Committee: SPECPOL Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Country: Repuclic of Panama

Agenda Item: Decolonization in the 21st Century: Challenges of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Background

The Republic of Panama is an isthmus between two continents in the furthest southern area of the Americas and has been the object of special interest in several discussions of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. These concerns include, but are not limited to, decolonization, maintenance of peace, rights of indigenous peoples, and governance over territories that have been closely linked with the historical and political experience of Panama. The independence of Panama from Colombia in 1903, underpinned by the progressive recovering of the sovereignty over the Panama Canal in 1999, shapes its consideration on territorial rights and self-determination. Past International Actions

Panama has always been one of the countries in favor of United Nations resolutions for the rights of peoples of non-self-governing territories.

Since the year of its admission, 1945, Panama has contributed to solving the aftermath of colonialism and to finding peaceful solutions to controversies over territory. It is very active during the discussion about international waterways mainly because of its principles of transparency and equal access, as in the negotiations regarding the Suez Canal. Further, Panama participates in peacekeeping forces that permit the stabilisation and self-determination processes in post-colonial states. Policy of a Country

Panama stands on the principles of sovereignty, peaceful dispute settlement, and those of cooperation in global governance.

The country believes in decolonization processes and treats indigenous communities with respect for their rights to culture and territory. In addition, with the Panama Canal being the focal point of international trade, the country thinks it is important that just governance should extend to areas of strategic importance. Panamanians consider security to be part of the standards of living which make life worth living.