

Country: South Korea

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(SPECPOL)



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

The Republic of Korea is located in East Asia on the southern part of the Korean Peninsula and was established in 1948 after the division of the peninsula. It became a member of the United Nations in 1991. Due to its history of national division, South Korea emphasizes peaceful conflict resolution, respect for sovereignty, and international cooperation in addressing issues of self-determination and disputed territories.

The Republic of Korea actively favors the principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes as agreed within the Charter of the United Nations. As a country that has experienced divisiveness, foreign involvement, and political tension, South Korea in particular understands the long-term repercussions in terms of humanitarian as well as political concerns in connection with territorial matters.

The Republic of Korea stresses that the political status of the disputed territories and non self-governing territories has to be reappraised by inclusive dialogue, adherence to the rule of international law, and a true desire of the populations concerned.

The South Korean government thus holds firm to its belief that the principle of self-determination should not be used as an excuse to facilitate any form of unilateral intervention or human rights abuse. Any form of reassessment politically will have to take place through internationally facilitated channels like referendums or transitional authority structures. This will ensure that the voices of all peoples involved are well represented. These include those of minorities and displaced groups.

Moreover, the Republic of Korea stresses the role of economic development, education, and institution building in non self-governing territories. Lack of viable mechanisms for governing after achieving either political autonomy or independence may usher in instability. Hence, the Republic of Korea is in favor of development schemes, technical assistance, and peacekeeping missions carried out by the UN in order to prepare these territories for self-administration, while keeping the strategic security of the region intact.

As a state that is committed to multilateralism, the Republic of Korea urges stronger cooperation among the United Nations, regional bodies, and all stakeholders in order to avoid escalation in the disputed territories. Confidence-building measures and demilitarization efforts are crucial in ensuring transition is peaceful.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea urges that SPECPOL adopt a balanced and pragmatic approach that takes into account the rules and provisions of international law, gives primary concerns to human rights, and supports peaceful dialogue. The review regarding the political status of the territories that are in dispute and are non self governing cannot and shall not be based upon power politics, but rather upon the community's responsibility to ensure that all peoples experience dignity and self determination.