



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2012



GIMUN Annual Report 2012

Rapport d'Activité du GIMUN 2012

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[FOREWORD BY THE BOARD]



L'année a commencé, en septembre 2011, avec la participation au Welcome Days, trois jours d'intégration pour les nouveaux étudiants de l'université de Genève. Durant ces trois jours, GIMUN a pu faire la promotion de ses événements et recruter de nombreux participants pour ses activités. Avec l'IHEID, GIMUN a organisé une journée de simulation des Nations-Unies pour les participants au Winter Programme.

Du point de vue de nos activités, nous avons comme traditionnellement, célébré la signature de la charte des Nations-Unies au mois d'octobre. Nous avons abordé la question du terrorisme, de l'intégration de la Suisse à l'ONU, du printemps arabe et de la famine dans la corne de l'Afrique. Consacré comme un programme permanent pour les étudiants des différentes universités genevoises, MUN Society a réuni une quarantaine d'entre eux tout au long de l'année. L'objectif de ce programme est de susciter l'intérêt pour les simulations des Nations-Unies avec des sessions de deux heures par semaines à l'université de Genève. Simulant l'Assemblée Générale durant le semestre d'automne les participants ont discuté du sujet de l'intégration de la Palestine comme membre permanent des Nations-Unies, puis durant le semestre de printemps c'est le conflit en mer de Chine qui a été abordé.

L'événement majeur de notre année fût bien évidemment la conférence annuelle. Axée sur le thème de la diversité culturelle, elle a réuni une fois de plus près de 250 jeunes au Palais des Nations. Vous trouverez entre les pages et les rapports des différents comités et des témoignages de participants.

L'année dernière, le statut consultatif auprès du Conseil Economique et Social a pris toute son importance avec l'organisation d'un « Side Event » durant la revue ministérielle de l'ECOSOC. Cette année, la conférence Rio+20 donnait l'opportunité à GIMUN d'utiliser à nouveau son statut consultatif. Dans le cadre de cette conférence, nous avons organisé Youth Perspectives sur le sujet de l'environnement. Près de 50 jeunes se sont réunis pour aborder les thèmes de : la décroissance comme hypothétique solution à la protection de la nature, les faiblesses des sociétés modernes face aux catastrophes naturelles et finalement le futur de la connaissance traditionnelle.

Le début de l'année 2012-2013 sera très important, la Suisse fêtera en effet ses 10ans d'adhésion aux Nations-Unies. C'est pourquoi la mission de GIMUN n'a jamais été autant d'actualité, sans l'aide de nos partenaires nous ne serions pas capables d'organiser tous ces événements. A travers ce message nous souhaitons remercier tous nos partenaires pour leur aide généreuse.

Le comité 2011-2012:

Alessia Anghileri, Fanny Charmey, Fanta Kaoutar Camara, Gretel Lahmann, Yusra Suedi, Nicolas Vetterli.

[PRÉFACE DU CHEF DU DFAE]



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De par son caractère universel, l'Organisation des Nations Unies demeure l'unique forum mondial susceptible de trouver des solutions aux problèmes planétaires. Cette universalité fait sa force, mais les processus et les décisions qui en découlent sont parfois mal compris. Le Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) représente une opportunité unique pour les jeunes de se confronter à cette universalité ainsi qu'aux défis et aux réalités de la diplomatie multilatérale. Une telle expérience ne peut que se révéler bénéfique.

Le bien-fondé et le succès du GIMUN, après treize ans d'existence, ne sont plus à démontrer et nous pouvons nous en réjouir. D'une part, car le GIMUN est l'occasion pour les participants de faire leurs premières armes en matière de diplomatie. D'autre part, car il fait pleinement partie de la Genève internationale et participe à sa promotion.

Je tiens à adresser mes sincères félicitations à l'association GIMUN pour son engagement dans la sensibilisation aux activités onusiennes et dans la promotion du multilatéralisme, thèmes qui sont chers à la Suisse. Et je lui souhaite d'ores et déjà plein succès pour l'année prochaine.

*Didier Burkhalter
Conseiller fédéral
Chef du Département fédéral des affaires étrangères*

THE GIMUN TEAM

Executive Board

Nicolas Vetterli - President
Gretel Lahmann - Vice President
Yusra Suedi - Public Relations Director
Fanta Camara - Finance & Fundraising Director
Fanny Charmey - Secretary General of the Annual Conference
Alessia Anghileri - Secretary General of the Annual Conference

GIMUN Project Department

Moritz Hentschel - MUN Society Director
Laura Navarro-Lacroix - MUN Society Co-Director (Fall semester)
Jazmin Crespo - MUN Society Co-Director (Spring semester)
Andrin Eichin - Youth Perspectives Manager
Ludivine Candiotti - Youth Perspectives Manager
Elsa Gonay - Youth Perspectives logistics
Eve Burger - Youth Perspectives logistics
Miyuko Ashida - Youth Perspectives logistics
Laurel Rasmus - Youth Perspectives Public Relations
Diego Camacho - Youth Perspectives Recruitment
Aleksandar Stojanov - Youth Perspectives Recruitment
Caroline Renold - Youth Perspectives Chairperson
Jacopo Ograbek - Youth Perspectives Chairperson
Jannik Boehm - Youth Perspectives Chairperson
Gretel Lahmann - Youth Perspectives Chairperson
Laura Navarro-Lacroix - Youth Perspectives Chairperson

Faraz Merchant - Youth Perspectives Chairperson

Annual Conference

Rafaella Tsertsidou - Under Secretary General of Committee Management
Natalie Filandrianou - Under Secretary General of Committee Liaison
Antoine Bovon - Under Secretary General of Human Resources
Margaux Pinaud - Under Secretary General of Human Resources
Marc-André Siegrist - Under Secretary General of Human Resources
Ian Florin - Under Secretary General of Press
Fanny Rannaud - Under Secretary General of Press
Lorene Metral - Under Secretary General of Logistics
Ines Blondel - Under Secretary General of Logistics
Sophie Kersuzan - Under Secretary General of Translation
Gaspar Obregon - Under Secretary General of Interpretation
Caroline Neithardt - Under Secretary General of Social Events
Andres Gennai - Under Secretary General of Social Events
Cécile Pilot - Chairperson of the Security Council
Alexander Becker - Liaison Officer of the Security Council
Okan Uzun - Chairperson of the Human Rights Council
Dora Rencoret - Liaison Officer of the Human Rights Council
Katja Knöcgelmann - Chairperson of the Gen-

eral Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal)
Valentina Pascale - Liaison Officer of the General Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal)
Heinrich Nolte - Chairperson of the United Nations Development Program
Sandrine Chabbey - Liaison Officer of the United Nations Development Program
Ronja Harder - Chairperson of the General Assembly Third Committee (SOCHUM)
Christina Joss - Liaison Officer of the General Assembly Third Committee (SOCHUM)
Joseph Kahinda - Chairperson of the Economic & Social Council
Friederike Seifert - Liaison Officer of the Economic & Social Council

Public Relations Department

Yusra Suedi - Public Relations Director
Simona Tzompova - Public Relations Assistant
Alexander Kraev - Creative Director
Riccardo Bussmann - Regional Ambassadors Coordinator
Diana Gangichiodo - Press Responsible
Sarah Mettraux - Translator
Bryn Skibo - Photographer
Frank Mayne - Photographer
Ioan Nicolau - Photographer

Finance & Fundraising Department

Fanta Camara - Finance & Fundraising Director
David Dizerens - Finance & Fundraising Co-Director
Céline Castiglione - Assistant
Ludmila Azo - Assistant
Lina Sandoval Maria - Assistant
Esther Melull - Assistant.

The Board 2012-2013

On the 19th of May 2012, the new GIMUN board was elected by the General Assembly. The highest organ of the GIMUN association will be composed of six young and motivated students from very different backgrounds. All new Board members have expressed their commitment to the cause and have already begun their work. We trust their ability to take GIMUN to the highest of its potential during the coming year.

- **President: Yusra Suedi**

- **Vice President: Maeva Cherpillod**

- **Public Relations Director: Fanny Rannaud**

- **Finance & Fundraising Director: Aleksandar Stojanov**

- **Secretary-General of the Annual Conference: Fanny Charmey**

- **Secretary General of the Annual Conference: Alessia Anghileri**



13
SUCCESSFUL YEARS

AND COUNTING

**THE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

[A WORD FROM THE SECRETARIES GENERAL]



La treizième édition de la Conférence Annuelle organisé par GIMUN a été une expérience enrichissante autant pour les participants que pour les membres du staff. Une équipe d'étudiants a travaillé avec motivation et enthousiasme pendant neuf mois pour organiser au mieux et préparer cette Conférence. Le staff regroupait une quinzaine de personnes, qui étaient en charge de domaines bien particuliers. Ainsi, non seulement les capacités logistiques des organisateurs ont été grandement améliorées par cette expérience, mais la structure de GIMUN a permis également de renforcer nos qualités de leadership. En effet, la réussite de la Conférence tient non seulement dans une répartition claire et équitable des tâches, la délégation du travail y est donc un aspect important, mais également dans le suivi de ces dernières, afin que la qualité de la Conférence Annuelle de GIMUN soit maintenue.

Chaque année nous essayons d'améliorer les performances de l'année précédente afin d'offrir une simulation de plus en plus authentique et de qualité. Les changements internes qui ont été faits cette année concernent les noms de certaines positions et la structure du staff. Nous avons voulu restructurer le staff et les noms des positions pour donner plus de cohérence à la structure de la Conférence Annuelle. En particulier, nous avons changé le nom des secrétaires de comité, en agents de liaison puisque nous avons décidé de donner plus de responsabilités aux membres du secrétariat dans les différents comités et commissions. Leur rôle n'était plus purement logistique mais ils s'occupaient aussi du contenu.

L'édition 2012 du Geneva Model of United Nations a regroupé plus de 250 étudiants universitaires pour une semaine de débats dans le Palais des Nations. Le thème choisi pour lancer les débats dans les différents comités était rejoindre le dialogue et le développement à travers la diversité culturelle. Ce thème a été choisi suite à l'introduction par l'UNESCO en 2011 de cette journée dans le calendrier onusien, et nous nous sommes efforcés que chacun de comités discutent de thème autour de cette problématique principale. Les comités choisis pour la simulation 2012 sont le Conseil Economique et Social, le Conseil de Droits de l'Homme, le Conseil de Sécurité, le Sixième comité de l'Assemblée Générale, et dans l'éditions 2012 en fonction du thème choisi pour la Conférence, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement et le Troisième comité de l'Assemblée Générale.

Bien que la Conférence Annuelle soit basée sur le principe de la simulation de comités et de débats onusiens, principe auquel nous sommes très attachés, nous pensons également qu'une préparation, introduction et discussions des thèmes choisis est nécessaire. Les participants ont donc reçu des guides d'étude visant à améliorer et mettre à niveau leurs connaissances des différents sujets, ainsi qu'un liste de lecture, tous deux préalablement à la Conférence, ainsi de permettre des discussions approfondies. Cette année, nous avons particulièrement insisté sur la matière, plus que sur un renouveau de la forme de la Conférence. Ainsi, nous n'avons apporté que de minimes changements au règlement intérieur. En revanche, chaque secteur de la Conférence a reçu la visite d'un à deux spécialistes. De plus, afin d'assurer le réalisme de la Conférence, et également de pouvoir présenter tous les métiers qui mènent au succès d'une conférence internationale, la Conférence Annuelle de GIMUN est une conférence bilingue, et nous avons donc eu des équipes d'étudiants qui ont interprété les débats dans le différents comités et traduits les résolutions afin de favoriser la communication entre les participants. Des étudiants journalistes ont créé aussi un petit journal quotidien pour rendre comptes des activités des différents comités. Au final, les participants représentant des pays ont assisté à des conférences thématiques, alors que les traducteurs, interprètes et journalistes, eux aussi des étudiants, ont pu s'entretenir avec des officiels onusiens, et ainsi créer des contacts importants pour leur futur métier.

La générosité et le soutien de nos sponsors partenaires nous ont permis de réaliser cette Conférence et grâce à eux nous avons pu constituer un fond de solidarité pour aider financièrement des étudiants à participer à la simulation. Enfin, un merci particulier va aussi aux membres du staff qui nous ont assisté tout au long de cette année et participants qui contribuent tous au succès et à la renommée de GIMUN.

Alessia Anghileri et Fanny Charmey

Secrétaires-Généraux de la Conférence Annuelle 2012.

RECRUITMENT



When it comes to recruitment, most of the work has to be done before the conference. As the amount of work is considerable, good timing, teamwork and effective communication is crucial. GIMUN not only recruits delegates, but a wide range of participants (journalists, ambassadors, bloc representatives) who have to possess a great number of skills to qualify for the positions offered. Therefore, our team had to split the recruitment process in two:

Antoine recruited the Ambassadors and Bloc Representatives while Marc-André and Margaux recruited the Delegates. Considering the high number of applications, each one of us also had to help participants with their visa applications and coordinate with the finance department so as to manage the Solidarity Fund, which offers financial aid to participants in need. All in all, we received 390 applications, selected 165 delegates, 6 ambassadors and 12 bloc representatives from over 49 different nationalities and sent over 45 visa invitation letters to embassies and delegates. This separation of tasks allowed us to work more efficiently and truly evaluate each application in depth. We however still relied on each other when hesitation arose about possible participants and which position would best suit them, so communication was an essential part of our work.

Faced with the impossibility to meet applicants in person, we had to rely on the documents handed in and take balanced decisions between our instinct and carefully defined standards such as experience, motivation, dynamism, leadership, creativity, openness and general interest for international affairs.

As a good collaboration was needed in order to handle the considerable amount of work, we heavily relied on emails, "Google Docs" and a wide range of other tools which demonstrates that working in teams in the 21st century does not necessarily require physical presence in one room. The most significant part of our work consisted in creating detailed lists in order to reduce the complexity we faced and keep an overview of the over 300 applications received.

Not only did we have to function inside the recruitment team but also within the organizational team of the conference. We had the chance to work with a professional group of people which made our work easier and motivated us on a daily basis for the GIMUN experience.

The success of such a prestigious conference has to be built on motivated and stress-

resistant young people who work for common goals: promoting intercultural exchange, giving active youth a platform to express itself and gain a precious insight on dynamics of international politics. But most of all we had to make sure that GIMUN's high standards were maintained by choosing the most committed participants. In the end, the conference was a big success and the participants not only met our high expectations, they exceeded them through their hard work, commitment, motivation and good spirit.

Working as a staff member for the GIMUN annual conference has given us an interesting insight into the organization of such a big event, and was a truly enriching experience not only for our academic and professional future, but also allowed us to meet hundreds of students from all around the world who share similar goals and principles. We would highly recommend working in the Human Resources department for GIMUN; it is an experience that can never be forgotten!

*Antoine Bovon
Marc-André Siegrist
Margaux Pinaud*

*Under Secretaries-General for
Human Resources GIMUN 2012.*

390

APPLICATIONS

165 DELEGATES

12 BLOC REPS

6 AMBASSADORS



49

NATIONALITIES

45

VISA
INVITATION
LETTERS



GIULIA BRUNI ROCCIA

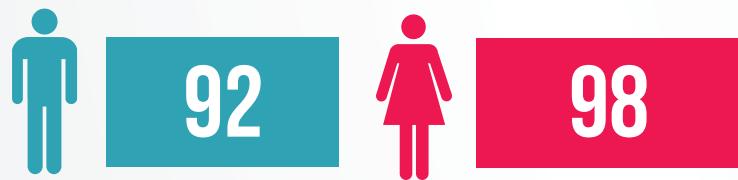
"This was only my second MUN experience, and it definitely blew my mind! The role I had was different from the previous one (I was a Bloc Representative), which made this MUN more interesting and exciting. Being in the Palais des Nations just added to the amazingness of the conference; being in the building where so many historical events took and still take place was quite overwhelming! The conference was very well organized, and I was able to meet some really bright, cool, funny and interesting people, with whom I shared some happy and funny memories between corridors, conference rooms, coffee-breaks, strolls in the park, and socials! I will definitely apply again next year!"



FAWAD ALI LANGAH

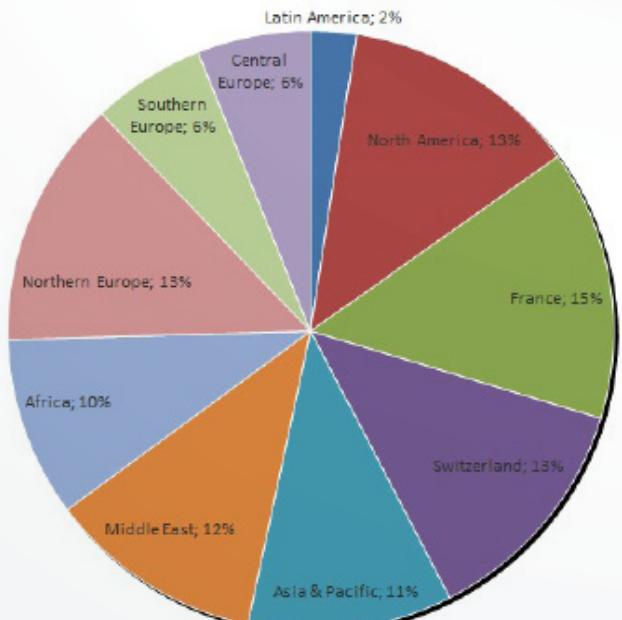
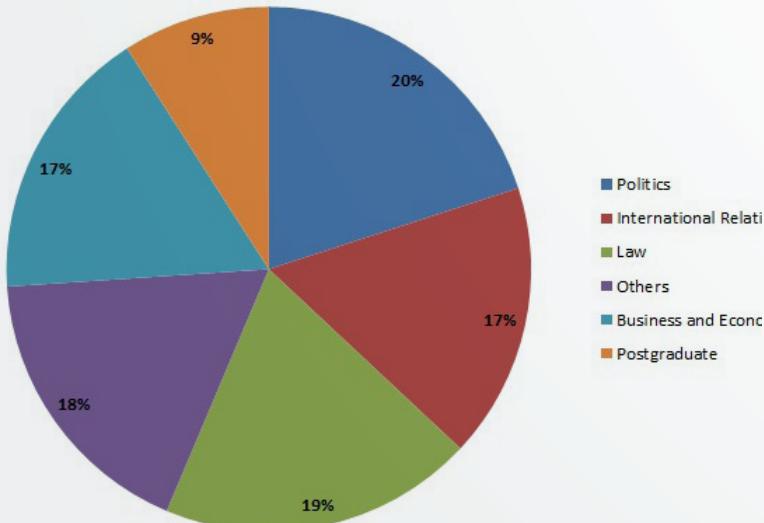
"I am very thankful that GIMUN has helped me fulfill my dream. It was a dream come true being in the real United Nations. There is no doubt that the arrangement and cooperation of each and every GIMUN team member was too kind and I am especially thankful that they granted me financial aid. I was at first expecting global aid but they granted me accommodation and registration exemption. Let me tell you; I am already anticipating GIMUN 2013 very much. This time, I hope to apply to be a committee director, and I hope that GIMUN will invite me again and grant me global aid!"

STATS



Where did the GIMUN 2012 participants come from?

What are the GIMUN 2012 participants studying at university?



THE SECURITY COUNCIL



"Honorable days, fellow delegates, this is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind... let it be something good". With these words of the chairperson, the 2012 session of the GIMUN Security Council started an intense week of debates. The committee was more than ever determined to submit new resolutions about the agenda: Ethnic Diversity provoking Conflicts in Kosovo and Counter Terrorist Insurrections in India.

Thanks to the study guide we wrote for our delegates and the GIMUN workshops, we all received a good preparation on the topics background and the rules of procedure. The challenge for the Security Council, in particular, was to discuss and negotiate incorporating intercultural dialogue more fully into our efforts to maintain international peace and security. Many Member States of our committee had ample experience in the problems that can ensue from cross-cultural tensions and perception of injustice. They understood that local challenges could spill over borders.

Aware that any resolution voted by the Security Council is binding and stronger than simple recommendations, requires at least nine votes in favor and no veto of the Permanent Member States, the delegates worked on the first topic during more than three days: Ethnic Diversity provoking Conflicts in Kosovo. This issue was particularly burning because all the Security Council ambassadors did not agree on the international recognition of Kosovo whereas this

country proclaimed its independence (unilaterally) four years ago. Our delegates submitted two working papers but finally they merged into one draft resolution because of great similarities in the measures to contribute significantly to prevention of inter-ethnic violence in Kosovo. The committee as a whole was proud to announce that resolution S/RES/1/2012 passed unanimously! Our ambassadors provided interesting solutions regarding the rule of law and borders. Reaffirming that the Security Council resolution 1244 has to be respected by international missions, they decided to prolong the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for a period of 4 years until September 30th 2016. They also urged international organizations to strengthen their efforts and focus on these points:



increasing the positive development of the security in the region and the protection of minorities; increasing the economic and social development; strengthening the rule of law. The European Union was encouraged to contribute to the pursuance of the negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo under the mediation of EULEX mission.

Due to the respect of the agenda order and the presence of both Pakistan and India in the Security Council, the second topic, Counter

Terrorist Insurrections in India, was unfortunately discussed during the last day of the Annual Conference. However, we received an honorable and very complete presentation of a Guest Speaker. Dr Prem Mahadevan, a senior researcher at the Center for Security Studies (CSS), met us on 23th March. Following his visit, our Member States started discussing the different challenges of terrorism in India, particularly: increasing the police forces in India; strengthening information services and cooperation between regions; developing coastal security.

Even if we did not have time to pass a resolution on the second matter, the Security Council probably realized that sometimes it is better to privilege the destabilizing risk of controversy than systematically looking for unanimous consensus. In our committee, differences of points of view were never diabolized as a sociopathic danger and we encouraged the principle of "necessary conflicts" in diplomatic negotiations.

Cecile Pilot - Security Council Chairperson.

Alexander Becker - Security Council Liaison Officer.

UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme of Geneva International Model United Nations 2012 discussed two challenging as well as very relevant topics during this year's session. The first debate concerned ending extreme poverty and hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. The discussions were intense and a block of developing and developed countries negotiated fiercely about which programmes were best suited to promote sustainable development on a continent which has suffered from mismanagement and corruption for decades. A highly enriching intervention by Prof. Arcand ensured that all participants were aware of the latest developments in the field and the committee produced one of the best resolutions of the conference.

The second topic concerned democratic Governance in the Middle East. With the valuable help of UNDP representative Adam Rogers, the committee managed to produce a high quality resolution under immense time pressure. Once again it was remarkable how involved all delegates were and how quickly they learned about difficult connections and processes in such a short time.

In the end, we can say that this conference was a success. We are very satisfied by the level of discussion and the involvement of our delegates on these two highly complex issues.

Heinrich Nolte (Chairperson)

Sandrine Chabbey (Liaison Officer)



LEGAL

The GIMUN Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, as well as the Sixth Committee of the real UN General Assembly, deals with legal matters, like the drafting and codification of international law. On the occasion of the 13th GIMUN Annual Conference, the Sixth Committee decided to focus on two very crucial topics whose legality has yet to be discussed from the standpoint of International law: "Pre-emptive Wars: Parameters & Legality under International Law in the 21st Century" and "The changing legal status of nations & people losing their homeland due to environmental changes: Drafting an International Response". The first topic to be discussed is "The changing legal status of nations & people losing their homeland due to environmental changes: Drafting an International Response". The delegates in the Sixth Committee decided to mainly focus on the first topic since it was of utmost interest and importance to some of the countries present in the committee, such as Kiribati or the Maldives. After coming up with almost twenty different definitions for environmental refugees, the committee finally came together and agreed on a resolution with almost unanimity. The resolution incorporated longterm as well as shortterm solutions, ranging from a legal definition to humanitarian aid for the victims of climate change. The second topic to be discussed, as obvious, is "Pre-emptive Wars: Parameters & Legality under International Law in the 21st Century".



In the UN Charter there is not a univocal and unequivocal interpretation of the concept of "preemptive wars" and States tend to interpret it on the basis of the values of their civilizations and cultures, ending up confusing it with "preventive wars". Reaching a consensus on the legality or the illegality of pre-emptive wars, therefore, becomes problematic. In order to give a univocal interpretation of them and determine their legality or illegality under International Law today, a true dialogue through cultural diversity should be achieved; and that is what delegates did. Even though no draft resolution passed, they worked hard to find a solution to this very controversial topic, by facing cultural diversity and respecting each States' culture and values.

Katja Knöcgelmann (Chairperson)

Valentina Pascale (Liaison Officer)

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



The Human Rights Council as a relatively young United Nations body has received a lot of public attention in the past years for its work. Its powers, however, are limited and the Council's main objective is to foster a constructive dialogue between States in order to increase transparency and to improve the respect for all human rights. In order to challenge our delegates to overcome not only their personal cultural differences but also the differences between their respective countries they represented, we chose two controversial topics, which were in line with the conference's overall topic 'Achieving Dialogue and Development through Cultural Diversity.' The topics discussed were 'Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' as well as 'Limits to Freedom of Speech.'

In the preparatory phase before the conference, it appeared that many of our delegates, many of whom participated in a MUN conference for the first time, needed some guidance in order to properly prepare for the simulation. Particularly difficult for many was to separate their personal views from the position of the country they represented.

Especially the first topic on 'Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' was particularly challenging. The firm position of many Middle Eastern and African States, who would not even engage in a discussion on a topic, which, in their opinion, would imply an imposition of western values on them, rendered a constructive debate almost impossible. Especially many European nations felt frustrated that the discussion could not go beyond the question of introducing the topic to the Human Rights Council. Nevertheless, due to intense lobbying of some European nations as well as some

representatives from Latin America and Africa, a minimal compromise was reached, which permitted many of the moderate Middle Eastern and African States to at least abstain from voting on the resolution. At the end of three days of intense debates a resolution passed with a slight majority. Inspired by the Yogyakarta Principles, the resolution defined many key terms such as sexual orientation and gender identity and explicitly recognized the application of fundamental human rights norms as for example non-discrimination to LGBT individuals. Given the firm opposition of the OIC, this was a great success and many delegates expressed their satisfaction with the outcome.

The second topic 'Limits to Freedom of Speech' was aimed at a more theoretical discussion on freedom of speech and its limitations. Although most nations formally guarantee freedom of speech, many impose excessive limitations under the pretext of national security. Our delegates set out to debate the permissibility of such limitations. Another aspect of freedom of speech that was addressed during our discussion was a topic dear to the OIC, namely religious defamation. For years the OIC has tried to introduce a resolution, which would call on Member States to protect religions from public criticism or ridicule. Strong division within the Council was inevitable. Delegates soon realized that the topic was very complex. The two blocks each wrote a first proposal of contradictory content. Unfortunately, due to time constraint, no consensus could be reached on a common draft resolution. Finally, with unanimity, the Council decided to not adopt a resolution that would not represent the opinion of the whole council and that was not sufficiently elaborated. Instead, Member States decided to issue a joint

statement, which summarized the few points they could agree on and which reiterated the will of all Member States to resume discussion on this very important topic in the future.

In summary, the Human Rights Council at the 2012 GIMUN Annual Conference engaged in an intense debate on two very controversial topics. The quality of debate was generally high and it was especially pleasing to see how many delegates who participated in a Model United Nations conference for the first time improved their comprehension of the rules of procedure and the topics as well as their public speaking skills and increasingly engaged in the simulation. For all the participants of our Council, including delegates, journalists, interpreters, liaison officer and chairperson, the week at the Palais de Nations was a great learning experience and judging by the feedback received after the conference, all participants left with the satisfaction of personal achievement and growth.

Okan Uzun (Chairperson)
Dora Rencoret (Liaison Officer)



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the United Nations' authority on international economic and social issues - a role that GIMUN '12 ECOSOC simulated very well albeit within the general conference theme, Achieving Dialogue and Development through Cultural Diversity. GIMUN '12 ECOSOC sought to tackle two matters deemed crucial to Economic and Social development; Multilateral Debt Relief and Sustainable Development through Microfinance.

After choosing the topics, we embarked on adequately preparing the delegates and ourselves for the conference and after months of virtually working with the organising team and other participants, the time we had all been waiting for finally arrived. It was Mid-March; it was time for GIMUN '12.

The first topic we discussed involved reviewing the implementation status of existing debt relief programmes and how these can be extended to apply to today's Euro Zone and other debt crises. As is usually the case in diplomatic deliberations, GIMUN '12 ECOSOC delegates had substantially differing opinions and interests with bloc allegiances being the major determining factor of a country's position. Hard diplomacy became the order of the day and in some extreme cases, deteriorated into rogue diplomacy. Each group took a hard stance for their proposals and though efforts to resolve this seemed vain at first, the stark divisions did not last too long; the third day saw a shift to decorated diplomacy and the four working papers merged into two draft resolutions only one of which passed.

Microfinance, on the other hand, saw ECOSOC delegates embrace a unity of purpose right from the onset. Delegates fashioned themselves to collectively work on one paper that echoed the cry of the committee and of the special speaker; we need sufficient empirical and quantitative information on the benefits, or otherwise, of Microfinance. With the widespread lack of empirical information and the air of mystery surrounding Microfinance, ECOSOC worked in the spirit of Resolution 52/194 of 1997 and ECOSOC Resolution 1998/28 of 2005, focussing most on policy framework and recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. Two working papers on this topic were amicably merged into one draft resolution proposing policies that included encouraging the observation of different cultural values in micro-finance approaches and encouraging the General Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal) to establish legal framework to facilitate Microfinance. This resolution enjoyed landmark support with those not fully supporting it opting to abstain rather than vote against it.

Through the first and the second topics, ECOSOC saw a gradual rise in the overall quality of deliberations which could be attributed to a reduction in the gap between experienced and non-experienced delegates with regard to confidence, understanding and diplomatic skill displayed. A new dawn had come in ECOSOC; debate had matured and there was a newfound zest for the game. Bloc positions were clear, country alliances very well brought out and thorough mastery of the technical aspects of the topics amongst the delegates of different academic

backgrounds was achieved. This transformation brought out the richness in diversity of ideas, culture and academic backgrounds among the motivated and spirited students of ECOSOC; a distinct richness which, without fail, delivered an inspiring, rewarding, and often amusing experience – one that was sustained by the ECOSOC terms of communication and association that guaranteed a good working environment; one pegged on respect and civility with decorum as the predominant driving force.

The GIMUN '12 ECOSOC experience was bolstered by a wonderful staff team without whom the experience really wouldn't have been anywhere near the same. Outstanding interpreters raised GIMUN's bilingual profile by ensuring seamless interpretation between English and French during the bilingual chairing sessions, a pair of dedicated journalists, if we may quote of one of them, "...gave their mind, body and soul..." in getting all the information on any happenings and catching on to all sorts of diplomacies present, ambassadors advised delegates on their positions and proposals and block representatives undoubtedly played a most important role in directing ECOSOC debate. We at ECOSOC loved and rocked the social events and the camaraderie bonds formed during the remarkable days spent in Room XVII of the Palais des Nations were nothing compared to the lasting friendships, networks gained and alliances forged while enjoying Geneva's social scene with other participants. However, in as much as we loved our play, we always remembered to work harder.

The group's Facebook page remains an active focal point on discussions relating to the topics and other matters, with recent discussions highlighting signs of a possible shift in power as was displayed during GIMUN '12 ECOSOC proceedings; whether ECOSOC could have foreseen this shift we will never know for sure. On remembering the GIMUN '12 ECOSOC experience barely a day after the conference, a delegate posted, "I will really miss those debates, notes flying around, Facebook chats about our proposals, the chair's Morgan Freeman-like tone of voice, the translators jokes, teasing 'China'... For GIMUN 2012 ECOSOC, put your hands up!! Put your hands up!!" and this expressed adequately what we then christened on the GIMUN '12 ECOSOC page, 'Post GIMUN Syndrome' - nostalgia for ECOSOC, nostalgia for GIMUN.

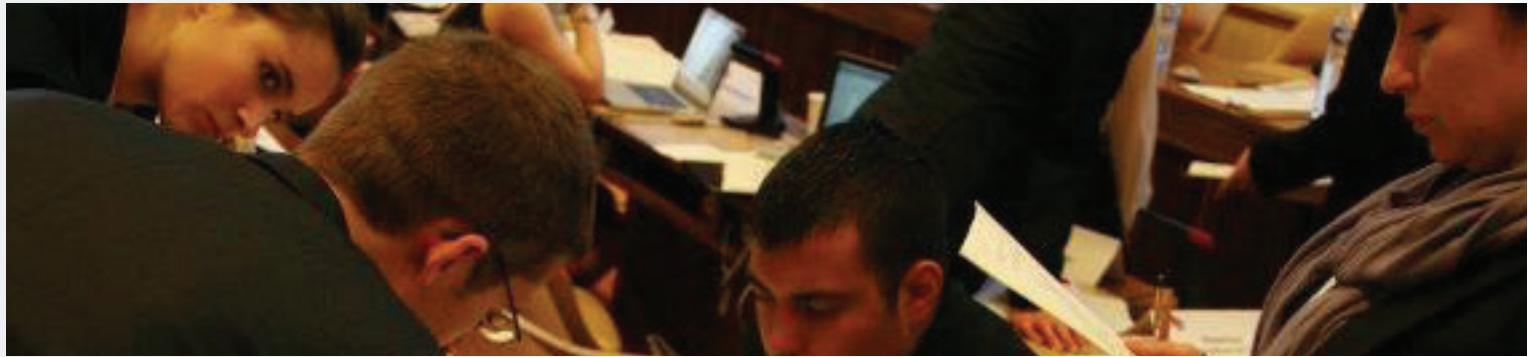
We longingly reminisce our times at the conference while going forth as a unified front that endeavours to collectively come up with solutions to pressing problems.

Till next time, for ECOSOC and for GIMUN, put your hands up! Put your hands up!!

Friederike Seifert, Liaison Officer

Joseph Kahinda, Chairperson.

3RD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Defamation of religion and the rights of indigenous peoples – undeniably these issues still are of utmost importance to the current international agenda, as shown by recent events. Consequently, the General Assembly 3rd Committee of the 13th annual GIMUN Conference took up a debate that was very intense from the beginning of the first working session. The delegates proved to be very passionate about those two issues from the moment they had to set the agenda. After having introduced and rejected a number of draft agendas, the discussion on the agenda was ended by the urging of some more pragmatic thinking delegates to save the arguments for the actual debate of each topic in order to give both issues the consideration they deserve. The General Assembly 3rd Committee continued the debate with the same enthusiasm during delivering their general statements, rejecting

several motions to limit individual speaker's time, showing how strongly the delegations felt about defamation of religion. This issue has been discussed at the United Nations for over a decade and is still very controversial. Hence, the debate quickly ran into a stalemate due to a "clash of rights": the states adhering to and allied with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation giving the freedom of religion as well as respect and dignity of religion priority above anything else lined up against the mostly western states favoring the unrestricted ability to exercise one's freedom of expression. The two submitted draft proposals were therefore very distinctive, each focusing primarily on the protection of the right favored by the respective bloc. After an exhaustive amending process, one proposal passed with a slightly bigger majority, focusing on the protection of the freedom of speech while ensuring non-discrim-

ination as well as the promotion of mutual understanding, tolerance and respect by engaging the youth through educative measures; even more, the committee decided to encourage annual reporting on media activities related to religion, thus getting the OIC block back in the boat. After having found a common ground on the first controversial topic only on the last day of the Conference, the GA 3rd Committee proceeded feverishly debating the rights of indigenous peoples, using the fragile consensus on education from the previous debates to establish a common ground on the second issue as well. With huge effort and great dedication on the side of the delegations, the committee managed to put yet another two resolutions to vote shortly before the closing of the meeting, approving either of them and therefore encouraging states to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in the

decision making process as well as the promotion of the integration process with the aid of education programmes. By overcoming their differences during this week of hard work, the representatives to the GA 3rd Committee have lived up to and proven the truth of the overarching theme of this year's GIMUN Conference. Sometimes it only takes a hand reached out just a little bit in the shape of a small compromise for overcoming seemingly insurmountable differences in opinion. Each party should never forget that there is always a different perspective to be seen from the other side.

Ronja Harder (Chairperson)

Christina Joss (Liaison Officer)



LOGISTICS

Un excellent moyen d'entrer en contact avec des entreprises diverses et variées, d'améliorer votre apprentissage de gestion du stress, et de réaliser quelle est la quantité de travail et de réflexion que nécessite l'organisation d'une conférence est de faire partie de l'équipe logistique! L'organisation de la logistique de la conférence annuelle de GIMUN nécessitait une division des tâches en deux domaines distincts: la gestion des logements et celle du merchandising.

Pour le premier domaine, nous avons dû trouver un logement pour environ 65 étudiants venant de l'étranger. Ensuite, ce fut un grand travail de coordination et d'échange d'information. D'un côté avec l'équipe des recruteurs et celle des finances, pour savoir quels participants avaient besoin d'un logement pendant la semaine et qui bénéficiait d'une aide financière offerte par le GIMUN. De l'autre, avec les participants eux-mêmes afin de leur donner des informations sur le lieu et les rendez-vous, mais aussi pour répondre à leurs nombreuses questions.

Pendant la semaine, il a fallu assurer une présence constante auprès des participants pour faire face aux imprévus et veiller à ce que leur séjour se passe bien. La flexibilité est un atout majeur pour un Sous-scré

taire Général à la Logistique, puisqu'il n'était pas rare d'aller chercher des participants perdus dans la ville au beau milieu de la nuit, ou de faire des aller-retour en catastrophe pour ouvrir la porte de la salle à des étudiants ayant oublié la clé.

Le deuxième domaine, le merchandising, demande une importante préparation avant la conférence elle-même. Lorsque l'on prépare une conférence de 5 jours au Palais des Nations pour 250 étudiants, il ne faut rien oublier. L'ampleur de la tâche se traduit par la diversité des choses à penser. En effet la logistique s'étend de la préparation des badges et certificats à la commande des portes documents, tours de cou et blocs notes distribués à tous les participants en passant par l'achat de quelques 1000 barres de chocolats, boissons et sandwichs pour 250 personnes. Une autre démarche importante fût de prendre contact avec le restaurant du palais des nations afin d'organiser les repas et pauses café.



Pendant la conférence, le SSG à la Logistique s'improvise serveur de thé et cafés, a un œil sur tous les comités pour s'assurer que rien ne manque, distribue les tickets repas et effectue toutes les petites tâches qu'il reste encore à faire pour que cette conférence soit une expérience unique et inoubliable pour tous les participants.

L'expérience fut riche et intense, autant au niveau de la préparation que de la conférence elle-même. Le fait de voir cette conférence pensée et préparée avec soin se réaliser avec succès et être grandement appréciée de ses participants était la plus belle des récompenses.

*Laurene Metral et Inès Blondel
Sous-Sécrétaires Généraux à la Logistique*

MANAGEMENT & LIAISON

The central theme for the 13th edition of the GIMUN Annual conference was "Achieving Dialogue and Development through Cultural Diversity". When choosing the topics with the Chairpersons and Liaison Officers before the conference, we made sure that the six simulated Committees and their participants will have the opportunity to reflect on all possible aspects of the overarching theme. The Security Council addressed the issue of Kosovo and counter-terrorist insurrections in India through the prism of cultural differences and how these differences can be devised in a way that would enhance security and peace as opposed to jeopardizing it.

ECOSOC focused on debt relief and restructuring as well as microfinance and showed us how culture and economic analysis can be combined in order to lead in fairer international transactions. UNDP directed its attention to Sub-Saharan Africa and the states where the Arab Spring took place. In the first case the delegates tried to eliminate poverty and hunger finding a solution that does not counter the customs of the area and in the second case they approached the topic of democratic development. The Human Rights Council engaged into debates concerning LGBT rights and religious defamation; discussions that showed that even though some rights are considered to be universal, their application is deeply affected by culture. The Legal Committee linked cultural conflicts and international law by discussing pre-emptive wars and the "environmental" refugees. The debates at SOCHUM demonstrated the way culture affects the application of freedom of speech and how the rights of indigenous people are linked to their customary background. In all Committees there were delegates that represented states and NGOs and members of the civil society, thus creating an atmosphere very close to the real United Nations. Our work also involved managing the lobbying network of the conference, namely the Bloc Representatives and Ambassadors. As a unique part of GIMUN, the lobbyist are there to make the conference as realistic as possible



representing regional organizations such as the African or European Union or a member of the P5. They set general policy lines before and during the conference, coach the delegates and act as communication channels between allies. Another significant part of organizing GIMUN 2012 included the guest speakers for each Committee. This year we welcomed a range of respected NGO professionals and University professors. Their academic and field knowledge offered the delegates a better understanding of the topics and gave them a chance to broaden the scope of the discussions. GIMUN is a conference that simulates the atmosphere and the activities of the UN in the most effective way. The delegates have the chance to deal with current affairs and at the same time have fun and enjoy themselves. Our experience with GIMUN is invaluable one. Working behind the scenes and observing the Committees during the conference we realized the importance of preparation for the delivery of a successful result.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of GIMUN 2012.

Natalie Filandrianou (Under Secretary General for Committee Management) and Rafaella Tsertsidou (Under Secretary General for Committee Liaison)

TRANSLATION

Le multilinguisme est une chance. Le bilinguisme au GIMUN c'est une aubaine. Plus que tout autre MUN, le GIMUN donne sa chance aux acteurs de l'ombre, pourtant présents dans toutes les organisations internationales : les traducteurs et les interprètes. Si la différence entre les deux fonctions n'est pas toujours claire pour tous les délégués, c'est peut-être parce que Gaspar et moi, nous avons choisi de travailler ensemble, de faire communiquer nos deux équipes et de partager nos expériences.

Pour les traducteurs, le GIMUN ce n'est pas qu'une semaine de débats en mars. Ce sont plusieurs semaines de préparation à s'informer sur les thèmes qui seront discutés et surtout à traduire tous les studyguides, qui permettent par la suite aux délégués de s'exprimer et de prendre position. Le travail sur les studyguides est même plus long et plus difficile que les traductions des résolutions, car c'est à ce moment-là qu'est définie toute la terminologie qui sera ensuite utilisée par 200 délégués.



Mais tous ces efforts, ces moments à s'arracher les cheveux parce que la traduction 1 pour 1 ne fonctionne que rarement, tout cela est vite oublié dans l'euphorie de la conférence, tant l'excitation est grande de travailler dans le Palais des Nations et l'impatience grandissante de pouvoir traduire des projets de résolution et apporter notre contribution à l'édifice. Le GIMUN, c'est un événement que l'on ne voudrait jamais voir s'arrêter. Et si les cernes sont lourds à la fin de la semaine, nous aussi, nous étions tristes de devoir rentrer chez nous et de reprendre le chemin de l'université.

Sophie Kersuzan, Chef de Traduction.

INTERPRÉTATION

Quiconque ayant fréquenté un interprète aura entendu Ô combien il est difficile et fatiguant (en simultanée) d'interpréter vers la langue cible pendant qu'on écoute la langue source ou (en consécutive) de prendre des notes pendant que l'orateur parle et de reproduire l'essence même de son message sans pertes.

Il est vrai, notre savoir faire, péniblement acquis durant notre formation professionnelle ne nous dispense jamais des efforts constants de concentration.

Les mois d'apprentissage intensifs, simulant les conditions de travail ne nous ont qu'insuffisamment préparé à un baptême de feu tel que celui qui nous a été offert par la conférence annuelle du GIMUN, ses six comités et ses plus de 200 délégués. - Et moi encore moins, en ce qui concernait le recrutement, la gestion et le suivi d'une équipe de 19 personnes.

Nous avons été 19 à partager la même impatience de faire nos preuves, la même fébrilité d'être enfin écoutés par un vrai public, la même excitation à l'idée de servir.

Nous nous sommes pris au jeu une semaine durant. Matinaux, rasés de près ou maquillées, en costume impeccable ou en tailleur, nous avons adopté les codes de la profession à laquelle nous aspirons.

Avec des yeux brillants, laissant deviner une énergie et une motivation sans failles, nous avons -je crois- autant fait honneur à notre mission de communicateurs que nous aurons perfectionné nos acquis.



Et bien sûr, nous avons fait des rencontres, tissé des liens -amicaux comme professionnels- et surtout, renforcé nos convictions quant au métier que nous voulons exercer.

Merci à tous pour cette semaine de conférences inoubliable, formatrice, exaltante.

Gaspar Obregon

Chefinterprète | GIMUN 2012

PERSPECTIVES: THE DAILY PAPER



La préparation pour la conférence a commencé dès septembre. Notre travail fut d'abord d'élaborer le journal, de déterminer où et comment l'imprimer, puis de constituer une équipe de journalistes pour la conférence. En s'inscrivant dans la lignée des journaux proposés aux conférences GIMUN précédentes, le choix fut porté sur un format alliant un suivit des débats de la conférence et un côté plus récréatif en fin de journal. Notre binôme fonctionnant très bien dès le début, nous avons fait le choix de ne pas trop diviser les tâches et de faire le maximum de choses en commun afin de pouvoir nous entraider et nous conseiller mutuellement.

Désireux de proposer un journal au design plus travaillé que lors des années précédentes, nous nous sommes rapidement attachés les services d'un graphiste, qui s'est occupé avec nous de la maquette du journal avant et pendant de la conférence. Pour l'équipe de 12 journalistes qu'il nous fallait recruter, nous avons étudié les différentes candidatures entre novembre et janvier et avons décidé de constituer une équipe formée de binômes bilingues (avec un journaliste francophone et un

anglophone par comité). Nombreux désistements, problèmes de visa, de financement, l'équipe sera malgré tout complète pour la conférence !

Au fur et à mesure que nous nous rapprochions du début de la conférence, les contacts se sont faits de plus en plus réguliers avec l'équipe : détails sur le déroulement de la conférence, fonctionnement du journal etc. Les derniers détails réglés avec notre imprimeur, et la conférence pouvait commencer.

Pendant la semaine, nous supervisions les tâches des journalistes sans toutefois trop les contrôler, pour laisser à chacun une grande liberté d'écriture et de ton. Le plus difficile pour nous a sans doute été de savoir prendre une position adéquate en tant que Sous Secrétaires généraux à la presse : responsables de l'équipe des journalistes, sans pourtant être trop directifs afin de laisser chaque journaliste libre dans ces articles et dans l'organisation de son travail. Pendant la semaine de la conférence, nous nous sommes rendus compte que la trop grande liberté donnée à l'équipe ralentissait, d'une certaine manière, l'avancée du

journal. Nous avons donc décidé de laisser la même liberté aux journalistes en y ajoutant des relectures supplémentaires et des délais de réédition des articles plus courts.

Tant sur le plan professionnel que personnel, le GIMUN fut une expérience très enrichissante. En plus d'apprendre à gérer une équipe et avoir la satisfaction de voir notre journal imprimé tous les jours, nous avons pu rencontrer des participants venus du monde entier et profiter des expériences de chacun.

En espérant avoir amené notre contribution à l'aventure GIMUN, nous sommes convaincus que de nombreuses conférences GIMUN restent à venir et que la presse y aura toujours sa place !

Fanny Rannaud & Ian Florin
Sous Secrétaires Généraux à la Presse



SOCIAL EVENTS!

2012

After each day of intense debates and aspiring to important achievements, all participants as well as staff members want to spend some time in a different environment. As Under-Secretaries General for Social Events, our work was to organize the different gatherings in the evenings. From September 2011, establishing a program, with the help of the Secretaries General, was the first priority: choosing which night was appropriate for which event proved quite a challenge, arranging for people to meet for the right event on the right time, taking into account our different practical possibilities. After setting a draft program, we still had to keep our options as open as possible

The first evening, opening the conference on March 17, 2012, was planned at a typical Swiss restaurant: 250 fondues were served ! Maybe every participant and GIMUN staff member was present, for our first night together. It was a success for our team, and we hope that this enthusiasm will remain every year, for each social event. Here are the events that were the most interesting to organize for our team.

For the Committee Dinner, an important team-building social event every year at GIMUN, it took time to look for restaurants to welcome all 8 committees, in the same block and to negotiate student prices, but it was worth it : the pizzas were great ! And the Committees got to know each other better, outside their debate rooms.

Partying, eating out and having drinks is great. However, we wanted to have something more to offer and a different way for our participants to have a change of scene and get to network. But how? We had to find an interesting and affordable event ready to welcome our 200 participants. With lots of research, numerous emails and phone calls (with potential partners and with our Secretaries-General) we managed to obtain offers for « Cultural Night », but all propositions were out of our budget. So, we finally decided to offer the participants to choose between six cultural events in town. In the end, we had great feedback from the participants, who completely hurled themselves on the opera event, at Victoria Hall. Other events, such as contemporary dance or a jazz festival met success too. And, if we're honest, the night before took place in a club, and it was quite intense... so people got to settle down for a show.

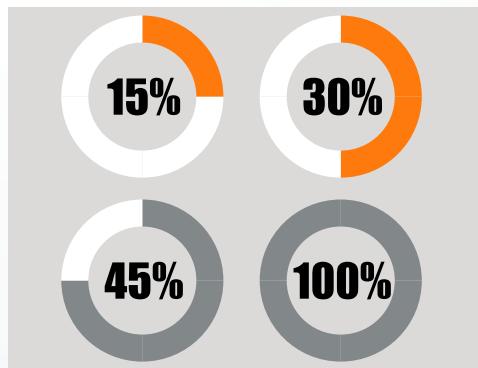
For the last evening, the Gala night, the whole GIMUN team wanted it to be memorable. That day, we spent hours at the venue, decorating and putting everything into place. We couldn't have done it without the help of other members of the GIMUN staff! GIMUN staff also managed the bar, which was actually very solicited : our prices were ridiculously low, and we can risk ourselves to say that maybe some participants do not remember that evening fully, but they will never forget it !

Underneath it all, an interesting part of our job was to manage our attributed budget, with the help of our finance and fundraising director. The budget didn't only limit us : it also helped us to chose the right events for the week, and to be able to weigh the interests in place. This part of the job, alongside negotiating with potential venues and partners, working in a team, being flexible when something didn't work or when something turned out differently than planned, are very important skills that we have developed during the year and during the week of the conference. For all of this, we would like to thank the GIMUN board for this intense opportunity and their very appreciated help, as well as the participants for their great positive attitude!

Caroline Neidhart and Andrea Gennai
Under Secretaries-General for Social Events



PROJECTS



YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

At the end of April 2012, GIMUN organized Youth Perspectives for the second time. This year's conference topic was "Environmental Issues in Contemporary Societies. The conference gathered 50 young adults from 21 different countries. In totally three committees, the participants produced 16 pages of recommendations and ideas.

After the success in the 2010/2011 term, GIMUN decided to further develop the concept of the Youth Perspectives conference. The aim was to give young adults the possibility to express their different point of views, visions and opinions and to act as platform and mediator between youth and the United Nations network. Initially, it was planned that the Youth Perspectives outcome would be presented at the Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro. However, due to multiple reasons this goal couldn't be reached.

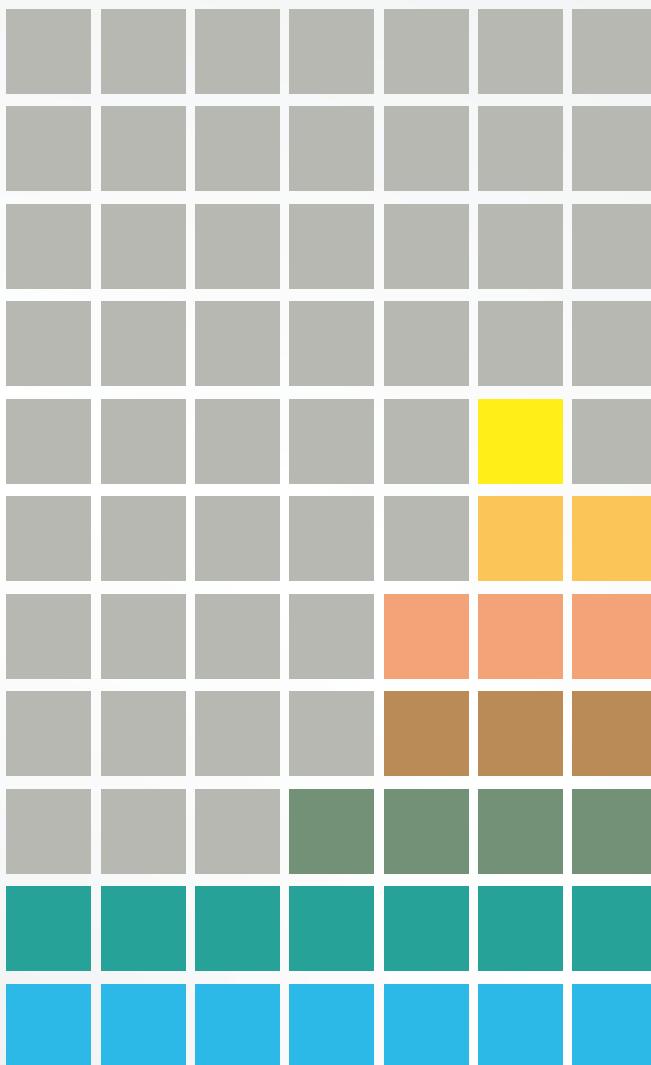
The fact that several members of the organizing team were already implicated in the organization of last year's conference facilitated the planning period, as well as the work at the actual conference.

After months of preparation with a nine-headed team and the support of several other GIMUN members, the conference started on April 26th, 2012. After very inspiring presentations of Mm. Alessandra Giuliani, Scientific collaborator in International Culture at the University of Bern and M. Salman Bal, counselor to the Swiss permanent mission to the United Nations, the participants started their work with the common goal to provoke change and to create alternatives by thinking outside the box.

The main topic "Environmental Issues in Contemporary Societies" was split into three subtopics:

"Modern Society's Weaknesses when facing Environmental Catastrophes", "The Future of Traditional Knowledge" and "Degrowth: a Solution to protect Environment?". Participants were selected on the basis of their motivation and involvement with one of the three issues, to discuss in depth the topic within groups of 10 to 20 participants. Each evening, committees reported back to the Youth Perspectives General Assembly - composed of all the participants - in order to assure the cohesion of the outcome documents and the agreement of all. Several experts on the topics provided for constructive criticism and stimulating discussions in order to offer realistic recommendations. After the working sessions social events were organized in the evening: a committee dinner, which allowed participants to continue debates in a more informal way, and a bar-night with a following party!





Here are a few of the proposals of the Youth Perspectives conference:

Participants of the committee on Traditional Knowledge called for a more holistic approach in the field of the preservation of traditional knowledge, which they see as an essential tool for every society. In order to assure traditional knowledge and strengthen its understanding outside of the traditional circles, the committee advanced the idea of cultural interpreters and intermediaries.

The committee on Modern Society's weaknesses when facing Environmental Catastrophes produced an impressive statement of seven pages. They called for a broader inclusion and more democratic legitimacy during the process of choosing risk. Furthermore, they addressed more specific topics as nuclear energy, green economy and refugees.

The third committee, discussing Degrowth, claimed for a more responsible and responsive economy. Seeing the overall goal of a society as being in balance with their environment, the participants propose to consider social, economic, national and international aspects of Degrowth. A special emphasize in this committee has been



put on the need of a more responsible, deliberative and foresighted society which is informed about the consequences one's action could produce. All statements produced within the committees were approved unanimously both by the General Assembly of Youth Perspectives and of GIMUN. Contrary to initial plans and preparations, we were, unfortunately, not able to present the outcomes at the Rio+20 conference. Reasons for this failure were both of logistical and personal nature.

The realization of the second Youth Perspectives conference showed that GIMUN was willing to continue the started venture and to assume its responsibility as mediator between youth and the international scene. We hope this was one step further in the consolidation of a long lasting tradition!

We would like to thank the Graduate Institute (IHEID) for providing us with the perfect location, which was very much appreciated by participants.

For the Organising Team, Andrin Eichin (Youth Perspective Manager 2012) & Ludivine Candiotti (Youth Perspective Manager 2012)

Special thanks to an incredible organizing team: Nicolas Vetterli, Gretel Lahmann, Yusra Suedi, Laurel Rasmus, Elsa Gonay, Aleksandar Stojanov, Diego Camacho, Eve Burger, Miyuko Ashida

MODERN SOCIETY'S WEAKNESSES WHEN FACING ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHES



The Youth Perspective's Committee Modern's Societies' Weaknesses when Facing Environmental Catastrophes was in charge of tackling a tremendously complex yet extremely interesting topic. The variety of the participants' backgrounds – representing 12 nationalities ranging from high-school students to young professionals in highly diverse fields: sociology, environmental sciences, law, economy, international relations – was definitely the strength of this committee. This diversity as well as the motivation and preparation of participants ensured high-quality discussions.

The Committee chose to focus on two main transversal points: the issue of choice – how does a society choose risk – and the prevention of catastrophes – through environmental protection and involvement of all actors.

Our Committee believes "that choosing risk should be a matter of public debate, in order to ensure democratic legitimacy (i.e. allowing balanced representation of all interests), and subject to the fulfilment of predetermined criteria such as appropriate understanding of the risk itself by the decision-makers". Central to our discussions always remained the need to involve all relevant actors in the decision-

making process – ranging from the local to the international level. In the specific and sensitive case of the risk presented by the use of nuclear energy, our committee declared that "the international community must abandon nuclear power plants as a source of energy supply as soon as possible".

In terms of prevention, our committee strongly underlined the necessity of education to environmental protection, the need for long-term strategic planning in the field of disaster risk reduction as well as the need to make our economy green. As an alternative to nuclear power, we encouraged the use and promotion of the use of renewable resources, such as solar, wind, water, geothermal and biomass power. However we also underlined necessity of designing a transition from the existing economy of production and consumption systems towards a more sustainable alternative one through reduction of consumption.

We also acknowledged the need for international legal protection for environmentally displaced population which should be developed from the existing framework protected refugees. We also emphasized the differentiated gendered dimension of catastrophe that must be taken into

account in a human-rights based approach.

These three days of conference were not only rich content wise, developing every participant's understanding of the question by forcing him/her to look at it from another viewpoint, it also achieved the drafting of a set of comprehensive points summarizing the position of the participants present at Youth Perspectives. The full version of the statement – adopted by consensus both in the Committee and in the Youth Perspective's General Assembly – is available on the GIMUN website. Youth Perspectives was, as it promised to be, a challenging and enriching experience. It gave all of the young people present the feeling that much could be achieved – starting by disaster risk reduction – by our generation if we could only have more opportunities to participate, voice our opinions and act.

***Caroline Renold & Jacopo Ograbek
Committee Co-Chairs***



DEGROWTH: A SOLUTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?



De-growth is a political concept which consists in the assumption that infinite economic growth is incompatible with a sustainable society. It can be defined as a downscaling of production and consumption that increases human well-being and enhances ecological conditions and equity on the planet. De-growth highlights the incompatibility of our current society that is based on consumerism and economic growth with a world of finite resources. De-growth should therefore be understood as a radical criticism of today's capitalist economic system.

During the three days of discussion, our participants were asked to answer if de-growth can be a viable solution to protect our environment. They all agreed that it is.

In our seven-page long statement, the de-growth committee affirmed its conviction that

economical downscaling is necessary and to achieve it both responsible measures and new ideologies need to be implied. Examples of these new ideologies that our society should focus on are solidarity and cooperation instead of competition and individualism; values such as respect, responsibility, and sharing should be rediscovered. The way to attain such changes is through small changes within our current society. The committee agreed that the most powerful method of integration of these values is through education, which would increase awareness among our youth of the changes that as a society we have to make in order to protect our environment.

Given the inequalities that exist between developed and developing countries, the committee arrived to the conclusion that developed countries which have the necessary resources

and tools to reduce their environmental footprint should lead the way in the de-growth process. Developing countries should be helped when they start implementing de-growth.

Moreover the committee arrived to the conclusion that the current system of quantitative economic growth which is measured by the GPD's of countries should be replaced with a system based on qualitative economic growth which would consider alternative indexes such as the Human Development Index.

Finally, our participants arrived to the conclusion that not only de-growth is viable solution, but that it is the only real solution to protect our environment.

Gretel Lahmann & Jannik Boehm
Committee Co-Chairs



FUTURE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: THREATS AND SOLUTIONS



"When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground"

This old African proverb defines in only one sentence the importance of Youth Perspective's Third Committee, The Future of traditional Knowledge: threats and solutions.

This year's committee, in addition to university students from very different backgrounds (including law, political sciences, literature), applauded the presence of three high school students and their professor from Saskatoon in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Their experience as members of First Nations Reserves in North Canada and their different encounters with the modern world helped shed a very realistic light on the threats faced by Traditional Knowledge and the possible solutions the committee could find to resolve those issues. It also made all the participants better understand the deep links that exist between Traditional Knowledge, cultures of communities and their environment.

During the first discussions, the participants of the committee defined Traditional Knowledge as a coherent, efficient and cumulative body of knowledge that contributes to modern societies and has the potential for a further reciprocal

sharing of benefits, for example in the domains of science, culture, and sustainable practices.

After defining Traditional Knowledge and acknowledging that preserving it was the key step towards protecting and promoting sustainable development and biodiversity, the committee, in its final statement, concluded that the value and the visibility of Traditional Knowledge had to be increased, indigenous people and local communities had to be empowered and that sustainable development practices for environmental, health, and resource management had to be promoted.

Therefor, the committee affirmed that especially young holders of Traditional Knowledge, concerned parties and public authorities, work in concert to establish institutions to serve as cultural interpreters and intermediaries between groups of Traditional Knowledge and modern societies by establishing closer connections, bridging the communication gap and developing a unified and integrated approach to protect and promote Traditional Knowledge and its practices. Education and sharing information through exchange programs would be the key to increasing awareness of the value of traditional knowledge among youth.

The committee also underlined the need to establish of national and/or regional regulatory frameworks on Traditional Knowledge such as forums for holders and practitioners of Traditional Knowledge to discuss common issues and find common solutions. Also important is to establish a legal system that guarantees access, rights and security of land and resource use that is vital for practicing Traditional Knowledge.

In order to increase the empowerment of the traditional communities, we would need to promote cultural exposure to Traditional Knowledge via, for example, museums, art and cinema, and implement micro-projects that are mutually beneficial to holders of Traditional Knowledge and modern societies;

Finally, the committee emphasized the financial support and human resources needed to preserve and promote Traditional Knowledge and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

*Laura Navarro-Lacroix & Faraz Merchant
Committee Co-Chairs*

MUN SOCIETY



This year we did again, two MUN Society Sessions.

Falls Session: Organized by Laura Navarro-Lacroix and Moritz Hentschel. We simulated the General Assembly and discussed about the topic "Palestine's admission as a full member to the United Nations". It was very interesting for everybody to address this topic, as it was a current issue at the time with a lot of media attention and I can only encourage future MUN Society teams, to do the same.

The fall session got a lot of attention by the UNIGE community, as we did one big promoting event, where we also explained what MUN Society does and how interesting it is. Following this and the other promoting activities (very important: flyers, homepage, posters and interventions during class) we received more than 60 serious applications. We did one mistake, we asked for an essay concerning a small topic, in the future MUN teams should always ask for motivation letters (in addition to the CV), as they give much more information about how apt and motivated (of course) the people are.

We accepted 30 people as we rightfully thought that a bigger group would have impeded on the quality of our sessions. This was the right choice, 30 people are just a perfect group. They were all beginners and we had a great session, with an enormous cohesion of the group! They even organized personally a delegation to a London MUN. If a MUN organizing team wants to send a delegation to another MUN, they should take the precise decision (where, when, how many) in the beginning. Many of the participants fell in love with MUN and participated successfully at GIMUN and other MUNs.

Spring Session: Organized by Jazmin Weissgärber-Crespo and Moritz Hentschel. We simulated a regional group of the General Assembly and discussed about the topic of the upcoming "South China Sea Conflict". Again a current issue, that in addition seems to end in a diplomatic solution also in the real world. Thus this was a perfect topic for a simulation. Unfortunately we only had 11 applications. Last year the same happened and I think this is because there is no big information event and publicity is much more difficult. Also the summer semester is, as we all know, a lot tighter than the winter semester. This is why I propose to accept everybody in the winter semester and distribute the applicants directly on the two sessions. We would then say for example to all those who normally would have been rejected: Congratulations you have been accepted for the MUN Session beginning February next year. This increases the probability that some of those people will care about MUN also in the summer semester.

Still we did the Spring Session with 11 participants and it was also a success. Most of the delegates came up to the end and we voted on a resolution. In the end two of the delegates even decided to become the future organizing team.

Moritz Hentschel

Laura Navarro-Lacroix

Jazmin Crespo



FINANCES



FINANCE & FUNDRAISING



Cette année, s'est encore déroulée de la meilleure des façons pour le GIMUN. Nous avons eu, grâce à l'aide de nos partenaires et de nos sponsors, la possibilité de couvrir l'ensemble des frais nous incombant ; et le résultat du processus de recherche de fonds a d'ailleurs été supérieur à nos expectatives.

Nos partenaires et sponsors ont une nouvelle fois contribué de manière significative au bon déroulement des activités du GIMUN. En effet, leur contribution a atteint près de 50% de la totalité de notre budget annuel.

Les autres fonds indispensables pour couvrir la totalité de nos événements, ont été en grande partie obtenus au moyen des frais de participation des intervenants et acteurs de la Treizième Conférence Annuelle, représentant ainsi un peu moins de 30% de notre budget.

Le GIMUN a tenté cette année de fixer ses priorités sur un développement de la qualité de ses projets et non plus sur leur multiplication. Cette stratégie nous permettra sur un long terme de stabiliser notre budget et de mener d'une manière plus efficace la recherche de fonds. En outre, l'amélioration de la qualité de nos événements est indubitablement passée par l'amélioration des prestations fournies lors de la Conférence Annuelle ; notamment avec l'augmentation de notre fond d'aide financière, plafonné à CHF 16'000 et dont une grande partie a été financée par la Chancellerie d'état de Genève. Nos événements sociaux se déroulant pendant la conférence ont aussi fait l'objet d'une révision et d'un renouveau permettant aux délégués venant des quatre coins du monde de découvrir Genève sous diverses coutures, et ce dans un cadre étudiant et convivial. Ainsi, la Conférence a atteint 61% de l'ensemble du budget à notre disposition.

Les autres activités de l'association ont vu leurs dépenses décroître, notamment le projet UN Day ou encore Youth Perspectives, dont le budget a été réduit de moitié par rapport à l'édition précédente. Une meilleure organisation aussi bien structurelle que logistique a permis de s'affranchir de frais accessoires. Les autres activités de l'ONG (Un Day, Youth Perspectives, Study Trip, Side Event...) ont représenté un peu plus de 8% de notre budget total.

Les dépenses liées au fonctionnement général de l'ONG ont augmenté de manière conséquente. Ceci s'explique en très grande partie par le renouvellement total de notre site web, devenu plus accessible, abordable mais aussi gérable. En soustrayant les frais liés au site web officiel du GIMUN, les dépenses concernant ce pan de l'ONG sont relativement très basses, montrant ainsi comment le GIMUN a tenté en comparaison aux années précédentes de rationaliser et de réduire ses frais au maximum.

Le capital transmis au Comité Exécutif 2012-2013 se monte à CHF 28180.85. Le prochain challenge du GIMUN en termes financiers, sera d'essayer de reproduire des schémas budgétaires similaires à cette année, afin de fixer sur le long terme le budget de l'association et d'équilibrer le bilan.

Enfin, nous tenons à remercier l'ensemble des personnes qui ont contribué de manière bénévole, de prêt ou de loin à manager notre association avec autant d'enthousiasme, depuis plus de 13 ans maintenant.

Aussi notre sincère remerciement va à l'ensemble de nos partenaires et sponsors. Le soutien et la confiance qu'ils nous témoignent nous honorent et nous obligent.

*Fanta Camara,
Finance & Fundraising Director*

BALANCE SHEET AVAILABLE ON PAGE 30

PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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VILLE DE
GENÈVE



POST TENEBRAS LUX

REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE



Fondation pour Genève

Avec le soutien de la
FONDATION
HANS WILSDORF

BONGENIE
brunschwig group

GIMUN 2011 - 2012 Trial Balance as of 14/05/2012

Outflow		Inflow	
1. Annual Conference GIMUN 2011		5. Capital from 2010 Carried Forward	CHF 30,758.88
1.1. Nations Unies		6. Donations	
1.1.1. Location des salles	CHF 7,220.00	6.1. Donors	
1.1.2. Déjeuner et coffee breaks	CHF 17,949.40	6.1.1. DFAE (conférence uniquement)	CHF 8,000.00
	CHF 25,169.40	6.1.2. IHEID	CHF 10,000.00
1.2. Impression et publications		6.1.3. IHEID (Winter Programme)	CHF 1,000.00
1.2.1. Handbooks pour délégués	CHF 462.00	6.1.4. Fondation Pour Genève (conférence uniquement)	CHF 5,000.00
1.2.2. Flyers pour la promotion de la conférence annuelle	CHF 130.00	6.1.5. Mairie de la Ville de Genève (conf. uniquement)	CHF 3,000.00
1.2.3. Impressions journaux conférences	CHF 1,850.00	6.1.6. Commissions Sociale Unige	CHF 10,000.00
1.2.4. Graphiste journaux conférence	CHF 200.00	6.1.7. Chancellerie d'état de la République de Genève	CHF 7,865.00
	CHF 2,642.00	6.1.9. CGTF (Study Trip)	CHF 2,250.00
1.3. Marchandises		6.1.10. Hans Wilsdorf (conférence uniquement)	CHF 5,000.00
1.3.1. Tours de cou	CHF 410.86	6.1.11. Brunschwig & Cie (conférence uniquement)	CHF 200.00
1.3.2. Blocs papiers pour délégués	CHF 2,457.52		CHF 52,315.00
1.3.3. Blocs notes+ stylos pour délégués (661,04+99,90)	CHF 780.94	6.2. Contribution participants conférence	
	CHF 3,649.32	6.2.1. Frais de participation via compte UBS	CHF 33,337.93
1.4. Dépenses week-end de préparation		6.2.2. Paiement en cash des frais de participation	CHF 600.00
1.4.1. Déjeuner+ apéritif			CHF 33,937.93
1.4.1.1. Board meeting préparation:apéritif CA (le 16/03)	CHF 64.60	6.3. Autre contribution des participants	
1.4.1.2. Boissons	CHF 126.20	6.3.1. Frais logement Protection Civile	CHF 3,240.00
1.4.1.3. Sandwichs samedi	CHF 750.00		CHF 3,240.00
1.4.1.4. Sandwichs dimanche	CHF 750.00	6.4. Leftover Study Trip 2011	
1.4.1.5. Chips	CHF 70.40	6.4.1. Remboursement Alicia Giraudel (16/12/2011)	CHF 2,250.00
1.4.2. 13th March Sunday Lunch Preparation		6.4.2. Remboursement Alicia Giraudel (12/02/2012)	CHF 1,345.00
1.4.2.1. Papier badges	CHF 20.00		CHF 3,595.00
1.4.2.2. Ecriveau	CHF 19.40	6.5. Autres entrées	
1.4.3. Stationnement matériel N.V	CHF 60.00	6.5.1. Retour Closing cérémonie AC	CHF 835.65
1.4.4. Frais de taxi non prévus		6.5.2. Retour frais en trop paiement salles	CHF 859.23
1.4.4.1. Transport délégués vers Protection Civile	CHF 31.10		CHF 1,694.88
1.4.4.2. Transport délégués vers protection civile	CHF 22.70	6.6. Décomptes d'intérêts	
1.4.5. Cadeaux DG ONU + guest speaker (72,50+25,60)	CHF 98.10	6.6.1. Décomptes d'intérêts	CHF 25.65
1.4.6. Cadeaux guest speaker (vins + cabas)	CHF 106.30		CHF 25.65
	CHF 2,118.80	Total de toutes les Entrées	
1.5. Hébergement (Protection Civile)			CHF 125,567.34
1.5.1. Dépenses pour la PC directement pas les participants	CHF 3,240.00		
1.5.2. Dépenses pour la PC aide financière (directe)	CHF 3,814.45		
1.5.3. Supplément pris en charge par le gimun (27*0,40)	CHF 10.80		
	CHF 7,065.25		
1.6. Social Events			
1.6.1. Soirée Fondue (Swiss Night)	CHF 6,000.00		
1.6.2. Band Night	CHF 500.00		
1.6.3 Diner des Comités	CHF 4,046.50		
1.6.4. Soirée Club	CHF 3,000.00		
1.6.5. Soirée Culturelle	CHF 1,890.00		
1.6.6. Gala Night			
1.6.6.1. Location salle du Môle	CHF 1,657.50		
1.6.6.2. Couverts + serviettes	CHF 404.80		
1.6.6.3. Verres bar	CHF 149.75		
1.6.6.4. Assurance salle	CHF 178.05		
1.6.6.5. Boissons	CHF 1,962.10		
1.6.6.6. Décorations salle (Coop)	CHF 203.10		
1.6.6.7. Services traiteur	CHF 4,978.80		
1.6.6.8. Eclairage+ sono Gala Night	CHF 600.00		
	CHF 25,570.60		
1.7. Aides Financières			
1.7.1. Frais de transport_avion (directe)	CHF 8,934.72		
1.7.2. Frais de transport_train (directe)	CHF 355.12		
	CHF 9,289.84		
1.8. Remboursement Frais de participation			
1.8.1. Remboursement frais de participation drop out	CHF 1,045.09		
	CHF 1,045.09		
Total dépenses conférence		CHF 76,550.30	
2. Autres activités des l'ONG			
2.1. Activité de l'ONG			
2.1.1. Youth Perspectives			
2.1.1.1. Affiches promotions	CHF 130.00		
2.1.1.2. Verres+ boissons promotion à la Gala Night	CHF 70.15		
2.1.1.3. Flyers couleur	CHF 50.00		
2.1.1.4. Handbooks pour participants	CHF 230.90		
2.1.1.5. Petit déjeuner+Repas Staff Youth Perspectives	CHF 129.10		
2.1.1.6. Sandwichs déjeuner	CHF 1,365.00		
2.1.1.7. Boissons + apéritif coffee break	CHF 411.60		
2.1.1.8. Stylos pour participants	CHF 205.20		
2.1.1.9. Matériel impression	CHF 217.20		
2.1.1.10. Vins guest speaker	CHF 123.00		
2.1.1.11. Remboursement train guest speaker	CHF 52.00		

Outflow			
2.1.1.12. Tour de cou	CHF 246.09		
2.1.1.13. Dîner des Comités	CHF 787.00		
2.1.1.14. Soirée Bar	CHF 600.00		
		CHF 4,617.24	
2.1.2. United Nations Day_Commémoration			
2.2.1.1. Paiement salles ONU	CHF 515.00		
2.2.1.2. Vol guest speaker M.Ben Youssef	CHF 452.70		
2.2.1.3. Cadeaux guest speaker (vins)	CHF 71.70		
2.2.1.4. Cabas cadeaux guest speaker	CHF 27.00		
2.2.1.5. Apéritifs UnDay	CHF 57.50		
2.2.1.6. Coffee Break ONU	CHF 270.00		
		CHF 1,393.90	
2.1.3 Study Trip 2011			
2.1.3.1. Remboursement leftover aux participants	CHF 3,595.00	CHF 3,595.00	
2.1.4. Sessions d'information			
2.1.4.1. Flyers promotion à l'UNIGE	CHF 200.00		
2.1.4.1. Flyers promotion à l'IHEID	CHF 50.00		
		CHF 250.00	
2.1.5. Rapports Annuels 2011			
2.1.5.1. Rapports annuels 1ère partie (11/11/11)	CHF 150.00		
2.1.5.2. Raports annuels 2ème partie (02//01/12)	CHF 150.00		
		CHF 300.00	
2.1.6. Journée de transition			
2.1.6.1. Journée de transition café des Arts	CHF 122.70	CHF 122.70	
2.1.7. Side Event			
2.1.7.1. Apéritif Side Event		CHF 135.00	
Total autres activités de l'ONG			CHF 10,413.84
3. Fonctionnement Général ONG			
3.1. Team building			
3.1.1. Dîner transition_Café des Arts	CHF 122.70		
3.1.2. Board meeting préparation CA_Café	CHF 64.60		
3.1.3. Soirée remerciement staff conf_apéritif	CHF 61.80		
3.1.4. Soirée remerciement staff conf_bissons	CHF 29.35		
3.1.5. Soirée remerciement staff conf_repas	CHF 103.00		
		CHF 381.45	
3.2. Frais de transport			
3.2.1. N.Vetterli remboursement train => Bern	CHF 47.00		
3.2.2. Frais train AG Junes (23,5*2+47)	CHF 94.00		
3.2.3. Délégué JUNES abonnement voie 7	CHF 99.00		
3.2.4. Délégué JUNES remb. Bâle/Bern	CHF 19.00		
3.2.4. N.Vetterli remb train (23,50+47+23,50+20,50)	CHF 114.50		
		CHF 373.50	
3.3. Frais annuel de carte de crédit			CHF 100.00
3.4. Frais liés au siteweb/Relations publiques département			
3.4.1. Hostpoint 2010_2011	CHF 298.80		
3.4.2. Site web 1er paiement	CHF 1,846.80		
3.4.3. Site web 2ème paiement	CHF 1,846.80		
3.4.4. Site web 3ème paiement	CHF 1,802.95		
3.4.5. Frais facebook pub	CHF 49.20		
3.4.6. AMUN publicité	CHF 14.86		
3.4.7. Namebay	CHF 274.87		
		CHF 6,134.28	
3.5. Soldes prix prestations (frais E-banking)			CHF 321.55
3.6. Matériel bureau + frais postaux+frais de téléphone board			
3.6.1. Frais Postaux	CHF 64.02		
3.6.2. Papiers carton	CHF 30.60		
3.6.3. Classeur	CHF 10.10		
3.6.4. Frais de téléphone (200 par membre board)	CHF 1,000.00		
		CHF 1,104.72	
Total fonctionnement général ONG			CHF 8,415.50
4. Transfert de Capital 2012_2013			
4.1. Remboursements			
4.1.1. Uni sécurité	CHF 263.25	CHF 263.25	
4.2. Investissement			
4.2.1. Réparation ordinateur portable	CHF 500.00		
		CHF 500.00	
4.3. Dépenses prochain mandat			
4.3.1. Budget Side Event Rio	CHF 5,000.00		
4.3.2. UnDay/DECADE	CHF 3,000.00		
4.3.3. Annual report 2011/2012	CHF 500.00		
4.3.4. Sessions d'information	CHF 500.00		
		CHF 9,000.00	
4.4. Compte épargne			
4.4.1. Epargne bloquée	CHF 2,000.20		
4.4.2. Intérêts sur l'épargne	CHF 6.65		
		CHF 2,006.85	
4.6. Capital pour le mandant suivant	CHF 18,417.60		
		CHF 18,417.60	
Total capital transmis pour le terme 2012/2013			CHF 30,187.70
Total de toutes les Dépenses		CHF 125,567.34	CHF 30,187.70

Balanced:

Détails du capital

Comptes	CHF 22,096.00
Epargne bloquée	CHF 2,006.85
Carte de crédit/V	CHF 6,084.85
Total	CHF 30,187.70

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
