

***Geneva International Model United Nations***

***Annual Report 2007***

***Rapport d'activité 2007***



### *About this report:*

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# Annual conference in pictures



# Foreword by the President

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*This annual report covers a special year: a year in which the GIMUN association entered a new era. The GIMUN annual conference set new standards: therefore, a major part of this report is dedicated to the annual conference. Yet still, the GIMUN association initiated an expansion of its activities as it is now on the verge of gaining new responsibilities: a development also mentioned in this report.*

The eighth edition of the GIMUN annual conference took place from 3 to 9 March 2007 and has indeed reached new dimensions. Seven Committees, 206 participants, 60 nationalities, 76 universities and 47 different mother tongues are just a few figures to illustrate the extent of these new dimensions (a detailed statistical overview can be found on page 13). A number of different bodies were introduced in this year's conference for the first time. For instance, the newly established Peace-building Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice were co-ordinated for the first time to play a key role at this year's annual conference. A number of generous sponsors and partners have enabled us to nurture and implement our ideas and to see the annual conference through with great success. In this annual report, the various Executive Committee members' articles give you a clear insight into the annual conference and the preparation that was needed to reach these new dimensions. Additionally, the chairpersons present their committees and explain the solutions their delegates have reached during the annual conference.

Furthermore, the GIMUN is not far off from achieving special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This brings new opportunities as well as responsibilities to the association. We have already started organizing more than just the annual conference. For instance, the association organized an event with Professor Walter Kälin on the challenges facing the Human Rights Council. In addition, a think-tank session was introduced during the annual conference, where participants shared their personal views on current international systems as they stand and formulated suggestions for reform. This annual report also provides you with an insight into the association's work and possible future developments.

I stand proud of the association's work, offered and explained to you in this report providing evidence of the idealistic and realistic work of a student organization. I hope you will grasp the current great success surrounding the GIMUN's annual conference and learn which possible steps the association may take in the future. ■

Thierry Beyeler  
President GIMUN Association 2006-2007

# 6 Présidente de la Confédération



Mesdames et Messieurs, chères étudiantes, chers étudiants,

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Je tiens à adresser mes sincères félicitations à l'équipe organisatrice de la 8ème édition du Geneva International Model of United Nations (GIMUN) qui s'est déroulée du 3 au 9 mars 2007 à Genève. Ce GIMUN 2007 s'est révélé être un événement de qualité, qui a réuni plus de 200 étudiantes et étudiants de près de 60 pays.

Le GIMUN est une opportunité unique pour les jeunes de se confronter aux défis et aux réalités de la diplomatie multilatérale. L'enthousiasme et le professionnalisme dont ont fait preuve les représentants de la jeunesse à cette occasion ont contribué à la promotion de la Genève internationale en leur permettant de travailler à simuler le fonctionnement des Nations Unies pendant une semaine entière dans l'un des hauts lieux de la diplomatie multilatérale de Genève, à savoir le Palais des Nations.

Je me réjouis d'avoir ainsi vu affluer à Genève des jeunes du monde entier, qui se sont exercés à la négociation multilatérale en cherchant à répondre aux défis actuels et en privilégiant des solutions constructives, en vue de résoudre pacifiquement des scénarios de conflits bien élaborés et proches de la réalité.

Cette manifestation est une occasion unique de simuler les débats et négociations aux Nations Unies. Elle représente une opportunité magnifique pour des jeunes étudiantes et étudiants issus de cultures parfois fort diverses de se rencontrer et de nouer des contacts privilégiés dans l'esprit particulier de Genève. Je suis persuadée que ces liens sauront perdurer longtemps encore et que le souvenir de cet événement ne pourra que renforcer le rayonnement de la Suisse et de Genève dans le monde.

Je forme des voeux pour que cette expérience puisse se renouveler à l'avenir à Genève. Permettez-moi donc de vous remercier chaleureusement pour l'ensemble du travail accompli et de vous souhaiter d'ores et déjà plein de succès pour le GIMUN 2008! ■

*Micheline Calmy-Rey  
Présidente de la Confédération*

# Foreword by Mr Ordzhonikidze

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*Foreword by Mr Sergei Ordzhonikidze, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva for the Geneva International Model United Nations Yearbook 2007*

The Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) offers the multilateral leaders of tomorrow a unique opportunity to experience in a practical way the challenges of international diplomacy, to sharpen their analytical skills and to put their negotiating techniques to the test. It provides a valuable forum for deepening participants' understanding of the United Nations, and of the particular opportunities and constraints that the Organization faces in addressing the critical questions before the international community. In bringing together young people from all corners of the globe, GIMUN also helps to promote intercultural exchange and understanding.

The agenda of the 2007 annual GIMUN conference reflected, as in previous years, a large number of current issues on the United Nations agenda. Crucially, it highlighted the linkages across these issues. Whether we are dealing with disarmament, climate change, post-conflict peacebuilding or migration, or any other global concern, we need to consider the security, development and human rights aspects of these challenges in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. Likewise, the programme illustrated the need to ensure that institutional structures, at the intergovernmental level and within the United Nations Secretariat, keep pace with the ever-evolving realities.

The exchanges at the annual GIMUN conferences are always characterized by innovation and imagination. The contributions of the delegates bring fresh perspectives and ideas, which may inspire more seasoned diplomats and officials.

The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) values highly its engagement with GIMUN, and is pleased to host the annual discussions. The strong participation in the debates demonstrates a keen interest in and firm support for the efforts of the United Nations, which we appreciate. Such a commitment to the work of the Organization is an important factor in realizing our objectives.

I commend all the participants in the 2007 edition of GIMUN for their dedicated efforts. We look forward to working with you in the future, and trust that you will continue to use your energy and enthusiasm to help serve your fellow human beings around the world. ■

Sergei Ordzhonikidze

United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

# Co-Secretaries-General

After its election by the general assembly of the GIMUN Association, the new Executive Committee was ready to commence its mandate in May 2006. Excellent teamwork and the continued support from our partners and sponsors laid the groundwork for another dynamic and successful year in the history of the GIMUN.

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Our first task at hand was the recruitment of a highly motivated team for the organization of the 2007 annual conference in the Palais des Nations, the European headquarters of the United Nations. By means of a thorough selection process, we managed to form a diverse group of fourteen students with excellent academic backgrounds to chair over this year's seven committees. Furthermore, a team of secretaries, journalists and interpreters were selected by our Chief-of-Staff, our Editor-in-Chief and our Head-Interpreter, respectively.

The work of the GIMUN team was once more guided by an issue of paramount importance: the reform of the United Nations system. Aimed at being 'one step ahead of the game,' we were able to include new features in our conference. For instance, we decided to resimulate a Security Council with an enlarged membership and improved transparency, after the previous annual conference had proven that such a Council could indeed work efficiently. Our Human Rights Council would already put its new mechanisms into practice, notably the new universal periodic review (UPR.) Finally, for the first time in the history of the GIMUN's annual conference, we simulated the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and also the newly estab-

lished Peace-building Commission (PBC.) In the course of the following months, chairpersons carried out meticulous research on selected international issues, which resulted in a comprehensive information and resource base on our web site. Staff members also had the opportunity to meet UN functionaries, professors and other experts in order to deepen their expertise on the issues handled by the GIMUN. Alongside the guidance and support from our chairpersons' extensive research activities, we were in charge of organizing educational events in view of the annual conference. A highlight thereof was Prof. Walter Kälin's exclusive guest speech on the current challenges facing the Human Rights Council in late November 2006. Training and briefing activities for our staff intensified in the weeks prior to the annual conference. In close cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Geneva Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN), we organized a training week on negotiation techniques, conference chairing and resolution writing for all chairpersons.

All the preparation work and the activities finally culminated in the annual conference in March 2007. Over 200 students from all five continents entered the Palais des Nations awaiting an unforgettable week of multilateral debates and new encounters. It was remarkable how professionally these young students fulfilled their roles as delegates, ambassadors, journalists, interpreters, translators, secretaries and chairpersons. Debates in the seven committees took place on a high academic level and led to pertinent, well elaborated results in the form of adopted resolutions, judgements or programmes of work. For the conference's



opening ceremony, the GIMUN had the honour of welcoming the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, his Excellency Sergei Ordzhonikidze, as well as Switzerland's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, his Excellency Ambassador Jürg Streuli, and Professor Daniel Warner, Deputy to the Director of the Institute of International Studies. Each from a different perspective, the three eminent guest speakers shed light on Geneva's current role within the international system.

Furthermore, each committee hosted a guest speaker, who presented their thoughts and answered questions on the respective issues handled in the committee. In addition to the official agenda, a range of social events facilitated intercultural exchange and allowed participants to

take a breath away from the demanding work schedule.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all partners and sponsors of this organization. Without their crucial support, the resounding success of the GIMUN in 2007 would not have been possible. Equally, we thank all GIMUN members for their excellent work and great team spirit. On May 2nd 2007, the new Executive Committee was unanimously elected by the GIMUN General Assembly. We are confident that the work of the association will be carried on with great competence and dedication. ■

Andreas Lehmann & Fabian Grass  
Co-Secretaries-General GIMUN 2007

# Fundraising



*Fundraising – just about money? While asking for money is important, this is only half the (fundraising) story. As with all human relations, transparency, respect and accountability are essential to preserve partnerships with sponsors and to foster new relations.*

Securing a minimal financial base is a primary task for every Executive Committee taking on a new edition of the annual conference. However, our sponsors mean much more to us, than the financial contributions they are able to offer. Not only are they an important source of encouragement and advice, but it is also their continued partnership, which lends GIMUN its credibility and growing attraction for students all over the world. We are honored to be trusted today by such a distinguished circle of partners. As in 2006, we were able to count on the con-

tinued, generous support of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, the Lotterie Romande, the Karl Popper Foundation, the Fondation pour Genève, Pictet & Cie, the Wilsdorf Foundation, the Swiss Study Foundation, the Karl Popper Foundation, the Gebert Rüf Foundation (Baltic Net), the Graduate Institute for International Studies and the Students Association Committee of the Institute. You may find more information further back in this booklet. We were also honored to obtain the confidence of two new sponsors this year, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the Commission de Gestion de Taxes fixes de l'Université (CGTF) of the University of Geneva. We were very glad to establish these new partnerships.

In line with our recruitment objective of greater cultural and social diversity among the GIMUN participants, we introduced this year the *solidarity fund*. With the financial support of our partners and a small contribution by every regular participant, we aim to extend the financial support to conference applicants in need, mostly coming from developing and transition countries. Thank you to the Karl Popper foundation for its particular encouragement with this undertaking.

The importance of financial transparency cannot be overstated. In this vein, GIMUN has broadened the task assignment of the fundraising responsible for GIMUN 2008. By integrating the treasury, formerly part of logistics, into the fundraising department, GIMUN seeks to improve its financial accountability and transparency, which it owes to its sponsors and partners. ■

Tamara Hardegger  
Fundraising GIMUN 2007

# Organization & Finance

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*This year, the GIMUN annual conference brought together more than 200 students in Geneva. Due to its growing institutional functions and development, our association faces new challenges to ensure the proper logistical functioning of the conference.*

With this in mind, our organization is sincerely grateful to place its trust in the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Thanks to their help, our conference was successfully held at the prestigious Palais des Nations in line with the official UN calendar of events. However, if GIMUN is to be granted the special consultative status from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the summer of 2007, the accreditation process at the Palais will have to be formalized and new opportunities brought about by this transformation shall be explored.

On the doorstep of the United Nations, the GIMUN can in addition benefit from making the most of the excellent infrastructure in place at the Graduate Institute of International

Studies (HEI.) Set in a beautiful park on Lake Geneva's right bank, the HEI and Villa Barton are the perfect setting to welcome GIMUN participants and to host preparatory formalities prior to the conference. Considering the major changes to take place at GIMUN after applying for consultative status from the ECOSOC, our association plans to increase the contact with HEI and seeks to organize a number of additional events at the institute.

On one hand, the GIMUN is an educational body for graduate students interested in negotiation and diplomacy. On the other hand, we form a part of "La Genève Internationale": We endeavor to promote Geneva as an international forum for discussion and consider it as a particularly attractive element of Switzerland. In this regard, the GIMUN develops partnerships with prominent institutions in Geneva such as the Grand Theatre de Genève. Giving our participants the opportunity to discover our beautiful city, we intend to leave a footprint 'Genevois' on their minds, and hope to see them return once again soon thereafter. ■

Simon Hirsbrunner  
Organization & Finance GIMUN 2007



# Recrutement et statistiques

Nous devons le succès de la conférence aux 206 participants de 60 nationalités qui se sont rencontrés à Genève. Nous présentons ici comment ils ont été sélectionnés et quelques statistiques.

En se basant sur l'expérience d'autres événements comparables, les recruteurs du GIMUN s'étaient fixés un nombre de buts à atteindre:

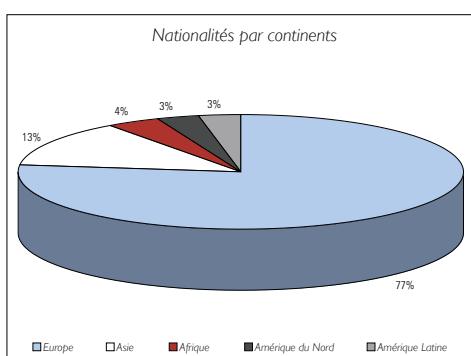
- Une haute qualité des participants,
- Une grande diversité des participants reflété tant par le nombre de nationalités représentées parmi les délégués que par leurs universités d'origine,
- Une égalité de traitement sans aucun quota, notamment en ce qui concerne les genres, les langues et les études,
- L'extension de la popularité du GIMUN dans les milieux étudiantins les plus divers,
- Un suivi de chaque dossier d'une façon professionnelle.

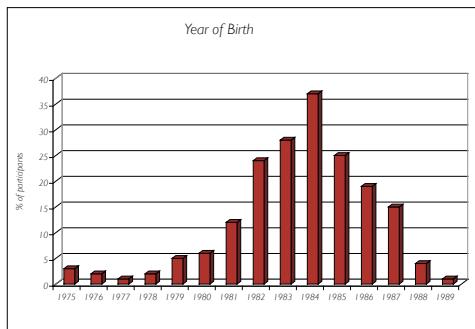
Ces buts ont-ils été atteints? En jetant un coup d'œil aux statistiques de la conférence annuelle, on peut clairement répondre par l'affirmative. Sur les 520 dossiers que nous avons reçus, nous en avons retenus 206, soit 40%. Un indicateur chiffré ne suffira pas à démontrer la qualité des participants, mais il démontre qu'une certaine sélection a été opérée. Les critères principaux étaient la qualité d'expression, la qualité du travail académique et extra scolaire, le niveau d'intérêt et d'engagement international démontré par une lettre de motivation.

60 nationalités étaient représentées. Ce chiffre constitue un nouveau record pour le GIMUN, qui en tant que simulation et comme association se doit d'accueillir les points de vue les plus divers. On s'aperçoit que si le nombre de pays différents représentés augmente considérablement, la répartition par continent reste plus ou moins de  $\frac{3}{4}$  d'Européens. On remarque une proportion plus importante de participants provenant d'Asie.

Toutefois, il est plus important encore de noter que ces personnes étudient dans 76 universités différentes. Cela signifie qu'elles ont 76 idées différentes des relations internationales et permettent au GIMUN de devenir une réelle plate-forme de dialogue académique. Les horizons d'études ne se limitaient pas à la science politique et au droit international mais étaient tout aussi divers que les participants eux-mêmes et allaient de la médecine à la musique baroque.

La pyramide des âges montre que les  $\frac{3}{4}$  des participants ont entre 20 et 25 ans, même si la plage totale s'étend sur 19 ans.





L'égalité de traitement peut être déduite des chiffres de répartition des genres: 57% de participation féminine – c'est un reflet assez exacte de la répartition des genres dans les universités. Notons que cette répartition moyenne varie fortement de comité en comité (voir graphique). 47 langues étaient parlées par les délégués – entre autres le Punjabi ou le Grec. En ce qui concerne les deux langues officielles du GIMUN, 28% des participants n'avait aucune notion du français, 1% aucune notion de l'anglais. Toutefois, 35% indiquèrent le français comme étant leur langue préférée. Cela montre toute l'importance que l'interprétation joue dans la simulation. Nous avons cette année développé la solida-

rité entre les participants. Une contribution à un fond de solidarité a été incluse à la finance d'inscription des participants, et des sponsors séduits par l'idée l'ont alimenté. En outre un poste du budget ordinaire de la manifestation a été créé. Ceci mettait à disposition du fonds quelques CHF 13'000.-. Les candidats à l'aide financière ont dû faire preuve d'une motivation supplémentaire pour constituer un dossier. Si l'entier de la somme à disposition n'a pas été distribué, c'est principalement dû au retrait tardif de certains bénéficiaires et à la possibilité pour d'autres d'être logés gratuitement chez des participants locaux (un signe supplémentaire de solidarité).

Le département du recrutement remercie tous les délégués qui ont, chacun à leur manière, contribué à créer cette ambiance particulière et toujours différente qui laisse à chacun des participants un souvenir durable. Ils sont la plus grande récompense que les deux recruteurs pouvaient espérer pour une année de travail. ■

Leonard Graf & Sébastien Morard  
Recrutement GIMUN 2007

	♂ Hommes	♀ Femmes
Conseil de Sécurité	44%	56%
Conseil des droits de l'homme	55%	45%
Conférence du Désarmement	43%	57%
Cour Internationale de Justice	40%	60%
Peacebuilding Commission	48%	52%
UNHCR	24%	76%
ECOSOC	43%	57%
Journalisme	59%	41%
Ambassadeurs	50%	50%
Répartition des genres sur tous les participants	43%	57%

Source: GIMUN 2007 Recruitment

# ECOSOC Status - quo vadis?



*In January 2007, the UN Committee on Non-governmental Organizations recommended that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) grant special consultative status to the GIMUN. In July 2007, the ECOSOC is to take its final decision on the GIMUN's application. If the GIMUN association receives this status, it will be offered a host of new opportunities as well as being confronted with new responsibilities.*

The special consultative status would allow the GIMUN, among other things, to attend UN meetings, to designate UN representatives or

to speak at subsidiary body meetings of the ECOSOC. The GIMUN could then, for instance, focus its efforts on specific issues rather than on one event. The work on these issues could include various activities such as carrying out research, attending sessions of various UN bodies, holding discussions with experts, hosting workshops, printing publications as well as maintaining a comprehensive web site.

Additionally for the GIMUN, its new consultative status would signify a transformation from an ordinary Model UN to an NGO with a wider scope of activities, ranging from work with small student projects to more professional organizations with broader goals. This implies new responsibilities. First of all, the current institutional framework adapted for the organization at the annual conference would have to be strengthened. For instance, the Executive Committee's structure would have to be further revised to invest more in time and resources for general management and strategic planning. For the same purpose, we are currently in the process of drafting a mutually beneficial convention with the Graduate Institute of International Studies that would institutionalize our partnership. Also, the establishment of a consolidated alumni network or an advisory committee for consultation would be envisaged for the future.

Whatever new features come about, the GIMUN association will offer up-to-date information via a mailing list, including sponsors and partners, former participants and interested students. With such work, we are looking forward to paving a new path and keeping you informed along the way. ■

*For the GIMUN Executive Committee  
Thierry Beyeler, President GIMUN 2007*

# Newly Launched Activities

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With the recommendation for special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the GIMUN association has expanded its activities as a non-governmental organization aiming to promote the ideas behind the UN Charter while offering a platform for addressing current issues and educating youth about the UN system.

Two examples of such newly launched activities deserve particular attention. As a first highlight in November 2006, we had the great honour of welcoming Professor Walter Kälin, member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and UN special representative for internally displaced persons, for an exclusive presentation on the current challenges of the Human Rights Council. Despite the existing criticism, Professor Kälin drew an overall positive picture of the current workings of the Council. However, he pointed out a number of challenges that need to be addressed. Among the most imminent tasks are the establishment of an efficient and effective universal periodic review and the definition of new mandates for the special procedures. In a longer term, member states will have to overcome basic tensions and agree on questions such as whether the Council should remain a purely political organ or move into the direction of an expert body, or how the Council's work could be guided by principles of universality rather than selectivity. The insights Professor Kälin provided in his presentation were of great value to our audience - the lively discussions that followed have confirmed this beyond any doubt.

Another new feature we introduced in our simulation was a 'think-tank session', where we encouraged participants, in a more informal setting, to share their personal views on the current international system and to formulate suggestions for reform. Divided into several groups, the participants engaged in active discussions and in an exchange of ideas, for once without being bound to specific positions of the country they represent in the simulation but making proposals of their own. The think-tanks led to an interesting outcome: a large number of participants encouraged a further involvement of civil society in the work of the United Nations as well as closer collaboration with regional organizations, considering the crucial role that both private actors and regional organizations play in the resolution of conflicts worldwide. Another point that was voiced in nearly all groups was the need for improved transparency and accountability within the UN system. The majority of participants believed that the United Nations should become more democratic in its structure. This would not only imply a more equitable representation of member states in the different UN bodies, but also a limitation of privileges such as the veto right in the Security Council. In the view of the participants of the GIMUN 2007, a reform including the above proposals is necessary: it would make the United Nations more efficient in dealing with threats to international peace and security, it would further the promotion of human rights, and it could play a vital role in increasing the organization's legitimacy and credibility towards the outside world. ■

Andreas Lehmann & Fabian Grass  
Co-Secretaries-General GIMUN 2007

# Security Council

After having observed the successful proceeding of the expanded Security Council of the GIMUN 2006, we decided once again to simulate a Security Council of twenty-four members in the GIMUN 2007. When selecting members, we made sure that the Security Council is well-balanced in order to avoid an impasse, the imposition from one party on another, or an exaggerated use of the veto by the five permanent members.

The general theme of the GIMUN 2007 Security Council was "United Nations Sanctions – An important tool to be improved". The agenda was adopted without further delay, the first agenda point being the improvement of the UN-Sanction system in general, the second one the situation concerning sanctions in Darfur. From this point on, the efficiency of the Security Council decreased rapidly. A lot of time was lost with the discussion on what should specifically be discussed. The P5-Ambassadors tried to save the situation by introducing a common resolution but this fragile alliance broke up quickly due to a rather imposing behavior displayed by the Russian delegation. At the dawn of day number three of the GIMUN, the delegates therefore had to rethink their position and make a second attempt to find a satisfying solution. And this time they succeeded: resolution (SC/RES/2007/1) tackled the issues of sanctions design, targeted sanctions, humanitarian exemptions, assessment and monitoring, unintended impacts on third parties and capacity building. Even though it was not a big step in the development of the use of sanctions, it improved

several details which are important regarding negative impacts of sanctions.

Before being able to move on to the second topic on the agenda, a crisis developing in Liberia reached the Security Council as an urgent matter. The possible dangerous affects of rebel groups supplied by Côte d'Ivoire on the whole region as well as the assassination of Liberian ministers led the Security Council to the decision to declare the situation as a threat to international peace and security according to Article 39, Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Hence, the delegates were faced with the task of finding a quick and effective response. Targeted sanctions as well as enlarging the mandate of the already present UNMIL were subjects to discussion. However, especially the latter discussion was considerably complicated by France's unwillingness to get involved in yet another quagmire in Africa and the impact of the upcoming presidential elections in France was quite obvious.

Nevertheless the Security Council finally managed to pass resolution (SC/RES/2007/2), which among other points imposed targeted sanctions on two rebel groups and leaders. In addition, it gave the UNMIL more means with enlarging its mandate. These measures proved to be effective and within the following GIMUN-days a weakening of the rebel groups as well as stabilization of the region could be observed.

Finding a solution to the situation in Darfur with only one day left would be considered as impossible by many. But as we know, the GIMUN is always one step ahead. Yet, one step was not enough in this delicate matter where human suffering faced profound and vital interests in resources, arms and war on terror of the powerful states in the Security Council. The

Russian delegation vetoed a resolution calling for a stronger sanction regime on Khartoum and rebel groups not complying with the DPA. Henceforth, the Security Council passed only a Presidential Statement deciding "to remain seized of the matter".

The GIMUN 2007 Security Council gave us an unforgettable lesson about how important

sanctions can or could be, and the limits of the UN Security Council where geopolitical and economical interests overlap humanitarian efforts. ■

*Petra Heusser & Kaspar Paur  
Chairpersons Security Council*



# International Court of Justice

For the first time in GIMUN history the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was one of the UN bodies simulated during the conference. The ICJ takes up a special place within the UN system since it is not a political body, but a judicial one. We had to take a different approach and formulate new rules to govern proceedings.

We wanted to choose a topic that everybody could relate to and that would address some highly-debated issues in international law. We chose the conflict between Israel and Lebanon in the summer of 2006 as a starting point. In order to make the discussions more interesting and to create a broader legal spectrum we altered some facts from the actual situation. One of the main issues at stake was whether Israel had a legal claim of self-defense in response to the troop mobilizations by Hezbollah forces. The other main question was if Lebanon could

be held responsible for actions committed by Hezbollah. These are hot topics considering world politics and there are great differences of opinion amongst legal authors. This set the stage for some lively debates.

The judges first dealt with the topic of self-defense. The Court took both Article 51 of the UN Charter and customary international law into consideration. It was decided that there had not been an armed attack emanating from the territory of Lebanon and therefore Israel was not justified in claiming self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. With regards to customary international law the judges took into account the troop mobilizations and formulated the conditions under which a claim to self-defense against an armed attack that has not yet occurred could be justified under international law. The Court, after lengthy discussions, came to the conclusion the troop mobilizations did not satisfy the certainty requirement that an armed attack would occur if Israel did not respond with force.





On the topic of state responsibility the judges looked at the ILC Draft Articles on State Responsibility and jurisprudence. It was found that in order for a state to be held responsible the wrongful act needs to be attributable to the state, either directly or indirectly. No direct link between the private actor Hezbollah and Lebanon could be proven, however the Court then examined whether Lebanon fulfilled its duty to exercise due diligence and its obligations to disband and disarm all militias under Security Council resolution 1559. According to the Court, Lebanon failed to prove that the measures undertaken would constitute an adequate response to the obligation incumbent upon it and therefore found Lebanon responsible. The conclusion is that both parties to the dispute were in violation of the prohibition of the threat or use of force under Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter.

In the beginning of the week the Court had difficulty to focus on the topics and did not know

exactly how to attack the issues. The speech made by Professor Marcelo Kohen on the second day of negotiations really inspired the judges. Professor Kohen highlighted the key issues and set out possible approaches that are available in international law. In the end, some judges chose to write separate and dissenting opinions. Two judges wrote a separate opinion stating that current international law does not support the existence of an imminent armed attack as constituting a legal basis for justification of lawful exercise of a right to self-defence. Another judge disagreed with the argumentation of the Court on the satisfaction of the obligation contained in Security Council resolution 1559. The end result after one week of deliberations is a judgement that takes into account current world politics and the evolution of international law. ■

*Wieteke Daniels & Marcel Van Der Stroom  
Chairpersons ICJ*

# Conseil des droits de l'homme

Pendant que le vrai Conseil des droits de l'homme était encore en train d'élaborer ses modes de fonctionnement, celui du GIMUN les mettait déjà en oeuvre: Le nouveau mécanisme de l'Examen Périodique Universel fut testé par les délégué-e-s, et une résolution ayant pour objet de protéger les droits humains liés à l'orientation et l'identité sexuelle fut adoptée.

Comme dans le système onusien, les abréviations furent la clé pour comprendre les débats intensifs du Conseil des droits de l'homme (CDH) de cette édition du GIMUN: «EPU» et «LGBT», les sigles les plus souvent entendues dans les couloirs devant la salle XVI du Palais des Nations Unies, correspondaient à nos deux thèmes. Notre premier sujet fut lié à l'EPU, l'Examen Périodique Universel, nouvel instrument du Conseil des droits de l'homme visant à passer en revue la situation en matière de droits humains dans chaque Etat-membre de l'ONU. Le deuxième thème fut consacré aux personnes LGBT, donc aux personnes homosexuelles, bi- et transsexuelles, qui subissent partout dans le monde des persécutions et des violations de leurs droits fondamentaux.

Selon les experts, le nouveau mécanisme d'Examen Périodique Universel représente l'un des facteurs décisifs pour la réussite du nouveau Conseil des droits de l'homme à résoudre les problèmes fondamentaux de son prédécesseur, la sélectivité et les double standards. En examinant la situation dans la République populaire de Chine, notre comité fut le premier à tester ce mécanisme dans la réalité.

Après une première discussion sur les moda-

lités de ce mécanisme, le moment parfait était venu pour accueillir notre invité: Ce fut un honneur particulier d'écouter Andrew Clapham, Professeur de droit international et spécialiste de droits de l'homme, se prononcer sur nos deux thèmes.

Dans un dialogue interactif, les neuf thèmes du dossier EPU sur la Chine furent discutés. La liberté d'expression, la liberté d'association et la torture, ainsi que la situation dans la Région Autonome du Tibet furent le plus longuement débattues. Avec trois résolutions sur la table, les discussions se complexifiaient et le CDH n'arriva à un consensus qu'après de longues heures de négociations ardues.

Ce premier «test» de ce mécanisme à venir révéla certaines questions: Comment éviter que l'examen prenne la forme d'un «tribunal» auquel l'Etat fait face? En plus, vu qu'il nous avait fallu deux jours entiers pour discuter des différents thèmes, comment sera-t-il possible de faire un EPU intégral en moins que trois heures tel que ce sera probablement le cas dans le CDH réel?

Notre comité n'avait pas le temps de longuement discuter ces questions ; bientôt le débat se concentrat autour de la crise en matière de droits humains dans la région de l'Afrique de l'ouest. Le Conseil intervint promptement en adoptant une résolution condamnant les violations massives et en faisant appel aux parties au conflit de cesser les violations.

Sans tarder, le Conseil se lança par la suite dans le débat sur le thème de l'orientation sexuelle et de l'identité genre. L'initiative d'une résolution thématique les droits humains de ce groupe avait été lancée par le Brésil dans l'ancienne Commission des droits de l'homme en 2003. Cette tentative fut un échec: une multitude de

mancœuvres stratégiques furent utilisés par une alliance inhabituelle guidée par l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique et le Vatican pour freiner les efforts du Brésil et de ses partisans. Ces blocs réapparurent lors des négociations dans notre comité: Le projet de résolution élaborée par le Brésil fut fortement opposé par un groupe d'Etats guidé par l'Arabie Saoudite et l'Egypte. Néanmoins, le Brésil et l'Afrique du Sud parvinrent à convaincre une majorité du Conseil de l'importance de cette résolution qui finit par passer.

Le résultat de cette semaine nous montre que

l'engagement sincère des délégué-e-s pour la cause des droits humains arrive finalement à primer sur les intérêts étatiques. En fermant la porte derrière nous vendredi soir, nous avons quitté le Palais des Nations en espérant avoir laissé un peu de cet esprit entre les murs de l'ONU pour le CDH réel qui ouvrirait sa quatrième session le lendemain du GIMUN, dans les mêmes salles que nous avions occupé pendant une semaine. ■

*Claudia Meier & Nicole Gantenbein  
Modératrices Conseil des droits de l'homme*



# Peacebuilding Commission

The newly created Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was a challenge not to be missed out by GIMUN. As a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the PBC assumes the role of issuing policy guidelines of how states can reach a lasting peace and to give country-specific recommendations to the relevant UN bodies.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established under the Security Council Resolution 1645 of 20th December 2005 and the Resolution 60/180 of 30th December 2005 from the General Assembly. It aims to address the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving a sustainable peace. The importance of this consensus based

advisory body is highlighted by the fact that half of all countries that emerge from war lapse back into violence within five years. In recognition of the importance of the role of the civil society in the peacebuilding process, the PBC aimed to produce a reference document of how Civil Society Organizations (CSO) could be efficiently integrated within the activities of the PBC. Secondly, a case study of Liberia was made which represented a first basis of discussion in order to identify patterns of action of how the PBC should deal with states emerging from complex conflict situations.

During the first working session, the provisional Agenda was adopted while two subtopics under the first agenda item of the integration of the Civil Society Organizations were added. The first debates took place and the committee had to explore the different working possibilities amongst members. Throughout the debate, all



members encountered the great challenge of establishing a consensus among the fifteen voting powers. This challenge endured throughout the entire week and underpinned the informal discussion sessions held in plenary.

In response the simulated crisis in post-conflict Liberia, the committee was advised by the Secretary General and needed to respond effectively. The chairpersons introduced an urgent agenda item in order to respond to the request. Confronted with time constraints, the PBC established four working groups whose outcome has been discussed in plenary. It was a highlight of the week to vote on the four page document which then served as a reference for other UN bodies (Security Council and Human Rights Council) and which then dealt ultimately with the crisis.

Having coped with the Liberian crisis which resulted in the adoption of the before mentioned advice, the PBC returned to the first agenda item on the integration of CSO. Once again, the PBC proved that it can work efficiently under time constraints, however, the opposition among member states turned out to be quite challenging. The Permanent Five, constantly confronted with the demands of some African delegates and representatives supported by Amnesty International and the World Bank, were mostly concerned about the proper integration of their States' interests. Finally, on Friday afternoon a motion for closure of debate was raised and a Resolution defining the criteria of how to integrate CSO into the Organizational Committee and country specific meetings was adopted.

The Resolution defines the integration of CSO in two different forms. Firstly, qualified CSO can submit written documents to the PBC support

office prior to the Organizational Committee conference. In addition, the CSO can make oral statements during the conference upon request and seek consensus among member States. Secondly, it has been decided that a regional forum among CSO shall be held, once a state is agreed upon to be on the PBC's agenda. Furthermore, CSO is granted attendance and speaking rights during country specific meetings, upon the request of one member state. Due to time constraints and the urgent agenda item that has been introduced during the week, the PBC could not deal with the situation in Liberia.

The PBC not always benefited from a great support of all members, as it was also challenged by the reluctance of some member states to deal with the very sensitive subject of the integration of the civil society. To build on the existing common goodwill, it is an urgent necessity to create a section in charge of identifying CSOs able to fulfil roles according to their expertise, competence and accountability.

It is remarkable that a consensus based body could agree upon the main criteria of integration of CSO. It is a tribute to the former Secretary General, Kofi Annan, who emphasized the necessity of a close partnership between the civil society and the United Nations on several occasions. To sum up, the PBC has proven itself to be a relevant player in fact finding missions in support of other UN bodies requiring information. It has also shown how CSO can be integrated into a UN body, which may further encourage other UN bodies still resisting integration to yield. ■

*Andrea Buettler & Raphael Vogel  
Chairpersons Peacebuilding Commission*

*L'UNHCR, les réfugiés et les migrants: quelques défis dans la protection des réfugiés. C'était le thème général du comité UNHCR, qui a suscité des vives débats tout au long de la semaine.*

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Les problèmes migratoires sont au sommet de l'agenda de la Communauté internationale. Le lien que la migration entretient avec l'asile a permis à l'UNHCR de s'occuper de ces problèmes. Afin de récolter les bénéfices liés au développement de la migration internationale et de diminuer les conséquences négatives des flux non maîtrisés, la Communauté internationale a reconnu le besoin grandissant de partenariat entre les pays d'origine, de transit et de destination des migrants. La conférence ministérielle européо-africaine de Rabat, au Maroc, du 10 et 11 juillet 2006, s'est avérée être une bonne plate-forme de débat entre les pays du sud de l'Union Européenne et l'Afrique, au sujet des défis et des dilemmes posés par la migration dans la région méditerranéenne. La migration est également sur l'agenda du Dialogue de Haut Niveau de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations unies sur la migration internationale et le développement du 14 et 15 septembre 2006.

Comme cette année va s'avérer riche en développements nouveaux dans ce domaine, nous avons décidé de choisir la migration comme sujet pour le GIMUN. Vu les changements démographiques et la globalisation, le nombre de migrants va continuer à croître et la communauté internationale devra s'occuper de ce problème. C'est un sujet ancien et nouveau à la fois, et nous y sommes confrontés de façon quotidienne, au travers des nouvelles et de la réalité que nous

vivons dans nos pays respectifs. De plus, nous trouvons que ce sujet s'applique très bien à une simulation des Nations Unies puisque la migration est un thème sur lequel les vues des pays développés et des pays en voie de développement divergent. Alors que les pays développés craignent la migration et la perçoivent comme une menace, les familles des pays en développement comptent sur l'argent envoyé par leur parenté émigrée. Les pays développés, quant à eux, accusent les pays en développement de ne pas sécuriser leurs frontières.

Le rôle de l'UNHCR en relation avec la migration internationale a été révisé. Cette révision a conduit à la préparation de plusieurs documents : une monographie intitulée « L'UNHCR, la protection des réfugiés et la migration internationale » ; une série d'observations et de recommandations dans le cadre du Dialogue de Haut niveau ; et un « plan d'action en 10 points » afin de traiter des flux migratoires mixtes. Une des particularités de ces documents est la reconnaissance que l'UNHCR n'est pas, et n'a pas l'intention, de devenir une agence migratoire ni de s'engager dans des activités auxquelles on se réfère habituellement sous le terme de « maîtrise de la migration ». Le mandat de l'UNHCR est de fournir la protection et des solutions aux réfugiés et autres personnes concernées, et d'exercer ce mandat de façon effective. L'UNHCR a un rôle légitime, quoique limité, à jouer dans la vaste problématique de la migration internationale.

Même si nous sommes conscientes que l'UNHCR n'est pas une agence migratoire et que les migrants en tant que tels n'ont pas encore été sur l'agenda du Comité exécutif de l'UNHCR, nous pensons que ce sujet est applicable à la simulation des Nations Unies de cette année

puisque la problématique de la migration internationale est interconnectée avec la problématique de la protection des réfugiés. Notamment, dans ce cadre, l'UNHCR estime qu'il est difficile d'exercer son mandat à cause des mesures qui ont été prises par certains Etats pour intercéper les migrants illégaux. C'est pour cette raison

que l'UNHCR trouve qu'il est important pour lui de s'impliquer dans la problématique de la migration. ■

*Ralitsa Georgieva & Borjana Ristic  
Modératrices UNHCR*



# Conference on Disarmament

For the 2007 GIMUN Conference on Disarmament (CD) we proposed an agenda featuring current issues of international concern – The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and Negative Security Assurances (NSA). The workshop was designed for everyone interested in disarmament affairs.

The 2007 Conference on Disarmament (CD) promised to be a tough job for its delegates. Unanimous decision making on high policy security concerns were required from the outset. Excellent negotiation skills were needed to convince other delegates that their country should make adequate concessions, compromising our demands and theirs. Surprisingly, two-thirds of the delegates opted to adopt an agenda within merely a couple of hours of discussion. For the CD, this was an enormous achievement, for which the real Conference on Disarmament has been hoping for nine years. The first topic on the agenda were so-called Negative Security Assurances (NSAs). NSAs are guarantees given by the Permanent Five members of the Security Council, in which the pledge never to use nuclear weapons against a state that does not hold a nuclear arsenal. But what may have appeared a relatively easy progress at first, revealed to be the source of a number of heated debates. The main question was whether other States than those officially recognized by the Non Proliferation Treaty should be recognized as nuclear powers. Quite obviously, the unofficial nuclear powers India and Pakistan differed in opinion with some of the traditional holders of nuclear weapons, the United States of America (USA)

and the United Kingdom. Following days of dedicated discussions, the Russian delegation took matters in its hands and imposed an ultimatum on the Conference. Unsure about how to react, many delegates were haunted by the "eleventh hour panic" and made significant concessions. The Russian delegation's bold stance saw the Conference on Disarmament's first Resolution (dubbed Programme of Work by the CD). Immediately thereafter, the USA was challenged on the topic of Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS.) Almost simultaneously, it became apparent that practically all other states held a common stance that favoured a comprehensive treaty on PAROS. However, the USA had serious concerns about the security of their military and civilian satellites. They were in particular concerned about the Chinese missile test in January 2007. There was a further draft resolution on the table, but when discussions on whether to use the words 'might' or 'could' in one of the resolutions' clauses, discussions seemed to have reached a dead end. However, our highly experienced guest speaker, Mr Jerzy Zalesky, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the CD, held an informative speech about the future of the Conference, mentioning our two topics in particular. His words seemed to put all delegates back on track and all focused on the goal of achieving another unanimous decision. On the last day of discussions, the Conference finally voted upon the draft. All were certain this resolution would be passed as delegates cast their votes and in the end, we gained two resolutions, a lot of negotiation skills and, most importantly, many new friendships. ■

Olga Skorobogatova & Benedikt Pollmeier  
Chairperson CD

The Economic and Social Council of United Nations characterizes itself for having one of the broadest mandates within the Organization. With this in mind, we felt that the best way to approach a topic would be to set an overall general theme with the division into subtopics.

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The theme of this years ECOSOC debate was the "Sustainable Use of Energy Resources". Within this broad arena, we considered that the main issues on which the Economic and Social Council could act most effectively were on the areas concerning: environmental awareness, resources accessibility and new sources of energy.

The council started with a swift, generally accepted, adoption of the agenda in which the issue to treated first was resource accessibility.

There were many points of view surrounding the topic. Concretely, there were two blocks of countries that pushed forward their own common agendas. It took them a while to put those ideas on paper, and consequently submit a draft resolution.

The debate continued, as the delegates realized that the agendas that both blocks were trying to promote were not mutually exclusive. Therefore, with the aid of several hours of informal debate, the delegates managed to submit a draft resolution that conveyed all of the countries points of views and wishes. Debate continued on the final draft, with the aid of several amendments. Finally the resolution was adopted with the vote of 15 members out of 16 voting members, and one abstention.

The resolution on this topic tries to promote the diffusion of technology from developed to developing countries. It also promotes more efficient use of energy by encouraging the trade



of alternative sources of energy. Additionally it encourages investment in countries where access to energy is limited and highly needed for essential use such as hospitals.

Acknowledging the evident overlapping substance within the various subtopics, the debate moved on to the next topic, which was environmental awareness. From the previous sessions the delegates had realized the existence of common ground surrounding this topic area too; hence they started to work on a draft resolution before the opening of the debate on that topic. The result was that the council was able to immediately introduce a draft resolution drafted by a majority of its members and continue the debate with a solid base.

The lack of time made the "fine tuning" of this resolution a difficult task. As a result of this, the support for this resolution was not as broad as in the previous item on the agenda. Nevertheless, the resolution established offered a solution to the problem of environmental awareness. This resolution calls for a more responsible be-

havior from member states and the implementation of a more socially responsible consuming behavior. The resolution pushes for government intervention in environmental topics, so that sustainable models of consumption and production can be enforced in all states. The members of the council have also deemed necessary to reinforce the actual supervision mechanisms that we have on the environment at the present time, so that nature can be preserved.

The actions taken by the members of the council are not radical, but they are essential in nature. Even if some countries had a difficult time agreeing with some aspects of the resolutions at hand, the overall sense of urgency for the environment was present. This is what reality lacks, the sense of real urgency. The delegates of the ECOSOC were able to go beyond the so-called "common sense" and translate it into "common practice". ■

*Phuong Lan Ngo & Carlos Andrés Emmanuel  
Chairpersons ECOSOC*



# De l'art d'être sur la brèche

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Que serait le GIMUN si personne n'en parlait? Comment les délégués sauraient-ils ce qui se passe dans les comités dont ils ne font pas partie? Et que feraient-ils tous lors de la pause café s'il n'y avait quelque chose à lire? A ces questions épineuses, la réponse coule de source et s'appelle le GIMUNews.

Le quotidien officiel de la simulation était animé cette année par une équipe de dix-neuf personnes: trois rédacteurs, deux photographes et quatorze journalistes. Pour ces derniers, l'expérience du GIMUN a constitué une première plongée dans l'univers du journalisme. Car c'est une chose de mener une recherche académique durant un semestre, et c'en est une autre que de devoir saisir l'enjeu d'un débat et le retranscrire de façon concise et stylisée en quelques heures.

La richesse particulière du GIMUNews a tenu à sa division en deux catégories de journalistes. D'un côté, il y avait ceux dont la mission était de rapporter les faits de manière impartiale et objective pour que les délégués prennent connaissance des faits. De l'autre, on trouvait les reporters biaisés. Ces trublions de l'information avaient pour tâche de distordre la réalité pour la faire entrer dans un moule subjectif. En clair, il s'agissait pour eux d'adopter une position nationale, culturelle ou idéologique.

Pourquoi cette distinction? La rédaction du GIMUNews était habitée par la conviction que l'information ne connaît pas de vecteur véritablement objectif. Elle demeure tributaire d'un ensemble d'a priori, de préjugés et de représentations mentales faisant qu'un fait n'est jamais communiqué comme tel. Il est au contraire

sélectionné, filtré, reformulé. Pour preuve, citons au hasard le prestigieux New York Times, bible du journalisme de presse écrite. Cette vénérable publication a soutenu, dans les mois précédents l'invasion américaine de l'Irak, l'hypothèse de la présence d'armes de destruction massive. L'on peut à juste titre s'interroger sur l'aspect factuel de la chose. L'objectivité en tant que telle ne constitue ainsi rien de plus que le phare idéal vers lequel le frêle esquis du journalisme se doit de tendre. Ainsi, il paraissait évident aux yeux des rédacteurs de reconnaître cet état de fait et de s'en servir pour enrichir notre quotidien.

Les participants du GIMUN ont donc pu assouvir chaque matin leur soif de nouvelles dans nos colonnes. Mais cela n'aurait été possible sans une organisation rigoureuse des membres de la rédaction. Pour commencer, les journalistes ont assisté aux débats des comités avec la plus grande attention. Tant et si bien que certains ont, dès le premier jour, regretté de ne pouvoir prendre la parole. Qui bouillonnant de rage, qui désireux d'articuler son point de vue, qui désolé de ne pouvoir déclamer un bon mot, ils sont tous restés stoïques en attendant l'ajournement quotidien des négociations.

Et c'est à ce moment, alors que les autres participants pliaient bagages, que la journée du GIMUNews débutait pour la seconde fois. Car les correspondants en herbe revenaient alors au siège de la rédaction pour décortiquer, analyser, discuter et mettre en forme les informations glanées au court de la journée. C'était aussi le moment, intense, durant lequel les rédacteurs devaient jouer à plein leur rôle de suggestion, de correction et de révision des textes.

Une fois assoupi le tumulte de l'écriture, les bureaux se vidaient pour ne laisser que les derniers des Mohicans. Trois rédacteurs, certes,

mais aussi deux photographes qui, avec une patience inouïe, affinaient leurs clichés pour leur conférer la juste composition pour l'impression. La mise en page effectuée, ne restait alors qu'à attendre l'aurore pour entendre les réactions. Celles-ci ont été globalement positives. Certes, des critiques ont été formulées, chose d'autant plus légitime que le journal était l'unique atelier dont le travail fût exposé à la vue de tous.

Néanmoins, l'acharnement et la ténacité mis par toute l'équipe a débouché, jour après jour, sur un produit de qualité qui a conféré au GIMUNews le statut enviable de meilleure publication du GIMUN. D'autant plus que c'en était la seule. ■

Marc Allgöwer  
Rédacteur en chef GIMUNews



# Guestspeakers

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Every year during the annual conference, the GIMUN has the pleasure of receiving eminent keynote speakers in all committees. Experts in their respective fields, these speakers give participants a head start in the negotiations. In 2007, the following personalities honored us with their presence. The GIMUN would like to extend its gratitude to them.

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## **Prof. Andrew Clapham**

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International Studies. Mr Clapham spoke in the GIMUN Human Rights Council on the current human rights issues of the “Universal Periodic Review” and on “Human Rights and Sexual Orientation.”



## **Ms Imogen Foulkes**

BBC correspondent in Switzerland and at the UN in Geneva. Ms Foulkes spoke for the journalists of GIMUNews about her experience of “Being a correspondent at the UNOG”



## **Dr. Hans-Peter Gasser**

Former Delegate and Senior Legal Adviser to the ICRC. Mr Gasser spoke in the GIMUN Security Council on the issue of “Imposing collective economic sanctions - on limits by international humanitarian law”



## **Dr. Mustapha Kamal Gueye**

Senior Program Manager, Environment Cluster of the ICTSD. Mr Kamal Gueye spoke in the GIMUN Economic and Social Council on „Making the Multilateral Trading System Supportive of the Transition to a Sustainable Energy Future“

**Prof. Marcelo Kohen**

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International Studies.. Mr Kohen spoke in the GIMUN International Court of Justice (ICJ) on “International Law, State responsibility and self-defence”

**Mr José Riera**

UNHCR Senior Policy Advisor, Department of International Protection. Mr Riera a parlé pour le GIMUN UNCHR sur “L'importance de distinguer les réfugiés des migrants”

**Mr Marc Wood**

Chief of Security United Nations Office at Geneva. Mr Wood spoke in the GIMUN Peacebuilding Commission on “Problems of peacekeeping operations”

**Mr Jerzy Zalesky**

Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Conference on Disarmament. Mr Zalesky spoke in the GIMUN Conference on Disarmament on „A new perspective for the CD; discussing challenges of PAROS and NSA“

# Interprétation & Traduction

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Le rôle des interprètes est souvent oublié. Depuis son existence, le GIMUN est fier de travailler en bilingue. Ceci nous permet d'expérimenter quelques uns des problèmes qui se posent même à la vrai ONU.

Au Gimun, les interprètes sont toujours une énigme. On a plutôt tendance à oublier ou négliger leur rôle, jusqu'au moment où l'on les voit à l'action. C'est à ce moment que l'on saisit toute leur importance. Les interprètes sont un maillon fondamental de la communication. On pourrait aller jusqu'à dire que sans eux, il n'y a pas de conférence. Monter une équipe d'interprète pour le GIMUN, c'était tout un défi. Je n'avais jamais fait cela auparavant. Il fallait trouver 12 étudiants-interprètes, disponibles, d'horizons différents et souhaitant participer bénévolement à l'événement. Les secrétaires généraux et les responsables de la sélection se faisaient un sang d'encre. Quels allaient être mes critères

de sélection? Comment allais-je gérer l'afflux de candidatures? En réalité, le monde des interprètes est bien différent de celui des délégués en termes de recrutement et ce qui me préoccupait c'était surtout de savoir où j'allais bien pouvoir les trouver ! En effet, le problème principal du chef interprète au Gimun relève plutôt de la pénurie d'interprètes que de surnombre de candidatures. Heureusement, l'ancienne chef interprète avait déjà bien débroussaillé l'affaire. Lorsque j'ai pris la relève, les contacts avec les écoles étaient déjà établis, il ne restait plus qu'à relancer le processus. Nous avons ainsi accueilli cette année de brillantes étudiantes de Westminster, de l'ESIT et de l'ISIT à Paris, ainsi que de l'ETI à Genève. Nous n'avions pas tout à fait assez d'étudiantes pour couvrir les cabines. Mais grâce à leur remarquable patience et à leur flexibilité, tout s'est très bien déroulé. Les délégués étaient ravis! ■

Cindy Barbara  
Head of interpreters



# Impressions from participants

The participants of the annual conference are important to carry the message of the GIMUN away from Geneva and throughout the world. They are our biggest capital, and we are proud to have such high quality ambassadors, delegates and journalists each year. On the next two pages, they get their say. From five continents, these young people have participated in the GIMUN annual conference 2007. We would like to thank them for their efforts, and the time they took to describe what GIMUN means to them.

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«Expect the unexpected. That quote is used liberally in the field of international relations, but it was only at GIMUN did I realize how wonderfully true it is. I expected to write resolutions, conduct negotiations and participate in discussions on the topics at hand. What I didn't expect was the scope of the life changing week that was GIMUN. The resolutions, negotiations and speeches from all of the participants were of the highest quality. I learned about everything from how the UN works to how people from different cultures negotiate to how to handle an international crisis with people from all over the world who are passionate and dedicated to creating a better world. Never in my life have I been so convinced that our generation is capable of changing the world, issue by issue with fervor and unrelenting drive. I owe GIMUN for all of the unexpected moments that made me confident in my future and the future of my generation.»

Elaine Banner (United States), Ambassador of Japan

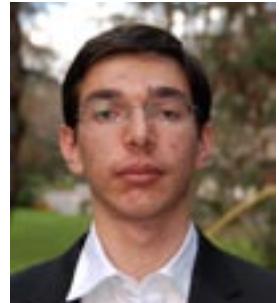
«After attending a United Nations programme at the Palais des Nations in July 2006, I had very high expectations for GIMUN 2007, and I was not let down. GIMUN is a must for any student wishing to gain an understanding of the processes of the United Nations and of diplomacy or interested in working in the domain of international politics. The highlight for me was the think tank session and the special presentation from the International Centre for Trade and Development. Overall the week programme was enlightening and an excellent learning experience. Like for many participants, the GIMUN programme has helped to shape my future career. It was certainly worth the long journey from Australia.»

Stan Karanasios (Australia), Mexico in the ECOSOC



*«My participation in the GIMUN annual conference opened me the world of the United Nations, a variety of its activities, including the work of a journalist in international organizations. It was a valuable experience for me as a citizen of Ukraine. After homecoming I gave numerous interviews for radio and the TV, covering events of the GIMUN annual conference. I believe that the results of the conference team will help the GIMUN to receive the consultative status with ECOSOC. I'm sincerely grateful to all participants, organizers and sponsors of GIMUN-2007.»*

George Riabyi (Ukraine), Journalist in the Conference on Disarmament

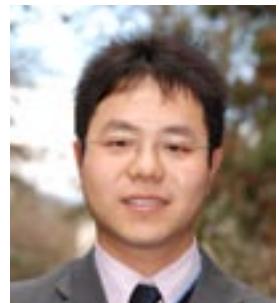


*«j'avais déjà de nombreuses expériences de rencontres étudiantes, notamment des concours de plaidoiries. Mais c'était mon premier MUN, qui a dépassé mes plus folles espérances. Le comité d'organisation a fait un job formidable, les étudiants participants très enthousiastes ont rendu cette rencontre particulièrement stimulante entre curiosité, exigence et métissage. J'ai beaucoup aimé ce bouillon de cultures de jeunes venant du monde entier. Ce que j'ai le plus apprécié, c'était qu'en plus du côté "académique" du GIMUN, il y avait des activités sociales. Cela permettait de prolonger les débats intellectuels des sessions de travail avec des activités moins formelles. Une véritable mise en pratique du "work hard, play hard"!»*

Salwa Mohamed Saleh (Tchad), Afrique du Sud au Conseil des droits de l'homme

*«The last chill seemed not to fade in Geneva at the beginning of March, however, grand halls in Untied Nations Building were full of warmth and passion which were brought by 200 young delegates all over the world. As a delegate from China and sponsored by GIMUN, I feel so honoured and pleased to be involved in the conference, because it is the best MUN activity that I have ever participated in. GIMUN is a real stage for the dream of broadening international horizons and perspectives and for improving international friendship. These dreams were fulfilled during my participation in the conference.»*

Yang Xu (China), Nigeria in the Human Rights Council



# Financial performance 2007

Statement of Financial Performance for the Accounting Year ended April 30, 2007 (in CHF)

<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Revenues</b>	
Gimunews 2006	1'051.00	Contributions of members	24.00
Teambuilding and Education	1'370.25	Sponsoring	92'694.37
		Bank Interests	25.50
<u>Communication</u>			
Phone bills	1'161.95		
Correspondence	506.50		
Printing and Publications	5'070.99		
Web page	4'401.60		
Merchandising	6'036.90		
Promotion ECOSOC Consultative Status	5'014.80		
Bank Charges	168.60		
<u>Annual Conference</u>			
Logistics (annual conference)		Participation Fees (annual conference)	25'324.00
Material	794.95		
Logistics Palais	4'980.00		
Transport	434.90		
Amortizations	900.00		
Social Events	28'012.70		
<u>Meals</u>			
Palais des Nations	25'405.60		
HEI	3'610.00		
Scholarships	8'854.37		
Surplus	20'292.76		
<b>Total</b>	<b>118'067.87</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>118'067.87</b>

# Financial Position April 2007

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Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, 2007 (in CHF)

Assets		Liabilities	
<u>Current assets</u>			
Capital	51'148.39	Current liabilities	6'505.63
Grants receivable	9'200.00	Reserves	37'450.00
		Surplus	20'292.76
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Fixed assets	3'900.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>64'248.39</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>64'248.39</b>

## Comments on the Balance Sheet

On the 20th of July 2007, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted Special Consultative Status to the GIMUN. The collaboration with this major UN body not only has implications for the conceptual and operational dimension of our association, but also on our finances and fundraising. Until recently, the GIMUN was essentially a student committee organizing one yearly conference at the Palais des Nations. At present, the situation is fundamentally different. We are in the process of becoming a veritable institution that organizes events during the whole year. On the financial account, this entails a more important expenditure on the daily business and a restructuring of our fundraising policy. The GIMUN will have to separate the spending on the annual conference from disbursements on day-to-day operations and minor events during the year.

At the General Assembly held on 2 May 2007, the members of the GIMUN association agreed on the modifications outlined above and charged the new Executive Committee to design a new policy related to these financial matters. In order to facilitate the transformation to a more complex institution, our executive members decided to preserve funds for the day-to-day business related to the Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC. Furthermore, a reserve has been kept to serve as an initial input for the annual conference 2008. Of course, we will keep our sponsors updated about these matters. ■

Simon Hirsbrunner & Tamara Hardegger  
Organization & Finance and Fundraising GIMUN  
2007

# The new Executive Committee

On May 2nd the new Executive Committee was elected at the GIMUN annual general assembly. The Executive Committee has been enlarged to 8 members by a responsible for Media & Publication. Together they will work to renew the success of the annual conference and work to enhance the impact of the GIMUN through its new status.

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From left to right (back row, front row):

Dominik Knieriemen, Logistics  
[logistics@gimun.org](mailto:logistics@gimun.org)

Kaspar Paur, President  
[kaspar.paur@gimun.org](mailto:kaspar.paur@gimun.org)

Caterina Luciani, Co-Secretary General  
[caterina.luciani@gimun.org](mailto:caterina.luciani@gimun.org)

Raphael Vogel, Secretary General  
[raphael.vogel@gimun.org](mailto:raphael.vogel@gimun.org)

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Elladina Dibra, Fundraising & Finance  
[elladina.dibra@gimun.org](mailto:elladina.dibra@gimun.org)



# Partners of the GIMUN

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## Département des affaires étrangères

Sur mandat du gouvernement fédéral, le Département des affaires étrangères (DFAE) coordonne les activités de politique extérieure de la Suisse. Il veille à ce que les objectifs fixés dans la Constitution soient mis en œuvre en une politique extérieure cohérente. La sauvegarde des intérêts de la Suisse est ainsi efficacement assurée.

✉ <http://www.eda.admin.ch>



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

## Loterie Romande

La Loterie Romande a pour mission d'organiser des loteries dans la stricte observation des lois et règlements cantonaux et fédéraux suisses. Les six cantons romands autorisent l'exploitation de la Loterie Romande et reçoivent la totalité de ses bénéfices selon une clé de répartition définie. Ces bénéfices sont entièrement consacrés au soutien d'institutions d'utilité publique romandes, à caractère social, culturel, environnemental, de recherche et de protection du patrimoine.

✉ <http://www.entradaide.ch>

Avec le soutien de la  
 Loterie Romande

## Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Created in 1927, the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) is, in accordance with its statutes an institution intended to provide to students of all nations the means of undertaking and pursuing international studies, most notably of an historic, judicial, economic, political and social nature. It thus fulfils an instruction and research role in the areas listed above through multi- and trans-disciplinary approaches, developed since its creation.

✉ <http://www.hei.unige.ch>





Fondation pour Genève

### **Fondation pour Genève**

Constituée en 1976, la Fondation pour Genève est un organisme privé, reconnu d'utilité publique, dont le but est de contribuer au rayonnement de Genève, tant en Suisse qu'à l'étranger. La Fondation pour Genève suscite et soutient toute initiative en faveur d'une Genève attrayante, carrefour de manifestations de haut niveau, dont l'accueil, l'accès et la sécurité constituent des atouts majeurs.

☞ <http://www.fondationpourgenève.ch>



### **Fondation Hans Wilsdorf**

### **L'Association Suisse-Nations unies (ASNU)**

L'Association Suisse-Nations unies (ASNU) existe depuis les années 1920 lorsque la Suisse faisait partie de la Société des Nations! L'ASNU a mené la longue campagne pour l'adhésion du pays aux NU par un vote populaire couronné de succès en 2002. Aujourd'hui elle contribue à une meilleure connaissance de l'ONU dans la société civile suisse et à la formulation de la politique suisse à l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies.

☞ <http://www.schweiz-uno.ch>



### **Commission de Gestion des Taxes Fixes**

La Commission des Taxes Fixes (CGTF) gère la part des taxes universitaire destinée à soutenir les activités des associations d'étudiantEs et d'assistantEs à l'Université de Genève.

☞ <http://www.unige.ch/taxes>

## Banque Pictet

Founded in 1805 in Geneva, Pictet & Cie is one of Switzerland's foremost private banks. From its two centuries-old heritage of banking tradition, Pictet has retained its corporate status as a private partnership. This unique form of organisation means that the nine Managing Partners not only provide Pictet's capital but also pledge their entire personal assets against the Bank's liabilities. Today, the Bank has grown into an international group with offices or entities in the major financial centres worldwide.

☞ <http://www.pictet.ch>



## Swiss Baltic Net

With the Swiss Baltic Net program, the GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG supports the forging of academic relations between Switzerland and the three Baltic states. The focus of the support is geared toward the new academic generation from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with stipends for congresses, study and research stays.

☞ <http://www.grstiftung.ch>

— GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG —  
WISSENSCHAFT.BEWEGEN

## Faculté des sciences économiques et sociales

Fondée en 1915, la Faculté des sciences économiques et sociales de l'Université de Genève fut l'une des premières d'Europe à réunir les principales disciplines des sciences économiques et des sciences sociales. Ce caractère pluridisciplinaire, qui l'a marquée dès sa création, se manifeste à travers le large éventail des disciplines qu'elle enseigne et des titres qu'elle délivre, ainsi que par la diversité des recherches effectuées sous sa responsabilité.

☞ <http://www.unige.ch/ses>



SCHWEIZERISCHE STUDIENSTIFTUNG  
 FONDAZIONE SVIZZERA DEGLI STUDI  
 FONDATION SUISSE D'ÉTUDES  
 FUNDAZIONE SVIZRA DA STUDIIS

### **The Swiss Study Foundation**

The Swiss Study Foundation is a private institution of public benefit, which is active at the Swiss universities and universities of applied science since 1991. It supports talented students, whose personality, creativity and intellectual interest indicate future performance in the fields of science, economy, culture and politics. The goal of the Swiss Study Foundation is to support personalities, who are able and want to take responsibility in all the domains of our society.

✉ <http://www.studienstiftung.ch>



### **Student Association Committee**

The SAC is the Student Association Committee of the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) in Geneva, Switzerland. SAC represents the students vis-à-vis the institute and its authorities. With the inscription at HEI, every student is automatically member of SAC. The goal of the association is to strengthen relations between students of the institute, to develop their social and academic activities and to ease international comprehension and friendship.

✉ <http://www.unige.ch/ieug/>



### **World Federation of the United Nations Associations**

A peoples' movement in support of the United Nations. The mission of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is to inform, sustain and energize a global network of the United Nations Associations (UNA) to support the principles and programs of the United Nations and to help shape its agenda.

✉ <http://www.wfuna.org>



