

A journal covering the 16th DSAMUN-Conference on a daily basis



Getting started!

Finally, the first issue of the MUN Journal is in front of you trying to fulfill your high expectations. After a lot of hours of research, writing and interviewing, the moment for the empty aula to get filled with life has come.

This issue presents a general overview of DSAMUN-Conference's issue, in which every participant can be interested.

In the content you will find interviews of a Secretariat's member and some chairs, a small history of DSAMUN, articles covering the topics of ECOSOC and Special Conference and of course many photos which captured beautiful moments—and will one day remind you of a hopefully good time at the DSAMUN conference.

But now, let's get started!!!

Peny Galanou, Emmanuel Spanoudakis

Featuring:

- *Articles*
- *Special Themes*
- *Interviews*
- *Photos*
- *much more*





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The Press Team

Is a special conference on the advancement of women still important in the year 2013?

by **Athina Gaitanou**

Over the past decades, the UN through its global policies and the participating members through national actions have made significant progress in advancing gender equality. Landmark agreements, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), have recognized the necessity to protect and promote gender equality, not only as a basic human right, but also as a means to achieve thriving economies through the empowerment of women.

However, this has not been an easy task as the UN still faces serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally, including inadequate funding and no single recognized driver to direct UN activities on gender equality issues. On the other hand, statistics show that gender inequalities still remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are too often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination. They are underrepresented in political and economic decision-making process.

To reiterate on the above, statistics provided by the “The World’s Women 2010: Trends and Statistics” Documents Progress for Women – a five year report commissioned by the UN – show, for instance, that in the area of education there is progress, albeit slow and uneven, in the literacy status of adult women around the world. Women account for two thirds of the world’s 774 million adult illiterates – a proportion that is unchanged over the past two decades. Gender disparities in adult literacy rates remain wide in most regions of the world.

Concerning the field of work, over the years, women have entered various traditionally male-dominated occupations. However, they are still

rarely employed in jobs with status, power and authority or in traditionally male blue-collar occupations. Relative to their overall share of total employment, women are significantly underrepresented among legislators, senior officials and managers. They are heavily overrepresented among clerks, professionals, and service and sales workers. Job segregation has resulted in a persistent gender pay gap everywhere. While the gender pay gap is closing slowly in some countries, it has remained unchanged in others.

Lastly, concerning power and decision making, we see that there is a lack of gender balance. In the public sector, women continue to be underrepresented in national parliaments, where on average only 17 percent of seats are occupied by women. The share of women among ministers also averages 17 percent. The highest positions are even more elusive: only 7 out of 150 elected Heads of State in the world are women, and only 11 out of 192 Heads of Government. The situation is similar at the level of local government: female elected councilors are underrepresented in all regions of the world and female mayors even more so. In the private sector, women are on most boards of directors of large companies but their number remains low compared to men. Furthermore, the “glass ceiling” has hindered women’s access to leadership positions in private companies. This is especially notable in the largest corporations, which remain male-dominated. Out of the 500 largest corporations in the world, only 13 have a female chief executive office.

In conclusion, it is evident from the above that our work as individual nations supporting women’s advancement on a global level is still a top priority leading towards a better society based on equality and fairness. To this end, a special conference on advancement of women should be at the top of the list of conference subject matter.

Articles

Playing with fire...

Establishing a banking union in the Eurozone

A comment written by **George Evgenidis***

The issue of a banking union in the Eurozone is of critical importance for the sustainability of the European Union and it will be a massive step towards the correction of the flaws, upon which the European Union was designed on an economic basis.

Words are always easy. The tough thing to do is to proceed with actions. In this spirit, all European leaders agree that a banking union should be established, but disagree about how to do it. In other words, the matter remains deadlocked, since most European leaders continue to operate on a protection-of-national-interests basis and fail to acknowledge the necessity for common action. What is mostly worrying is that the leaders of Europe still fail to understand that the EU has one fundamental problem – the fact that it was created at a time when there was no necessity to share the damage and to control a possible crisis.

According to a study published by the Brookings Institute, European banks provide about three quarters of credit in Europe. In this spirit, it is vital for governments to agree upon a formula, with which it will be easy to monitor the flow of credit – don't forget that the reason why many banks collapsed, is because they issued credits, without even taking notice of the financial

background of the one taking the credit! Also impressive is the fact that national governments were very reluctant to give up control over more than 30 trillion euro in bank assets but are now doing so, due to the severity of the European banking crisis.

On the table are many pending issues but also many questions that should be answered by the leaders of the European countries. To the problems belong the necessity to deal with the ongoing crisis versus building upon the concept of a “single market” that has a longtime spectrum, the concern that supervisory economic centralization can do more harm than good and also the doubt that one single regulator will not be as efficient as saving banks e.g. or other financial institutions.

Concerning the questions, there is a spirit of doubt about which countries should and could be included in a banking union. Should those be only the Eurozone banks or banks of the European Union countries? And of course, a very popular question among MUNers, who would control this huge system of money transfers? Should it be the ECB, the European Banking Authority (EBA) or a completely new institute that would be solely created to this end? All this is rather obscure at the moment and all that remains is a cloudy dedication of the European leaders to proceed with the banking union. But still, the term “banking union” remains

of no actual content. Last summer, the German Minister of Finances, Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, said that this issue could be dealt with within 2013. October has come and yet the leaders of Europe do not seem ready to proceed with actions that will touch the core essence of the topic.

Until something concrete is done, the Chairman of the European Central Bank, Mr. Mario Draghi, seems to be desperately alone in the financial desert of Europe. He tries to instrument a concrete strategy, calm down the financial markets and provide actual help to tested European countries, thus holding the interest rates of loaning at historic lows. However, Mario Draghi is not a politician and has no authority to act as one.

The leaders of Europe should understand that they have spent enough time moaning about substantial matters. The European banking system should function with common terms, a single market is more necessary than ever. But before the banking union, there should be political unity and unfortunately it seems to be absent. If the heads of states do not comprehend that playing with fire is dangerous, then the worst is yet to come...

**George Evgenidis is the former Secretary General of the 15th DSAMUN*

DSAMUN Party

Time: Saturday, 19th October

more information to be announced tomorrow!!!

by **Roza Chaspari**

DSAMUN is a simulation of the work of the United Nations that gives the opportunity to young students to discuss world issues. Moreover, it gives students the opportunity to become familiar with the world of diplomacy, to practice their English and to improve their skills since they have to do research, prepare resolutions and policy statements on various issues as well as to learn formal ways of negotiation and debate as the United Nations do in English.

Ms. Meidani, headmaster of the Lyceum in 1992, introduced MUN to the DSA. She was the one to find out about it and thought it was particularly interesting for our school. After discussing it with Mr. Knut Koch, the German headmaster, she decided for the DSA to participate in MUN. Mr. Koch supported her fully. After that she received an invitation for our school to participate in The Hague International MUN in 1993. As a consequence of assigning the trip to Ms. Kanellakopoulou, she became responsible for MUN. After the participation of DSA delegates in The Hague International MUN, St. Petersburg and Dublin, it was decided that the DSA would have its own conference. Since then, fifteen DSA-MUN-Conferences have taken place, approximately one per year, starting in 1995. At first Ms. Kanellakopoulou had to organize the conference on her

own and after that she could use the help of only two teachers, a Greek one and a teacher who taught English. As you can see, at the beginning the number of the people involved was really low. However, during the years the number of participants has noticeably risen.

There is also a difference between the first MUN-Conference to ever be conducted in the DSA and this year's conference. The number of participants, however, isn't the only number that has been increased. The number of delegates is also higher and nowadays the participants are far more professional than they used to be. At first, no one took the DSA-MUN seriously but now everyone does their best in order for it to be successfully conducted. In addition, although at the beginning the DSA-MUN was not affiliated with the International Nation, now it is.

In consideration of these facts, I believe that this year's DSA-MUN-Conference will be even better than last year's. Ms. Kanellakopoulou's expectations are also higher and harder to fulfill. She wishes for even more people to be sensitized and learn about world issues and for them to argue objectively and not adopt a partisan stance.



The DSAMUN logo

Short History of the DSAMUN

Feminist Women throughout History

Emmeline Pankhurst

"She shaped an idea of women for our time; she shook society into a new pattern from which there could be no going back."

Times 1999

Emmeline Pankhurst was a British political activist. She was born and raised in Moss Side, Manchester. Inspired by her politically active parents, Pankhurst was introduced at the age of 8 to the women's suffrage movement. In 1878 she married Richard Pankhurst. He could be described as a feminist as he supported the women's right to vote and forwarded the outside home activities of his wife.

After her husband's death in 1898, Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The group quickly became infamous because of violent acts. Pankhurst and other activists were sentenced repeatedly to prison, where they did hunger strikes demanding better conditions.

In 1918, the Representation of the People Act gave women over the age of 30 the right to vote. The WSPU was transformed into the Women's Party, who aimed at the promotion of women's equality in public life. In her later years, however, Pankhurst joined the Conservative Party because of being dissatisfied with the political alternatives.

Pankhurst died at June 14th, 1928 at the age of 69. Although she was judged for her aggressive tactics and many still find their effectiveness controversial, she is an admirable woman. Her work is considered to be crucial for achieving women's suffrage in Britain. Two years after her death, a statue was built in London's Victoria Tower Gardens in honour of her.

Tachere

Tachere was a Persian poetist, who was born in Iran in the second decade of the 19th century. At these times, the status of women was very low. Their life can be regarded as imprisoned in their homes and totally dependent on their husbands. The gift of education was only given to men. Many of today's women still face a similar fate – and a long walk to equality.

Tachere, daughter of a liberal clergyman, is being described as an independent spirit, a dynamic woman, who since she was a teenager, denied to follow the traditional woman's models. Her father helped her to be educated and because of him she managed to study theology, literature and law. Her poetical talent soon emerged. Her mental skills and knowledge had to be very expanded because she was allowed to attend literary men's speeches with only one limitation: to be behind a curtain.

Knowing this, it might not surprise that a personality like Tachere would become a leader of women movements. She often spoke about women's rights and that was why she was being pursued. Tachere embraced the opinions of a Persian prophet, who believed in tolerance, freedom and equality between the two sexes. Inspired by that thoughts, she showed up in 1848 in a conference of important men without wearing a headscarf. The rumor was spread immediately and the scandal was inevitable. A woman without a headscarf was like a naked woman.

In spite of the many arrests, imprisonments and assassination attempts, she never stopped to promote equality and to demand not only a better status quo but also a place in education and life for Iranian women. In 1852, Tachere was arrested and throttled. Her dead body was dropped in a water well with the hope that her rebellious speeches and her subversive thoughts would be forgotten. The truth is that this woman is now a part of the modern Iranian

Indira Gandhi

“We have two ears and only one mouth. It seems that we must listen more than speak.”

Indira Gandhi

Indira Gandhi, the first and so far last female prime minister of India, was one of the most powerful women in the world of politics. In a BBC poll, she was elected as the most important woman of the last thousand years.

Gandhi was born in November 19th, 1917 and was the only child of India's first prime minister. She studied in Oxford and participated in organizations in favor of the independence of India and against the fascism in Spain. During the 50ies she worked unofficially as her father's secretary. After his death in 1964, she was nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha, the highest legislative council of Indian parliament. In 1966, Indira Gandhi became prime minister and governed for fifteen years in total: from 1966 to 1977 and from 1980 to her assassination in 1984.

Many women tended to love and admire her. She was their leader, who struggled for a better life for them, far away from poverty. At the same time, however, many people accused her of electoral deception. She initiated more leftist economical policies, forwarded rural productivity, made a lot of banks national and accomplished an order of reformation to reduce the number of illiterate as well as to improve the conditions for people living below the standard. Due to this way, she managed to convert India to one of the most serious exporters of rural goods.

Her determined role in the war in Pakistan in 1971 and her facility to demand the arrest of her political rivals brought her the title of the “Iron Lady”. Despite her controversial personality, Indira Gandhi will always symbolize the Indian feminism and be an idol of boldness and strength for every woman.

Dilma Rousseff

“I hope the fathers and mothers of little girls will look at them and say 'yes, women can’”

Dilma Rousseff

Dilma Rousseff, the Brazil's current prime minister, is being described as the most powerful feminist in the world. The truth is, that her election in 2011 made a lot of people ask ironically themselves what a little woman in the leadership of the biggest country of Latin America can do.

Although she was born in 1947 in Bello Horizonte in an upper middle class household, as her father was a Bulgarian entrepreneur, she denied the easy life without responsibilities she was offered and left her home in an early age. During her youth, Rousseff became a socialist and joined various left-wing and Marxist urban guerrilla groups. She fought against the dictatorship, who overthrew the legal elected government in 1964. Because of her resistance, she was captured in 1970, jailed and tortured for three years. After her release, she continued to struggle, as she expresses it, “for a better, more fair, and friendlier society for women”.

As Brazil's prime minister she finally had the chance to substantiate her high leveled expectations. Women's rights in Brazil were very low, getting away with maltreatment of women was annoyingly common and abortion was prohibited by the law. Because of that situation, Rousseff established hard laws against women maltreatment and simultaneously protect them. She made abortion legal. In order to deal with the worryingly rising number of rapes, she enacted exhausting punishments for rapers. The aftermath of her policy appeared soon as rapes were decreased by 42% during 2011. Additionally, in a country that consists of 28% less women than men, she managed to ensure equal compensation for both sexes.

Dilma Rousseff is a real woman with every meaning this word contains. She evinces that sometimes female leader are capable of many more things than men.

Gürcan Gülersoy, Deputy President of the General Assembly
interviewed by Leda Papakonstantinou

Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.

Answer: I was 11 years old, and I was a sixth grader. My school organized the first Junior MUN conference, the first conference to be prepared for middle school students. The high school students organizing the conference introduced MUN to us, and I was so excited that I had myself enrolled to the first session of JMUN just after that meeting of introduction. I represented Vietnam in the Environment Committee. And that conference marked the debut of my MUN life, later leading to a big drift in my career planning.



Q: Would you consider pursuing diplomacy in the future?

A: In fact I do. Before MUN, I was planning to study engineering, my father's occupation. Then I met MUN. MUN let me find what I was really interested in, and therefore I decided to study Politics and International Relations. We will see where the route will lead to...

Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?

A: This is not an easy question at all I think I would go for Salvador Allende as my favorite historical figure. The 29th President of Chile who was tragically executed in his presidential palace during a coup d'etat. Things he did for the people of Chile cannot be underestimated. And my favorite quote would be from Nazım Hikmet Ran, a famous Turkish poet; "To live! like a tree, alone and free, and like a forest, in brotherhood..."

Q: Which piece of advice would you give to new-comers?

A: The most important thing is to participate. It's perfectly normal that new-comers are a little shy, but they will overcome. They should be active during lobbying, and take the floor as much as they can.

Q: Do you find a specific topic of this year's conference of special importance?

A: The Disarmament and International Security Committee along with the Security Council has very important issues as always. But also, there is the Special Conference on the Advancement of Women, a committee focusing on a matter that I believe, has a huge importance.

Nassia Voyadzi, Chair of the Environmental and Cultural Committee
interviewed by Katerina Louvrou

Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.

Answer: My first MUN conference was the DSAMUN four years ago. I was a member of the Youth Assembly and I remember being really anxious at first, but I had a great time and I decided that I wanted to continue taking part in MUN conferences.

Q: Would you consider pursuing diplomacy in the future?

A: To be honest I don't think so. I am actually considering journalism.

Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?

A: "First they ignore you, then laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win"

-Mahatma Gandhi

Q: Which piece of advice would you give to new-comers?

A: Always stand up for what you believe and don't be afraid to fight for what you deserve!

Q: Do you find a specific topic of this year's conference of special importance?

A: I can't really choose one. I believe that all three topics are of great importance and I am looking forward to a fruitful debate.

Myrsini Karamanli, President of the Security Council

interviewed by Leda Papakonstantinou

Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.

Answer: I was a member of the Youth Assembly three DSAMUN conferences ago. It was a great experience and introduction to MUN. I still remember the topic: Youth unemployment.

Q: Would you consider pursuing diplomacy in the future?

A: I am not sure about pursuing diplomacy specifically meaning being a diplomat- , but I definitely want to work in the field of international politics and organisations like the United Nations and obviously MUN is what shaped my mind towards this direction.

Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?

A: "When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I remained silent; I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out."

-Martin Niemöller

Q: Which piece of advice would you give to new-comers?

A: Get the most out of the experience. The only thing you're going to regret after the end of every conference are the times you didn't take the floor and speak your mind out of fear.

Q: Do you find a specific topic of this year's conference of special importance?

A: Although i' ve never been a big fan of the ECOSOC myself, I find many of this year's topics really interesting and most relevant than ever. (e.g. Establishing a banking union in the Eurozone and Countering tax evasion)



Photos



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