



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

**FORUM:** Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

**TOPIC:** Implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

**STUDENT OFFICER:** Martha Eleni Gioti

**POSITION:** Main-Chair

---

### PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Esteemed delegates,

My name is Martha Eleni Gioti, friends and family call me Melina. Despite being in the 16th year of my life, I have participated in several MUNs, as a delegate, a member of the organizing team and as a chair. So, this year I feel honored to participate at this year's AMLMUN as the Main Chair of the SPECPOL (GA4) committee in order to provide you with all my knowledge!

During this conference our aim is to help you learn throughout the procedure what is an MUN, to make friends, alliances while being diplomatic and having debate. My personal message to you is to participate as much as you can during the debate, try and make mistakes, because this is how you learn.

As for the preparation for the debate, make sure to take a glimpse at the study guide and also do research above the topics. Also, whatever question pops up in your mind while you are getting prepared, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail in [melinaki5909@gmail.com](mailto:melinaki5909@gmail.com)

Looking forward to meeting you all and having fun!

Best wishes,  
Melina Gioti.

### TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Powerful states exploited the land and resources of nations all over the world for ages, frequently at the expense of the native populations that lived there.' Even though the United Nations was established in 1945 and many nations have achieved independence, there are still 17 non-self-governing states with fewer than 2 million citizens that are still subject to foreign powers' rule, political disenfranchisement, and exploitation. During the so-called "Age of Discovery," when nations, particularly European ones, were engaged in intense competition with one another to increase their territory, colonialism flourished. There were 750 million people living in countries that were reliant on colonial powers in 1945, which is equal to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the world's population.

The UN General Assembly declared in its 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples that colonization in all its manifestations must end.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

Reaffirming the right to self-determination, putting an end to colonialism, and aiding recently independent nations were just a few of the many acts that went into putting this proclamation into practice. Initially, the Declaration of Independence was a statement of independence. It signaled the introduction of a people into what is now known as an international society, organized into thirteen states.

The tenets of one's government and American identity are outlined in the Declaration of Independence. Although it is not legally binding, the Declaration of Independence is a powerful document. It was described by Abraham Lincoln as a "rebuke and barrier to tyranny and oppression."

The Declaration of Independence's central claim is that America has an inherent right to break away from British domination. The colonies' claim for autonomy based on natural rights was outlined in this declaration, which was written by Thomas Jefferson and approved on July 4, 1776.

### KEY TERMS

#### INDEPENDENCE

"Independence is the state of being free from the control of another person, country or entity. Revolutions have been aimed at gaining independence, perhaps most famously the American Revolution, which led to America's freedom from Britain."

#### COLONIAL COUNTRY

"A colonial country is a nation that, in the past or present, has exercised political and economic control over another region, often for the purpose of extracting and exploiting resources and imposing its own culture and systems. This control is usually established and maintained through colonialism, a system where a powerful nation dominates and exploits a less powerful one."

#### COLONIAL PEOPLE

"The term colonial people refers to a group of people subject to the political, economic and social control of a colonial power. This often involves the settlement of an alien population in their territory, the exploitation of resources, and the imposition of the colonizer's culture and governance. The term can also refer to people living in a colony, regardless of their origin."

#### NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

"Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government".

#### SELF-DETERMINATION

"The right to self-determination encompasses "the rights of all peoples to pursue freely their economic, social, and cultural development without outside interference," according to the



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and "Governments are to represent the whole population without distinction as to race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin."

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Historical Background on Colonialism**

##### **Ancient and Classical Colonization**

Beginning around 1550 B.C., empires like Ancient Greece engaged in colonialism. The goal of ancient Egypt, Rome, and Phoenicia was to extend their frontiers into adjacent and non-contiguous regions. In the past, the Greeks would send a chosen party to start a new colony after first consulting an oracle. In order to establish a connection between the colony and the city, the founders would start a fire using a flame from the original city as a sign of their claim to the new site.

##### **Age of Discovery (15th–17th Century)**

During the Age of Discovery, colonization was at its height (15th–17th century). Seeking new trade routes and cultures beyond Europe, Portugal overran the North African town of Ceuta in 1415. Soon, the Portuguese expanded their dominance to islands like Cape Verde and Madeira. In response to Portugal's growing influence, Spain sponsored Christopher Columbus, who set sail in 1492 with three ships to find a direct route to India, Japan, China, and the Spice Islands. Instead, Columbus landed on a small island in the Bahamas, which he claimed for the Spanish Crown.

##### **Post-War Decolonization and the UN**

There were additional ways in which the emerging Asian and African powers seized control of the UN. They succeeded in passing a resolution establishing a Special Committee on Decolonization to aid in the independence of the several dependent areas that remained, just over a year after Resolution 1514 (XV) was approved. (The committee is still in operation today, keeping an eye on seventeen areas that do not have their own government.) The African and Asian member states succeeded in securing the 1960s' designation as the UN Decade of Development in December 1961. They also led the effort to have the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination approved in 1963. They used their numerical superiority to turn the UN into a force for international change in these and other cases.

### **KEY ASPECTS OF THE DECLARATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **END TO COLONIAL RULE AND TRANSFER OF POWERS**

It demands that all forms of repression and military conflict against dependent peoples end immediately. Also, according to the proclamation, all authority must be given to the colonial territories' citizens so they can rule themselves.



## **4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025**

### **TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, MONITORING AND ACTION**

The declaration highlights how crucial it is to uphold these territories' national integrity, while the UN works to put the declaration's tenets into practice and keeps an eye on the process of self-determination through its Special Committee on Decolonization.

### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The declaration highlights how crucial it is to uphold these territories' national integrity. Also, the UN works to put the declaration's tenets into practice and keeps an eye on the process of self-determination through its Special Committee on Decolonization.

## **MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED**

### **United States of America (USA)**

Due to pressure from the United Kingdom, the United States, which had long supported decolonization, chose not to endorse the proclamation. Zelma George, a U.S. representative, led an applause following the vote despite abstaining. Many states believed that the United States had failed them.

### **United Kingdom (UK)**

Along with the majority of its surviving colonies, the United Kingdom believed that the statement indicated criticism of it and that a period of appropriate preparation for independence was necessary. The UK's opinions affected the U.S. vote, which President Eisenhower escalated to a final decision, but they had little effect on other delegates. In his remarks, U.S. Ambassador James Wadsworth clarified that while they supported the general goal, there were "difficulties in the language and thought" and brought up a number of technical concerns. It was once described as "the United States State Department bent over backwards to read the paragraph incorrectly" by Senator Wayne Morse.

### **SOVIET UNION**

The Soviet Union first proposed a decolonization declaration that called for the remaining colonies to become independent as soon as possible. However, other states decided to bring the issue to the General Assembly sooner rather than later because they believed that an overly quick decolonization would cause unrest in those former colonies. 43 Asian and African nations proposed this compromise statement, which demanded "immediate steps to be taken" and may be interpreted in a variety of ways, not the least of which being quick decolonization.

### **India**

Despite the limits of the Charter, support for a robust system of international accountability for all dependent territories in service to their eventual independence grew steadily during the first fifteen years of the United Nations' existence. India and other anti-



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

colonial states chipped away at the administering states' exclusive control over the non-self-governing territories. Progress was slow, but steady, as new nations joined the United Nations and added their voices to the decolonization cause.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

EVENT	TIME
Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and people	14 December 1960
International Decades for the eradication of colonization	1990-2000
the Plan for the Action Decade	13 December 1991
The General Assembly proceeded to proclaim the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	8 December 2000
the second international Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	2001-2010
The General Assembly proceeded to proclaim the Third international Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.	10 December 2010
the third international Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	2010-2020
the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	2020-2030

### RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence (Resolution 1514)

The Declaration of Independence to colonial countries and people, adopted by the UN's General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December of the year 1960, sought to eradicate all forms of colonialism. It demanded that power be immediately transferred to dependent regions and upheld every people's right to self-determination.

#### UN Actions to Implement the Declaration

In order to carry out this declaration, the UN took a number of steps, such as keeping an eye on developments, offering support, and dealing with administering powers' opposition.

#### Role of the Special Committee on Decolonization

Organizations such as the Special Committee on Decolonization were created by the UN to keep an eye on developments and support regions vying for independence.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

### International Support

The declaration called on international organizations and member nations to support the territories economically, socially, and in other ways.

### Challenges in Implementation

Notwithstanding the declaration's objectives, the decolonization process encountered difficulties, such as opposition from certain administering countries and the difficulties of power transfers in particular regions. In order to fully implement the proclamation, the UN is still keeping an eye on the situation in the remaining non-self-governing territories.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### Ways to Achieve Self-Determination

A non-self-governing territory can achieve a "full measure of self-government" in a number of ways, according UN General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XV):

**Sovereign Independence:** A territory has the potential to become a completely autonomous country.

**Free Association:** It is able to freely join forces with an independent state that already exists.

**Integration:** It has the ability to become a part of an autonomous state that already exists.

### Role of the United Nations

Decolonization is made possible in large part by the United Nations. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Resolution 1514), which was approved in 1960, recognized the right to full independence and asserted that liberation is irrevocable and unstoppable.

### Principle of Equal Rights and Self-Determination

The UN Charter enshrines the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. Territories that have not yet exercised this right are supported through UN monitoring and intervention.

### Implementation and Support

The Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) ensures the prompt and full implementation of the Declaration. Liberation movements and non-self-governing regions receive backing through UN resolutions and specialized agencies to facilitate independence and self-governance.



## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Options for Self-Determination

Forming a sovereign, independent state or voluntarily joining or integrating into an already-existing independent state are viable options for colonial nations seeking independence; all of these are legitimate forms of self-determination.

### Legal and International Support

The United Nations Charter's tenets, which place a strong emphasis on a people's freedom to freely choose their political status free from outside intervention, lend credence to these choices. This right was further cemented by the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Resolution 1514), which called for the prompt establishment of self-determination in those areas that were not yet able to govern themselves.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

National Archives. *Declaration of Independence: A Transcription*. National Archives and Records Administration, <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. "The Declaration of Independence in a Global Perspective." *Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History*, <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/essays/declaration-independence-global-perspective>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Wikipedia contributors. "Colonialism." *Wikipedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonialism>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

National Geographic. "Colonialism." *National Geographic*, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/colonialism>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Wikipedia contributors. "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples." *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration\\_on\\_the\\_Granting\\_of\\_Independence\\_to\\_Colonial\\_Countries\\_and\\_Peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_on_the_Granting_of_Independence_to_Colonial_Countries_and_Peoples). Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

United Nations. "Non-Self-Governing Territories." *United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*, <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsgt>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library. "Resolution 47/23 (1992)." [https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/resolutions/47/23GA1992.html#:~:text=Recalling%20its%20resolution%201514%20\(XV\)%20of%2014,colonialism%20in%20all%20its%20forms%20and%20manifestations](https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/resolutions/47/23GA1992.html#:~:text=Recalling%20its%20resolution%201514%20(XV)%20of%2014,colonialism%20in%20all%20its%20forms%20and%20manifestations). Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. "Right to Self-Determination." *Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination*, <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-self-determination#:~:text=The%20UN%20Committee%20on%20the,the%20whole%20population%20without%20distinction>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

United Nations Digital Library. *Record 4063862*, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4063862?v=pdf>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Wikipedia contributors. "Special Committee on Decolonization." *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special\\_Committee\\_on\\_Decolonization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Committee_on_Decolonization). Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

United Nations. "About the Special Committee on Decolonization." *United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*, <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/about>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Tandfonline. "UN Support for Decolonization." *Third World Quarterly*, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2023.2180355>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

United Nations. "Secretary-General's Message: The 2025 Session of the Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries." <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-02-13/secretary-generals-message-the-2025-session-of-the-committee-the-situation-regard-the-implementation-of-the-declaration-the-granting-of-independence-colonial-countries>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.

Cornell University Press. *UN Support for Decolonization: Sixty Years On*, <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/un-support-for-decolonization-sixty-years-on/>. Accessed 8 Sept. 2025.