

Dirty Dancing

As the debates draw to an end, the atmosphere lightens...



The delegates of Pakistan and India waltzing away at the HSC

It is always a joyful sight, when two bodies fuse in a melodic dance. It is nevertheless puzzling, as the two delegates seen in the picture above represent two opposing countries, ordinarily battling over a sensitive subject.

This poses a question: how far should one go at Model United Nation (MUN) simulations? Should one stay stern, avoiding social events and outbursts of emotions - just like a real delegate? Or should one take the time to learn to know people and have fun, at the expense of the realism of the conference?

These two religions have both gathered numerous adepts. On one side, the MUN-ers are usually students, with *cliché* interests such as partying; on the other hand, a simulation has to be as rigorous as possible - shown by the conformity of the GIMUN rules of procedure to reality.

I have recently spoken with followers of both cur-

rents of MUN faith, and am still unsure as to my own opinion. Nevertheless, when I see the picture above it makes me smile and wonder how it would be like if the real delegates at the United Nations started hugging each other under the watchful eye of the Security Council chairs.

May this last paper edition entertain you as much as the others, and remember that the archives plus the last online-only bonus special edition available on <http://www.gimun.org> next week.

Iaroslav Gaponenko

There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat. And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.

William Shakespeare

Gala galore

For the final night, GIMUN has organized a gala dinner! Please do not forget to come, well dressed if possible, and enjoy the last evening together as GIMUNers!

Call for women to participate in global affairs

The key to conflict resolution is prevention, prevention, prevention!

A GREAT feat occurred yesterday afternoon in the Security Council. The passing of the first draft resolution, without the consent of the Russian Federation or China, signalled the crumbling of a great obstacle in the consensus of the council.

The Secretary-General of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Madeleine Rees, graced the Security Council with her presence yesterday morning to comment on the proposed resolution and the execution of resolution 1325. Rees remarked that the Security Council had done "an appalling job in drafting a resolution," however Rees praised the reference to the Beijing Declaration and identification of women's vulnerability in conflict. It is an established fact that it is more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier. The recognition of this by the Security Council is a great step forward, since "Realpolitik [generally] tends to dominate the Security Council rather than obligations under international humanitarian law."

According to Rees, the greatest obstacle facing the realization of the goals set out in Security Council Resolution 1325 is the compartmentalization of the broad range of issues that are more interlinked than most international organizations like to admit. The vast spectrum of essentially interconnected international issues must be fused. In other words, international regimes must identify the overlapping of global problem areas, such as arms control or trade negotiations with women's rights. Rees argues that the Security Council should recognize this overlap and "make it transparent...instead of putting issues behind closed doors, let's put it on the discussion table."

This is essentially a question of human rights. Rees assured us that human rights and gender equality permeate every single area of the international sphere and moved on to remark that "1325 will not work unless it permeates arms discussions and trade negotiations." Social and economic rights are fundamental to gender balance. In addition to this, women inclusion on all levels is essential in ensuring that National Action Plans aimed at the execution of 1325 are fulfilled.



Madeleine Rees, SG of WILPF

Just as the head of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, commented: "Any woman leader, whether of a community organization or a country, can be an agent of change." Here, we see that inclusion of women is indispensable for the fulfilment of resolution 1325. The observer representing UN Women in the Security Council also urged the interaction of women with the Security Council and the integration of 1325 in practical applications of the council. UN Women are working as a global champion for carrying the momentum for the promotion of women's rights and their full participation in global affairs.

As the conference comes to a close, let's celebrate 100 years of progress for women since the foundation of International Women's Day. Resolution 1325 is an important tool women can utilize to reinforce the commitment of the international community in their recurrent recognition of the significance of gender equality. As Rees noted, 1325 is not about making war safer for women, it is about "prevention, prevention, and prevention!"

*Erin Mitchell
Mail & Guardian*

Discussions animées au Conseil de sécurité

On s'achemine lentement mais sûrement vers des solutions

Malgré l'absence d'interventions marquantes de l'Inde et du Pakistan, et pour cause, ils n'étaient pas souvent présents aux séances du matin, les discussions menaient bon train. En séance informelle, des consensus ont parfois été trouvés ; même si la Chine a préféré regarder une vidéo visiblement « poilante » et la montrer aux délégués d'Ukraine et des États-Unis. L'Argentine et la France l'ont alors correctement remis à sa place, au sens propre et figuré.

Avec l'arrivée des délégations de l'Inde et du Pakistan aux séances de l'après-midi, les discussions se sont durcies. Le conseil de sécurité s'est concentré sur quelques questions principales : le cessez-le-feu immédiat, le retrait simultané des troupes armées, le mandatement d'une administration par intérim qui comprendrait des organisations humanitaires et qui organiserait un plébiscite. Le Pakistan a par ailleurs fait remarquer que le déroulement d'un plébiscite ne pourrait se faire impartialement sans le retrait total de l'Inde.

Les délégations ont aussi statué sur les termes d'« administration internationale » et de « gouvernement local » cherchant à savoir les définitions précises de ses deux institutions, pour que les résolutions aient un impact réel et concret.

Lors d'une séance informelle, les nerfs du délégué de la Belgique ont lâché lorsqu'il s'est rendu compte pendant son discours qu'une observatrice s'était endormi sur le coin d'un canapé. Il a éclaté de rire.

*Maeva Pesenti
GIMUN Perspectives*

Greek Tragedy at the HSC

The debates close with unsatisfying results for Pakistan

Yesterday morning, the session of the Security Council continued with the lecture from Sheikh Abdullah, the leader of the Kashmiri national conference. He strongly condemned the creation of an international administration by the council of India in his Wednesday's session. He wrote that « The Security Council's actions remind us of neo-colonialism. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will not let this resolution be implemented in real life. We will take up arms and fight if a foreign force enters our country without permission, be it Pakistan or be it an international administration. We are part of the union of India and we are part of a sovereign state. We will not let anyone interfere with our sovereignty »

Pakistan immediately condemned Abdullah's reaction by saying that « any plebiscite [to determine an ascension of Kashmir in India or Pakistan] held under the administration of Sheikh Abdullah would not be free at all. ». The good news of the day arrived just before lunch as the secretariat of the United Nations informed the council that a ceasefire treaty was signed between India and Pakistan.

The ambassador of the United Kingdom underlined the importance of sending an international commission in the region to observe the ceasefire. He suggested the presence of a small peace keeping Indian armed force to maintain order in Jammu and Kashmir. The delegate of Pakistan suggested a simultaneous withdrawal of both Indian and Pakistani forces, to let the military control of the region in state's and « Azad » Kashmir's hands. He then blamed the council for issuing « incoherent and inconsistent resolutions ». He asked the delegates « not to take decisions by themselves, without taking into account the consideration of both India and Pakistan » and ended his speech by a touch of irony : « the council can feel free to mess the situation even more... » he said.

Both Pakistan and India looked disappointed about the resolutions adopted by the council. Pakistan was unhappy about the big trust granted to India while « its government has been responsible of many crimes », whereas India noticed that an interim international authority would not be useful as it will not correctly understand the situation in Kashmir.

Today is the very last day for the Security Council to find a solution for stopping the Kashmir conflict. The council has tried many tactics during the week : consulting Pakistan and India, making closed doors sessions as the delegate of U.S.S.R. « not to be influenced by the observers ». He looked less vehement than he did in his « answer » kindly published in yesterday's newspaper.

The delegates have to find a way to fulfill the mission they have been given by the international community. The legitimacy of the young security council in the years to come will depend on the results the delegates will propose today.

*Ian Florin
Daily Mirror*

« Nous pouvons être fiers du travail accompli »

La Convention sur l'élimination de la violence envers les femmes est terminée. Sa mise en œuvre incombe désormais aux États : nous plaçons tous nos espoirs en eux.

La conférence sur l'éradication de la violence envers les femmes touche à sa fin à ONU-Femmes. Nous n'avons pas, à l'heure actuelle, la version traduite de la Convention, mais ce n'est plus qu'une question de minutes. Cependant, au vu des débats, de la proposition et des amendements projetés, nous ne pouvons qu'être fiers du travail qui a été accompli ici. Les États ont su surmonter leurs divergences, parvenir à un consensus et le problème de la violence a été traité de manière relativement exhaustive. Si quelques États ont déjà annoncé que certaines dispositions feront l'objet de réserves, les points fondamentaux ne devraient pas être remis en question.

Nous pouvons également être fiers des délégués qui ont su produire un document complet et clair. En effet, la Convention ne se contente pas de définitions générales et vagues, elle propose des solutions, dont la mise en œuvre sera à la discrétion de chaque pays. Des mesures concrètes sont proposées en matière d'éducation (par exemple la promotion des échanges scolaires), de prévention (par exemple l'organisation de campagne de sensibilisation) mais également de punition et de prise en charge des victimes.

Cette convention représente un pas en avant incontestable. Nous espérons désormais ardemment qu'elle saura por-

ter ses fruits. Les États doivent maintenant prendre leurs responsabilités et ratifier cette convention. Nous espérons qu'ils mettront tout en œuvre pour l'appliquer du mieux qu'ils peuvent, malgré les difficultés matérielles et culturelles qu'ils pourront rencontrer. Nous en appelons également à toute la communauté internationale, qu'elle se montre unie pour permettre à chaque pays, dans sa diversité, de pouvoir lutter en faveur de l'éradication de la violence envers les femmes. Que cette convention ne soit pas reléguée aux oubliettes mais qu'elle soit porteuse d'un espoir nouveau.

*Sophie Tiennot
For UNIFEM Currents*

Hasta La Vista, Baby!

Yes, We Are Moving On! The UN Women's session on Thursday was full of optimism and emotional debates.

Yesterday, delegates in the UN Women had a reason to be satisfied with their work. In the morning, the draft convention was already in their hands. Before giving it to translators, delegates still wanted to reformulate some points and to work on the wording of the document. Needless to say that it is not always easy to be concentrated in the morning before the first coffee break, especially if there was a party the previous night. Once the first coffee managed to wake up the delegates definitely, they went on with bringing some lexical changes to the draft convention. Though, the "after-party" syndrome sometimes seemed to be stronger than the first coffee drops, all delegates were extremely motivated to submit all the necessary changes before the noon in order to start with health care issues in the second half of the day. And they did succeed! Once the differences in definition between "gender" and "sex", as well as "joint" and "join" have been cleared up, the draft convention was given to translators. The second issue of the UN Women, which is fundamental access to health care with special focus on women and girls, was discussed in the second half of the day. All delegates seemed to be really enthusiastic about it: they were really looking towards it since the first day of the conference. Probably this may explain hot temper of the debates, and those between Russia and the USA especially. Let's have a look on what has been said exactly.

Russia: We are happy to move on to the second topic even though in an informal debate. Together with France, the Netherlands and Sweden we believe that we can achieve the consensus on this topic. Nevertheless, there is one "imperialistic" country which tries to aid other countries but which forces other countries' policies in response. Thus, I am convinced that the European countries together with Russia will do their best to protect the women's rights and the women's freedom!

The USA delegate replied promptly:

The Russian Federation considers us as an "imperialistic" country, but please check your record in that area! The US government invests over 60 bln. dollars for health care. Maybe you have not read news in the previous years. We want to tell others how we can do, but we don't impose our ideals!

Russia: We should give every nation what they really deserve. They should be given freedom. If they believe in abortion, let them do so. I would like to mention all the points during the formal session,

when I have more time. We can cure diseases if we have medicines. Medicines may be given to all countries to help people. Everyone accepts it: Brazil, Japan and so on, everyone but one country. You think they will accept the convention with your interests in it, be careful – they won't! Russia isn't the greatest country, but it is a great country. We give real help to developing countries. Just one thing: Hasta la vista, baby!

Immediately after that, Russian delegate stood up and went out of the room with his right hand up accompanied by Russian ambassador who was there during the session.

"It was amusing, his scenario, - said the USA delegate, - we identify the attack. We had a sensitive relation in the past, but it looks like Russia wants to come back. Even if we are not perfect, we are working on it. Russia should look at its own health system. I remind you that we are here to sign a convention!"

From the first sight we could think that this debate was all about emotions only. But some recommendations made by the IWHC expert concerning the US programs for other countries as well as other delegates' reactions make us think that there is some reason for that kind of emotions. The Indian delegate's question: "Why does the US still make developing countries buy their medicines?" still remains without answer.

After the debates, Russian delegate, Zac Arackakudyil, who appeared in our yesterday's article as well, made a statement to the press: "I really don't want to be misunderstood by any of our honorable delegates. I am against the world where the position of only one country is respected. The US delegate refers to our "cold war" past. Our position since that time has changed. We don't want to separate the world. But it looks like the US delegate's position still remains unchanged. Even when we speak about such an important issue as health care, the US wants to be a dominating country. That is really sad."

Thus, motivated by the first success on the draft convention, UN Women delegates moved on to the health care issues. Sometimes too emotional, sometimes controversial, but always motivated and that is most important. Let's wish them all good luck and lots of success!

*Darya Mayanava
for Perspectives*

Rhetoric vs. reality?

Unifem Currents decided to conduct a twofold interview between Saudi Arabia and four NGOs, namely Women Advancing Microfinance (WAM), OXFAM, CARE and Fair Labour Association (FLA) on the issue of “combating gender disparities in labour conditions”.

After having finally passed the resolution on the long debated issue of the protection of climate refugees, ECOSOC Council has opened negotiations on the second topic of the agenda. In this prospect, Unifem Currents interviewed several actors involved in this cause.

Unifem Currents: In 2008, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia won a seat in the governments' team in the election of the Board of Directors of the International Labour Organization. What does debating upon the topic of “combating gender disparities in labour conditions” within ECOSOC represent for you?

Delegate of Saudi Arabia: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined the ILO in 1976 and has been attending ILO sessions on a regular basis. We have been endorsed 15 ILO agreements which conform to the Islamic Shariah and have signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), including No.100 (1951) on equal remuneration and No.111 (1958) on Discrimination in employment and occupation. The Kingdom endorses gender equality according to Coran and recognizes the importance of women's participation in labor markets. We consider ourselves as a pioneer and champion in the promotion of women's rights.

Unifem Currents: What special measures has the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia undertaken to fight gender disparities in labor conditions?

Delegate of Saudi Arabia: The Saudi government supports smooth and gradual societal reform. The Kingdom is committed to expand women's work opportunities in both private and public sectors. The number of Saudi women working in the private sector increased from 2005 to 2007 by 27%, the number of women working in banks rose from 972 to 3700 between 2000 and 2008. In 2007, Saudi Arabia announced that one-third of jobs at governmental institutions would be given to women. In February 2009, the king appointed a woman to deputy minister rank in the Ministry of Education. Twelve women were also appointed advisors to the Shura Council. In the education system, women account for nearly 60% of all university students.

Unifem Currents: Which are the most difficult CEDAW commitments to implement? What is the role of religion and culture in the suppression of human rights?

Delegate of Saudi Arabia: I would first advance the difficulty to abide by the traditional values entrenched in society while acknowledging the need for progress. I would like to point out the fact that there is a lot of misunderstanding of the Islamic culture: Islam is not an oppressor of women

or women killer ideology, Islam is protective of women. However, we urge the States to fully respect women's own opinions in issues concerning perceived gender disparities. For instance, a government poll in 2006 showed that 86% of Saudi women thought that they should not work in a mixed environment. Hence, we follow a policy of gradual social reform, slowly moving forward but surely.

Unifem Currents: Are women's rights improving in the world in the field of labour conditions? What remains to be improved?

Representatives of the selected NGOs: As NGOs tend to be positive, they would say yes, women's rights are improving but we have to do a lot to help it further improve. In the point of view of WAM international, the biggest problem in term of women and labor market is their engagement mostly in sector of informal economy. In other words, they work as street vendors, rickshaw pullers, garbage collectors and so on, while nobody protects their rights, they are not set labor conditions, and they do not dispose of any social security. A size of informal sector, especially in developing countries, is enormous. Here it varies from one half to three quarters of non-agricultural workers. Solution is to help women to emancipate themselves, for example through responsible microfinance, support of entrepreneurship and especially through educational programs. According to CARE, OXFAM and FLA, some stereotypes impede the development of managerial careers for women labeling women as less available and less flexible than men. It should also be mentioned that although many countries have done a good job in terms of their respective legislation, unfortunately these laws have only remained as a theory and they have not yet put into practice.

Unifem Currents: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia depicts itself as a “pioneer in terms of the promotion of women's right in labour conditions”. What is your reaction to this statement?

Representatives of the selected NGOs: In this respect, WAM international can answer from a position of professional organization, which runs one of its chapters in Middle East. In Saudi Arabia, government is proving effort in terms of microfinance and equal access to it. However, there is still a lot of work which has to be done. It seems that this effort is more officially declared than really performed.

Laura Sabbag
Unifem Currents

EU beats up China with a British Trick

The European Union presented by the United Kingdom made a strategic move to delay the process of voting and gain extra time for lobbying. Amendment six of the first resolution states the needs of fund in solving the issue of human trafficking. This amendment was brought up by the delegate of Zambia and represented by the delegate of China during the working session. However, other delegates, mainly from the European Union and the United States, voted against the amendment.

The first voting resulted in ten delegates in favor, and nine were against. However, a diplomatic trick by the delegate of the United Kingdom changed the situation. The UK delegate asked for suspension of working session to gain extra time for lobbying. Interestingly, the European States including United Kingdom Hongrie, France, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Norway, and others hunted the time to lobby with two countries to change their vote to reject the amendment. The EU successfully convinced the delegates of Norway and Pakistan to vote against. In result, nine voted in favor of the motion where eleven voted against defeating Zambia's amendment.

In an exclusive interview with the delegate of China after the session, China states: "China is happy that we are finally moving to the voting procedure. However, China is very disappointed that the amendment failed because of a strategically move by the EU to lobby for vote and manipulate certain delegates to change their votes." "I urge the delegates to vote on their national interest and foreign policy rather than being influenced by certain bloc representatives," the delegate adds.

On the other hand, the delegate of Poland was pleased with what the EU bloc achieved. "The voting procedure was quite challenging. We had to get advantages of few moments to convince some delegates that funding should not be included in the resolution paper. The delegate of Poland is very pleased with this accomplishment," delegate of Poland states.

Lolwa Al Jefairi
GIMUN Perspectives

Le CDH termine en beauté

La résolution adoptée, l'heureuse présidente nous donne son feedback.

La conférence touche à sa fin. Les discussions d'hier ont mené à l'adoption de la résolution soumise par la Hongrie mardi au Conseil des droits de l'homme (CDH). Certaines modifications y avaient été apportées afin de convenir au plus grand nombre. Il s'agissait d'adoucir le propos concernant la thématique de la corruption, de trancher la question de la création d'un fonds de soutien aux États qui en ont besoin, et de préciser certains points, afin de donner une dimension plus concrète là où cela s'avérait nécessaire. D'autre part, un amendement signé par huit délégations, à l'initiative des Philippines, et adopté lors de la session de l'après-midi, souligne l'importance de l'organisation annuelle d'une *Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime* dans le cadre de la coopération régionale, pour soutenir et vérifier les progrès en matière de lutte contre le trafic des êtres humains.

Nous revenons avec la présidente sur le déroulement de cette semaine.

Perspectives: Les délégués du CDH ont travaillé avec ardeur toute cette semaine pour aboutir à cette résolution. Avez-vous le sentiment qu'un grand pas a été franchi en matière de lutte contre le trafic d'êtres humains?

J'ai certes le sentiment qu'un travail sérieux et passionné a été fourni, cependant je regrette que les négociations n'aient pas été plus fructueuses pendant les suspensions de débats, ce qui aurait peut-être pu éviter des amendements inutiles, qui ne passent pas à une large majorité. Quelque soit le pas, en matière de trafic d'êtres humains, les avancées sont toujours considérables et bienvenues.

P. : Quelle a été votre plus grande surprise lors de cette semaine?

Avoir réussi à me lever aussi tôt quand je me couchais aussi tard. Et le fait qu'en me retrouvant derrière le micro de la présidence, je ne pensais pas qu'il aurait été aussi difficile d'être modératrice, et d'être impartiale concernant les règles de procédure. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de présider un débat, mais surtout de le mener à bien.

P. : Avez-vous connu des déceptions?

Ma plus grande déception, c'est d'avoir des délégués brillants, capables de mener des débats passionnants, mais qui ne parviennent pas à lever leur écriteau quand il le faut. Malgré tout, une fois la conférence terminée, on ne pense toujours qu'à une chose: y retourner.

P. : Quel serait, pour vous, le mot de la fin?

À l'année prochaine! (Rires)

Sophie Wustefeld
GIMUN Perspectives

The saga of the amendments went on!

Intense morning, today, for the Legal Committee. Amendments were shown to the whole Assembly and journalists could finally attend the last stages of the procedure closing the debates concerning the first topic of the agenda.

Firstly, delegates were called to vote the modification of the second clause of the proposal submitted Wednesday by the Russian Federation: the original clause invited “the Maldives, Mauritania and Pakistan to further clarify reservations made to the Article 18 of the” ICCPR.

The new draft of the clause proposed that instead of the three quoted States, the clause has to be extended to all States.

Nigeria expressed its affirmative vote and Pakistan – one of the countries closely involved in the discussion – too and congratulated for this new amendment, which provides a “more acknowledged legal basis”.

Another point of the proposal, then, was the change of the perambulatory clauses’ order. Indonesia – who had its speech before the vote – declared itself against the amendment, because “all reservations had to be promulgated in comparison to all the Convention”. The same point was shared by Turkey, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Nigeria and Morocco – which influenced the result of the vote.

Secondly, it was the turn of the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – which was distributed at the beginning of the week. UK delegate illustrated the amendments and stressed on the need to change the order of the operative clauses. For her, “the logic of the change” concerned the fact of putting first the general themes (culture and diversity) and

secondly the specific ones (Islamophobia).

All amendments passed and so this part of the procedure could definitely be closed. Consequently, the delegates could proceed on voting UK’s proposal (the first proposition didn’t pass, but the second found a better issue).

After that, the second proposition submitted by Russian Federation (see this morning’s amendments) was presented to the Assembly.

Before the vote, the Russian delegate recognized the “very productive atmosphere”, supported by Pakistan that – declaring its vote in favour – thanked the Committee for the “efforts that have been done to reach the consensus”.

Nigeria and Sudan took the floor and joined the previous countries’ positions.

Among the abstainers, Saudi Arabia, “disappointed for the not-take into consideration this point”.

The voting time finally arrived and the proposal won with 17 votes in favour.

At that point, the atmosphere was less tense and delegates could praise the work that has been done in these days. Particularly, France thanked European countries that have worked together and that have found “new partners in China and in Russian Federation” and Turkey recognized “the effort” made to “built a bridge between the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in trying to have a consensus”.

And once again, this diplomacy has hit the mark!

*Alissa Claire Collavo
Saudi Gazette*

Interview with the Russian Federation delegate

Delegation of the Russian Federation (+China, Turkey), your draft proposal (Proposal on legal clearance of certain reservations concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) has passed this morning. It was certainly no easy bet. How did you manage to come to a consensus?

We were working hard with both sides of the debate, acting as mediators. Turkey was especially active with the OIC and the block representative of EU. The Turkish delegation would like to warmly thank both of them for open collaboration and fruitful dialogue.

What makes you the most happy? Would you say that the committee has reasonably come to some concrete solutions, particularly on the issue of religious freedom?

Naturally the passing of our proposal made us glad. Especially the lack of opposition came as a surprise. However, looking back on the debates we had on amendments, we were expecting higher legal quality from the submitted texts.

Would you like to give us some precisions about the text that has been submitted and accepted by the 6th Committee?

The proposal specifies in legal terms the consensus we reached in the debate. It includes important substantial efforts to provide legal clearance on the issue of reservations.

You worked very hard the past few days for the success of this resolution. Could you explain us what are the keys of efficient diplomacy?

First of all, one should listen more than talk. Naturally informal approaches usually work the best. China would like to add, that influence without intervention is the key method of reaching a consensus.

Do you think that “The clash of civilizations” is a pertinent way to observe the divergences between the different states or do you rather think

that for example OIC and EU can go further this opposition?

The issue we had to tackle was definitely connected to cultural and religious differences. However, international law can provide common ground when the United Nations is addressing tensions arising from these differences.

The 6th Committee is now concentrating his efforts on the other topic which is: Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict.

Are you optimistic about this topic? Why (not)?

Turkey, China and Russia have strong trust in a constructive solution. The situation of women in armed conflicts is dire and should definitely be paid more attention to. We feel that the improvement of women’s protection in conflicts is a universal effort, which extends over all cultures and States. The United Nations is the correct global institution to advance women’s cause. We would also like to provide full support to ICRC in their outstanding work for women’s cause.

Is there something important you would like to add?

We would like to thank the highly professional and motivated organisers of GIMUN and the enthusiastic and hard working delegates, interpreters and journalists in providing us with the utmost Model United Nations experience. We all can return to our ambitions with new knowledge, ideas and a drive to change the world into a better direction.

*Youri Hanne
GIMUN Perspectives*

Going GIMUN as a team

Interview with the College of Europe delegation



A team of ten students from the College of Europe (CoE) is representing European countries and the European Union at GIMUN this year. Their study program focuses on the external relations and representation of the EU.

In this regard, since GIMUN gives a specific role to regional organizations, the simulation is an amazing opportunity for the students to get a genuine experience of what they study. They are coached by their Academic Assistant, here to assess (and grade!) their performance.

Charles Thépaut, Bloc Representative for the EU

Good morning, how do you feel after yesterday night?

I'm fine, waking up was challenging, but being a Bloc Reps gives some flexibility regarding the time you arrive at the Conference. However, some European delegates didn't have the same chance and they arrived late for the voting phase at the LEGAL. Only France was there. Therefore, OIC countries were free to pass all the amendments they wanted on the draft resolution submitted by Russia, China, Turkey and the EU. The lesson of this could be that alcohol can help finding sort of a consensus.

Will you participate in the EuroForum in Istanbul, or in Youth Perspectives?

I wish we could, however, at the beginning of May, CoE students have to hand out their master thesis, which means spending days and nights writing, adjusting footnotes, counting words. Therefore, I don't think we'll make it.

Does the CoE organise simulations like GIMUN ?

Before coming to Geneva, we had a simulation on the Warsaw campus of the CoE about crisis management at the borders of the EU. This was a nice preparation for GIMUN because the students were already representing only European countries.

Délégation CoE au GIMUN

COCORU Diana Ioana, (Romania)	UN Woman - Hungary
FENTON Francesca, (UK)	HRC - Hungary
FICHET Maud, (France)	ECOSOC - Italy
GRACA Duarte (Portugal)	HRC - Belgium
GUYOT Caroline Marie (USA)	ECOSOC - Slovakia
KARAFOLIDOU Anna (Greece)	HRC - France
PAVLUS Martin (Slovakia)	LEGAL - France
ROIBU Mariana, (Moldova)	SC - UK
THEPAUT Charles, (France)	EU Bloc Representative
ZAKI Ali (Morocco)	ECOSOC - France
JULLY Alexandre (France)	Academic Assistant - coach

For more information: www.coleurope.eu

Letter from the Turkish delegation

The Turkish delegation finds it hypocritical that the Western countries, who have criticised on several occasions the Arab countries for oppressing women, now try to exclude the bloc representative of the OIC from the debate. Apparently they are afraid of an emancipated woman taking the floor.

Reply from the EU countries

France, Netherlands and other EU countries appreciate the contributions of the OIC representative. However, we would like to stress the fact that for the second topic we desire even a larger consensus and that we are ready to take appropriate measures against 3d parties trying to obstruct the discussion.

Letter from the United States of America



PRESS RELEASE
USA to GIMUN NEWS TEAM



The United States of America is deeply concerned with the event taking place in the UN WOMEN Council. We gathered here to make progress and come to a consensus on crucial issues which affect us all equally. Today, the Representative of the Russian Federation, with the support of his Head of Delegation, took major steps to endanger the bilateral relationship of the USA and the Russia. We would suggest the Russian government to brief its delegation on the importance of cooperation in this matter in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The United States of America would also remind Russia of the grave impact this could have on our work in other Committees during this Conference.

WE ARE HERE FOR THE FUTURE AND NOT TO DISCUSS THE PAST!

UNO, YOU KNOW?

GIMUN Blog

www.gimun.org/unoyouknow

UNO, you know? is intended to provide informations to young people with a keen interest in both the United Nations and foreign affairs. Our aim is to select the bewildering amount of information in the international arena and give access to the requested and essential information about the UN, within GIMUN's mandate which is to promote the values of the UN. In addition, this blog functions as a platform for young people who are willing to write & read articles and exchange their views on matters of international relevance.

UNO, you know? a été créé dans le but d'informer les jeunes qui sont intéressés par les Nations Unies et les affaires internationales. Ce blog permet en premier lieu de regrouper les informations nécessaires et essentielles sur les Nations Unies, afin de remplir le mandat de GIMUN : promouvoir les valeurs des NU. En outre, ce blog sert de plateforme pour les jeunes qui désirent s'exprimer, en écrivant des articles et en échangeant leurs avis sur des faits d'actualité internationale.

Comment devenir journaliste? - How do I become Journalist?

Écrire un e-mail à blog@gimun.org avec:

Submit your application to blog@gimun.org with:

- CV
- Une petite lettre de motivation - *A short motivation letter*
- Un article d'une page - *A one-page article*



Un ambassadeur n'a pas cessé de dire à une fille qu'elle était trop belle - mais sa tentative est restée aussi vaine que son lobbying politique.

One ambassador to another: "How is Harry [Truman] doing?"
Reply: "Harry is good in bed!"

Un ambassadeur a subitement quitté la table hier midi, livide, et n'est revenu qu'un quart d'heure plus tard. Ah, les lendemains de veilles!

Le bras droit du responsable des social events a passé la soirée à autre chose plutôt que de l'aider...

The delegate of Equator motioned the chair to the floor doing a dancing session

Projection de définitions de "Prisonnier politique" issues de site internet.
"Le délégué de l'Inde voudrait savoir ce que "Website" signifie ?" (HSC, rappel, nous sommes en 1948)
Chairperson "OK, oubliez les 5 dernières minutes"

An ECOSOC delegate took a midnight bath

Gossips

Last night an HSC delegate has been spotted outside the MUST Club, with a tall unidentified blonde.

A la sortie du Night club
Le videur : « Silence ! Il y a trop de bruit dans la rue ! »
Une traductrice, issue du groupe chahuteur : « So, SILENCE PLEA... »
Le videur : « ...NON MAIS SURTOUT TOI ! »

Au CDH, La Jordanie a présenté une motion d'exclusion des observateurs, pour couper court au lobbying agressif de l'Union européenne.

Pour faciliter la coopération entre les pays, CIVICUS propose de servir de la Vodka avec le café.

The UK fell into the lake after the open bar

Comment être publié dans le journal en 4 étapes, créé et approuvé par la délégation russe de UN Women

1. Danser outrageusement sur la piste du club
2. Prononcer des discours provocateurs pour réveiller les délégués endormis
3. Quitter la salle furieux et magistral
4. Soudoyer désespérément les journalistes pour être interviewé

A staff member was found to be sleeping during a HSC session.

La chair répétant 3 fois à la déléguée de la France « Bienvenue »... à 15h.

The ECOSOC secretary arrived third at the Mister Switzerland contest



Si, après le diner, vous trouvez qu'une déléguée tarde à revenir des toilettes situées à côté de l'ONUFemmes, ne vous inquiétez pas de sa digestion. Elle profite sans doute du service "sieste" mis à disposition par le Palais des Nations.



Boredom box: Draw or write something, cut this part off, and bring it to our office: it might get published in tomorrow's newspaper!