



HISTALYA

MUN 2024

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM:

Trust Territory A: Nauru / Trust

Territory B: Palau

STUDY GUIDE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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I. Letter from the Secretary-General

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all participants of HistalyaMun'24, which will be held in Antalya from August 15th to 18th.

As we gather for this Model United Nations conference, we anticipate engaging debates, enlightening discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. Our committees, covering a diverse range of topics about historical events, promise to challenge and inspire delegates, fostering both critical thinking and diplomatic skills.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizing team and our gracious hosts in Antalya for their dedication and hard work in bringing HistalyaMun'24 to fruition.

I am eager to meet each and every one of you in Antalya as we come together for this enriching experience.

Sincerely,

Metehan Yıldırım
Secretary-General

II. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Dear Participants,

I hope this message finds you well. As the Under-Secretary-General of the Trusteeship Council, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the comprehensive study guide concerning the Trust Territories of Palau and Nauru. This guide has been meticulously prepared to provide you with a thorough understanding of the historical, political, and socio-economic contexts of these territories.

The Trusteeship Council has a pivotal role in ensuring that the administration of Trust Territories is conducted in the best interests of their inhabitants and per the advancement towards self-governance and independence. The study guide serves as an essential resource to assist you in fulfilling these responsibilities with informed and judicious decision-making.

As we continue to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter, it is imperative that we equip ourselves with a profound understanding of the unique contexts and needs of the Trust Territories. I encourage all delegates to engage with the study guide thoughtfully and to utilize it as a foundation for our deliberations and actions.

Your commitment and diligence are vital to the successful administration and ultimate self-determination of the people of Palau and Nauru. Together, we can make meaningful progress toward realizing the aspirations of these territories.

Thank you for your attention and dedication to this important work.

Yours sincerely,

Under-Secretary-General

Ezo Ferda Topal

III. Introduction to the Committee

One of the six main UN organs, the Trusteeship Council was founded in 1945 per the UN Charter. Its main goal was to supervise the management of Trust Territories and guarantee that the people living there were ready for independence and self-governance. Even though these regions' independence has essentially fulfilled the Council's initial goal, knowing its operations offers important insights into the processes of decolonization, international governance, and the advancement of human rights.

The Council consists of the following Members of the United Nations: those Members administering Trust Territories; such of those Members mentioned by name in Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations as are not administering Trust Territories; and as many other Members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly as may be necessary to ensure that the total number of members of the Trusteeship Council is equally divided between those Members of the United Nations which administer Trust Territories and those which do not.

IV. Understanding the Trusteeship Council

i. Functions of the Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council was established to meet the needs of regions that were under UN member states' governance but did not yet have their own government. These areas, referred to as Trust Territories, were once under League of Nations mandates or colonies that needed international supervision to enable a peaceful handoff to self-governance. The main goals were to support the territories' quest for self-determination, as well as to enhance political, economic, social, and educational conditions and human rights awareness.

ii. History of the Trusteeship Council

After the approval of the first Trusteeship Agreements by the General Assembly at its sixty-second plenary meeting, on 13 December 1946, the conditions necessary for the constitution of the Trusteeship Council could be fulfilled. Thus, per Article 86a of the Charter, Australia, Belgium, France, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom became members of the Council. By application of Article 86b China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America also became members of the Council. In

compliance with Article 86c, the General Assembly, at its sixty-third plenary meeting, on 14 December 1946, elected Mexico and Iraq as members of the Council for a term of three years.

As a result of the entry into force of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Pacific Islands on 18 July 1947, the United States of America was entrusted with the administration of a Trust Territory, and, in order therefore to ensure that the total number of members of the Council was equally divided between those Members of the United Nations which administer Trust Territories and those which do not, the General Assembly, at its one hundred and ninth plenary meeting, 13 November 1947, elected Costa Rica and the Philippines as members of the Council for a term of three years.

V. The Trusteeship Council

i. The Importance of the Council

The Trusteeship Council was responsible for supervising the administration of Trust Territories. This involved regular reports from the administering authorities, on-site visits, and consultations with the local populations. The Council ensured that the administering powers were fulfilling their obligations to promote the well-being and development of the territories under their care.

The Trusteeship Council played a crucial role in promoting the economic and social development of Trust Territories. This involved encouraging investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic diversification. The aim was to create sustainable and self-sufficient economies that could support independent governance.

Ensuring respect for human rights was a fundamental aspect of the Trusteeship Council's mandate. The Council monitored the treatment of inhabitants in Trust Territories, advocated for their rights, and took action to address any violations. This included promoting equality, justice, and the protection of minority groups within the territories.

The Trusteeship Council also acted as a mediator in disputes involving Trust Territories. This included conflicts between the administering authorities and the local populations, as well as disputes between different ethnic or political groups within the territories. The Council sought peaceful

resolutions through dialogue, negotiation, and, when necessary, intervention.

In today's context, the functions of the Trusteeship Council can be seen in the work of other UN bodies and international organizations that address issues of governance, development, and human rights. The principles of supervision, support for self-governance, economic and social development, human rights advocacy, and dispute resolution remain relevant and are applied in various forms to contemporary challenges.

ii. Members of the Council

The Trusteeship Council was composed of five permanent members, all of whom were the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: China, France, the Soviet Union (now Russia), the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations played a significant role in shaping the Council's activities and policies. Additionally, there were administering authorities and other UN member states elected to the Council to ensure broader representation.

a. France

France was involved in the administration of several Trust Territories and worked to balance its interests as a colonial power with its responsibilities under the UN Charter. France's stance was influenced by its role as a colonial power. Initially, France advocated for a gradual transition to self-governance, emphasizing the need for stability and development before independence. Over time, France became more supportive of decolonization, particularly in the context of increasing international pressure and the rise of independence movements.

b. P.R. China

China participated in overseeing the administration of Trust Territories and ensuring that the principles of the UN Charter were upheld, particularly those related to self-determination and human rights. China supported the decolonization process and the promotion of self-governance for Trust Territories. China's approach was often

influenced by its own experiences with colonialism and imperialism, advocating for rapid decolonization and the empowerment of local populations.

c. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As one of the largest colonial powers, the United Kingdom initially favored a gradual approach to decolonization, emphasizing the need for political stability, economic development, and preparation for self-governance. Over time, the UK adapted its policies in response to international pressure and the realities of independence movements. The UK administered several Trust Territories and was actively involved in their development and transition to self-governance. It played a key role in negotiating independence for these territories while seeking to maintain stability and good relations.

d. United States of America

The US was involved in the administration of some Trust Territories and used its influence to support the decolonization process. It also provided economic and technical assistance to help prepare territories for independence. The United States supported decolonization and self-determination, viewing it as consistent with its own historical principles. The US promoted a balanced approach, advocating for both the political development and economic stability of Trust Territories before independence.

e. Russian Federation

The former Soviet Union used its position in the Trusteeship Council to push for rapid decolonization and to support anti-colonial movements. It also criticized the policies of Western administering powers and called for greater international oversight. They were a strong advocate for decolonization and supported the immediate independence of Trust Territories. This stance was driven by its ideological opposition to colonialism and imperialism, viewing decolonization as a way to weaken Western influence and promote socialism.

VI. Trust Territory A: Palau

Palau, officially known as the Republic of Palau, is a beautiful island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. Its journey to independence is a unique

and complex story, marked by its status as a Trust Territory under the United Nations and its eventual emergence as a sovereign nation. This essay chronicles the key milestones in Palau's path to independence, highlighting the political, social, and international dynamics that shaped its journey.

Before becoming a Trust Territory, Palau had a long history of colonial rule. The islands were first encountered by Europeans in the 16th century and subsequently claimed by Spain. In 1899, Spain sold the islands to Germany, and they became part of German New Guinea. Following World War I, the League of Nations mandated Palau to Japan, which administered the islands as part of the South Seas Mandate.

World War II had a significant impact on Palau. The islands were the site of major battles, and following Japan's defeat, Palau was placed under the administration of the United States as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) in 1947. This trusteeship was established by the United Nations, to prepare the territories for self-governance and eventual independence.

In 1951, administrative authority over the TTPI, including Palau, was transferred from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This shift marked the beginning of more structured efforts to develop local governance and infrastructure in Palau.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Palau made significant strides in developing its political institutions. The establishment of the Congress of Micronesia in 1965 provided a platform for local leaders to participate in the legislative process. In 1979, the Palau Constitution was drafted and approved, creating the framework for self-governance and laying the foundation for future independence.

Throughout the 1980s, Palau engaged in negotiations with the United States to establish a Compact of Free Association. This agreement aimed to define the future relationship between the two countries, ensuring economic assistance and defense provisions for Palau while allowing for self-governance.

In 1986, the Compact of Free Association was approved by both Palau and the United States. However, implementation faced delays due to internal debates and concerns over the terms of the agreement, particularly regarding nuclear provisions.

The nuclear issue was a major point of contention, with Palau's Constitution banning the presence of nuclear materials. After several referendums and amendments, Palau agreed to terms that would allow the Compact to proceed without compromising its anti-nuclear stance.

In a final referendum held in **1993**, the people of Palau overwhelmingly approved the Compact of Free Association. This vote paved the way for the official end of trusteeship and the recognition of Palau as a sovereign nation.

On **October 1, 1994**, Palau officially became an independent nation, concluding its status as a Trust Territory. The United Nations Security Council formally ended the trusteeship, and Palau joined the UN as its 185th member state.

VII. Trust Territory B: Nauru

Nauru, officially known as the Republic Of Nauru, formerly known as Pleasant Island, is an island country and microstate in Micronesia, Part of Oceania in the Central Pacific, Its nearest neighbor is Banaba of Kiribati about 300 km to the east. This Country, as well as Palau, share a unique story in case of their independence. Yet again, marked by the U.N. because it emerged as a sovereign nation. This part will inform you about the period of Nauru becoming independent, with highlighted political keys of importance.

Before its journey with the Trusteeship Council, Nauru had a varied and intriguing history:

The Republic of Nauru, which was formerly known as Pleasant Island, is a Pacific island nation and microstate. It is found in Micronesia, in Oceania-Central Pacific. Its closest neighbor is Kiribati's Banaba, located 300 km away in the east. These countries have unique cases of independence like no other. This however is marked by the U.N. since they managed to be recognized as independent nations. In this section, we will discuss Nauru's road to independence with an emphasis on important political milestones.

Nauru had a varied and interesting history before embarking on its journey with the Trusteeship Council:

Micronesian Settlement (Circa 1000 BCE)

Around 1000 BCE, Nauru became home to Micronesians who started living there as their ancestors did long ago.

German Annexation (Late 19th Century)

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Germany annexed Nauru as a colony thereby initiating European colonization on the island.

World War I and Capture by Australian Troops (1914)

Australian troops took over Nauru when World War I broke out in 1914. It ushered in drastic changes in the governing authority over the island of Nauru.

Nauru Island Agreement (1919)

The parties agreed in 1919 that His Britannic Majesty would be the administering authority under a League of Nations mandate. The Nauru Island Agreement was an agreement between the United Kingdom, and Australia New Zealand, which led to the formation of the British Phosphate Commission (BPC) that would run the island and its phosphate resources.

League of Nations Mandate Terms (1920)

The formal mandate for Nauru under the League of Nations was set in 1920 spelling out roles and responsibility among the administering powers.

Mortality Crisis (Early 20th Century)

Influenza and other colonial troubles resulted in an 18% mortality rate among native Nauruans during the early part of the twentieth century

Trustee Mandate Granted (1923)

Nauru was given its first official colonial rulers when Australia, with co-trusteeships held by New Zealand and the United Kingdom, got a trustee manship over it from the League of Nations in 1923.

German Attacks During World War II (December 6-7, 1940)

Komet and Orion, German auxiliary cruisers attacked five supply ships near Nauru on December 6-7, 1940 as well as shelling phosphate mining areas there while destroying oil storage depots and infrastructure.

Independence of Nauru (January 31, 1968)

On January 31, 1968, Nauru achieved independence, marking the end of its colonial and trusteeship periods and the beginning of its sovereignty as a nation.