



4th Special Political and Decolonization Committee

President: Constanza Monroy
Moderator: Ana Paula Lugo
Conference officer: Valeria Paredes



"Courage is the resistance to fear, the mastery of fear, not the absence of fear."
– Mark Twain

Dear delegates,

It is an honor to welcome you to TOLMUN 2024, a particularly significant model as we celebrate its 30th anniversary, which for three decades has encouraged thousands of students to use their full potential for the well-being of the world in which we live. On behalf of the Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Organizing Committee, we extend our greetings and our gratitude for being part of this important history.

For 30 years, TOLMUN has been a place where bold and committed young people become the leaders of tomorrow to dialogue, debate, and above all, to transform the world. This model has witnessed countless ideas that have challenged the status quo, brave voices that have raised their hands in favor of justice, and the construction of a better future.

This year, more than ever, we find ourselves at a moment where you, the delegates, have the opportunity to continue the story. It is not just about representing different nations, but about expressing your way of thinking and coming together as one to solve problems.

The heart of this model is you, the delegates, who motivate us year after year with your enthusiasm, talent and commitment that allows you to continue writing the history of TOLMUN and without realizing it you are already doing something that many others do not do; raising your voice and facing the challenges of the world.

Never stop participating, debating, and above all, daring. You are already changing the world. Let's celebrate 30 years of doing it together!

On behalf of the entire organizing committee, thank you very much for your participation in TOLMUN 2024, good luck delegates, we wish you much success.

Sincerely:

Valeria Tapia Morales
Secretaria General

Maria Fernanda Zenil Cruz
Subsecretaria General



Welcome letter: 4th Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Dear delegates, the 4th Special Political and Decolonization Committee welcomes you all to this wonderful edition of the Model United Nations TOLMUN 2024 on its 30th anniversary. As chair we are profoundly excited to be able to share this experience with you and guide you as you learn and grow within it. We hope the opportunity of being delegates brings and provides much knowledge as you exercise the privilege of sitting in someone else's place as well as to wear their shoes for a couple of days in hopes of devising potential ways of helping our constantly evolving world.

We'd like to encourage you to take this amazing event as an opportunity to open up and show your capabilities of debate, as well as a chance to keep developing your communication and empathy skills. It is a great occasion to understand furthermore the international context we are all living in, while you're able to get to know yourself and everybody else around you a little bit better.

To be able to participate in TOLMUN 2024 is not just a path to personal growth, but a way to pave a brighter future as all your clever minds get the chance to come together and leave a grain of sand in favor of helping create the global community we all deserve.

We'd like to thank you for taking initiative and allowing yourselves to share all the different perspectives and points of view that just might make the difference in our world. Thank you for also giving us the opportunity to listen to all of them while we experience and take TOLMUN 2024 in together, as well as for choosing this committee. We commit to help make this model a good experience and offer our support and advice in whatever you may need. We hope you can enjoy this year's edition and have a wonderful time.

Sincerely:

President: Constanza Monroy

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as the General Assembly Fourth Committee is one of the main committees of the aforementioned General Assembly and deals with a wide range of subjects concerning politics and decolonization. It was established in 1993 and its the result of the mix-up that occurred in 1990 of what was the Special Political Committee and the Special Decolonization committee that formerly was the fourth committee.

The focus areas of scope of the committee range from a variety of topics that are: atomic radiation and its effects, questions relating to information, assistance in mine action, report on the Israeli practices and settlement activities that affect the rights of the Palestinians as well as the human rights of other Arab people from the occupied territories, reviews of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and international agreements and peaceful uses of the outer space. In addition to the topics that this body focuses on, there is also an agenda of topics related specifically to decolonization that they are also focusing on and which was discussed at the 78th meeting of the committee in September of 2023, this agenda of items includes information from Non-Self-Governing territories (transmitted under the article 73e of the UN), affectations Non-Self-Governed territories have due to economic and other activities, offers of study and training for NSGT, implementation of “the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations” (Fourth Committee | the United Nations and Decolonization, 2019) as well as the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting to countries and people.

The committee meets in either September or November of each year, however they can also meet during the spring if the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations warrants it and issues related to peacekeeping are required to be addressed. To the meetings of the 4th committee all 193 members of the UN can attend, and unlike other committees, civil society representatives can also assist to discuss matters related to decolonization. Generally this body adopts 30-35 draft resolutions per year as well as several draft decisions.

The countries that were part of the bureau of the 78th meeting session of the General Assembly were South Africa -as chair- Denmark, Poland and Venezuela -as vice chairs - and Indonesia as a rapporteur.



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Topic A Sustainable development strategies in non-autonomous communities

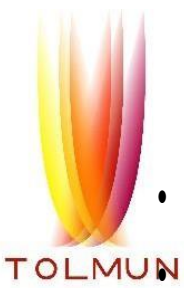
The definition of the term non-autonomous refers to any country, organization or group that's non independent and does not have the power to make their own decisions and control themselves, so they're rather controlled by someone else. On the other hand a community can be identified as a set of individuals who live in a specific area and who in turn share different interests, a nationality, ideologies or a social group.

Currently, most of these non-autonomous communities that are still vulnerable, in comparison to communities that have been autonomous for longer and have certainly been less involved in political or governmental conflicts, are characterized by much the same struggles and needs. These needs range from achieving a greater range of capacity in governmental decision-making to fostering autonomy and avoiding corruption within the delegations. Fostering economic development by generating jobs, improving infrastructure such as energy and transport which are essential for the growth of the delegations and helping to mitigate economic risks. Problems of education, access to health and social services for sectors of the population which are in a more vulnerable economic situation are also essential. Finally, it seeks to encourage this development in view of the environmental problems currently faced by the delegations.

On the last debate session of the Fourth Committee the representatives of each delegation continued to discuss the political and historical issues presented by non-autonomous communities, emphasizing points of utmost importance such as that it is essential that parties refrain from engaging in unilateral issues of exploitation of both renewable and nonrenewable resources in order to avoid the backsliding of communities in the process of regression. The need to remove colonialism and its manifestations and practices, such as economic exploitation that are leading the delegations to a circumstance of unilateral coercion that limits their economic and sustainable development, ending in a social and technological setback of great weight.

Key questions:

- Are there Non-autonomous communities in your nation?
- In what way sustainable development activities can benefit non-autonomous communities?
- In what aspects are non-autonomous communities harmed due to external factors?
- Is your delegation considered as an Administering Power or has intended to assist any other Non-autonomous communities?



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Topic B

The impact of external Actors and International Aid in the Israel-Palestine conflict

The definition of Actors relates to a term used in global politics and it refers to “the entities that make international relations work.” These can be divided into two: State Actors, and Non State Actors. (Actors in International Relations | Definition & Examples - Lesson | Study.com, 2023) On the other hand, International or Foreign Aid is “the international transfer of capital, goods, or services from a country or international organization for the benefit of the recipient country or its population. Aid can be economic, military, or emergency humanitarian.” (“Foreign Aid | Definition, Examples, History, Purpose, & Facts | Britannica Money,” 2024)

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a misfortunate situation that has left multiple casualties and has lasted for almost a year now, becoming a modern demonstration of armed conflict. Regardless of how recent it might seem, the Israel-Palestine conflict has a huge historical background that goes back as far as the creation of a Jewish state (Palestine) with the help of Great Britain along the Balfour Declaration, without the consideration of the Arab population that already lived in the land. So instead of it creating a solution, it paved the way to later conflicts between the Arab and Jewish communities that inhabited the State.

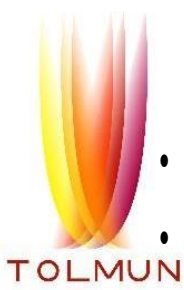
There are several historical facts that have been fuelling the situation throughout the years, however the one that turned out to be the drop that spilled the glass once again, was Hamas’ invasion and attack towards Israel the past October 7th, 2023, in which around 5000 rockets were fired against Israel.

Hamas’ military commander Muhammad Al-Deif claimed the operation, “Al-Aqsa Storm” was a response to women’s attacks, Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa mosque’s profanation, and the siege of Gaza. (Cómo Se Inició El Conflicto Entre Israel Y Los Palestinos, 2023)

In a point of history in which the social context keeps globalizing itself more and more, it is evident that Israel and Palestine’s conflict has had difficulties in coming to a cease because of how involved other States and their own interests are. From the European Union which has very divided opinions and positions, to the United States who has publicly financed artillery for Israel during the whole problem, external or International Actors seem to be creating more conflict rather than acting as advocates of international peacekeeping, which is exactly why UN’s both attempts to create a Resolution failed.

Key questions:

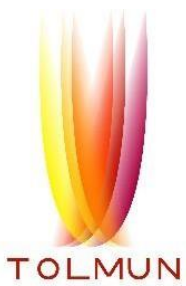
- What impact has foreign military aid, arms sales, and security cooperation from external actors had on the military capabilities of Israel and Palestinian groups?
- How have external actors influenced global public opinion and media narratives surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict?



- To what extent have external actors facilitated or hindered peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine?
- How do the strategic interests of external actors align or conflict with the goals of the peace process, and what are the implications for long-term resolution?

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Contact information:

Contact with the chair:

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NOTE: Search in the following drive for the committee you belong to and upload your position sheet there. Deadline October 1st

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GPFNAnGcqCyxnsOqMK0776_UWnNeuC_N?usp=sharing