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Bienvenue!

GIMUN ANNUAL REPORT 2015
RAPPORT D’ACTIVITÉ DE GIMUN 2015

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A WORD FROM THE BOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A WORD FROM THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>THE GIMUN TEAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>UN DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>UNIVERSAL CHILDREN’S DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>YOUTH PERSPECTIVES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>MUN DELEGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>THE ONLINE JOURNAL “UNO: YOU KNOW?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>DISCOVER THE INTERNATIONAL GENEVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>STUDY TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>FINANCIAL REPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>BALANCE SHEET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>PARTNERS AND SPONSORS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The academic year 2014-2015 was yet again a successful one for GIMUN. Founded in 1999, the organisation has greatly evolved since then, from being a mere conference to a non-governmental organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

This year our aims were more challenging than ever: we needed to keep up the outstanding work that has been done since 1999, but also to propose some innovations and to increase professionalism. Once again, the strong engagement of motivated students has characterised GIMUN’s work and it is still our biggest asset. All students involved in the many different GIMUN’s teams have done an incredible job throughout the year and shown an amazing commitment to GIMUN’s values. Thanks to them, we have been able to organise numerous projects proven to be successful and to come up with new ideas for some other events that needed revision. Finally, GIMUN has strengthened its relations with many important partners, such as the newly-created Global Studies Institute at the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

GIMUN’s term began with an intellectually challenging conference at the University of Geneva about 2014 GIMUN Study Trip to Greece on the theme of migration and migrants’ rights. We gave the opportunity to the participants to share their experiences and insights on this hotly debated topic. Furthermore, the conference was enriched with a panel discussion led by Professors Davidshofer and Lavenex, two experts in the field of European policies towards migration and global migration.

On October 24th, GIMUN organised its traditional event called “UN Day” in partnership with the NGO Liaison Office at the Palais des Nations. This event commemorates the entry into force of the UN Charter on October 24th, 1945. This year’s topics were closely linked with “Human Security”, a concept that first appeared 20 years ago in the 1994 Human Development Report published by UNDP. More information about the UN Day can be found on page 24.

Spurred by the success of UN Day, we decided to organize an event on November 20th to celebrate the Universal Children’s Day, established in 1954 by the United Nations, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The “Universal Children’s Day” took place at the Palais des Nations and focused on past, present and future challenges related to children and children’s rights. More information about the Universal Children’s Day can be found on page 25.

From November 27th till November 30th, GIMUN organized the Youth Perspectives conference for the fifth time at the Graduate Institute (IHEID) on the theme “Science and Technology for Development”. It was three days of intense debate and “opinion-sharing” among 40 passionate participants coming from all around the world. The written outcomes of this conference were submitted to the 18th Annual Session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which met in Geneva in May 2015. The aim of this conference is to make young people’s voice heard at the United Nations. More information about the conference can be found from page 26.

Like every year since 1999, the Annual Conference in March 2015 was our largest event. After 15 years of outstanding work and success, it was even more challenging to improve such an event. However, thanks to the creativity and the commitment of all GIMUN staff members, this 16th Edition on the theme of “Cross-border Challenges and the New World Architecture” was a model of success and accomplishment for all students involved in GIMUN. Reports from all committees and members of staff are available from page 8.

For the end of our mandate, GIMUN organised the 2nd edition of the “International Geneva Project”, an innovating event. Geneva being one of the main international hubs marked by the outstanding work of international organisations and civil society institutions, we gave the opportunity to more than 20 participants to discover the work of the main UN institutions and NGOs based in the city. For this 2nd edition, we had the pleasure to collaborate with the Graduate Institute and to...
welcome the students of its Summer Programme on International Affairs and Global Governance for some of our visits. More information can be found on page 32.

The concluding event of our term was the traditional Study Trip that took place between June and July. This year, the trip was organised in Scotland and focused on “Separatism in a Globalized World”. In many European regions, such as Scotland and Catalonia, separatist movements are currently growing stronger. Therefore, we decided to offer the opportunity to 10 motivated students to discover the political, economical and social situation in Scotland, as well as the work of international organisations in a concrete setting. More information on the trip are available on page 33.

Last but not least, two GIMUN projects took place throughout the year. Firstly, the newly-created “MUN Delegation” occurred every week during both autumn and spring semesters at the University of Geneva. During these sessions, a group of 20 students per semester would simulate a UN body with the goal of understanding the UN functioning and its challenges with regards to global issues. Furthermore, GIMUN also wanted to allow the participants to take part in prestigious MUN conferences abroad and in Switzerland. In autumn 2014, some of the participants had the opportunity to participate in OxiMUN, one of the most renowned MUN conferences organised in Oxford, whereas others went to JUNESMUN, the Swiss MUN Conference, that took place in Lausanne. In spring 2015, some students participated to MIMUN, a famous MUN conference organised in Moscow. More information can be found on page 30. Secondly, GIMUN carried on publishing its online journal “UNO-You know?” thanks to the commitment of motivated journalists based in Geneva and abroad working under the supervision of two Editors-in-Chief. Our online journal is full of reports on conferences taking place at the UN and of articles about current global issues. More information can be found on page 31.

The organisation of all these dynamic and successful annual events by GIMUN would not be possible without the support of the most loyal and instrumental sponsors and partners that a student-run organization could ask for. It is therefore with much sincerity that GIMUN wishes to thank all our old and new partners and sponsors that have consistently supported us. Thank you for giving today’s Youth opportunities to become tomorrow’s leaders!

Simon Bianchi, Sandrine Chabbey, Francesca Dal Poggetto, Camille Fenter, Esben Marcussen and Jim Zouridis
A Word from FDFA

Didier Burkhalter,
Conseiller fédéral en charge du Département Fédéral des Affaires Etrangères


70 ans plus tard, l’ONU compte 193 membres. Elle est devenue une organisation universelle disposant d’une légitimité unique et jouant un rôle clé. Sans l’ONU, notre planète serait un monde où les pays ne pourraient pas organiser ensemble leur coexistence avec des règles et valeurs communes, un monde moins sûr, moins prévisible où le fragile équilibre de la paix serait davantage menacé par la loi du plus fort.

L’ONU a permis la réalisation d’avancées majeures. Elle est essentielle dans le quotidien de l’humanité. Elle a contribué à réduire considérablement la pauvreté et elle a également atteint son but premier : il n’y a plus eu de guerre mondiale. Les défis restent cependant énormes : la pauvreté et les inégalités croissantes, les questions migratoires, le terrorisme, le crime organisé, les épidémies. Pour y faire face, l’action collective est indispensable. La Suisse est convaincue que l’ONU - et une ONU forte - est plus que jamais nécessaire pour le monde.

Dans cette perspective, je salue le travail et les efforts de l’association GIMUN, qui s’engage depuis plus de 15 ans pour promouvoir le dialogue entre des jeunes du monde entier.

Le GIMUN donne aux diplomates de demain une idée du déroulement des négociations à l’ONU. C’est grâce à cette familiarité et cette connaissance de l’organisation que nous pouvons intéresser la jeunesse à la politique internationale et à Genève, lieu où la neutralité suisse offre des conditions idéales de négociations pour résoudre les conflits en cours autour de la planète.

Je vous souhaite des débats vifs et constructifs !
L’équipe GIMUN

COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF
PRÉSIDENT SIMON BIANCHI
VICE-PRÉSIDENTE FRANCESCA DAL POGGETTO
DIRECTEUR DES RELATIONS PUBLIQUES CAMILLE FENTER
DIRECTEUR DES FINANCES ET DE LA RECHERCHE DE FONDS EBEN MARCUSEN
SECréTAIRE GÉNÉRAUX DE LA CONFéRENCE ANNUELLE 2015 SANDRINE CHABBEY, JIM ZOURIDIS

DÉPARTEMENT DES PROJETS DE L’ONG
UN Day 2014
CO-RESPONSABLES DU PROJET SIMON BIANCHI, FRANCESCA DAL POGGETTO
MODÉRATEURS DE LA TABLE BONDE LOUISE HEMREY, NICOLAS VETTERLI, AHMED BEN ABDALLAH, JACOPPO OGRABEX

Universal Children’s Day 2014
CO-RESPONSABLES DU PROJET SIMON BIANCHI, FRANCESCA DAL POGGETTO
MODÉRATEURS DE LA TABLE BONDE LUDOVICA ANNEDDA, SANDRINE CHABBEY, MARTA FERRETTI

Youth Perspectives 2014
RESPONSABLE DU CONTENU ASHLEY PILIPISZYN
RESPONSABLE DE LA LOGISTIQUE NADJA WIESER
RESPONSABLES AUX RessOURCES HUMAINES INÉS MARIA BLONDEL, THOMAS ALT, AHMED BEN ABDALLAH
MODÉRATEURS DE COMITÉ NICOLAS CORDORA, KARI TEURK MANUFISH AJFAR, CARLOTTA BRUSSSEL, CLÉMENT ZUCCHIERO, FABIAN BRIX, BIANCA SOLA CLAUDIO, SOlÈNE BACQUÉ, LORRIS GERMANN

International Geneva 2015
CO-RESPONSABLES DU PROJET SIMON BIANCHI, FRANCESCA DAL POGGETTO

Voyage d’Études
RESPONSABLE DES FINANCES ET DE LA RECHERCHE DE FONDS CAROLE MARULLAZ
RESPONSABLE DU CONTENU MAXIME STAUFFER
RESPONSABLE DE LA LOGISTIQUE ANTONY PAPADOPOULOS

MUN Délégation
Semestre d’Automne 2015
HEAD DELEGATES AIDA FÉRNANDEZ, MATHIEU HEINEMANN

Semestre de Printemps 2015
HEAD DELEGATES AIDA FÉRNANDEZ, JESSICA RESNICK

CONFéRENCE ANNUELLE 2015
L’équipe Organisatrice
SOUS-SECréTAIRES GÉNéRAUX À LA DIRECTION DES COMITÉS GEOFFREY SI, PRINCE SLAW ATTRAms
SOUS-SECréTAIRES GÉNéRAUX AUX RessOURCES HUMAINES ADÉCHINAN NAOFALL ALIOU, AHMED BEN ABDALLAH

SOUS-SECréTAIRES GÉNéRAUX À LA LOGISTIQUE GUILLAUME ZWYGART, CAROLINE SCHMITT, SARAH NEUENSCHEWANDER
SOUS-SECréTAIRES GÉNéRAUX AUX évÉNEMENTS CULTURELS BERNAL AYDEMIR, LARISA SRESCICA, MATHELE MICHEL

SOUS-SECréTAIRE GÉNéRALE À LA TRADUCTION JULIE JARNIOUX

SOUS-SECréTAIRE GÉNéRALE À L’INTERPRéTAITION GASPAR OREGGIO

SOUS-SECréTAIRES GÉNéRAUX À LA DÉPENSE MARIE-AMBRYM THIVOVON, ANOUK PÉYTREMMAN
SOUS-SECréTAIRE GÉNéRALE AUX MÉDIAS JOYCE CHARLES

ASSISTANTS MÉDIAS MICHAEL THEUS, JULIETTE FRAINDRANDO

Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies (CSNU)
PRéSIDENTE DE COMITé ANASTASIJA TRUBNIKOVA
VICE-PRESIDENTS DE COMITé IBRAHIM EL KAZAZ, BRENDAN MCDONNELL

Conseil des Droits de l’Homme (CDH)
PRéSIDENT DE COMITé CHRISTOFOROS-DIMITRIOS ZAFERIS
VICE-PRESIDENTES DE COMITé NORA KELÈHÈN, ZUNAIRA MALIK

Conseil Économique et Social (ECOSOC)
PRéSIDENT DE COMITé DENNIS SCHLIEPP
VICE-PRESIDENTES DE COMITé OLGA KOUTSIKA

Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)
PRéSIDENT DE COMITé ANTONIOS PAPADOPOULOS
VICE-PRESIDENTE DE COMITé ANASTASIA ANGELOU

Sixième Commission de l’Assemblée Générale (Legal)
PRéSIDENT DE COMITé ARMANDO BODE
VICE-PRESIDENT DE COMITé IAN ELLY SSALI
KIGGUNDU

Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS)
PRéSIDENTE DE COMITé MICHAELA DORCIKOVA
VICE-PRESIDENT DE COMITé VASILEIOS DOKALIS

Département des Relations Publiques
VICE-DIRECTEUR DES RELATIONS PUBLIQUES FABIEN GLAUSER
VICE-DIRECTECE DES RELATIONS PUBLIQUES ET MANAGER DES RÉSEaux SOCIaux SABINE PASCHIE WEBMASTER SARAH NEUENSCHEWANDER VIDEO MANAGERS FABIAN JOBIN, ROBIN MULLER PHOTOGRAPHERS SIMON GABIOUD, JOAN NICOLAI, CÉLINE KOHLER, VALENTINA RAMPUKHA DIRECTEUR DE CRÉATION SARI AMSTUTZ TRADUCTEURS ENG/FR/XÈNIA VILLIERS, LOAN WALTER TRADUCTEURS FR/ENG CLAUDIA BRAGMAN

Département des finances et de la Recherche de Fonds
DIRECTEUR DES FINANCES ET DE LA RECHERCHE DE FONDS EBEN MARCUSEN ASSISTANTES HÉLÈNE PESSON, NORA KOROLL

2015-2016 GIMUN Executive Board

On May 10th, 2015 the new GIMUN Executive Board was elected by the General Assembly. It will be composed of six young and motivated students from very different backgrounds. All new Board members have expressed their commitment to GIMUN’s cause and have already begun their work. We fully trust their ability to take GIMUN to the highest of its potential during the coming year.

PRESIDENT:
GUILLAUME ZWYGART

VICE-PRESIDENT:
AIDA FERNANDEZ

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:
FRANCESCA PASCHETTA

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR:
CAROLINE SCHMITT

SECRETARY-GENERAL:
ANTONIOS PAPADOPOULOS, MICHAELA DORCIKOVA
The 16th GIMUN Annual Conference was a great success. For this year’s edition, we decided to focus on global challenges within the international community, and participants from all around the world joined us for this special simulation of the United Nations which took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) from the 21st to the 27th of March 2015.

The previous summer, we recruited 15 Under-Secretaries-General and 2 Media Assistants, along with 14 committee Presidents and Vice-Presidents. The members of our team came from all over the world, with 19 different nationalities present. Although collaborating within such an international setting can sometimes be challenging, we managed to make it work thanks to the great effort of each staff member.

Compared to last year’s edition, we chose a more dynamic theme for the Annual Conference: “Cross-border challenges and the new world architecture”. The goal was to bring political issues back at the center of the debates, and to give each participant the opportunity to make their voice count. The committees simulated this year were all relevant to the theme: the United Nations Security Council, the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the International Organization for Migrations, the World Health Organization and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

The main innovation this year was the creation of the Media Department, which was in charge of producing a daily podcast during the conference. The participants particularly enjoyed this new feature and it certainly helped GIMUN’s online visibility amongst students worldwide.

In addition to that, the editors in chief of the daily newspaper “The Chronicle” and media team continuously interviewed delegates, wrote articles on world issues and produced podcasts to inform delegates of decisions made in other committees. This way all the delegates were constantly informed about world issues and news during the conference.

Finally, thanks to the amazing work of our Cultural Events team, participants had the chance to experience what Geneva and Switzerland have to offer: from fondue to chocolate-tasting, we offer them more than a classic Model United Nations experience.

Overall, we received really enthusiastic feedbacks from the participants and staff members, and contributed to promote Geneva as a centre for diplomacy and multicultural exchanges.
Département des Ressources Humaines

Ahmed Ben Abdallah et Naofall Aliou,
Sous-secrétaires Généraux aux ressources humaines

La seizième édition de la Conférence Annuelle de GIMUN a été inédite : elle a accueilli près de 250 participants de 58 nationalités différentes à travers le monde, une première pour cet événement. En terme de ratio de candidats masculins / féminins, nous avons également atteint un résultat satisfaisant, avec 58% de déléguées féminines et 42% de délégués masculins. Cette diversité a été le fruit d’un travail de longue haleine de par les Sous-Secrétaires généraux aux Ressources Humaines.

Ce département requiert une vision et une dynamique originales pour la mise en place de la Conférence Annuelle : effet, étant au cœur du recrutement de ceux-même qui feront de cette édition un événement riche en débat et en expérience, nous avions établi plusieurs objectifs globaux que nous souhaitions atteindre et plusieurs critères nous permettant de retenir les candidats avec le plus de potentiel. Ayant pour ambition que la Conférence Annuelle 2015 marque un saut qualitatif important, notamment en promouvant la pluralité des nationalités des délégués au sein de chaque comité, nous nous sommes basés sur nos expériences antérieures dans le domaine et sur notre grande motivation afin de réaliser un tel projet.

Cet événement exceptionnel ayant lieu au Palais des Nations, il s’agit d’une opportunité que bon nombre d’étudiants souhaitent saisir. Néanmoins, la concurrence étant rude, les candidats avec peu d’expériences ont souvent très peu de poids dans ce genre de situations face à des étudiants plus chevronnés. Cette année, nous avons donc décidé de privilégier les candidats montrant un réel enthousiasme et une motivation solide à participer à la Conférence Annuelle. Cette stratégie, dans une certaine mesure, a ainsi contribué à découvrir de réels talents lors des débats.

Le département des Ressources Humaines a demandé une longue préparation en amont : les outils de sélection et les objectifs à atteindre ont en effet été fixés en octobre.

Une telle organisation est primordiale, car elle permet d’aborder plus aisément l’intense période de recrutement des délégués (début décembre à fin janvier), qui nécessite un suivi minutieux et une flexibilité importante. De plus, notre département a également eu pour tâche d’assister certains candidats issus d’autres continents lors de la procédure d’obtention de visa pour la Suisse.

Malgré certaines difficultés liées à la diminution des candidatures qualifiées, les Sous-secrétaires aux Ressources Humaines ont cherché à constituer des comités hétéroclites et diversifiés, créant ainsi une bonne synergie entre les délégués. La satisfaction de l’ensemble des participants a été accueillie avec humilité par notre département au vu des efforts et du travail qui ont été fournis tout au long d’un mandat éprouvant, mais réellement gratifiant.
The 2015 GIMUN Annual Conference was a huge success thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, from the organizers to the participants. Over six months of preparations, meetings and collaboration brought yet another outstanding conference in the history of GIMUN.

The Committee Management team recruited Presidents and Vice-Presidents from all over the world with different backgrounds and expertise. All of them had attended previous similar conferences and thus had the experience to lead a committee. We also strived to choose candidates with a particular interest for the issues they would be working on during the Annual Conference: for instance, the President of the World Health Organisation was a Biology student in Geneva, a perfect fit for the topics of “Pharmaceuticals and Epidemic Diseases”. Similarly, the rest of the chairing team was filled with students with a high caliber in their fields; we had masters in law, professionals dealing with crisis simulation, and cultural ambassadors. This diverse group helped keep debate flowing by interjecting interesting factoids, forcing the delegates to think in ways they previously wouldn’t have.

In keeping with the excellence of GIMUN, the Committee Management team scoured the web looking for accomplished individuals who could speak about the topics of each committee. We had the absolute highest honor of welcoming over 11 experts, professionals, and dignitaries to speak to the delegates of all 6 committees. They helped shed light on the topics, greatly impacting the delegates. In fact, you could see the delegates look positively in awe when listening to their speakers.

Something we are really proud of here at GIMUN is the aspect of Ambassadors and Bloc Representatives. We worked closely with both groups in order to keep debate as accurate and lively as possible. Our Ambassadors would meet with us to discuss the debate taking place in the committees. They rotated between the committees guiding the P5 states in policy, and making speeches on their behalf when needed. They were instrumental to the debate. Simultaneously, the Bloc Representatives, just like the real UN would be guiding the states of their bloc to present a unified front.
At the GIMUN 2015 Annual Conference, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) debated upon two very demanding topics: firstly, “Challenges to Sustainable Agriculture in the Sub-Saharan Africa” and, secondly, “Economic and Social Repercussions of the Youth and Women Exclusion in the Middle East”. The theme of the Conference motivated delegates to debate upon the agenda items under the scope of globalization as both a blessing and a curse nowadays. The 29 members of the committee agreed that the problems faced in certain regions of the world, particularly the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, have important economic and social consequences to every single corner of the world we live in.

The first two days of the conference were dedicated to discussing the first agenda item. The delegates recognized the importance of global cooperation for the purpose of overcoming the challenges of the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and thus refrained from making alliances, choosing to cooperate to create a draft proposal, which was adopted after voting upon 20 amendments.

During the following two days of the conference, the delegates focused on the issue of the youth and women’s economic exclusion in the Middle East. After a fruitful dialogue with Ms. Cecile Molinier, former Director of the UN Development Programme Office in Geneva, the members of the ECOSOC Committee chose to sacrifice a number of lunch and coffee breaks, so as to produce a document with many practical recommendations for tackling the problem from its roots.

As the Chairpersons of the ECOSOC Committee, we would like to thank all the aforementioned actors and we sincerely hope that all delegates had an unforgettable experience, as we did!
The Human Rights Council of GIMUN Annual Conference 2015 discussed the two following topic areas: A. Human Trafficking, B. Arbitrary Detention. Also, the Human Rights Council went through the procedure of the Universal Periodic Review, a unique characteristic of the GIMUN AC 2015 that made the task of the Council more demanding. The Council was comprised of 30 UN Member States around the globe with the sole purpose to have every continent and organisation effectively represented during the debates of our Chamber.

On the first topic of the Council, Human Trafficking, discussions were heated and the dilemma was clear after a few hours: shall a step be taken to create regional judicial bodies responsible for cases related to Human Trafficking? Countries of the European Union, with some support from countries of the African Union, were in favor of such a notion, as it would create a more comprehensive approach; however, the arguments were of great significance and the Council focused on other aspects of the topic. As such, the members of the Council started integrating their initial ideas in a common Draft Resolution that would meet the acceptance of most of the Members. The goal of the Council to reach a consensus in such a crucial issue was met and the Human Trafficking Resolution was applauded and embraced.

After the discussions on the first topic, the Council moved on to the Universal Periodic Review, during which three pre-appointed countries were selected to present the situation of human rights in their territory and then the Council as a whole to suggest some proposals for each country.

The discussions of the Council then moved to the second topic and Arbitrary Detention was expected to be a very controversial issue. The Council started the negotiations on the topic from the first moment as it was divided into 4 Working Groups, and each Group was supporting a certain notion of the topic. After one session, the Working Groups started cooperating and they were two big groups working on different aspects of the issue. The arguments from both side were very strong and each group followed a certain line of reasoning. The contribution of our Guest Speaker, Ms. Gloria Gaggioli, was of high importance, as she assisted to the greater understanding and conceptualisation of the sub-topics of Arbitrary Detention. The final outcome of the Council was a Resolution understanding the necessity of certain measures that may be radical, but still respect fundamental freedoms of people and underlined the importance of the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the need to expand its operations.

Overall, the work and the final results of the Human Rights Council was tremendous and very intense. The Members of the Council had to work, collaborate and find concrete solutions for two topic areas and also go through the Universal Periodic Review. All of them were highly motivated and managed to work throughout the whole Conference, and even discuss on the topics when our meetings were suspended. The Presidency of the Human Rights Council expresses its total satisfaction with the quality of the delegates, the quality of the Annual Conference and suggests that the Human Rights Council shall be simulated in each edition of the GIMUN Annual Conference.
For the 16th edition of GIMUN Annual Conference, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had two relevant topics to discuss: « Lives lost during migration : addressing the issue of migrant fatalities on the Mediterranean Sea » and « Southeast Asia’s labour migration ». The committee was composed of 32 delegates, who actively participated in the debates.

After setting the agenda, we started discussing the topic of irregular migration and fatalities on the Mediterranean Sea: we had the chance to welcome Ms. Lavenex, professor at the University of Geneva, guest lecturer at the College d’Europe and specialist in migratory policies as a guest speaker. Her presence provided the delegates with further insight about the complexity of the topic and contributed to the quality of the committee’s proposals.

On the third day, the committee started discussing the second topic of the agenda, which was Southeast Asia’s labor migration. Although only a minority of the committee’s countries were directly influenced by this topic, the IOM committee worked hard, building alliances and cooperating in order to come up with viable solutions. We had the honor to welcome Ms. Kristina Touzenis, who serves as the Head of the International Migration Law Unit at the International Organization for Migration to speak on this topic. Ms. Touzenis gave an inspiring speech about the illegal and undocumented migration globally that helped the delegates understand the main concepts behind this phenomenon.

The participation in this year’s IOM was an extraordinary experience and, taking into account the feedback we received from the participants, we believe that they are as happy with the outcome as we are. We both felt honored for having presided this committee.
6th Committee of the General Assembly (Legal)

Armando Bode, committee President
Ian Elly Ssali Kiggundu, committee Vice-President

The 6th Committee of the General Assembly deals with legal matters and cooperates together with other UN agencies in the drafting and codification of international law. In the 15th edition of GIMUN, as President and Vice-President of the committee, we decided to convey the attention of this important UN body on controversial issues such as “The Legal Framework of Modern Peace Keeping Missions” and “The Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction”. This is not by accident. The main theme of the conference was clear, Cross-border Challenges and the New World Architecture, therefore we developed this idea in legal terms in order to stimulate debates amongst delegates and create moments of reflection.

The first topic, concerning the Legal Framework of Modern Peacekeeping Missions was definitely the hardest one for the delegates resulting in very heated debates since the very first session. This topic was chosen intentionally to be both legally and politically sensitive in comparison with the second topic which was purely legal. The controversial positions of the states led to the creation of two main “cliché” blocs: USA and EU, supported by Japan and on the other side African and South American Countries. The blocs started working on two different draft resolutions but with many common provisions and at a certain point with the mediation of some EU countries the blocs decided to merge their draft resolutions in a single one. This process took longer than expected because there were still many controversies and some African countries refused to cooperate.

We have to add here that Prof. Marco Sassoli, our guest speaker was a great help on the first topic with his speech allowing the delegates to clarify the questions that they had on the topic and the complexity of the peacekeeping from a legal and political point of view.

At the end, despite many controversies, the resolution passed.

On the other side, the scope and application of the principle of the Universal Jurisdiction has triggered fierce discussions in the committee. Being the question not yet solved, it naturally presented itself as the ideal topic to raise questions and the differences that make impossible nowadays to reach a wide consensus in the international community on this issue and many others. Our purpose was to let delegates properly understand the legal questions underlying the principle of Universal Jurisdiction. To actively participate to the debate, delegates had to understand the legal system of the country they were representing and also had to look into the opinions of the judges in the International Court of Justice, doctrine and the most qualified authorities, not to mention the history behind the issue. All these elements were met and we witnessed to intense debates that started by focusing on the bias the African bloc felt towards the principle and how in their view is a pretension from Western countries to universalise their legal instruments and, therefore, be free to destabilise the continent further. Also, they pointed out the arbitrary this power could have without the constraints posed by nation states. The Western countries reaffirmed their war on impunity while respecting national sovereignty and how, despite few cases, the principle was able to bring criminals to justice. Our guest speaker has enlightened the delegates and us emphasizing the substantial difference between the English “Universal Jurisdiction” and the French “Compétence Universelle”, stressing the vagueness in the English one and how the French definition better defines the legal instrument and its consequences. The discussion that followed his speech has led to a very much debated draft resolution, that also passed.

In the end we can say that the work of the Legal Committee in this year’s Annual Conference proved to be of a very high quality gathering together law and political science students with different legal backgrounds and we are very proud and happy for the final result.
For the debates in the WHO Committee at GIMUN 2015 Annual Conference we chose topics following the general theme Cross-Border Challenges and the New World Architecture. Both our subjects for discussion were and still are very important and compelling in today’s world that is constantly becoming more and more globalized: the first was the Role of the Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry on International Health Issues and the second Enhancing International Cooperation on Limiting Emerging Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases.

25 delegates represented UN member states. We chose countries in order to cover all geographical regions and to have balanced geopolitical representation. Respective countries were assembled in two groups: European Union bloc and African Union bloc, both of which had their leaders to guide countries to the right direction.

During committee sessions we welcomed two guest speakers. Ms. Thamara Romero, who is a Legal Officer at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, tackled the topic of the role of the pharmaceutical industry on international health issues. Her approach was very interesting as she explained the different sides of this controversial topic. Our second guest speaker, Prof. Burci, has served in the Legal Office of the World Health Organization since 1998. He talked about epidemic diseases and the various threats that they can pose to international community. Both speeches were very informative and the delegates had many follow-up questions. During the debates, when we were discussing the topics, they often referred to the information given by the guest speakers, so basically the latter helped our committee to create more realistic resolutions.

After heated debates and intense negotiations, the delegates came up with one proposal per topic, stating effective solutions and feasible measures. However, there is no bigger room than the room for improvement. Compromises and diplomatic discussions led to important modifications that could ameliorate the context of both documents. 25 amendments were submitted and fervent debates started for once more. The submitters managed some of them to pass, whilst others failed, disappointing thus their supporters. Finally, both resolutions were adopted, rewarding the delegates for their hard work and exceptional cooperation.

In conclusion, the participation in this year’s WHO was an astonishing experience and, bearing in mind the feedback we received from the delegates, they had the same opinion. Both of us were thrilled to serve as members of the Board, had the chance to chair in such a great committee and therefore we keep the best of memories from a conference that was unquestionably the best we have taken part in.
The UN Security Council simulated during GIMUN 2015 was remarkable in many ways. First of all, although some delegates were missing due to the last minute drop outs, those present were extremely well-prepared and made not only a very strong committee, but a team. They made the work of the Presidency extremely easy by developing an ability to work independently and constructively, fighting for consensus even in discussing the controversial topic of the Ukrainian conflict. The delegates played their roles well, with delegate of Russia storming out of the committee when the debate did not fit his side of the story. However, the committee managed to pass two resolutions and four Presidential Statements in the course of four days, which totalled 15 pages of text.

UN Security Council was developed in a way that delegates received constant crisis updates on both topics under discussion. Remarkably, the crisis was developed purely based on the real-life events by the great team of Presidency itself, USG Committee Management and Vice-President of GIMUN NGO. These updates have definitely sparked the debate in the Council, however the delegates managed to deal with these updates promptly and constructively and to move on to the debate on the topics themselves. Crisis updates were a great addition to this year’s Council.

The presence of P5 Ambassadors played an important role in the course of the debate: they provided a constructive feedback and advice to the delegates when it came to positions on resolutions, crises or proposing amendments. Their presence definitely made the Council act in a more realistic way.

GIMUN was able to provide two very interesting guest speakers, both from GCSP, a Geneva-based Institute. They have contributed new perspectives to the discourse, such as the issue of cyberterrorism in ISIS/ISIL debate.

Overall, with relatively short sessions and suspensions for crisis updates and guest speakers, time constraints were a great concern in the Presidency. Therefore, the consensus-based approach in the Council was appreciated, and, although, the debate was going on full speed on Friday morning, the resolutions were voted upon before lunch, which left delegates with time to explore the UN building and get a chance to breathe after four days of very intensive Committee work.
L’équipe d’interprètes était composée de 40 étudiants en master d’interprétation de conférence, issus de 12 écoles européennes, réparties dans 7 pays. Au cours des débats, les délégués pouvaient s’exprimer en sept langues : le néerlandais, l’espagnol, l’allemand, l’italien et le russe, outre les langues officielles de la conférence que sont l’anglais et le français.

Neuf professionnels ont accompagné les étudiants avant et pendant la conférence, les guidant et apportant leur savoir-faire et expérience professionnelle acquise au service de clients privés, d’organisations internationales et d’institutions de l’Union Européenne. Deux journées de séminaire de préparation ont été consacrées à la professionnalisation des étudiants, les sensibilisant davantage aux aspects de la qualité de service, de la déontologie et du professionnalisme.


Nous tenons également à remercier Cecilia Giussani, interprète permanente à l’ONU Genève pour sa présentation portant sur le recrutement et le quotidien d’un interprète onusien, les étudiants pour leur participation active, ainsi que les établissements de formation ayant permis leur présence :

- Bath University (UK)
- FTI Mons (BE)
- HUB-KU Leuven (BE)
- ILMH Bruxelles (BE)
- ISIT Paris (FR)
- ISTI Bruxelles (FR)
- ITIRI Strasbourg (FR)
- London Metropolitan University (UK)
- Manchester University (UK)
- Universidad de La Laguna (ES)
- Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma (IT)
- Universität Heidelberg (DE)
Le bilinguisme (anglais et français) de la Conférence Annuelle est important pour les participants, mais aussi pour les membres du staff car il permet d’assurer un confort linguistique pour tous. L’équipe de traduction permet aux participants et aux membres du staff de communiquer dans la langue de leur choix. Pour l’édition 2015 de la conférence annuelle, l’équipe était composée de douze traducteurs-réviseurs : neuf francophones et trois anglophones. Cette année, les traducteurs venaient de six universités différentes, ce qui permet de maintenir une certaine diversité au sein de l’équipe. Si le travail débute bien en amont de la conférence, avec la traduction des guides d’étude et d’autres documents tels que le programme de la semaine ou les mots de bienvenue, il n’en est pas moins important lors de la conférence. C’est un grand pas que nous avons fait cette année, car les traducteurs et les comités ont véritablement travaillé main dans la main. En effet, il m’a semblé essentiel d’instaurer une bonne communication avec les présidents, vice-présidents et délégués des comités pour leur expliquer notre rôle. Ainsi, nous avons mieux cerné les attentes de chacun et avons pu travailler efficacement. Pour le bon déroulement de la conférence, les traducteurs se sont rendus dans les comités et ont aidé les délégués, dont la langue maternelle n’est pas toujours le français ou l’anglais, à rédiger les résolutions. Le travail de révision et de traduction, assuré dans nos bureaux, en était facilité. Les résolutions sont le fruit de plusieurs mois de travail et doivent être parfaitement rédigées et traduites. L’édition 2015 de GIMUN a été une belle réussite pour mon département, et il me semble essentiel de continuer sur cette voie de la communication pour former une équipe toujours plus unie.
En tant que Sous-Secrétaires Généraux à la logistique, nous avons été mobilisés dès la rentrée universitaire : c’est à ce moment-là déjà qu’il faut commencer à effectuer des recherches afin d’offrir les meilleurs prestations possibles à nos participants. Grâce à une excellente entente entre les trois Sous-Secrétaires Généraux, la préparation s’est déroulée sans accroc, et tout était en place pour le jour-J.

En choisissant ce que nous allions offrir à nos participants, nous avons mis l’accent sur le caractère durable et pratique des différents cadeaux. Ainsi, chaque participant a reçu à son arrivée une sacoche pour ordinateur, une bouteille en aluminium (qui nous permet d’éviter d’utiliser des gobelets en plastique), un blocs-note et un badge, tout cela aux couleurs de GIMUN. Les retours que nous avons eus des participants quant à ces cadeaux révèlent qu’ils ont été très appréciés. Nous espérons qu’ils continueront à être utilisés après la Conférence Annuelle et qu’ils véhiculeront le logo de GIMUN au-delà de Genève !

Par ailleurs, un rôle clé du département logistique est de faire en sorte que nos participants ne manquent de rien durant les journées de débats. Nous organisions donc, en collaboration avec le personnel du Palais des Nations, des pauses cafés ainsi que les repas de midi. Il y avait chaque jour deux pauses café, durant lesquelles nous nous improvisions serveurs, et chaque midi, les participants recevaient un bon leur permettant de se restaurer à la cafétéria du Palais des Nations. Enfin, nous étions également responsables de commander sandwiches et boissons pour les journées de préparation.

Finalement, nous avions également pour tâche d’assister les participants ayant besoin d’un logement durant la conférence. Pour ce faire, nous avions réservé un abri de la Protection Civile, situé à proximité du Palais des Nations. Cela nous permet d’offrir à certains participants un logement au prix de 20 CHF par nuitée, ainsi que de loger les participants bénéficiant de l’aide financière. En plus du tarif modéré, le retour des personnes y séjournant est très positif puisqu’il a leur a permis de tisser des liens forts en dehors des débats aux Nations Unies. En parallèle, nous avions également obtenu des offres préférentielles auprès de différents hôtels genevois pour nos participants.

Au final, le bilan de notre département est plus que positif, et nous sommes fiers du travail accompli par notre équipe.
Une bonne entente entre les participants est essentielle pour que la Conférence Annuelle de GIMUN soit un succès. Pour ce faire, les événements culturels sont cruciaux, car ils leur permettent de faire connaissance et d’interagir dans un cadre moins formel que celui des Nations Unies.

Le samedi 21 mars 2015, nous avons organisé un Buffet international dans le hall d’Uni Mail. Chaque participant avait été invité à amener une spécialité culinaire de son pays. Le dimanche, nous avons pris le bus afin de partir à la découverte de la Suisse. Après une visite du séculaire Château de Chillon au bord de la Riviera vaudoise, nous nous sommes rendus à Vevey, où la chocolaterie Poyet nous a livré quelques uns de ses secrets gourmands.

La première journée de débats intenses et passionnés étant passée, nos participants furent charmés lundi soir par trois groupes de musiques du monde (balkanique, orientale et latino-américaine) - suivi d’un disc jockey, qui leur donnèrent la possibilité de danser et de s’évader au-delà du protocole et des règles de procédure. Le lendemain, les participants ont dégusté - pour la première fois pour certains - une fondue au restaurant des Vieux-Grenadiers, où régnait une atmosphère à la fois originale, traditionnelle et… internationale !

Directement inspirée par le thème de la Conférence Annuelle, la soirée déguisée du mercredi soir était intitulée « Au-delà des frontières ». Il n’y avait pas des frontières à l’interprétation, et nous avons eu de belles surprises ! Ayant revêtu leurs plus beaux costumes - super héros, divinités grecques, marins, etc., les participants ont dansé ensemble jusqu’au matin, ce qui ne les a pas empêchés d’être à l’heure au Palais des Nations le lendemain et de chanter le jeudi soir à l’occasion de la soirée Karaoké.

Pour clore en beauté une semaine mémorable sur les plans académiques et humains et permettre aux participants de se dire au revoir, nous avons organisé une soirée de gala aux Halles de l’île, dont le cadre magnifique n’est plus à présenter. Tous sur leur 31, les délégués d’une semaine ont pu célébrer la fin d’une formidable aventure.

Toutes ces soirées ont par conséquent permis aux participants de découvrir Genève et la Suisse autrement, mais surtout de se mélangé et de créer un véritable sentiment de cohésion au sein de cette Conférence Annuelle.
Depuis maintenant plusieurs années, le journal de la Conférence Annuelle offre à une petite équipe d’étudiants aspirant à découvrir le monde du journalisme la possibilité de vivre une expérience pratique dans ce domaine, dans le cadre unique du Palais des Nations. Six éditions des GIMUN Chronicles ont été imprimées et distribuées chaque jour aux participants, qui s’empressaient de les dévorer afin de découvrir les dernières actualités de la Conférence Annuelle.

Tout a commencé en septembre, avec la constitution de notre binôme de choc. En tant qu’étudiantes en traduction, nous avions à cœur de fournir un journal dans lequel l’accent était mis sur la qualité de la rédaction, mais aussi du contenu. Nous tenions à laisser à nos journalistes une grande liberté pour exprimer leurs opinions. Recrutée en janvier, notre équipe était composée de douze journalistes, dont six écrivaient en français et six en anglais, originaires des États-Unis, de France, d’Italie, du Royaume-Uni et de Suisse. Débordants de motivation, d’idées et d’esprit critique, nos journalistes ont su créer une ambiance chaleureuse à la fois au sein de notre équipe et de leurs comités.

N’ayant aucune connaissance en graphisme, nous avons eu la chance inouïe de tomber sur une véritable pépite : notre graphiste Dee, sud-coréenne, qui a su nous guider, même à distance, à travers les étapes du processus de création de la maquette. Pendant la Conférence Annuelle, nous avons également pu compter sur la collaboration de notre assistante graphiste Tayo, basée en Floride, ce qui a présenté le défi, relevé avec brio, de travailler sur trois fuseaux horaires très éloignés. Nous sommes également reconnaissantes pour la patience de notre imprimeur Duovisual, qui attendait chaque soir l’édition du lendemain, imprimée à 150 exemplaires et prête de très bonne heure.

Le résultat de ce travail collectif a largement dépassé nos attentes. Tout en restant fidèles à l’esprit des GIMUN Chronicles, nous avons réussi à innover en ajoutant notre touche personnelle au journal : deux interviews par jour au lieu d’une, des articles sur les autres activités de GIMUN et les sponsors, le dessin de presse réalisé par une de nos journalistes, un article par jour consacré au fonctionnement d’un des comités, et des comptes-rendus des interventions des invités. Chaque jour, nous offrions aux participants des articles sur l’actualité mondiale, ainsi que sur le contenu des débats de comités.

Au total, ce sont près de 1000 exemplaires imprimés qui ont été distribués et que les participants de la conférence conserveront précieusement en souvenir. Et pour clore cette belle semaine et combattre la nostalgie du retour dans les amphithéâtres, nous leur avons même offert une dernière petite édition pour la route, disponible en ligne sur le site de GIMUN !
Pour son édition 2015, la Conférence Annuelle de GIMUN a accueilli un nouveau département : celui des médias, dont la tâche consiste à élaborer quotidiennement un podcast relatant les divers événements survenus pendant la journée. De son élaboration à sa diffusion en passant par sa mise en place, ses dialogues et bien d’autres défis, ce projet de taille a été intégralement conçu de bout en bout par une équipe de trois étudiants motivés et impliqués.

Cet événement rassemblant chaque année des centaines de participants, il y a bien évidemment des novices et des habitués. Voilà pourquoi nous avons décidé de commencer notre projet par de courts reportages expliquant la tâche inhérente à certaines positions à la Conférence. De cette façon, les participants et l’équipe ont pu appréhender la Conférence Annuelle d’un point de vue différent. N’ayant eu que quelques jours et donc peu de temps pour faire des reportages exhaustifs, nous sommes certains que nos successeurs sauront compléter notre travail les années suivantes.

Le point central de la Conférence Annuelle est sans nul doute les débats, qui chaque jour sont le théâtre d’enjeux politiques complexes et passionnant. Il était alors essentiel pour nous de les illustrer au mieux sans pour autant ennuyer les spectateurs en les relecture dans des discussions auxquelles ils avaient déjà pris part. Nous avons capturé de nombreuses séquences que nous avons intégrées dans les reportages, faisant ainsi profiter à tous des salles de conférence et des différents intervenants que nous avons eu la chance d’écouter.

Enfin, la Conférence Annuelle n’est pas uniquement une longue session de débats : c’est également des activités journalières qui permettent à tous les participants de se retrouver et de partager de bons moments autour d’une fondue, lors d’une visite de la ville de Genève ou à l’occasion d’un voyage en Suisse. Nous avons donc essayé de filmer nos apprentis délégués dans un contexte différent et atypique qui a donné une harmonie à notre projet : l’aspect académique durant la journée, puis l’aspect humain le soir (un peu moins strict mais tout aussi important).

Tous ces éléments ont été réunis dans un podcast vidéo journalier d’environ trois minutes, diffusé chaque soir de la semaine sur la page Facebook de GIMUN. Ces séquences constituent ainsi un précieux souvenir pour tous les participants et l’équipe d’organisation : chacun a pu avoir le plaisir de s’y apercevoir à un moment ou à un autre et prendre connaissance de ce qui se déroulait à la Conférence Annuelle en général. Les critiques que nous avons reçues ont été très positives et nous avons observé un véritable engouement à la sortie de chaque podcast.

La création de ce département et, par extension, de ce podcast a donc été une excellente initiative et un bon départ pour l’instauration d’une tradition vidéographique à la Conférence Annuelle. Nous attendons donc avec impatience de découvrir ce que la prochaine équipe saura offrir l’année prochaine !
UN Day 2014

Simon Bianchi, GIMUN President
Francesca Dal Poggetto, GIMUN Vice-President

At its 6th edition held in October 2014, the UN Day proved once more to be a cornerstone among GIMUN’s events. Traditionally organized every year since 2009 in collaboration with the United Nations Office in Geneva, this event aims at celebrating the anniversary of the entering into force of the UN Charter by gathering students, UN officials, academics and NGO representatives for an entire day of debate on a topic that is at the core of the international agenda and interests the youth. Last year, under the overarching theme of “Human Security: trajectories and upcoming obstacles in addressing global vulnerabilities”, the UN Day focused on the role of the United Nations as a pioneer in the emergence of the concept within the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Report in 1994 and its development up to present.

Following the schedule firstly implemented during the 2013 edition, the UN Day was a full day event, divided into two parts: a round table with live interpretation gathering all the participants in the morning, and four small panel discussions each covering a different sub-topic in the afternoon. For the first part, GIMUN was delighted to welcome the acting Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr. Møller, the Chief of Staff at Human Security Division at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Schifferle, the Former Director of the United Nations Development Programme Office in Geneva, Ms. Molinier, and the Former Director of the Social Protection Department of the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Bonilla-Garcia. The interaction between our guest speakers and the students, which emerged in a passionate questions and answers session, was one of the strengths of this edition of UN Day.

In the afternoon, the participants took part in a previously assigned group of around 25 students each, among the four organised by GIMUN. As to respect our NGO’s traditional bilingualism, two panels were entirely held in English, while the two others debated in French. Each panel treated a thematic dimension of human security and had the chance to welcome a guest speaker who lead the discussion and fostered the debate. The panel on “Dilemmas of humanitarian intervention in the Middle East” had the pleasure to hear from Professor of International History at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Davide Rodogno; while the group debating on the theme “Building Peace: a challenge that rests on a human approach” was pleased to welcome the Communication and Social Media Officer of the NGO Interpeace, Ms. Merklin. As for the French-speaking panels, the one focusing on “The environment and the contemporary challenges of natural resources management” was lead by Ms. Lucile Maertens, PhD candidate at the University of Geneva, while the other debating on “Migration: one of the objectives of sustainable development” was pleased to listen to Ms. Molinier who kindly accepted to stay with us for the entire event.

At the end of the day, a small closing ceremony was organised to allow the students serving as moderators of every panel to present the conclusions and outcomes of their respective group’s discussions. It emerged that the participants were extremely satisfied with both the quality and the content of UN Day 2014, which certainly was one of the most appreciated event GIMUN organised last year. With one of the highest participation rate and one of the most positive feedback of last year’s events, this edition of UN Day was not only a success for us as organisers, but most importantly it was a very stimulating experience for all the students for which the Palais des Nations became an exceptional platform for sharing and learning.

Dans un premier temps, les 50 participants présents pour cet événement ont pu écouter le Professeur Abdeljalil Akkari, spécialisé dans les dimensions internationales de l’éducation, et Bo Viktor Nylund, expert de la responsabilité sociale des entreprises à l’UNICEF, disséquer sur l’implémentation des droits de l’enfant et des politiques éducatives ainsi que les défis futurs dans ce domaine. Le format se voulant interactif, les étudiants ont également eu la possibilité de poser leurs questions à nos deux généreux orateurs.

Dans un second temps, les participants ont été séparés en deux groupes de 25, chaque groupe abordant alors une thématique plus précise toujours en lien avec l’enfance. Le bilinguisme étant une des valeurs chères à GIMUN depuis sa création, une discussion s’est déroulée en français, tandis que la seconde avait lieu en anglais. Le Professeur Abdeljalil Akkari a eu l’extrême gentillesse de rester avec nous pour cette seconde partie de l’après-midi et a partagé avec les participants du groupe anglophone ses réflexions et son analyse toujours très pertinente sur la problématique : « Emerging challenges of Education Policies ». Quant au groupe francophone, il a abordé la problématique de la protection des enfants dans les conflits armés à travers le visionnage de deux reportages télévisés : « Enfants-soldats : la loi dit non ! » et « Les enfants du Seigneur ».

Avec une cinquantaine de participants présents, cette première édition de la « Journée Mondiale de l’Enfance » a été un succès et a démontré que ces événements thématiques organisés par GIMUN au Palais des Nations rencontrent un succès grandissant auprès des étudiants. Nous aimerions remercier Messieurs Akkari et Nylund pour leur disponibilité et pour avoir offert aux nombreux participants un passionnant aperçu des défis futurs dans de nombreux domaines touchant à l’enfance.
During the last weekend of November 2014, GIMUN held its fifth edition of the Youth Perspectives Conference. By choosing “Science and Technology for Development” as main theme, we wanted to focus on unlocking the knowledge of today’s youth to find solutions for economic and social challenges. The objective of this year conference was to contribute to the work of the ECOSOC Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to which GIMUN submitted the outcome of these three days of debate in the form of a statement.

To kick things off for our Opening Ceremony, we had two guests who each spoke on various aspects of utilizing science and technology for development as well as how to further engage youth into these projects. Our first guest speaker was Mr. Adam Rogers, Assistant Director of UNOSSC and the Regional Representative for Europe at United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, who spoke on how elements of science and technology have made positive impacts within his line of work in the South-South nexus. Our second guest speaker was Yonathan Parienti, Founder and CEO of Horyou, the Social Network for Social Good. Mr. Parienti spoke on the importance of society, individuals, and collective human experiences coming together to promote social progress.

The participants then engaged in three days of passionate debates. They had the opportunity to visit the CERN on Friday afternoon and also took part in various entertaining social events offered by GIMUN such as a fondue evening or a night in a bar. One of the greatest strength of this year Youth Perspectives was the diversity of the students participating in the event, who came from three different continents. Divided into four groups, one of which debating entirely in French, they engaged in different questions related to two overarching topics: Strategic Foresight for the Post-2015 Agenda and Digital Development, as set up in the agenda of the ECOSOC Commission to which GIMUN submitted the final statement.

We, as well as the participants, are really pleased with the outcome of Youth Perspectives 2014 and hope that this project will further improve and serve as a always more concrete platform in which young people from different background can contribute to the work of international bodies for questions that concern them in the first place.
Committee 1

Twelve participants, representing more than 16 nationalities from all the five continents, drove the discussions on the “Mechanisms to close the technological gap among youth with special focus on education and employment” throughout three main edges: the definitions of technology and sustainable development; investment and promotion in/of technologies for development; and, regulation/deregulation standards for technology use, knowledge sharing and training.

An innovative concept was introduced in outlining technology, which was defined by our group as a “basic tool”: while technology should not to be regarded as a basic need such as sanitation, water or housing, it stands out as a basic tool towards achieving sustainable development in both its ‘needs’ and ‘limitations’ elements. Meanwhile, sustainable development definition was regarded as agreed language in the terms of the Brundtland Report.

In discussing investment and promotion in/of technologies for development, participants agreed on the need to appeal to nations, corporations and individuals support in the consecution of the needed resources. It furthermore went on debating the idea of locally and regionally based technology production/sharing and the calling for developed nations to abide by their ODA commitments.

Last but not least, the panel endorsed the local vocational training implementation, use of low cost – high impact technologies, and knowledge sharing (with particular emphasis on the support to the “initiative of open access publications”) as practical measures to the observed in order to effectively start the bridging process of the technological gap.

The outcome of the entire 3 days discussion was absolutely positive, having all participants agree on the entire language of the document submitted to the ECOSOC Commission. An amazing experience, a thrilling challenge and an excellent result: this is the balance of this edition of Youth Perspectives.

Committee 2

The panel on Innovation and ICT for Sustainable Youth Empowerment of Youth Perspectives 2014 was made up of people from multiple different nationalities, including Tanzania, Germany and Iran. The topic was tackled through a three pillars approach, focusing on youth empowerment from an economic, social and environmental perspective. We quickly reached the conclusion that technology and education could be the decisive factors required for equalizing the three pillars and thus maximizing sustainable youth empowerment. Similarly the panel also examined which approach was required to facilitate sustainable youth empowerment. While there is some merit in having a globalized and universal approach to teaching basic concepts, it is necessary to build on the bottom up theory for allowing local communities’ involvement. Therefore, the panel acknowledged the need for systems through which youths are able to embrace their creative self and make the most of technology, while being provided with the basic needs. Such systems should have both localized cultural focuses, and larger global, multidisciplinary approaches.

Later in the conference, the panel was able to discern seven clear themes that would later become the submissions to the ECOSOC. Among these, the involvement and the obligation of states to recognize the importance of local communities in empowering youths; the infrastructure required for facilitating youth empowerment, involving states investigations into feasible models for providing the necessary ICT’s to the youths; education, and the power that better teaching and education facilities can bring to youths through information technology in developing countries. The panel also discussed the theme of employment and the job market, as well as the way social networks and platforms could allow youths to express their views and opinions both nationally and internationally. For all the participants, as well as for us as moderators, the days at the Youth Perspectives Conference were productive and extremely rewarding.
Committee 3

The topic of our panel during Youth Perspectives 2014 was ‘Policies and Partnerships for Digital Development’ (PP4DD). Being the smallest panel, we consisted of a group of four participants and two moderators, but a fifth participant joined us for several sessions via Skype. Not only the diverse cultural background, but also the difference in the participant’s academic background contributed to the discussions as a whole and allowed us to grasp the concept of digital development from different perspectives.

We initially addressed the concept of digital development itself, in order to agree on a common definition, although acknowledging that this always needs to be adapted to a community’s special geographical and cultural environment. We also had a session with another panel, and concluded that digital development should ascend from local actions, thus allowing communities to decide whether and how to apply the technologies made available to them or developed domestically. Later on, our panel discussed the limitations to digital development, and produced more concrete ideas on how to create a conducive environment for its implementation. To develop more tangible solutions, we formed three research groups, focusing on accessibility, ICT awareness and education.

At the end of the weekend, we came up with some interesting conclusions: our panel emphasized that digital development should always be supported and stimulated by further infrastructural growth and increases in social equality. Our final document pointed out three key elements for successful and sustainable digital development: the accessibility of digital services throughout a state and without limitation; the necessity of raising awareness towards digital development; and the need of including digital technologies in all stages of education.

We are positive that Youth Perspectives provided us with a platform to analyse different aspects of this matter and come up with different solutions that may inspire policy makers and therefore contribute to improving people’s living conditions.

Committee 4

Pour la conférence Youth Perspectives 2014, nous avons eu la chance de diriger les débats de l’unique panel en langue française de cette édition. Entourés de jeunes gens prometteurs et d’ores et déjà talentueux, nous nous sommes penchés durant trois jours sur la thématique du développement digital dans les conflits politiques contemporains. Forts de la belle diversité culturelle de notre panel (à moins de 10 participants, nous représentions pas moins de 5 nationalités), la dynamique qui prit place fut très motivante.

Notre réflexion a débuté par la définition de notre champ de travail, afin de ne pas se perdre dans la complexité du sujet et de pouvoir tous être sur la même longueur d’onde quant à la forme, au déroulement et aux objectifs de notre comité. Puis, nous nous sommes penchés sur les relations entre le pouvoir et les médias afin de déterminer les bénéfices, tout comme les grands risques, que revêt l’utilisation des nouvelles technologies numériques dans le contexte des conflits politiques. Sous l’impulsion des participants et participantes, nous avons alors décidé de nous focaliser sur les moyens que la communauté internationale pourrait mettre en œuvre pour promouvoir, par le biais de ces nouveaux outils de communication, la participation de la jeunesse dans la résolution des conflits. Les débats furent passionnants. Vifs et réactifs, nous tentions de cadrer au mieux, et au plus juste, le flot des propositions. Aidés par le visionnage d’extrait de documentaires et de reportages suggérés par nous-mêmes, et de plus en plus par les participant-e-s à mesure que les heures défilaient, six clauses furent finalement posées sur papier.

Ces six clauses représentent non seulement l’aboutissement d’une réflexion longue de plusieurs jours, mais surtout, et nous sommes convaincus que c’est là le résultat le plus précieux de ces quelques jours, la concrétisation d’amitiés nouvelles. Ces amitiés, nous en sommes certains, donneront lieu à de futurs palpitants échanges et, on ne le sait jamais, seront peut-être à l’orée de belles collaborations professionnelles.
The first experience of MUN delegation was a success, at first we had planned to accept 8 delegates however after the number of applications we received, we decided to welcome 25 students to our MUN delegation weekly sessions.

In these sessions we introduced the delegates (most of them first timers) to the MUN world by presenting them the Rules of Procedure and the MUN system.

For each session, we prepared a different topic and gave the delegates different position papers in advance so that they would have the time to familiarise with the subject. Changing the topic each week or every two weeks allowed the delegates to represent different countries and defend different points of view, sometimes very divergent from one another. We often presented the delegates with a resolution to be amended, but sometimes we would let them write a resolution themselves. This allowed the group to really experience a debate and negotiate to reach an agreement.

GIMUN was offered 10 spots at the OXIMUN (Oxford International Model United Nations), which took place between the end of October and the beginning of November. We therefore proceeded to the selection of 8 delegates that would attend the conference and represent Germany in different committees. Although this experience was the first MUN experience for all of the delegates, and for GIMUN as a delegation, our group left an impeccable image at the conference and had an extremely enriching learning experience.

As far as the financial aspect of this project is concerned, GIMUN adopted the same policy throughout the year: the NGO would provide for the delegation fees of each delegate for his/her participation in the specific conference, but all logistic expenses (i.e.: flight tickets, accommodation, social activities) were at the charge of the participants.

With more than 30 students participating throughout the year, and three international conferences attended, the MUN Delegation successfully proved its importance and success among GIMUN’s projects.
In the past year, GIMUN's online journal continued expanding. The progress of the initiative could be measured not only by the quality analyses it offers, but also by the growing number of readers and subscribers. The positive feedback we receive is another indicator the work of our excellent teams of journalists and translators is well taken internationally.

Taking over from the founders Friederike and Melanie, we worked together to continue with the established good practices while introducing new ideas. Expanding the team beyond Geneva was one of our first steps. At the time of the elections for this position, one of us was based in The Hague and during the recruitment process for new journalists we received applications from Lisbon, York, Ljubljana and Boston in addition to Geneva.

The added benefit of diversity, both cultural and linguistic, offered a new standard for our work and we were able to offer several viewpoints on given current issues. Although having a team spread across two continents takes effort to coordinate, the enthusiasm and dedication of our journalists and translators paid off and this is evident on the blog. Teamwork, punctuality and reliability were qualities each member of our big team had to master in order to fit in. We are especially grateful to our translators’ coordinator, Marie-Ambrym Thivoyon, who was always at our side, giving us invaluable support and advice.

As editors, it was a pleasure for us to be able to offer our readers long detailed pieces, country-specific analyses, brief sketches as well as informed commentaries on recent events. We encouraged our contributors to attend conferences and workshops in order to gain insight into the views and opinions of prominent figures. Out of one of these events, came an excellent interview with Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Two of the major events we took part in this year included the GIMUN Annual Conference in March and the Day of Journalism in May. At the Annual Conference, we were able to promote the blog, acquaint the attendees with our work and recruit new journalists, while the Day of Journalism allowed us to meet and collaborate with other student media based in Geneva.

In order to increase the visibility of the blog, we have experimented sharing content on the social networks. This has had a positive impact on the popularity of the blog, which quickly gained attention. The growing public interest is sufficient and well-deserved reward for the hard work of the whole team. We hope to have set a solid foundation for this ambitious project to expand further.
After the great response that the launch of the project International Geneva had during the summer 2014, GIMUN decided to propose it once more in June 2015. Being itself based in Geneva, GIMUN benefitted from its very privileged position in one of the most vivid centres of multilateral negotiations to guide a group of 25 students through the complex international machinery that this city hosts.

The project, which lasted for five days, was planned in order to focus on one specific thematic area per day, around which all activities were organised. The first day was entirely dedicated to the theme of migration and refugees. Our students had the chance to visit and learn more about the International Organisation for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in both of which they met and discussed with professionals working in the field who explained from an internal and very practical point of view the work of these two bodies. They also had the opportunity to hear from Professor Khalid Koser on the theme of international migration in the 21st century. Finally, they visited the local NGO “Centre de La Roseraie” offering help to migrants in Geneva, thus exploring a more concrete approach as opposed to the big international organisations visited in the morning. The second day was devoted to the topic of global health. Our students visited the World Health Organisation, and enjoyed a very interesting presentation on the response to the Ebola crisis; they were also welcomed at GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, where they were introduced to the mandate and activities of the organisation. Finally, they also had a short presentation at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies about its role and field work. The theme chosen for the third day was global governance and the United Nations in general. After a presentation from Mr. Patrick Pardo, Representative of the Swiss Permanent Mission to the United Nations, our group of students moved to the Palais des Nations to enjoy a guided tour of the building, a lunch in the garden and a round table with Mr. Salman Bal, Senior Political Advisor to the Office of the UNOG Director General. Human rights and humanitarian intervention were the topics of the fourth day: after hearing from four guest speakers from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, our participants had a presentation on the role of non-state actors in the human rights field by Ms. Cecilia Cannon from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, they then had the unique opportunity to attend one session of the Human Rights Council, which was meeting during that week. The last day, the attention was drawn at trade and development: the World Trade Organisation, the World Intellectual Property Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme opened their doors to our students and introduce them to an in-depth overview and a everyday perspective of their activities.

One of the great developments from the previous edition was the close collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Such coordination made possible for GIMUN to open one and a half day of its programme to a group of around 50 students attending the summer school in Global Governance at the Graduate Institute.

Extremely appreciated in all its components from all participants, this edition of International Geneva was defined by our students, who all actively engaged and promptly participated in every activity, as an enriching and inspirational experience, that the diversity of backgrounds and origins of our group as well as the mixture of actors and topics we respectively met and examined made remarkable.
The GIMUN 2015 Study Trip under the theme « Separatism in a Globalized World » took place in Scotland between the 22nd of June and the 2nd of July. Seven students and three organizers, representing five different nationalities, took part in a 10-days long trip aiming to examine in depth the Scottish independence movement and compare it with the rest of the active separatist movements around the world.

In the first day of our activities, we were welcomed at the University of Glasgow by Professors Brian Girvin and Karen Wright both specialized in British politics. In this occasion, the speakers presented both the pro and against independence arguments and our participants had the opportunity to ask several questions during the session.

The next day, we were invited back to the University of Glasgow this time by Professor Duncan Ross, permanent lecturer at the University and one of the main advisors behind the 'YES' campaign. This main outcome of this meeting was to demonstrate why the creation of an independent state was suitable and what measures would be necessary. We also had the opportunity to learn more about how such campaigns are set up and what were deemed as the key strengths and weaknesses of that particular campaign. Later on the same day, we met with 2 PHD students who provided a comparative analysis between Scotland and other Eastern European nations.

As part of our journey, we also met in person with an MP of the Scottish parliament and member of the Scottish National Party, Mr. James Dornan. Further lecturers included Ms. Ailsa Henderson, Head of the International Relations Department at the University of Edinburgh. The trip ended with a passionate debate between the participants, where most of them expressed their satisfaction out of the unique opportunity of a more hands-on approach on the topic of separatism. This experience was the goal we set for this trip: to complete the theoretical knowledge that university-level education offers.

Aside from academics, we also had the opportunity to visit several historic landmarks such as the Castle of Edinburgh and the National Museum of Scotland. We also spent a weekend at Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands and did an excursion around the famous Loch-Ness Lake.
The success of the GIMUN 2014 - 2015 activities was above all granted by the continued and generous support from our sponsors and partners. As a non-profit student-led NGO the activities of GIMUN is enabled by our dedicated sponsors who provide the necessary financial means to carry out our projects. It is thanks to our sponsors that we are able to provide students from across the world the chance to engage with contemporary issues in international politics, make available an arena to express ideas, learn from other students, and promote the values of multilateral cooperation among today’s young. The financial basis for the GIMUN activities during the 2014 - 2015 term was structured the same way as last year. Participation fees for the Annual Conference represent the largest single source of GIMUN’s financial basis, comprising about a half NGO’s income, while financial grants from sponsors represent the other half. The following will give a quick summary of GIMUN’s finances. The final budget can be found at the end of the Annual Report.

THE GIMUN FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

General sponsors
In addition to the sponsors for the Annual Conference and the participation fee, GIMUN is dependent on the financial support from organisation’s general sponsors. A large part of general financial support goes to financing GIMUN’s many other projects, but a crucial function of this support is to finance the operational expenses of the NGO. The operational expenses include office supplies, expense related to meeting activity, website, bank fees and transportation costs for board members etc. Having the financial means to cover these expenditures plays a vital role in enabling the GIMUN board to organize GIMUN’s activities and reach out to its audience. During the 2014 – 2015 term, GIMUN received 18 000 CHF in general financial support.

GIMUN’s general sponsors were:
• Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)
• Université de Genève (UNIGE)
• Ville de Genève

UNIGE and IHEID are the two main partners of GIMUN and offered, in addition to financial support, logistical support by providing rooms and facilities for GIMUN-organized meetings. IHEID also provided an office space for GIMUN. UNIGE and IHEID were also the most important areas for promotion during the 2014-2015 term.

Sponsors for the Annual Conference
This year, GIMUN received 25 000 CHF in financial support for the Annual Conference. Additionally, 10 386 CHF was granted by l’Etat de Genève and in cooperation with CAGI (Centre d’Accueil - Genève Internationale) to provide financial aid for participants eligible for l’Etat de Genève’s Solidarity Fund (please see more details below).

The sponsors for the 2015 Annual Conference were:
• Département fédéral des affaires étrangères (DFAE)
• Commission de Gestion des Taxes fixes, Université de Genève (CGTF)
• Foundation pour Genève
• Foundation Hans Wildorf
• Etat de Genève - Solidarity Fund

The combined support from the above sponsors amount to 35 386 CHF. This money is earmarked for the Annual Conference and is mainly used to cover logistical expenses.

Participation fees
Income from participation fees for the Annual Conference 2015 amounted to 34 344 CHF. The fee was this year set to 205 CHF per participant and is primarily justified by the social events, lunches and coffee breaks that are provided to the participants during the conference (staff, translators, interpreters and sponsored participants are exempted from the fee). The budgeted income was set to 42 000 as we anticipated 205 paying participants. In the end, 171 paying participants attended the conference, resulting in a smaller income in participation fee than expected. However, the bulk of this reduced income was saved by less expenditures on social events and lunches, showing that the financial structure of GIMUN is resilient towards unexpected loss of income.
DEFICIT AND LONG-TERM STRATEGY

In the 2014 - 2015 term, GIMUN had a deficit of 34,464 CHF. This deficit was allowed by a high capital transfer from the previous term and caused by increasingly more projects. After a consultation with IHEID, GIMUN was informed that the NGO needs to reach a more sustainable financial situation in which projects besides the Annual Conference are financed by a yearly income and where the yearly capital transfer to the next financial term is reduced to between 15,000 – 20,000 CHF, if IHEID was to continue its support. The GIMUN Board therefore decided to aim for a capital transfer of 17,000 CHF for the next term.

In 2014 – 2015, the main financial function of the deficit was to finance projects other than the Annual Conference and the operational expenses of the NGO that were not covered by GIMUN’s general sponsors. While the Annual Conference is solidly financed by GIMUN’s sponsors and through participation fees, other projects are in need of more funding. Having reached a more reasonable capital transfer to the next term, GIMUN aims to raise an initial 3,000 CHF in general funding, while cutting some of the operational expenses. More specifically, GIMUN foresees less expenditure related to the website, as we during the 2014 – 2015 paid for a complete redesign of GIMUN’s website. Moreover, GIMUN sees potential in attracting funding for specific events, such as UN Day, International Geneva and the Study Trip (for more information on these events, please visit our website www.gimun.org and the related pages of this Annual Report).

GIMUN has budgeted for 2015 – 2016 to provide the capital transfer of 17,000 CHF for the following term and have a budget surplus of 400 CHF. GIMUN is confident that it can strengthen the partnerships with our current sponsors and seek new long-term partnerships that can contribute to the funding of GIMUN’s growing number of projects, which widens the scope of its audience while staying committed to the founding principles of promoting the values of the United Nations and engage students from across the world in the challenges and possibilities of multilateral cooperation.

The final 2014 – 2015 budget is provided below. For a more detailed account, the journal of all expenditures can be provided upon request by sending an email to finance@gimun.org.
# Balance Sheet

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| Grand Total: Outflows | 118,852.96 | CHF 126,350.11 |

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**CAPITAL TRANSFER FROM 2013-2014**

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| 4.1.1 | IEHEID | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 4.1.2 | UNSE | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 4.1.3 | Ville de Genève | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 4.1.4 | IEHEID Winter Programme | 500.00 | |

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<td>5.5</td>
<td>TÉLU Foundation - Solidarity Fund</td>
<td>10,386.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 6 | **Participation fees Annual Conference** | 34,344.00 | 42,000.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th><strong>Budget Surplus/Deficit</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Capital transfer to 2015 - 2016</td>
<td>17,817.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Capital reserved for next board (2.9.3)</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A part of this is tied in post 3.9.2 and 3.9.3.

*Budget (not spent yet)

(+) Not spent yet, money reserved on account Q
Partners

Sponsors
Thank you!
Merci!