United Nations Trusteeship Council

FIMUN 37

Diplomacy in a Divided World

Background Guide

Letter from the Secretary-General and Director-General

Hello delegates, advisors, parents, and teachers,

On behalf of us, your Secretary-General Isabella Balbi Masso and Director-General Alexandria Cerini, and all of our Secretariat, we would like to welcome you all to the 37th iteration of the Florida International Model United Nations Conference! This upcoming FIMUN will continue to be held at Florida International University's beautiful Modesto A. Maidique Campus from March 14th to 16th, 2025.

This year we have selected the theme of "Diplomacy in a Divided World," where delegates will be prompted to show diplomacy during challenging and engaging scenarios in a wide variety of General Assembly, Specialized, and Crisis Committees. Both of us originate from opposite sides of the ocean and have seen the division of the world, especially in our modern day. We are strong believers that every person, even young students, have the ability to show diplomacy and change the world. Being able to act with diplomacy in cases of adversity, disadvantage, and injustice is a skill that every person should learn and harness to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for everyone.
We are working hard to provide every delegate with a committee that they will love, and an unforgettable experience where they will make new friends, learn new skills, and discover the amazing world of Model UN! This year we will be hosting 15 committees each one focusing on a different current, historical, or fantasy issue, with an amazing staff who are prepared to make this FIMUN the best one yet!

We are incredibly honored and excited to welcome you all to our amazing campus and conference this March, and cannot wait to see each and every one of you succeed!

See you soon,

Isabella Balbi Masso and Alexandria Cerini
ibalb007@fiu.edu and aceri008@fiu.edu
Secretary-General and Director-General
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates, Advisors, and Compañeros,

It is my absolute honor to introduce all of you to Florida International Model United Nations' 36th iteration. My name is Jason Salguero, and I am a sophomore in FIU's Honors College majoring in International Relations, Political Science, and Philosophy with a certification in Law, Ethics, and Society. I have participated in Model United Nations for the past 6 years, having competed since middle school. Last year I served as the Under-Secretary General of Crisis Committees and this year I have the honor of serving you as the Secretary-General of FIMUN 36. Model UN made me who I am, and I am so excited to help host this conference and create life-long memories.

In this background guide, the information needed to succeed in our committees are provided as well as the contact information for me, your Under-Secretary General, and the Director for your committee. Please feel free to contact us if you have a question pertaining to your committee or the conference in general. Your director worked very hard on creating this background guide, and we hope it provides useful in preparing for your committee.

On our website and Instagram (@fimun36), we have provided material for delegates to familiarize themselves with the structure of MUN committees and Parliamentory Procedures. I encourage delegates new and expereienced to review these prior to the conference to ensure that you are prepared for your committee. I also encourage you to participate in the FIMUN training sessions for a practical way to engage in the aspects of a MUN committee and to interact with other FIMUN delegates.

As I said before, feel free to contact me, your Under-Secratary General, or your Director if you ahve any questions about your committee or the conference. I am so excited to see every delegate at FIMUN 36. Everyone on our Secretariat has worked hard to create a conference for the eons, and I hope you all have a lot of fun and learn a lot from FIMUN 36.

~ Best Wishes,

Jason Salguero
jsalg037@fiu.edu
Secretary-General
Florida International Model United Nations 36

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jason Salguero, I'm a junior at Florida International University Majoring in International Relations, Political Science, and Philosophy (the elusive triple major) alongside a certification in Law, Ethics, and Society. Last year, I served as the Secretary-General of FIMUN and Co-Directed the United Nations Correspondents Association, and now I shall be your director for what could very well be the first Trusteeship Council committee at a Model UN conference ever. Outside of my participation in FIMUN, I have competed on FIU's competitive Model UN team and currently serve as one of the team's Head Delegates. I like to jump around General Assembly and Crisis committees, but GA has a very special place in my heart.

Outside of Model UN, I love reading and writing about political and philosophical topics, with some of my main interests revolving around radical political ideologies and movements. I play badminton and I (try to) go to the gym. I'm also super into music, and I can (sort of) play 4 instruments! My favorite artist is probably Simon and Garfunkel but I love so many artists and am always happy to recommend music.

The Trusteeship Council is very special to me. I discovered it when I was doing research for a committee I was running back in high school. I had never heard about the council despite having done MUN for years at that point, and I was fascinated by its status as an important part of UN history that's often ignored. At any conference you can find most other organs of the UN, GAs, ECOSOCs, UNSCs, a Secretariat, and even the odd ICJ, but I have never seen a Trusteeship Council. This fascinating organ was arguably one of the more powerful parts of the UN, involved with the direct administrations of colonies in their journey to independence.

In its absence, we are posed with the question: what is to be done with the Trusteeship Council? Its chambers are still present, and it still technically exists under the UN Charter. Kofi Annan wanted its abolition but was never able to do so during his tenure as UN Secretary-General. Many scholars have posited their own ideas, from an ecological purpose to a state-building one. I want to give every delegate here the chance to jump on to these ideas or develop their own; to create a new future of global governance with this defunct council.

As for committee expectations, I am a highly competitive delegate. I've competed for around 7 years in a variety of different committees so I've been around the block and seen all sorts of committees. I value research, rhetoric, and most of all: collaboration. Only through proper diplomacy can our solutions come to full light, and I expect every delegate to act diplomatically.

With all of that said, I look forward to this convening of the UN Trusteeship Council - the first in about 30 years. We shall create a new future for the UN, one that can hopefully address the questions so pressing to the international community. If you need to reach out to me, email me at jsalg037@fiu.edu. I am excited for this council to convene for what should hopefully not be the last time.

~ Best Wishes,

Jason Salguero
jsalg037@fiu.edu
United Nations Trusteeship Council Director
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

This committee plans to challenge both new delegates and seasoned veterans of Model United Nations with an in-depth analysis of intricate topics through the lens of the Trusteeship Council. We are excited to see how you as a delegate interpret the background guide and use it as a stepping stone for further research. We want to see your speeches, papers, and the policy you craft with your fellow delegates. The entire FIU Model United Nations team has worked diligently for months crafting an event that will serve you as an important step in your development as a delegate. Take this committee as an opportunity to grow as a delegate and maybe even try something out like a new way of researching, working with delegates and maybe even adding unique hooks to your speeches. Model UN is all about improving your diplomatic skill set, given this, make sure that you are practicing in the weeks before our conference.

Throughout my years in Debate, I have always taken pride in trying to speak without reading off of a cheat sheet but instead truly learning the information and being attentive in committee to not only propose my own solutions but to acknowledge the other delegates' speeches and actions. While this is only one hurdle in becoming a great delegate, trying to accomplish one goal at a time will hopefully inspire you to continue your debate careers. However, whatever your personal goals may be, listening is one of the fundamental skills in Model UN. It is arguably more important than giving speeches. We expect a high-level debate and participation from all our delegates. My team and I will be giving feedback at the end of the committee. As the Chair, I will be directing the flow of debate to ensure that all of you are on track; so do not worry if you are not confident in your research. And most importantly, I hope you guys have a lot of fun throughout the conference.

If you have any questions about the committee or MUN in general you can email me at nveli006@fiu.edu

Nicholas Veliz
nveli006@fiu.edu
United Nations Trusteeship Council Chair
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Sensitivity Statement

FIMUN 37 has a zero tolerance policy on racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. If delegates are found to be engaging in any such actions or rhetoric are open to disqualification from awards.

We ask all delegates to be conscious of the histories and context of their countries or characters for their committees. Many of our committees focus on the stories and topics relating to historically oppressed and marginalized communities and regions. While these committees are simulations, the histories behind them are real, and disresepct towards the histories and existences of people represented in our committees will not be tolerated.

On our website, we have an anonymous report form if delegates encounter such actions. While we hope to avoid the need for such, this form will be checked regularly by our Secretariat to ensure that all delegates at FIMUN 37 can enjoy their weekend comfortably.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our university is located on the ancestral homelands of sovereign Native nations, including the Tequesta, the Calusa, and today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians, the Elders past and present, by fully recognizing Indigenous sovereignty as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. It is within our responsibility as an academic institution to uphold knowledge about the history of our institution with the original stewards of this land that we live, learn, and work on. We encourage our delegates to read and learn about ways to support our local Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve Seminole and Miccosukee land and water rights, cultural practices, and the conservation of the environment.

Consistent with our University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, FIU is working towards creating an academic environment that is inclusive of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who have often been rendered invisible due to structural discriminatory practices. At FIU, we hold ourselves accountable to serving local, regional and worldwide Indigenous communities through academic policy-oriented research, education, partnerships, community service, as well as enrollment initiatives to overcome the effects of Indigenous exclusion and erasure in our own academic institution. It is our hope that acknowledging the land helps us to better understand that harm has been done and address the legacies of violence in our communities in order to create a pathway to true healing

Rules of Procedure
Motions

Motion to Open/Resume Debate

Opens the floor for debate. Delegates may now begin to provide further motions.

Motion to Open Speakers List

Opens the Speakers List, wherein delegates can deliver speeches without a set topic.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Opens a set speakers list for debate on a specified topic. Total time and speaking time must be specified within the motion.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Opens time for unregulated working time for delegates to work within their blocs on working papers/draft resolutions/directives.

Motion for a Round Robin

Opens a Round Robin, where every delegate in the room delivers a speech for a set time without a designated topic. Will start from the delegate that motioned and will either go clockwise or counterclockwise at delegate's discretion.

Motion for a Gentlemen's Unmoderated/Consultation of the Whole

Similar rules as to a normal Unmoderated Caucus, however all delegates must remain in their seats.

Motion to Introduce Working Papers/Draft Resolutions/Directives

Opens the floor to begin formal procedure on papers. Order of address if not specified will default to order in which each paper was introduced.

Authors Panel

Generally motioned for alongside the introduction of Working Papers/Draft Resolutions. Involves a Reading Period for Delegates to read papers, an Introduction where a panel of Delegates present the paper, and a Question and Answer portion, where sponsors of the paper are asked questions by fellow delegates about the paper.

Motions for For and Against Speeches

Opens a short speakers list where (generally speaking) 2 delegates are called to speak for and against a given working paper/draft resolution/directive.

Motions to Enter Voting Procedure and Voting Methods

Goes alongside a motion to end debate when in General Assembly and certain Specialized Agencies. Delegates will vote on papers on the floor. If no voting method is specified, committee will default to placard vote.

Placard vote operates the same way as votes for procedural matters. Delegates raise their placards to vote For, Against, or to Abstain if they stated they were Present.

Roll Call vote will have the chair call Roll Call once more, and when delegates are called they will state whether they vote For, Against, or if they Abstain.

Votes by Acclimation involves calling for general consensus, where the paper will pass unless anyone votes Against. Then placard vote is in order.

Points

Point of Inquiry

General question regarding committee or the conference

Point of Order

Question or correction regarding parliamentary procedures

Point of Personal Privilige

Personal request unrelated to committee. (e.g temperature in the room or seating issue)

Colonization
History of Colonization

Colonization as a concept originates as far back as the Roman Empire during the 2nd Century C.E, where their territory included the vast majority of European land, parts of the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) and Asia Minor. This, however, existed in a more ancient concept of colonization which finds a better definition as conquest. The purpose of lands acquired during this time primarily regarded a simple territorial expansion, making a country bigger and thus more powerful in the global arena. The form of colonization that has more relevance to modern-day discussions of colonialism, post-colonialism, and decolonization originates mostly during the 16th century.

During the 1500s, through the expansion of naval technology and cartography, the Age of Exploration began, with European powers such as Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands moving outwards from Europe in search of new markets. This time emphasized the resources and materials each empire had in order to maintain an economic hegemony. As countries scrambled to the top of the global market, the aforementioned European powers sought out new goods inaccessible from mainland Europe, inspiring the movement to the New World, Asia, and Africa.

Discovery of the New World

It was famously stated that in 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed the Ocean blue in order to find America. However, much of this narrative holds holes in regards to historical accuracy. The first European to find the Americas was a viking by the name of Leif Erikson, a Norse explorer who was believed to have found North America about 500 years before Christopher Columbus' voyage. Columbus' claim for discovery is also questionable, seeing as a member of his own crew named Rodrigo was recorded as the first to see the land of the New World - not Columbus.

Regarding colonization, however, the exact person who discovered the Americas matters less, what is important regards the reality and impact of Spanish colonization of the New World. Following the discovery of the New World, Spain infiltrated the lands of the Arawak tribe in search of gold with little success. What they did gain, however, was a population that the Spanish would enslave and colonize. Within two years, an estimated 250,000 indigenous peoples died following the Spanish's entry. Scholars have estimated the death of nearly 100 million indigenous peoples as a direct result of European colonization, displaying the gravity of European colonization of the Americas.

Soon, following the Spanish, the English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese would enter the Americas, with the Portuguese and Spanish having to divide their claims to land via the Treaty of Tordesillas. The

English, French, and Dutch primarily occupied the regions of North America. Much of this colonization involved the same brutality towards native populations as was witnessed with the Spanish, but another key factor to identify when looking at colonization regards the material gains.
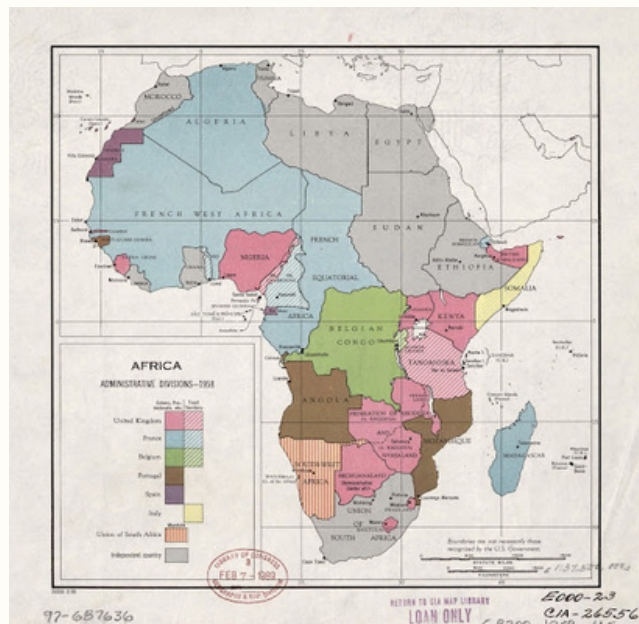
Of course, slaves were acquired through colonization, but much of what was gained for certain countries were completely new resource markets. Goods like tomatoes and corn as well as tobacco became readily available to the colonizing powers, granting a stronger foothold in the global economy. It was primarily for these resources that colonization held so strong - European powers wanted to maintain their position in the global balance of power as much as possible. Yet, through a series of rebellions, wars, and trade of territories, most de jure European presence in the Americas would eventually fall in the face of independence movements.

India

Of any of the British colonies, India was perhaps the most significant. Providing nearly half of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1870, India was perhaps the most profitable colony for the British. An estimated $45 trillion USD was extracted from India during their time as a British colony, all leading to its historical underdevelopment as a country. Much of their political institutions were completely dominated by the British themselves of by British backed entities.

The Scramble for Africa

Arguably the most important instance of colonization following the Age of Discovery and the colonization of the Americas was with Africa. Though Africa had been a market to the Europeans for many years, the peak moment that opened the floodgates for African colonization was the Berlin Conference of 1844. This meeting between European powers provided the space for European powers to debate and coordinate their rules for African colonization. African colonization had already been underway, but this conference divided land within Congo as well as set out general rules of trade between European powers in relation to their colonies in Africa.

This conference provided the de facto permission for countries to begin moving inward, from coastal colonies into taking large swaths of occupied African lands. Through the Berlin Conference, borders were

outlined with complete disregard for historical land claims and the territories occupied by indigenous African peoples.

Administration of these lands came through a strong military fist. Harsh control of African places defined the European presence within the lands for African peoples. The key example of the depravity of European colonization can be witnessed with the Belgian Congo.

The Congolese territory administered by Belgium had some of the worst examples of violence witnessed in any colony. Under King Leopold II, the Congo Free State underwent a period of harsh forced labor, brutal terrorizing of women, and an intense corporal state. The mass brutality and horrors witnessed in the Belgian Congo spurred international action calling for the end of Belgian administration of the Congo Free State, and Belgium left the Congo with nearly 10 million deaths of native Congolese people. This is just a microcosm of the brutality that was the Scramble for African and African colonization

Decolonization

Following World War II, a vast majority of the world still lived under colonial rule. An estimated 750 million individuals lived in areas operated by another power, lacking sovereignty. The concept of self-determination - a notion that a people can take control of their own political affairs - was outright stated as a primary principle of the United Nations in Article I of the U.N Charter. However, the story of decolonization did not begin nor end with the United Nations.

Decolonization began with the people of colonial holdings. Many anticolonial movements find their core ideology in nationalism - a distinct type from the nationalism seen in European colonial powers. Where one sought to bolster an identity based on strength, the other sought to freedom through unity in national identity. Many anticolonial liberation movements began in the interwar period between World Wars I and II. Popular movements against colonial holdings inspired two major aspects of the political decolonization that would later occur - Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and the League of Nations.

The League of Nations

Former United States President Woodrow Wilson set the stage for the modern world of international organizations through his Fourteen Points, chief among them regarding the subject of colonization and political decolonization being his first and fifth points - open diplomacy and the adjustment of colonial claims respectively. Following these ideals, the United States spearheaded the creation of the predecessor of the United Nations following World War I - The League of Nations.

As a fulfillment of Wilson's Fifth Point, the League of Nations was tasked with the supervision of territories under a mandate system created to transfer colonial holdings. The mandates and operation of the territories themselves, however, was up to the countries that were administering them. These

territories generally consisted of parts of Africa and the Middle East, many of them transferring hands from the Central Powers of WWI. Despite the supposed desire for decolonization, the transferring of these mandates generally just meant the granting of a colony from one colonial power to another.

The mandates themselves had a classification system used by the League of Nations, with colonies designated as Class A, B, or C Mandates. Class A Mandates (which included regions of Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria) were mandates for colonies that were deemed ready for full recognition and sovereignty. Class B Mandates (which included the regions of Ruanda-Urundi, Tanganyika, Kamerun, and Togoland) were mandates in which the colonial administration was provided more leeway in control given a desire for creating self-sufficiency in the future. Class C Mandates (which included New Guinea, Nauru, Western Samoa, the South Pacific, and Southwest Africa) were colonies deemed to essentially need all aspects of civil society operated by their administering state.

The United Nations and the Trusteeship Council

Following the dissolution of the League of Nations, the United Nations took over the mandate system through the Trusteeship Council. In line with principles established in the U.N Charter, the Trusteeship Council was established alongside the other organs of the U.N to handle decolonization and the mandate system.

On the council served a limited and partially rotating group of member states, composed of the Permanent Five members of the United Nations Security Council, states that were administering former mandate colonies (now-called Trust Territories) as well as certain non-administering states voted upon by the General Assembly. Through the Trusteeship Council, the Trust Territories were evaluated on their progression of social, civil, and political development seen in the territories.

One major way such was done was through a system of petition. Petitions were to be created by citizens of the Trust Territories themselves and regarded certain aspects of the administration of the territory, giving the Trusteeship Council a unique and direct connection to the populace of its governance. The Trusteeship Council itself also provided for direct visits from the organization to visit Trust Territories so as to ascertain the genuine development of these territories in their path to self-determination.

Trust Territories

The 11 Trust Territories of the United Nations Trusteeship Council were:

Western Samoa
Administered by New Zealand, Western Samoa was inherited from the German holding of the region, and would become the sovereign state of Samoa in 1962. A movement within Samoa called the Mau Movement called for self-governance in Samoa since their time as a split colony between the U.S, U.K, and Germany. Given its history of European colonization, the political system that emerged from its time as a Trust Territory offered a syncretic blend of common European liberal democracy paired with the traditional Matai system of governance.

Tanganyika
Administered by the United Kingdom, Germany originally held this territory and it would become the formal sovereign nation of Tanganyika in 1962. In 1964, it would merge with Zanzibar to create the modern country of Tanzania. Following independence, Tanganyika had to deal with the fallout of accepting refugees from surrounding conflicts in neighboring countries - a burden that was not properly addressed during its period as a Trust Territory in developing its institutions.

Rwanda-Urundi
Administered by Belgium, this former German colony would become the two states of Rwanda and Burundi in 1962. Most of the pushes for independence formed outside of the Trusteeship Council - notably by political radicals in 1961. Through a series of internal coups and slight assistance from the Trusteeship Council, it would become two sovereign countries.

British Cameroon
Administered by the U.K, this territory would form part of Nigeria as well as the state of Cameroon in 1961.The U.K chose to have a somewhat relaxed control over the region, electing to devolve most power to local authorities. Two different legal systems were put in place - one for natives of Cameroon and one for European settlers, and this system continues today. Educational programs within British Cameroon lacked, as the British relied heavily on religious actors and did not focus on internal educational systems.

French Cameroon
Administered by France, this territory would join British Cameroon to form the full modern state of Cameroon. During their period as a Trust Territory, France still exploited French Cameroon economically, designating specific regions within the country to create monoculture crops like coffee and cotton. Roads were built, however they served an imperial purpose, bringing wood to commercial centers as was seen in Sierra Leone.

<u>British Togoland</u>

Administered by the U.K, this region would merge with the British colony of the Gold Coast, and in 1957 would be granted independence as the Republic of Ghana. Prior to this, the U.K held a popular referendum (called a plebiscite) on the status of the colony as they were no longer able to administer it. A political party formed in opposition to the unification of British Togoland and the Gold Coast, however this party lost the referendum vote.

<u>French Togoland</u>

Administered by France, this territory would eventually become Togo in 1960. Conflict emerged from Togo's resistance to the U.N mandate, with an attempt to end the trusteeship in 1956. Despite these cries, the colonial holding continued, and France would open fire on demonstrators during a 1957 U.N visit to French Togoland.
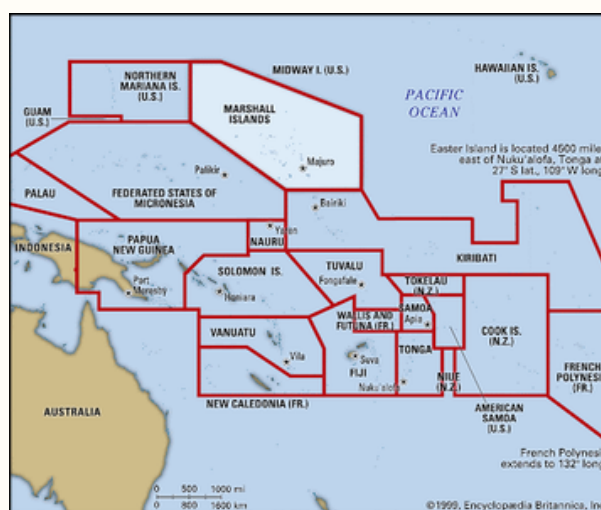
<u>New Guinea</u>

Administered by Australia, New Guinea was a former German holding that would become Papua New Guinea in 1975 following the unification with the territory of Papua. The western part of the territory would become Indonesian soil. Pushes from internal anti-colonial sentiment within Australia pushed for greater support of New Guinea, leading to higher working conditions and support of grassroots state-building in New Guinea.

<u>Nauru</u>

The former Germany colony of Nauru was jointly administered between Australia, New Zealand, and the U.K and would become it's own state in 1968. Following their independence, Nauru brought Australia to the International Court of Justice over the claim of unfulfilled duties as the administrating state during the period of trusteeship. They claimed that their natural phosphate deposits were not well managed by Australia - leading to economic decline since their economy depended heavily on phosphate exports.

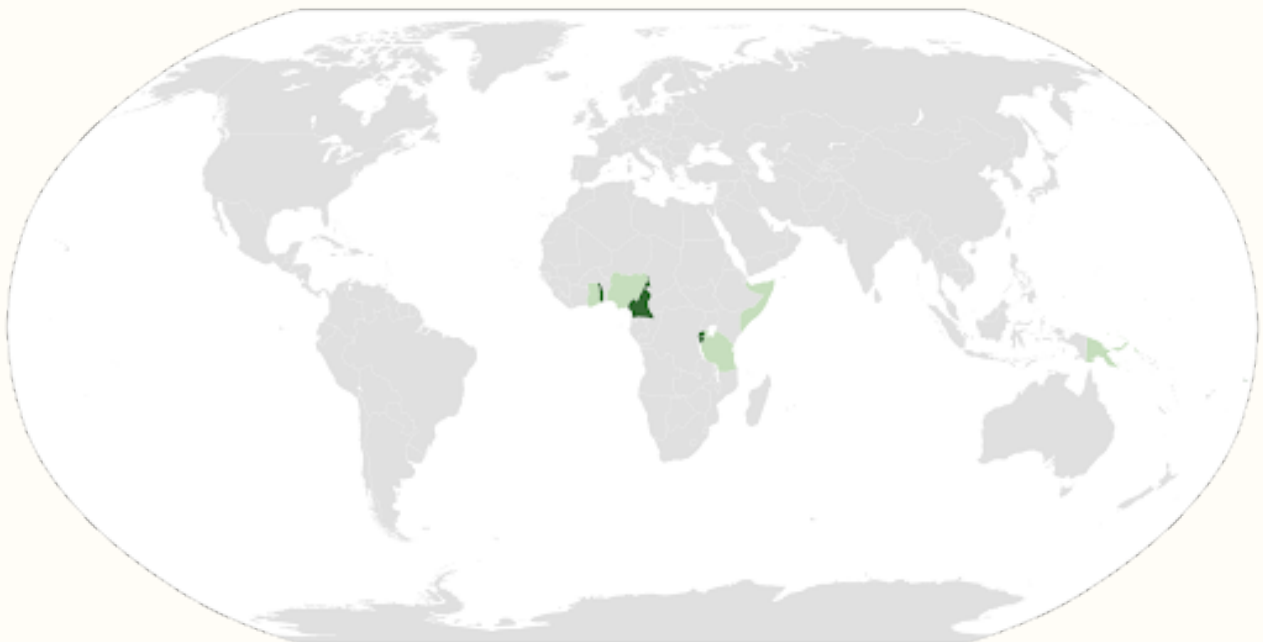<u>Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</u>

A grouping of former Japanese imperial holdings, this Trust Territory was administered by the United States and would eventually form part of the British Commonwealth (1986), the Marshall Islands (1986), the Federated States of Micronesia (1986), and Palau (1994). All of these sans the Northern Mariana Islands would become associated states with the U.S, imposing de jure dependency on U.S trade and military support.

Italian Somaliland

Administered by Italy, this Trust Territory would unify with Somaliland to create the modern country of Somalia in 1960. The Somali Youth League would encounter conflict with colonial authorities as their growth was suppressed by Italian governance. This eventually led to demonstrations across the colony and an eventual capitulation from Italy given their electoral success.

The last of the Trust Territories was Palau - part of the Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, leaving the council defunct following 1994. The Trust Territories themselves received varying levels of independence, with some ending back as de jure colonies and territory of certain countries, others merging with newly independent states, and some still being dependent on their administering state today.

Conclusion

The Trusteeship Council leaves a legacy of decolonization at a price. The very notion of Trusteeship places certain countries as inherently dependent, furthering colonial concepts of the Global South that ought to be addressed. While the Trusteeship Council did assist in setting up institutions for many former colonies, the mere idea that these institutions needed western power supervision perpetuates colonial mindsets.

The work of the Trusteeship Council also has a deep impact on many of the former Trust Territories, with a special note for countries that were in the Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which to this day still have a strong level of dependency on its former administrating state.

Currently the Trusteeship Council is dormant, with its halls used as extra space for other U.N organizations as well as cultural organizations from New York City seeking to use its halls at U.N Headquarters. However, it still in some form exists within the U.N Charter, meaning that its powers can be invoked again if the U.N can agree to a new plan for the Trusteeship Council.