

Committee: UNESCO

Issue: Are Natural World Heritage sites a universal common good?

Author: Venezuela

Established in 1945, UNESCO is a United Nations committee that focuses on science, education, culture, and communication. Its objective is to protect world heritage sites but also to promote international collaboration in the fields of education and science, making it a crucial force for preserving our culture and natural areas.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a country with a growing population of +1,90% every year and, with this perspective of demographic growth, we need to create enough lodging for the population in order to avoid a real estate crisis. It is also in this perspective that we have to save some space at the expense of forests, including the Amazon Forest, partly located in our territory.

In international law, the principle of non-interference is the prohibition of the use of threats or of force against a territorial integrity or political independence because of internal affairs of state. It relies on the principle of national sovereignty. So, our natural world heritage sites not being universal, we do not want to have to explain ourselves to anyone. Venezuela also refuses any intrusions on its territory that could compromise the law of non-interference.

Overall, we, The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, are not favorable to sharing our heritage sites. It is the case for multiple reasons that we judge valid, the main one being the inequality it could provoke between countries.