

General Assembly Councils

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.

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.

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 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.

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.