



UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



LIMITED

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ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: SUGGESTED BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. As a matter of principle it has been recognized by the General Assembly that "the direct association of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies is an effective measure of promoting the progress of the indigenous inhabitants of those Territories towards a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations".
2. On the other hand, the Trusteeship Council has been invited to "examine the possibility of associating the inhabitants of the Trust Territories more closely in its work and to report the results of its examination of this problem to the General Assembly at its seventh regular session".
3. Consequently, the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the work of the Council, in particular, could not be secured if, as the Iraqi proposal suggests, they were included in the delegations of the Administering Authorities. Because of its essential nature, such participation would not be effective if the indigenous inhabitants were acting as representatives of Member States and were thus subject to instructions from above. Only as direct representatives of the people of a Trust Territory could they really help to achieve the basic aims of the Trusteeship system.
4. If this is accepted, it must be agreed that such participation by the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories should be recognized as a function exercised in fulfilment of an international obligation emanating from the United Nations. In this way, the participation of the indigenous inhabitants would be a financial charge on the United Nations and as such would have to be submitted to the consideration of the appropriate agencies.
5. Thus, if such participation is to be surrounded by the necessary safeguards, in order to ensure that the General Assembly's purpose in adopting

resolution 554 (VI) on 18 January 1952, referred to above, is fulfilled, the selection of the participants would have to be based, solely and exclusively, on the truest possible representation of the most important sectors of public opinion in the Territory concerned.

(a) To this end, the choice will in all cases have to be made by the Trusteeship Council;

(b) For this purpose, the Trusteeship Council will consult the Administering Authority of each Territory, in order to obtain detailed information regarding the persons who may be chosen and the various sectors into which public opinion in the Territory is divided;

(c) Similarly, it will be necessary to make instructions to formulate specific recommendations on the matters referred to in the preceding paragraph, a permanent feature of the terms of reference of the Visiting Missions.

6. As a matter of basic importance, it would be necessary to determine the character and extent of the participation of the representatives who are chosen. In this respect, the only possible interpretation would seem to be that such participation should be limited to the submission of observations and comments of a general character (political, social, economic and educational) on the Territory in question; inversely, the representatives would not be entitled to intervene in the presentation of petitions or to take part in their consideration, save as might be decided by the Trusteeship Council in special cases.
