

**Committee:** UNESCO

**Issue:** Are Natural World Heritage Sites a universal common good?

**Author:** Norway

In a world where humans are slowly destroying the world we live in, we must act. Creating spaces where the environment can be protected is a very important step towards making the world a better place. Natural heritage refers to natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants as well as natural sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty; as defined by UNESCO. Although these spaces can be seen at first sight as a wonderful thing, they can also create conflicts between countries and are necessarily a universal common good.

As a place of great natural beauty, Norway deems it very important to create spaces where the environment can be protected. UNESCO has inscribed 8 places to the world heritage list in Norway, such as Bryggen, Geirangerfjord or the rock carving at Alta. We strive to keep our country respectful of the environment and encourage fellow countries to do the same. Norway has approved several international assistance requests and invested money to help said countries. The delegation of Norway understands the complications that come with natural heritage spaces especially in terms of the conflicts that they can create. Nevertheless, Norway's priority is the environment. We have already made sacrifices for the greater good, like the Antarctic treaty for instance in 1959, which our country signed in order for Antarctica to become international. We understand that the economic side of things poses a bigger problem in terms of internationalizing territory. Internationalizing oceans could cause problems in international trade which many economies depend on. Many believe that making the Amazon Forest a natural heritage site is a good idea as it is currently being greatly damaged by deforestation. It is essential to human survival as it is a main carbon sink. However, the Brazilian government is against it as its economy is dependent on it. The main fight is to choose between saving the earth and keeping our economies stable.

Norway believes that we can find a compromise by taking steps to ensure the safekeeping of these natural spaces while keeping our economies intact. We believe that saving the environment is a priority. The delegation of Norway thinks that the 30 by 30 goal is achievable. We believe that it is a good idea and a step towards improvement. Creating more natural heritage sites is a good goal to strive for. We also believe that internationalizing certain waters is a great initiative and could be very beneficial. Many seas and oceans are being degraded and need to be saved, as they are also a main carbon sink. Internationalizing certain waters could ensure the safety of the oceans and the wildlife in them. This could also encourage countries to use more green energy which more developed countries could help fund. Norway believes the environment to be a priority, and creating national heritage sites to protect it is a great step forward.