputed area. Attempts to resolve these territorial disputes often focus on security and sovereignty while failing to address the cultural and historical connection to the land by the groups involved. Even when a resolution is reached, communities can feel marginalised. Delegates should recommend solutions to territorial disputes based on internationally recognised frameworks that also address language, history, and culture.



International Labor Organization (ILO)

Protecting workers' rights in the transition to green industries.

As countries move away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy, many workers in traditional energy industries may lose their jobs or need new skills. Although this transition is important for environmental progress, workers and communities that depend on these industries may face serious economic difficulties. Delegates should discuss how governments can support workers during this transition. They should propose solutions such as retraining programs, financial support, and protections that help workers move into new green industries.

Supporting indigenous and heritage industries in the global economy.

Traditional industries such as artisanal weaving, handmade goods, and indigenous production methods often struggle to compete with cheaper mass-produced products. If these industries disappear, communities can lose both important sources of income and valuable cultural knowledge. Delegates should discuss how governments and international organizations can help these industries remain economically sustainable. They should propose policies such as fair-trade systems, certification labels, funding, and better access to international markets.



United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Integrating refugees into modern societies while preserving their cultural identity and beliefs.

Refugees moving to new countries often need to learn new languages, adapt to different social systems, and find employment or education. Integration can help refugees become independent and participate in their new communities, but it should not require them to abandon their cultural or religious identity. Delegates should discuss how host countries can support successful integration while respecting refugees' traditions and beliefs. They should propose policies that promote both social inclusion and cultural preservation.

Climate refugees' loss of cultural and ancestral lands due to natural disasters.

Rising sea levels, droughts, floods, and other climate-related disasters are forcing some communities to leave their ancestral lands. For these communities, losing their land can also mean losing important cultural, spiritual, and historical connections. Delegates should discuss how countries and international organizations should support people who are displaced by climate-related disasters. They should propose ways to share responsibility for resettlement and support affected communities while protecting their cultural identity.



United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Preventing conflicts arising from competition over critical minerals needed for green technologies.

The growing demand for minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements has increased competition between countries for access to these resources. In some areas, this competition can contribute to exploitation, displacement, political instability, and even conflict. Delegates should discuss how the international community can prevent disputes over critical minerals from becoming security threats. They should propose ways to encourage fair agreements, responsible mining, and cooperation between resource-rich and resource-consuming countries.

Finding a balance between national security and civilian freedoms during emergencies.

During wars, terrorist attacks, pandemics, and other emergencies, governments may introduce stricter security measures such as surveillance, curfews, or limits on certain activities. Although these measures may help protect people, they can also restrict human rights and freedoms if they are used for too long or without proper oversight. Delegates should discuss when these measures are justified and how governments can prevent them from becoming permanent. They should propose safeguards that protect both national security and civilian freedoms.



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Balancing agricultural modernization with the protection of traditional farming practices.

Modern farming technologies, machinery, fertilizers, and large-scale agriculture can increase food production and help meet growing demand. However, these changes can also replace traditional farming methods that have supported local communities and ecosystems for generations. Delegates should discuss how countries can benefit from agricultural innovation while protecting traditional farming knowledge and the livelihoods of small and indigenous farmers. They should propose agricultural policies that encourage both productivity and sustainable traditional practices.

Protecting indigenous food systems and local crop diversity amidst global agricultural development.

The growth of global agriculture has increased food production but has also reduced the variety of local crops and traditional food systems in some communities. Relying on fewer crop varieties can make food systems more vulnerable to diseases, pests, and climate change. Delegates should discuss how countries can continue developing modern agriculture while protecting native crops and traditional farming knowledge. They should propose policies that support crop diversity and preserve the cultural traditions connected to local food systems.



Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)

Safeguarding the elderly, the carriers of heritage and culture.

Many aspects of culture including language, traditions, and oral history are carried and passed down through the elderly population. In many modernising societies there is increasing marginalisation and exclusion from public life, education, and decision making for the elderly population. This puts aspects of cultural preservation at risk. Additionally, the elderly are often cut off from modern technology, urban migration, and economic marginalisation which further contributes to this exclusion. Delegates should recommend policy that addresses the economic and social well-being of the elderly along with efforts to incorporate the knowledge and influence of the elderly into decision making while also managing the need to respect the past and effectively plan for the future.

Preserving heritage amidst globalization.

Amid increasing globalization in the areas of communication, trade, migration, and intercultural interaction, many aspects of culture, language, and heritage are being replaced by more dominant or more generally accepted cultures. Globalisation can have many positive effects including intercultural interaction and economic development but can also contribute to the flattening of cultural diversity. Smaller cultures and indigenous cultures are at significant risk of loss of heritage within a couple of generations. Furthermore there is a tendency for younger generations to gravitate toward more global or dominant cultures at the expense of their own heritage. Delegates should recommend policies that enable the benefits of globalisation while still allowing for preservation of the unique heritage of a society.



UN Women (UNW)

Empowering women economically while respecting cultural diversity.

Economic development can give women greater access to education, employment, businesses, and financial independence. However, programs designed without considering local cultures may face opposition or fail to meet the needs of the communities they are intended to support. Delegates should discuss how governments and organizations can expand women's economic opportunities while respecting different cultural contexts. They should propose solutions that involve local communities and give women meaningful opportunities to participate in the economy.

Preserving traditional skills and crafts practiced by women in an increasingly industrialized world.

Traditional crafts such as weaving, embroidery, pottery, and textile arts are often passed down through generations of women and are closely connected to cultural identity. Mass-produced goods are usually cheaper and faster to produce, making it harder for traditional artisans to earn a living. Delegates should discuss how these crafts can be protected while still creating sustainable economic opportunities for the women who practice them. They should propose ideas such as artisan cooperatives, fair-trade opportunities, and financial support for traditional crafts.



United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Combating the trafficking of cultural artifacts by organized crime groups.

Archaeological sites, museums, and places of worship are frequently targeted by organized crime for the removal of culturally and historically significant items, which are then moved through illegal markets into private collections worldwide. This strips communities of tangible expressions of their heritage, often leaving losses that no monetary compensation can restore. Effective counter-trafficking requires collaboration between law enforcement, customs agencies, museums, and cultural institutions across borders, since traffickers exploit gaps in the law and inconsistent enforcement between jurisdictions. Delegates should propose international policies and enforcement mechanisms aimed at ending the theft and illegal trade of cultural artifacts.

Restoring safety in crime-ridden communities to drive economic progress.

In many communities, an ongoing cycle of violence, addiction, and organized crime disrupts access to stable education, forcing families to prioritise daily survival over long-term development. Reducing the presence and power of local criminal organizations is often the necessary first step toward rebuilding trust, stability, and lasting educational opportunities for the next generation. Where economic development efforts fail to address the underlying causes of crime, they often stall or fail to reach the populations that need them most. Delegates should propose solutions to reduce the power of organized crime networks while introducing community and cultural programs that bring youth together in a safe, connected society.