Debating Global Governance: “Model UNPO” role play

Learner Activity Sheet

In this enquiry on global governance you are going to investigate the situation of one polity where there are issues around representation, rights and self-determination.

In the final lesson, you will be invited to a meeting of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization where you will debate these issues with other nations and peoples.
The UNPO is an umbrella organisation of over 40 unrecognised political communities which are currently denied access to international fora (www.unpo.org). These include stateless nations, governments-in-exile, national minorities and indigenous communities. What they have in common is a desire for self-determination (whether that be independent statehood, autonomy or the protection of cultural, political and human rights), and a commitment to non-violence, democracy and human rights.

Your group will be assigned a UNPO member. You are diplomats of this UNPO Member: during the exercise you will represent the views of this community/government, and reflect the community’s national interest, not your own personal opinions. It is up to you how you divide up jobs within your group, both in terms of preparation and speaking during the exercise.

Before the Lesson:

1. As the representative of ____________ create a brief fact sheet that can serve as a reference resource during the debate and be circulated afterwards as a case study. Your report should include:
   
   i. Location:
      a. Where is your polity located?
      b. What territory does it claim?
      c. What are the important states in the surrounding area?

   ii. Recent history and political environment
      a. What has happened recently regarding your polity?
      b. Have there been any political development which affect your polity?
      c. Have there been any recent conflicts?

   iii. Economic Situation

   iv. What your polity is aspiring for e.g. independent statehood, autonomy within another state, greater cultural and political rights.

   v. Obstacles to good governance

   vi. Opportunities for stability and development

2. Your group should prepare, and rehearse, a short two-minute speech to introduce your UNPO member to the group. Your speech should include:
   
   i) Your roles and who you represent
   ii) Your claim to represent your peoples
   iii) The current situation in your polity/homeland
Useful preparatory reading includes:

http://www.economist.com/node/324795

https://americandiplomacy.web.unc.edu/1999/09/revising-the-u-n-trusteeship-system-will-it-work/


UN, The United Nations and Decolonization:  
https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en

UN, The United Nations and Decolonization Documents  

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:  
*General Comment No.12*, the right to self-determination of peoples (Art. 1), 1984:  
*General Recommendation No. 21*, right to self-determination, 1996:  
http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/gencomm/genrexxi.htm

UNPO on self-determination: http://www.unpo.org/section/2/2

UNPO Membership http://unpo.org/members.php
3. Based on the experience gained learning about your UNPO member, please submit three draft clauses for a resolution which your teacher could select for discussion in the lesson. These should be generic matters that will stimulate debate with our representatives.

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Stretch and challenge: Investigate the structure of the UNPO and consider how the organisation works as an alternative form of global governance.