

# SOCHUM



ALWAYS WAS

ALWAYS

WILL

BE

IF YOU

ARE NOT

LIVID

ARE

SACRED

IN THE

LANDS

STOP

DESTROYING

ABORIGINAL

SACRED LANDS

48,000 YEARS

continuous history

DESTROYED

ENOUGH

RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS



WE EXIST



WE RESIST



WE RISE





## **Index**

Letter from Secretary-General.....	2
Letter from Committee Director.....	3
Letter from Co-Committee Director.....	4
Introduction to the Committee.....	5
Introduction to the Topic.....	6
Current Situation.....	7
Case Studies.....	9
QARMA's.....	14
Final Remarks.....	15
Position Paper Requirements.....	16
Bibliography.....	17



## **Letter from Secretary-General**

Dearest Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and others,

It is my pleasure and honour to be able to welcome you all into the 21st edition of San Silvestre MUN. To think that after months of work, after observing other conferences over the better part of two years, I can finally say that our own is coming to fruition. For over seven months the Secretariat and I have poured our hearts and efforts into this conference, and hopefully, you may all enjoy the months of work we have put into the two days that are to come, and live SSMUN 2024 to its absolute fullest.

My own ‘first impression’ of MUN was, quite honestly, less than graceful to say the least. Having attended training sessions in 2022 (but having paid attention to nearly none of them), I haphazardly found myself attending SSMUN 2022, this very month two years ago. I did not speak more than once. I was terrified, watching those around me debate with a fervent skill unlike anything I had ever seen before. I had sat in the very back of the room during every session, terrified to raise my placard. After that conference, I honestly did not see the appeal of MUN. My fear of failure and embarrassment overruled my ability to try something new at that moment, and didn’t allow me to enjoy the activity that now, two years later, I have come to cherish so deeply.

Over the next year, I finally got it. I understood why people did MUN. The adrenaline, the energy, the shared passion over what would have elsewhere been a mundane topic. During that year, I found my two ‘specialisations’. Crisis taught me how to love MUN, how to put passion and energy into a speech, how to not fear speaking out. Press taught me what victory felt like, yet it also demonstrated to me firsthand how failure was simply a part of growth. In January HMUN taught me that an award is never the most rewarding part of a conference. I left Boston with a Best Delegate award, yet it was by far not the best part of the experience. The people of that moment are worth more than anything else I could possibly imagine; and the best victories in MUN are those you can cherish with friends, those which you can celebrate with all those who you were in committee with, those which are backed by hours of unforgettable memories and irreplaceable experiences.

For this conference, I hope each and every one of you may find those memories. SSMUN, in my mind, is about the people. It is about diplomacy, argumentation, negotiation and teamwork, yes, but through it all none of this would be able to be accomplished without the willpower and collaboration of people. So I hope you all put in your best effort, both into productive debate and into enjoying every moment you have.

I cannot wait to see you all in September! To get to see how every one of you develops as a delegate through every session, and see the passion and care we’ve placed into the conference pay off in the experience of all those who will get to see our work.

Take advantage of the moment, and most of all, have fun :)

Liyi Xu  
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## **Letter from Committee Director**

Esteemed Delegates,

With immense pleasure and excitement, I extend a warm welcome to each of you to the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) at SSMUN 2024! As your Chair, I am thrilled to embark on this enriching journey alongside my amazing co-chair, Analucia. I cannot wait to dive into three days of intense debate with all of you!

Allow me to introduce myself briefly: My name is Almendra Drago, and I am currently in my final year as an IB student. Alongside my academic pursuits, I have a deep passion for topics related to societal issues, human rights, both international and national policies, and more. My journey within MUN began over 5 years ago during my first MUN training, amidst the pandemic on a Zoom call. Since then, I've had the privilege to grow and learn from exceptional secretaries-general, chairs, and what I now consider very close friends. I have participated in various conferences, including international ones like Harvard MUN, and been part of the secretariat alongside incredible individuals. These experiences have shaped me into the chair I am today, providing valuable insights into what I hope to promote within this committee.

As we gather to address the topic of our committee, "Preserving Cultural Integrity: Addressing the Impact of Tourism on Indigenous Communities," I want to offer some insight into why I selected this particular topic. SOCHUM traditionally focuses on matters concerning children, humanitarian aid, and related topics. However, I believe that it is essential to broaden our scope to include issues that often go underrepresented, such as themes related to culture and tourism. Being Peruvians, we live in a nation enriched with culture, with amazing traditional and internationally acclaimed heritage. Because of this, I felt compelled to shed light on a subject that I believe does not receive the attention it deserves. Having firsthand experience with the complexities that tourism poses to indigenous communities, both in terms of benefits and challenges, I have witnessed the profound impact it has on our country as a whole. Going beyond my personal experiences, I recognize the global significance of acknowledging and celebrating diverse cultures, particularly in light of the emerging challenges and discussions that have surfaced this year.

Throughout our sessions, I strongly urge each of you to fully engage, challenge yourselves, and think creatively. I'm seeking delegates who aren't afraid to step outside their comfort zones, spark lively discussions, and contribute their unique perspectives. Your active participation is key to making our three days together truly worthwhile. Do not hesitate to push boundaries, propose innovative ideas, and ensure your voice is heard. By doing so, we can foster both meaningful and stimulating discussions, ultimately working towards finding solutions to the issues at hand. I'm eagerly anticipating the wealth of proposals and insights you'll bring to the table, and I'm excited to embark on this journey with all of you.

Warmest regards,

Almendra Drago  
[adrago85@sansilvestre.edu.pe](mailto:adrago85@sansilvestre.edu.pe)



## **Letter from Co-Committee Director**

Dear Delegates,

I'm thrilled to welcome you all to the SOCHUM Committee for San Sil MUN 2024! I'm Analucia La Torre, your co-chair for this conference. I'm excited to see how our discussions unfold and to share this experience with each of you. Alongside Almen, our fantastic chair, we're ready to embark on this journey together!

I'm currently in my final year of IB. My favourite subject is History and Maths, and aiming to study Global Law or International Politics at university. My MUN journey began during the pandemic but took off last year as I attended more and more conferences. Joining MUN felt like a natural step for me as someone who loves debating, and has been in the debate club at school for over 3 years. I can confidently say that it has been one of the greatest decisions made during my time in school. I've been able to learn new skills, travel to conferences such as Harvard MUN in January 2024, and make friends from all over. It truly helped me to gain an understanding of international affairs, and how we can contribute to making a change in society.

As a History enthusiast, I have a profound interest in MUN, particularly in committees like the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. So, when Almen approached me with the idea of investigating deeper into the preservation of cultural integrity, I couldn't have been more thrilled to join in. The prospect of exploring ways to safeguard and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage resonates deeply with me. I believe that our collective efforts in this regard can make a meaningful impact on a global scale.

We are looking forward to seeing how you engage with the topic and come up with incredible ideas and resolutions to improve the current situations in diverse countries. We are aiming to see effective discussions and great communication while keeping a diplomatic attitude throughout the sessions. We urge you to step out of your comfort zone, and embark on new challenges! Whether this is your first or tenth MUN conference, we encourage you to approach it with a positive attitude and amazing enthusiasm to make the most out of the two days we have together.

With that being said, I wish you the best of luck. Almen and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Analucia La Torre  
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## **Introduction to the Committee**

Formally known as the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM) is dedicated to addressing a wide range of social, cultural and humanitarian issues that impact communities all around the world.<sup>1</sup> As a key component of the United Nations, SOCHUM is responsible for protecting and promoting human rights, advancing social development and fostering a cultural understanding among nations.



### **Mandates and Responsibilities**

Founded in 1945, SOCHUM's mandate addresses a wide range of topics, such as protection of vulnerable populations, advancement of social development, and the safeguarding of cultural heritage.<sup>2</sup> Through its resolutions and recommendations, SOCHUM plays a crucial role in influencing international policies and norms. It works closely with other UN bodies, specialised agencies, non-governmental organisations, and civil society to develop a holistic approach and action plans to create a more just and equitable world.

Some key areas that this committee is committed to include the following:

1. Human Rights Protection
2. Social Development
3. Cultural Preservation
4. Humanitarian Assistance

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<sup>1</sup> "UN General Assembly - Third Committee." *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural*.

<sup>2</sup> "SOCHUM: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee." *IMUNA | NHSMUN | Model UN*.



## Introduction to the Topic

With its significant financial benefits and development of cross-cultural interactions, tourism is one of the biggest and fastest-growing sectors in the world. However, for indigenous communities, the surplus of tourists can pose considerable challenges. The cultural integrity of these very communities can often come under threat as traditional practices, languages, and lifestyles face pressures from commercial interests and external influences.

Indigenous cultures are rich in intangible heritage, including rituals, knowledge systems, and languages, which are vital to the identity and continuity of these communities. The commodification of these elements for tourist consumption can lead to their misrepresentation and degradation. As tourism grows in size every day, reaching all parts of the world where people might find unique experiences, it becomes essential to balance the economic advantages with the preservation of indigenous cultural integrity.

Common challenges include the disruption of social structures, environmental degradation, and resulting economic inequalities. Many indigenous communities lack the resources and political influence to effectively manage tourism and mitigate its impacts. Today, tourism is often controlled by governments that rarely consult or consider the opinions of indigenous societies, affecting them in numerous unforeseen ways. This situation calls for effective legal frameworks and the establishment of partnerships among indigenous communities, governments, and the private sector to promote sustainable and culturally respectful tourism practices.



Sharing knowledge about indigenous communities is essential, recognizing their heritage and the valuable insights they provide to society. However, it is crucial to do so respectfully, raising awareness about the importance of preserving their essence amid increasing tourism.

This topic calls for an in-depth analysis of tourism's impact on indigenous communities and aims to identify strategies for preserving their cultural integrity. Key aspects to consider include involving indigenous voices in tourism-related decision-making, establishing and enforcing legal protections, promoting ethical tourism practices, and developing educational campaigns to enhance cultural sensitivity among tourists. Tackling these issues is essential to ensure that tourism coexists with the preservation and flourishing of indigenous cultures.



## Current Situation

The main issue today revolves around the rapid pace of global development and the inadequacy of some regulations to address current realities. Many existing regulations fail to focus on the most critical aspects, particularly the protection of indigenous landmarks and traditions. Instead, they often prioritise economic gains, which are viewed as beneficial to the country as a whole.

Consider a zoo that attracts customers by allowing them to hold a monkey. Despite the potential harm and exhaustion this causes the monkey, the zoo continues the practice because it generates significant revenue, which in turn helps maintain the zoo and the monkey's habitat. On a larger scale, tourism operates similarly, with complex interactions between various stakeholders and economic interests often overshadowing the needs and rights of indigenous communities. This is justified by the claim that economic gain will benefit these communities as part of the country.



These differing perspectives challenge the effectiveness of tourism regulations<sup>3</sup>, raising critical questions about whether those most affected by tourism are truly being represented and protected, or if regulations are only enforced when they do not significantly impact economic gain.

Returning to the zoo example, if the owners need to implement a regulation concerning the monkey, they are unlikely to ban visitors from holding the monkey, as this would decrease the attraction's popularity and revenue. Instead, they might choose to regulate aspects that do not affect visitor numbers, such as improving cleanliness and reducing pollution to protect the monkey's habitat. They might install more recycling bins, which would benefit the environment without deterring visitors from the main attraction—the monkey.

This example, when applied to a real-life situation, showcases how regulations that may have been effective in the past, now only address surface-level issues. Many of the challenges faced by indigenous communities arise from more intricate and deep-seated conflicts, and to address these problems effectively, it becomes crucial to thoroughly investigate and resolve them at their root. This approach, while more time-consuming and potentially risky, is necessary, as simply putting a band-aid on the wound won't provide a lasting resolution.

## **The media**

The media has played a crucial role in promoting tourism, shaping perceptions of travel destinations, and influencing how indigenous communities are represented. Through travel vlogs, advertisements, and social media content such as TikToks and Instagram Reels, the media



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<sup>3</sup>CLUB OF DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. *The Impact of Tourism*. (Academic). 20 July 2024.





showcases exotic locations and cultural experiences, driving tourist interest and boosting economic opportunities for local communities. Positive media coverage can generate enthusiasm and attract visitors, leading to significant economic benefits and encouraging further development.

However, the rise of media and influencers has also brought detrimental effects. Often, media portrayals simplify and romanticise indigenous cultures to make them more appealing to tourists, leading to the commodification of cultural practices. This can result in the alteration or superficial presentation of traditions, eroding their authenticity and cultural integrity. Additionally, stereotypes and misrepresentations perpetuate outdated and harmful images, reinforcing misconceptions and diminishing genuine understanding and respect for indigenous cultures.

The increase in influencers travelling to and living in these destinations has further compounded the issue. While their presence can be economically beneficial, it often leads to the displacement of local families and communities. This displacement harms the cultural preservation of these areas, as the original inhabitants are forced out to make way for tourism and influencer-driven demand. Thus, while the media's role in tourism promotion is undeniable, its impact on indigenous communities can be profoundly negative, requiring a more nuanced and respectful approach to ensure that both tourism and cultural preservation are managed effectively.





## Case Studies

### Hawaii

Tourism in Hawaii presents a paradox: while it serves as a major economic driver, it also brings profound and often detrimental effects to local communities. For residents, the idyllic paradise depicted in tourist promotions starkly contrasts with their everyday reality<sup>4</sup>. What tourists see as a dream destination often feels like a bustling theme park to locals, who grapple with the pressures of overtourism.



### Strains on Resources and Rising Costs

One of the most pressing issues is the strain on Hawaii's resources. The demand for accommodations, water, and energy places immense pressure on the islands' already limited supplies. Severe drought conditions in West Maui and Upcountry villages have led to mandatory water restrictions for residents. However, the tourism sector, which consumes a significant portion of Hawaii's water, remains largely unaffected by these restrictions, highlighting a stark disparity between the needs of local communities and those of the tourism industry<sup>5</sup>.



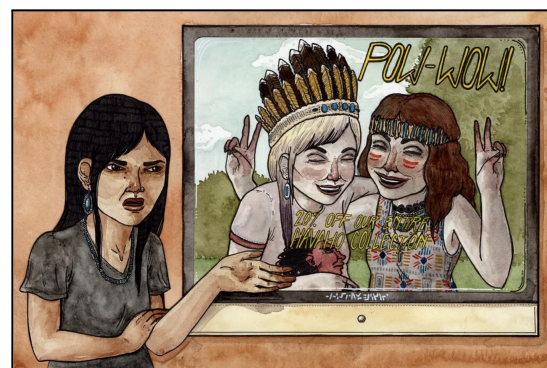
Rising costs, especially in housing, further illustrate tourism's

impact on locals. The influx of tourists and real estate investors has driven up property prices, making homeownership increasingly out of reach for many residents. From 2019 to 2022, housing prices in Maui County surged by nearly 35%.<sup>6</sup> This increase has led to displacement, as local families are forced out of their homes to accommodate vacation rentals and high-net-worth individuals, including influencers who seek picturesque locations for content creation.



### Cultural Erosion and Local Discontent

The influx of tourists often leads to the commodification of Hawaiian culture, reducing sacred traditions and sites to mere performances for visitor entertainment. This commercialization dilutes the authenticity of local practices and erodes the islands' cultural integrity. The



<sup>4</sup> Bacilio, By Cristell. "Hawaii Tourism: Opposite of a Paradise for Locals — International Relations Review." *International Relations Review*, 5 Oct. 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Lipscomb, Jessica. "Maui Residents Rail against Spike in Tourism during Water Shortage: 'Stop Coming' to Hawaii." *The Washington Post*, 3 Aug. 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Yuki. "Hawaii's Tourism Dilemma: Impact on Poverty." *The Borgen Project*, 25 Oct. 2023.



superficial portrayal of Hawaiian culture for tourist consumption contrasts sharply with the deep spiritual and historical significance these practices hold for indigenous communities<sup>7</sup>.

In addition, the proliferation of "Hawaiian-themed" merchandise, such as tiki decorations and leis, which often misuse or trivialise indigenous symbols and artefacts. These items, marketed to tourists as souvenirs, frequently lack any real connection to Hawaiian cultural traditions and are produced without regard for their significance. This not only misrepresents Hawaiian culture but also perpetuates a cycle where meaningful cultural symbols are reduced to mass-produced trinkets, further diminishing the respect and understanding that should accompany them.

## The Resumption of Tourism Amidst Tragedy

Recently, West Maui reopened to tourists just two months after the devastating wildfires in Lahaina, prompting significant backlash from local residents. Many signed a petition opposing the quick return of tourism, arguing that families are still struggling with finding shelter and coping with emotional trauma. The disaster flattened homes, decimated businesses, and claimed 97 lives, with many still unaccounted for. The petition, with over 10,000 signatures, highlights the tension between economic recovery and the immediate needs of affected communities.<sup>8</sup>



This rapid reopening has reignited debates about Hawaii's dependence on tourism. Local voices, like those of Jordan Ruidas, question why visitors are returning when many local activities remain disrupted. The situation underscores ongoing issues such as the housing crisis, lack of clean water, and environmental damage, all exacerbated by tourism.



Leaders like Susie Pu stress the importance of balancing tourism with cultural and environmental preservation, advocating for a model that benefits residents and respects their needs.

Despite these issues, tourism undeniably brings economic benefits. It supports a significant portion of the state's GDP and provides thousands of jobs. In 2019, the tourism industry contributed nearly \$17.8 billion in spending and supported 216,000 jobs across Hawaii<sup>9</sup>. Moreover, tourism offers a platform to showcase Hawaii's rich cultural and environmental heritage to a global audience, potentially fostering greater appreciation and respect for the islands' unique attributes.

## Peru

<sup>7</sup>Indian Country.

<sup>8</sup>Alfonseca, Kiara. "Hawaii's 'overtourism' Becomes Growing Debate as West Maui Reopens for Visitors." *ABC News*, 8 Oct. 2023.

<sup>9</sup>Rebooting Hawai'i's Visitor Industry.



## Cusco:

UNESCO designated Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, as a World Heritage Site in 1984. Located high in Cusco, this old Incan city welcomes over a million people a year, drastically improving Peru's tourism sector. Nonetheless, the region's indigenous Quechua people's well-being and cultural integrity face significant challenges as a result of the tourist influx.

## Consequences for the community

The Quechua people, direct descendants of the Inca, possess a rich cultural heritage, including traditional agriculture, weaving, and rituals. The overwhelming presence of tourists has led to a gradual erosion of these cultural practices. Indigenous traditions are often commodified and presented in a manner catering to tourists, leading to a loss of authenticity and meaning. Additionally, younger generations may feel pressured to abandon traditional practices in favour of more lucrative employment opportunities within the tourism sector.



The growth of tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, restaurants, and transportation services, has resulted in the displacement of Quechua families from their ancestral lands. This displacement not only disrupts their way of life but also affects their connection to the land, which is central to their cultural identity. The conversion of agricultural land into tourist facilities has further diminished their ability to sustain traditional farming practices.

While tourism brings significant revenue to the region, the economic benefits are not evenly distributed. Large international tour operators and businesses often dominate the industry, capturing the majority of profits. Indigenous communities, on the other hand, typically receive only a small fraction of the economic gains. Many Quechua individuals find employment in low-wage, service-oriented jobs within the tourism sector, perpetuating economic inequalities.

## Machu Picchu

Massive environmental degradation has resulted from the large number of tourists visiting Machu Picchu. Because people are always walking on the site, which is an architectural wonder, the soil is eroding. The old stone buildings and terraces, which are crucial to both the historical integrity of the site and the agricultural practices currently used by the Quechua people, are in danger of collapsing due to this erosion. Another significant problem is littering. The amount of trash left by tourists overwhelms local waste management facilities, despite efforts to keep the area clean.

In response to these problems, new regulations were implemented for tourists in 2024 to help preserve Machu Picchu and prevent further degradation. Instead of allowing free roaming, visitors must now follow specific trails based on the tickets





they purchase.<sup>10</sup> These guided trails are designed to manage overcrowding and maintain order, reducing the impact on the site. However, these restrictions limit the opportunity to explore the entire Inca site, as tourists are confined to the trail assigned to their ticket, potentially discouraging some from visiting this World Wonder.

## United States

### The African American Experience of Cultural Appropriation

For African Americans, cultural appropriation is a deeply felt issue, often encapsulated by the saying, *"Everyone wants to be black until it's time to be black."* This reflects a painful reality: while aspects of black culture are celebrated when adopted by others, black people themselves are frequently marginalised and their features devalued. This selective admiration — appreciating black culture but not black people—highlights a pervasive double standard in America.<sup>11</sup>



This phenomenon parallels the impact of tourism on indigenous communities, where cultural appropriation is also prevalent. Tourists often engage with indigenous cultures superficially, reducing sacred traditions and sites to mere performances for entertainment. This commodification dilutes the authenticity of local practices and erodes the cultural integrity of the communities. The superficial portrayal of indigenous cultures for tourist consumption contrasts sharply with the deep spiritual and historical significance these practices hold for the people themselves.

### Economic Exploitation and Double Standards

Many white Americans view borrowing from other cultures as a form of appreciation rather than theft. This mindset is evident in actions such as wearing Native American headdresses for Halloween or white celebrities adopting traditionally black hairstyles, like Miley Cyrus's dreadlocks at the 2013 VMAs.<sup>12</sup> These actions are often dismissed as harmless fun, but they ignore the deeper economic and social implications. White people have historically profited from cultural elements that marginalised groups have been punished for expressing. While Miley Cyrus can earn millions, black women have lost jobs for wearing their natural hairstyles.



Similarly, in tourism, visitors often profit from indigenous cultures without acknowledging the original curators. They purchase cultural artefacts or participate in cultural ceremonies without

<sup>10</sup> ---. <https://www.incatrailmachu.com/en/travel-blog/machu-picchu-new-rules-2019>

<sup>11</sup> Colvin, Jessica. "The Reality of Cultural Appropriation in a Very White America." *Medium*, 18 July 2017.

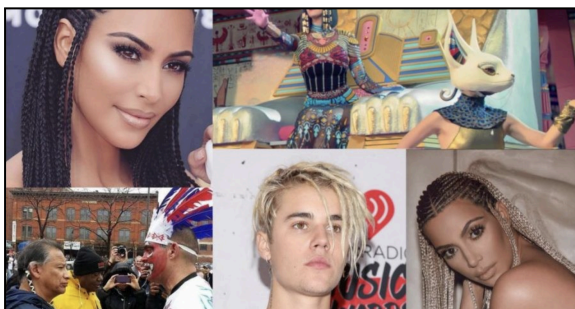
<sup>12</sup> Krupnick, Ellie. "Miley Cyrus' Dreads Bring Cultural Appropriation Moment to 2015 MTV VMAs Red Carpet." *Mic*, 31 Aug. 2015.



understanding or respecting their significance. This behaviour not only economically exploits indigenous communities but also perpetuates cultural misunderstandings and stereotypes.

## Impact on Self-Esteem and Identity

The issue is particularly pronounced in the beauty and fashion industries. Black hairstyles such as cornrows and dreads are often deemed unprofessional or "ghetto" when worn by black individuals, yet they are considered edgy and trendy<sup>13</sup> on white celebrities like Kylie Jenner and Kim Kardashian.



This double standard extends beyond fashion. Elvis Presley, for example, built his career on the foundations laid by black musicians in blues and swing, while black artists of his era struggled to gain recognition and financial success.

Tourism can similarly create economic disparities. Indigenous crafts and performances are marketed to tourists, often with little benefit to the communities that create them. This exploitation

mirrors how black cultural expressions are commercialised, highlighting the need for more equitable economic practices in both contexts.

## Broader Cultural Impact and Economic Disparities

The economic disparities resulting from cultural appropriation are stark. White individuals and companies profit from black culture without giving credit or compensation to its originators<sup>14</sup>. This exploitation extends to various forms of art, cultural expressions, and products, perpetuating a cycle of economic inequality. Black-owned businesses and creators often struggle to gain the same level of recognition and financial success as their white counterparts who appropriate black culture.

The dominance of white perspectives in media further exacerbates this issue, as minority voices and authentic representations of their cultures are often sidelined or misrepresented<sup>15</sup>. For indigenous communities, this means their stories and cultural narratives are often told through a lens that does not fully capture their true essence and significance. The commercialization of cultural products, whether through fashion, art, or tourism, frequently results in profits that bypass the original creators, deepening economic and social inequities.

<sup>13</sup>Cornish, Stephanie. "Black Hair Is Not a Trend for White Consumption." *AFRO American Newspapers*, 2 June 2016.

<sup>14</sup>"Consuming Black Culture - Eloisa Kienast." *Studies of Black History at the University of San Diego*, 13 May 2022.

<sup>15</sup>"Representation of Diversity in Media – Overview." *MediaSmarts*.



## **QARMA's**

1. How can we balance the economic benefits of tourism with the need to protect and preserve indigenous cultures and environments?
2. How can indigenous communities be actively involved in decision-making processes and ensure their voices are prioritised in tourism-related policies?
3. What ethical guidelines should be established to promote respect for indigenous cultures among tourists, tour operators, and travel agencies?
4. What legal frameworks and partnerships are needed to protect indigenous communities and support sustainable, culturally respectful tourism, and how can existing laws be enforced more effectively in tourism hotspots?
5. How can awareness campaigns promote cultural sensitivity and responsible behaviour among tourists to prevent the commodification and misrepresentation of indigenous cultures?



## **Final Remarks**

The topic of preserving cultural integrity while addressing the impact of tourism on indigenous communities is both timely and crucial. As global tourism continues to expand, the delicate balance between economic benefits and cultural preservation becomes increasingly challenging. Indigenous communities, rich in cultural heritage and traditions, often find themselves at the crossroads of maintaining their identity and adapting to the pressures of a growing tourism industry.

The challenges faced by these communities, including cultural erosion, displacement, economic disparities, and environmental degradation, underscore the urgent need for comprehensive and sustainable solutions. It is imperative to involve indigenous voices in tourism-related decision-making processes, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are prioritised. Legal protections must be strengthened and enforced to safeguard their rights and heritage, while partnerships between indigenous communities, governments, NGOs, and the private sector should be fostered to promote ethical and sustainable tourism practices.

Educational campaigns aimed at tourists can play a pivotal role in raising awareness about the importance of respecting indigenous cultures and the environment. By promoting cultural sensitivity and responsible behaviour, tourists can contribute to the preservation of indigenous heritage and the sustainable development of their communities.

As delegates in SOCHUM, you have the opportunity to address these complex issues and contribute to the development of innovative and inclusive solutions. Your efforts can help shape a future where tourism and cultural preservation coexist harmoniously, benefiting both indigenous communities and the broader global society.





## **Position Paper Requirements**

A position paper is a one-page document that will need to be presented before the conference, the requirements of it are as follows.

**Font:** Times New Romans (size 11)

**Margins (centimetres):** 2.54 from all sides

**Line Spacing:** 1.15

**Heading:** Committee's name, topic, delegate's name, delegation, and allocation.

**First paragraph:** Introduction to your nation's perspective on the topic and should not be confused with an introduction to the topic. How does your nation see the issue discussed at hand?

**Second paragraph:** Past actions which relate to the topic and have been taken either by your country nationally, or with the UN. What effects did these have on the conflict in general?

**Third paragraph:** Solutions to the problem, more than one of these are encouraged to fully encompass the issue presented. Remember to remain within policy and within the scope of what your country can do.

**Bibliography:** The sources used to produce this position paper should be presented in MLA9 citation format. If a delegate fails to present sources for their position paper, it will be assumed to be plagiarised work and they will become ineligible for awards.

**Deadline:** All position papers must be sent in pdf form to [sochum@sansilvestre.edu.pe](mailto:sochum@sansilvestre.edu.pe) before 11:59 pm the 30th of August, 2024.

**Eligibility for awards:** Position papers will be used as a way for the chair to ensure your participation previous to the conference. For such, position papers must be submitted before the deadline for the delegate to be eligible for an award. However, they will not be a factor which contributes when choosing awards for your participation during the conference.

**A note on artificial intelligence usage:** We know in recent times many tools have been devised to automate tasks such as the development of literary texts. It would be ignorant to completely prohibit the use of such devices as they are tools created for the enhancement of human intelligence. For such, we believe that many times these devices can be used to improve your work, and we encourage the **healthy, moderated, and smart** usage of these aids. Let it be known, that although AI can be of big help for redaction purposes, **it should not be the sole source of your research** due to the obvious constraints that it possesses, which included but are not limited to; bias, lack of data from recent years, and false information. Furthermore, it is important to note that we **completely prohibit** the use of, for example, Chat GPT **during the conference** to create speeches at real-time speed. Our chairs will make sure to value your improvisation and public speaking skills over a perfectly redacted speech made by an AI tool. With this in mind, make sure to research thoroughly, find different perspectives and sources to devise a proper position paper.

If you have any doubts about the policies in more detail please email your chair or the Secretary-General [lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe](mailto:lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe)



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