



## The Geneva International Model United Nations Your Gateway to the United Nations

Since 1999

The Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) is a fully student run Non Governmental Organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Our goal is to promote the ideals and principles of the United Nations among the youth - students in particular. We seek to provide young adults with a multilateral platform to discuss various global issues that are handled by the UN. Our core event is the Annual MUN Conference, but we also organise a whole range of other activities throughout the year.

*A collection of quotes and letters on why the GIMUN experience is  
GOOD FOR YOU.*

*Une collection de citations et lettres sur le fait que l'expérience  
GIMUN te FAIT DU BIEN.*

**Welcome. First off, let's start with a quote by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1996 until 2006.**



Kofi Annan receiving his Nobel Peace Prize from Gunnar Berge, Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, 2001.<sup>1</sup>



**Statement of support for Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN)**

“In our increasingly globalised world, courageous and conscientious leadership is needed as never before. Organisations such as GIMUN play a vital role in preparing today’s young people to become the leaders of tomorrow.”

Kofi A. Annan

May 2011

---

<sup>1</sup> Complete photo credits are listed at the end of this brochure

**GIMUN is in frequent contact with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. Many diplomats have written us entire letters!**



Alexandre Fasel, ambassador, Federal Department of Foreign affairs of Switzerland, talks during a news conference at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Doha May 30, 2010.

**The following is from Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, Head of the Political Division III (United Nations and other International Organizations) of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, would like to address about GIMUN the following message:**

Dear Students,

First of all, participating in an MUN helps you advance your negotiation skills. If you're looking for a career in the world of multilateralism, or any field of international relations, this is where you get your practical experience! Not only can you significantly improve your public speaking skills, but you also develop a sense of what international negotiations are all about, namely networking, compromising (while staying within the boundaries of your mandate), teambuilding and discussing sensitive issues in a formal, goal-oriented way. Authenticity is guaranteed, because the Rules of Procedure are constantly being adapted to the rules the actual UN uses in debates.

Secondly, in MUNs you, get to dive into crucial global issues. Further enhancing the learning experience is the fact that the annual GIMUN conference hosts 200-250 participating students from over 60 countries. You get a chance to see what's on the current international agenda, and you can discuss what you learned and have fun with people from all around the

world. Year after year, GIMUN organizes a ton of social events in order for you to meet all others in an informal environment and enjoy yourselves.

Thirdly, GIMUN-activities always take place in the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva. You can walk around the premises, take a look at the many peacocks that strut around (no joke!), have a coffee in the cafeteria with UN-officials or send your mail with the UN-mail service. If councils are in session you can even go check out what the “real” diplomats talk about.

Fourthly, the GIMUN annual conference does not only offer delegate positions. If you’re into journalism, you may write articles or be the editor-in-chief for the GIMUN daily newspaper. GIMUN also has two official working languages (English and French), meaning that during the conference we provide every draft of a resolution or message of the Secretary-General in both languages. In committee, there is simultaneous interpretation, done by students of translation and interpretation schools (like the ETI in Geneva).

Having myself been exposed to international affairs for the first time during a MUN in 1980, I can only recommend participation to whoever wants to expand his or her horizon - it’s a unique experience!

Best regards, Alexandre Fasel, Ambassador



Ambassadeur Dante Martinelli sur le point de prononcer la déclaration de la Suisse, le 17 septembre 2011, dans le cadre d'un débat de la 15<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil des droits de l'homme à Genève au Palais des Nations

**Dante Martinelli, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva wants to let you know the following:**

« C'est chaque année une heureuse occasion pour la Mission permanente de la Suisse à Genève de souhaiter la bienvenue aux participants à la Conférence annuelle du Geneva International Model United Nations, GIMUN. C'est en effet avec conviction que les autorités suisses soutiennent cette manifestation. Nous connaissons le sérieux de ses organisateurs et voyons en cet exercice de simulation un moyen original de rapprocher des étudiants du monde entier dans un esprit de saine émulation tout en leur faisant découvrir la réalité des délibérations et des négociations multilatérales dans le cadre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.»

Dante Martinelli

Ambassadeur

Paul Seger, also Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, but at the UN-headquarters in New York addresses GIMUN with the following message:



The ambassador Paul Seger discussing Israel's settlement policy, November 2010

«There is no shortage of international relations curricula in colleges and universities, but the chances to get try one's hand at multilateral diplomacy are rare. Model United Nations are the closest thing I know to an internship in the field, and many an intern at the Swiss Mission to the UN in New York has cut his or her teeth in a MUN. I salute GIMUN for its work and I wish it the best of luck for the future. »

Paul Seger  
Ambassador

**Futhermore, every year at the opening ceremony of the annual GIMUN-conference someone of the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in Geneva has attended and delivered a speech. Here are two excerpts of Ambassador Jürg Lauber's speech in 2009:**



Ambassador Jürg Lauber at the opening session of a follow-up conference to the Non Proliferation Treaty Review in September 2010

« La participation la plus visible et dynamique de la société civile suisse cette dernière année, est à mettre au crédit de la jeunesse. Jamais auparavant autant de groupes, d'associations et d'individus ne s'étaient tant mobilisés pour l'organisation de conférences, de séminaires ou de réunions sur les Nations Unies. Le GIMUN en est le meilleur exemple. »

« L'exercice que vous vous apprêter à vivre vous permettra de juger sur pièce et par vous-même à quel point la négociation internationale est exigeante et fatigante, parfois même décourageante, mais toujours passionnante et utile. Vous pourrez également, je l'espère, prendre la mesure de l'indispensable complémentarité qu'il y a entre ce que nous appelons dans notre jargon "le travail en salle", pendant les sessions officielles, et "le travail de coulisse". Plus souvent qu'on ne le croit, les compromis sont élaborés dans les couloirs, par exemple au bar du Serpent que vous découvrirez très vite et que tout diplomate à Genève se doit de connaître et de fréquenter. Vous découvrirez enfin le défi que cela constitue de travailler dans plusieurs langues. »

**Last but not least, Ambassador Ralf Heckner, head of the Swiss UN coordination bureau, has shown his commitment to GIMUN many times by providing coordination support and information as well as having a speech at many of GIMUN's activities. Let's hear what he has to say about GIMUN:**



Ambassador Ralf Heckner at GIMUN's UN-Day in October 2010

« GIMUN has many events throughout the year that enable students to dive in crucial issues on a global level, which is unavoidable if one tends to choose a career in the field of diplomacy, be it of bi- or multilateral nature. By providing a meeting place for young people all around the world, the organisation promotes cultural sensitivity, a deliberative but fair atmosphere and a sense of “interrelatedness”, leading to friendship.

The United Nations' credo “it's your world” is what GIMUN has incorporated in all its wide-ranging activities. This NGO has recognized that it is “our world” and has to this end been providing platforms for an active deliberation process to improve the current state of world affairs.

In short, GIMUN IS the youth gateway to the UN it aspires to be. »

Ralf Heckner,  
Ambassador

## Disclaimer

Photo credits in order of persons displayed

Kofi Annan:

[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2001/annan-photo.html?print=1](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2001/annan-photo.html?print=1),  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by pressens bild 2001

Alexandre Fasel:

<http://www.daylife.com/photo/0eln8QjezDgds?q=World+Economic+Forum>  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by reuters pictures 2010

Dante Martinelli:

<http://>  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by keystone pictures

Paul Seger:

<http://www.aargauerzeitung.ch/schweiz/schweiz-kritisiert-israels-verhalten-in-palaestinensischen-gebieten-102033406>  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by keystone 2010

Jürg Lauber:

[http://www.gsinstitute.org/gsi/galleries/09\\_14\\_10\\_Geneva/Pages/4.html](http://www.gsinstitute.org/gsi/galleries/09_14_10_Geneva/Pages/4.html)  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by www.gsinstitute.org, 2010

Ralf Heckner:

<http://swissyouthrep.wordpress.com/2010/10/24/happy-birthday-un-%E2%80%93-gimun-un-day/>  
retrieved on July 24, 2011, copyright by youthreps 2010, Martina & Noemi