

***Delegate:*** Kuzey Demir Malkoç

***Committee:*** Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(SPECPOL)

***Country:*** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland

***Agenda Item:*** Reassessing the Political Status of Disputed and  
Non Self Governing Territories

*The topic of disputed territories and colonization has been a standing issue since the formation of the United Nations and is still relevant in the 21st century. States across the world like New Caledonia, Guam and Western Sahara are in ambiguity as to their governing power, and still lack proper sovereignty. Such territories are often the result of ambiguous or outdated agreements, geopolitical rivalries or opposing claims for a single region. Non Self Governing Territories or NSGTs are defined by limited political power and control over internal/external affairs. At the core of this problem is the question of how political sovereignty should be decided in a way that respects the general consensus of a population while still having regional and international stability. This is further complicated by aspects like natural resources(oil), maritime borders, economic routes and military presence. Reassessing the political status therefore requires serious examination of whether current circumstances are sufficient for self governance and the exercising of human rights.*

*The United Nations has undertaken extensive action in the past in order to address this issue through resolutions and institutional mechanisms. GA Resolution 1514 marked a turning point in 1960 by declaring colonialism incompatible with the UN Charter and giving the right of self determination to all people. SPECPOL has continuously observed remaining NSGTs through reports, hearings, and regional seminars. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has also played a notable role through advisory opinions such as the 2019 Chagos Archipelago case, where we were ordered to return the territories to Mauritius. Additionally, the UN has facilitated referenda, and has taken into account the views of the people, in territories like Gibraltar, New Caledonia, and the Falkland Islands. However, despite these efforts, progress has been often slowed by geopolitical tensions and different interpretations of international law.*

*We as The United Kingdom firmly believe that self determination must be a right belonging to peoples and not to the states that are asserting external sovereignty claims. We believe that the greatest and long lasting outcomes are those reached through democracy, that reflects the clear and uncensored wishes of the people. In the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar, repeated referenda has showed major support for maintaining their current status and therefore we stand against attempts to reopen sovereignty discussions that disregard the wishes of the population. We stress that such cases shouldn't be regarded as*

*decolonization, but rather as an exercising of a states' self determination. At the same time, we believe in the importance of cooperation with international institutions and other relevant states. Overall, we believe that a more algorithmic approach is necessary to ensure that disputes are solved peacefully, democratic outcomes are respected, and stability is preserved through international compromise and cooperation.*

*We support a more pragmatic approach to resolving disputed states and NSGTs. We firmly encourage the UN to prioritize agreements that involve local populations, administering powers, and relevant bodies. We believe that the use of fair and transparent referenda is the only way to get credible democratic processes. We also advocate for new economic development, systems and funding to NSGTs in order to remove NSGTs dependencies to other states. We believe that ensuring that self government is meaningful in practice through advisory opinions from other bodies, and further resolutions from the UN. Moreover we believe that the UN should set two sided negotiations where disputes continue to persist, however we believe that such negotiations cannot undermine the expressed will of the people concerned. Ultimately, we believe that the UN must act as an arbiter and not an enforcer, ensuring that the decolonization process is done through consent, legality, and cooperation and upholding both self determination and international peace.*