



# SPECPOL

## 4th Special Political and Decolonization Committee

**President:** Danna Michelle Carrillo Rodríguez.

**Moderator:** Leticia Sofía Arce Galindo.

**Conference Officer:** Thamine Huerta Ayala.

## WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

*“Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are.”*

– Hafsat Abiola.

On behalf of The Special Political and Decolonization Committee, be welcomed to this new edition of our United Nations Model, MUNMX 2025.

Dear delegates, first of all, we would like to thank you for joining this committee that has been organized with much affection by your chair. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to be in charge of guiding and supporting you on this new path that lies ahead. We will not lie; it can be very demanding, but rest assured that you can always count on the help of the chair to solve any question you may have.

We must confess that from the moment each of us participated in our first models, we knew that we wanted to continue with this adventure. It is complicated to pursue resolutions while taking on the role of a country because you have to do extensive research, but we promise you that all the effort and complications are totally worth it because the resolutions that come out at the end are so unique and hopeful that they really make us reflect positively on a bright future.

The idea that these resolutions come from the perspective of young people who seek peace and have no malice nor only seek for their own benefit is something we truly love and admire.

For us, Model Nations have been events that have defined us as a person and helped us change our way of thinking. This is not just another school extracurricular activity, but the exercise of an activity that may open many doors in places you can't even imagine, or it could help you discover a new passion; you never know, so we hope you get new learnings, and perspectives that surround us.

Sincerely,

**President:** Danna Michelle Carrillo Rodríguez.

**Moderator:** Leticia Sofia Arce Galindo.

**Conference Officer:** Thamine Huerta Ayala.

## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE.**

As one of the main committees of the General Assembly, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) considers the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly and prepares recommendations, draft resolutions, and decisions for submission to the General Assembly plenary.

The Fourth Committee was created as an effort of the United Nations to mitigate and work expressly on the issue of colonization, given the UN's proclamation on the importance of ending colonialism, since at the time of its creation in 1945, one-third of the population lived under colonial regimes while other territories were fighting to gain their autonomy.

This commission, despite being created with a specific objective, was later assigned a wide range of responsibilities, covering an array of five decolonization-related agenda constituents, correspondents to the effects of atomic radiation, conflicts of interest related to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations, the review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Unlike other committees, the body considers all 193 UN members, which can participate in the sessions, each holding a vote. But despite the fact that discussions can lead to very favorable resolutions, it does not have the authority to enforce their execution, meaning that resolutions are non-binding but carry political weight, since this issue is addressed by the Security Council. Although the efforts are significant, they do help to exert pressure on states and institutions, as well as work on norm-building and political legitimacy.

## **References:**

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2. Fourth Committee | The United Nations and Decolonization. (2019). Retrieved August 29, 2025, from Un.org website: <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/fourth-committee>
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**Topic A: Decolonizing digital spaces and ensuring representation of non-self governing territories online. International standards must be established to protect digital sovereignty.**

*“The same rights that people enjoy offline must also be protected online.”*

*- United Nations Human Rights Council, 2014.*

At the present time, legacies left by colonizers not only appear on territorial boundaries but also infiltrate cyberspace. Non-self-governing territories (NSGTs), as outlined in Chapter XI of the UN Charter and General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), retain the right to self-determination. Still, they frequently encounter a lack of recognition over their digital presence, because they lack control regarding the aforementioned. It extends from domain registration to inclusion in global governance bodies like ICANN and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This structural exclusion perpetuates a form of digital colonialism, where the identities and presence of NSGTs are shaped by external powers or multinational firms, rather than by the communities themselves.

This issue leaves NSGTs vulnerable to misrepresentation, cultural erasure, and restricted online access. This is due to the fact that while there is a legal right to self-determination in international law, a digital sovereignty framework remains absent. This often leads to obstacles for the NSGTs in obtaining country-code domains, having recognition in digital governance bodies, or participating in international dialogues on internet policy. All of this contributes to undermining both the visibility and voice of NSGTs in the world's connected society.

Transcending infrastructural challenges, this has come to become a legal and political problem. Technological companies, alongside powerful states, are dominating digital spaces, excluding dependent territories from decision-making processes that often involve their cyber presence. The undermining result is a digital space that reflects back to historical inequalities. This matter is of urgency to NSGTs, whose right to cultural preservation, self-expression, and fair treatment in digital spaces remains under threat.

**Key Questions:**

1. What digital standards and frameworks can be established to protect the digital sovereignty of NSGTs against colonialism?
2. What measures can be taken by the UN members to create mechanisms towards equity and transparency in digital governance spaces?
3. What role should administering powers play in the protection of NSGTs' digital identities while guaranteeing the fair representation of their populations by preventing biases and misrepresentation?
4. How can international cooperation develop and protect the independent national press and media outlets from NSGTs while safeguarding cultural identity in both traditional and digital spaces?

## References:

1. *ICANN*. (2013). Beginner's Guide to.  
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## **Topic B: Fast-Tracking Western Sahara’s Decolonization: Strengthening MINURSO’s Role in the Self-Determination Process.**

Western Sahara remains as one of the last non-self-governing territories recognized by the United Nations, with its decolonization being unresolved since Spain withdrew in 1975. Morocco and the Sahrawi independence movement, represented by the Frente Polisario, have been locked in a long-standing dispute over the territory’s status. In 1991, the UN established MINURSO (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara) to facilitate a referendum that would enable the Sahrawi people to choose between independence and integration with Morocco. Yet, three decades later, the referendum is still pending, and the territory remains divided along the Moroccan-built berm. This stalemate has reduced MINURSO’s mandate to ceasefire monitoring and humanitarian support. Considering this, delegations are tasked with exploring how to revitalize MINURSO’s mandate to drive meaningful progress toward Sahrawi self-determination.

MINURSO was created in April 1991 by UN Security Council Resolution 690 to implement the Settlement Plan accepted by both Morocco and the Polisario Front. Its mandate included organizing a referendum on self-determination, allowing the Sahrawi people to choose independence or integration with Morocco, as well as overseeing the truce and repositioning of forces. Despite the ceasefire holding for most of the 1990s and 2000s, the referendum has been repeatedly delayed, mainly due to disagreements over voter eligibility. MINURSO today functions as an observer mission, monitoring and providing stability.

On 31 October 2024, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2756 (2024), extending MINURSO’s mandate until 31 October 2025, the same resolution that was approved. The resolution stresses the need for a political solution based on compromise and encourages negotiations facilitated by the UN Secretary General’s Personal Envoy without preconditions. It also calls for integrating MINURSO into the UN’s peacekeeping performance framework and urges better cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This committee faces a delicate challenge: deciding whether to push for a revived path towards a referendum on self-determination or to explore alternative frameworks while addressing humanitarian and human rights obligations. Strengthening MINURSO’s mandate could revitalize international attention. The delegations should consider strategies that restore momentum to a long-stalled political process, ensure humane treatment for Sahrawi communities, and leverage regional and global support.

### **Key Questions:**

1. How can MINURSO move from being a “passive observer” to an actor promoting self-determination?
2. Should the referendum be reconsidered, or should the Moroccan autonomy proposal be accepted?
3. Should MINURSO’s mandate include human rights and civilian observation?
4. What role can regional actors (African Union, Arab League, the EU) play?
5. How can security and stability be guaranteed in a territory experiencing military and humanitarian tensions?

## References:

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2. Security Council Extends UN Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara by One Year, Adopting Resolution 2756 (2024) by Vote of 12 in Favour, with 2 Abstentions | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. 31 Oct. 2024, [press.un.org/en/2024/sc15882.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15882.doc.htm).
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Upload your position paper via the following link. Deadline: October 8th.

 Position paper.

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