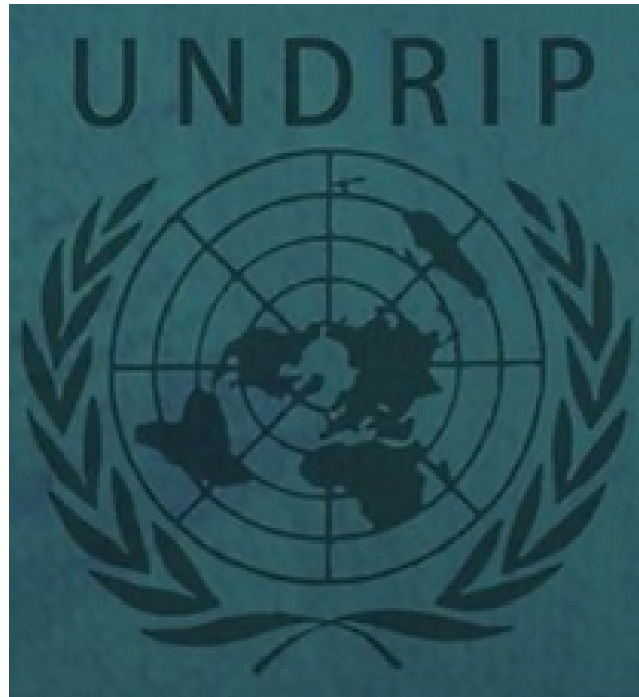


Kings Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

**UNDRIP: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Land Rights in
Northern Ontario, Canada and the DRC**



Ryan Pallotta

Mr. Oussoren

CGW4Ua

December 6 2022

Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of unique committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of Debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that skills that you will learn through your participation in MUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person to King'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able to engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,

Athena Ponte
Secretary General
King'sMUN 2023

History & Purpose

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the general assembly in 2007, with the goal of respecting the rights, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples around the world. This declares the individual rights of Indigenous people as well as the rights to their cultures, languages, health and education. UNDRIP also focuses on Indigenous people's right to traditional lands, resources and territories. Work to create this declaration began as early as 1982. Multiple alterations to the declaration were required due to some countries having concerns about their own sovereignty. A working group was established in 1995 to make changes to the declaration which ultimately led to the declaration being adopted by the UN in September 2007. The vote passed by a vote of 143-4 with the questions of sovereignty remaining for the 4 countries that voted no. Progress for Indigenous rights has made some slow but steady progress. Since its implementation, the four countries that voted no have switched positions and decided to support this declaration. This declaration has seen some success with new laws and legislation being put in place to help Indigenous people, however, Indigenous People remain a marginalized group.

Topic: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Land Rights in Northern Ontario, Canada and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Resource Extraction and Land Rights are challenges that Indigenous people face worldwide. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Northern Ontario, Canada are particularly affected by these issues. These issues go hand in hand as mining and resource extraction are often a result of breaching land rights agreements.

In Northern Ontario, Canada the Hudson Bay region is home to an abundance of valuable natural resources such as copper, nickel and platinum, thought to be worth billions of dollars. Mining companies want to extract these resources from the land however, Indigenous people in the area have depended on this land and its resources for centuries. Many of the Indigenous groups in this region have land agreements with the government that may be violated with the proposed mining project. There have been a plethora of environmental concerns with this plan that will affect the local Indigenous population such as air and water pollution as well as loss of habitat for animals in the area. With Canada agreeing to abide by the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the government now needs Indigenous groups to agree to this plan to move forward with the plans.

Located in central Africa and in the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Congo Basin is the second-largest tropical forest in the world. The Congo Basin is home to over 75 million people from around 150 ethnic groups. This area contains valuable resources in high demand such as diamonds, coltan, oil and wood. Indigenous People in the DRC risk losing their land for these resources to be extracted and sold. Some foreign companies are deforesting the Congo basin illegally which goes against land rights that have been put in place. Indigenous communities within the Congo Basin rely on the materials in the forest for their survival. The extraction of resources not only goes against their land rights but also goes against their traditional way of life.

These ongoing issues are a result of the poor protection of the rights of Indigenous people. In order to resolve this issue, Indigenous land rights disputes must be worked out and proper protection of the UNDRIP principles must be put in place.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a way to examine what is happening with this issue. Firstly, SDG 16- peace, justice and strong institutions specifically Target 16.7; ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making. UNDRIP specifically mentions giving Indigenous leaders a say in what happens with their land, which is not always honoured. Mining and other resource extraction projects on Indigenous land are being proposed without the consent of the Indigenous people. Representative decision-making is vital to the protection of Indigenous land rights. Second, SDG 13 climate action, Target 13.2; integrate climate change measures into policies and planning. Large-scale mining and resource extraction have negative effects on the environment that can potentially worsen climate change. These negative environmental effects affect the lives of Indigenous People forcing them to alter their way of life. Wildlife populations often lose habitat as a result of resource extraction, eliminating a source of food and resources for Indigenous people. Finally, SDG 8 decent work and economic growth, Target 8.4; improve resource efficiency in consumption and production. This target aims for economic growth while taking into account environmental degradation. Mining and deforestation can be a large part of a country's economic growth however it comes at the cost of environmental degradation and the potential loss of important Indigenous land.

Question to Consider

- How can your country help Indigenous people in Canada and the DRC
- How can countries improve Indigenous land rights?
- What can be done to limit illegal mining and deforestation projects in the DRC?
- How can the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be enforced in countries that have agreed to it but aren't abiding by it?

Helpful video to watch: <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2394550622>

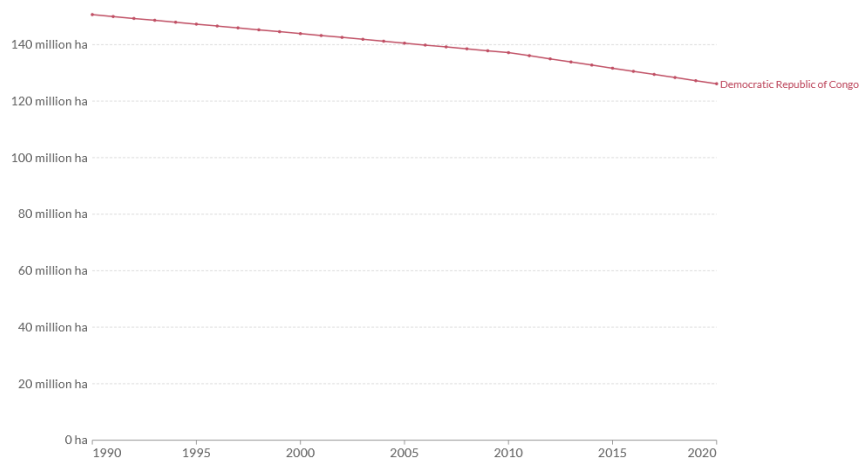


Forest area

Forest area is land under natural or planted stands of trees of at least 5 meters in situ, whether productive or not, and excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems.

Our World in Data

+ Add country



Forest area in the DRC

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