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Under the MUN light

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



The end?

Having the title photo of our first issue in mind, it is wonderful to see the buzzing activities all MUN participants are eager to conduct. Looking back at the time of the empty aula, we remember our hopes and questions: Would the MUN conference be a success? Would the opening ceremony work out well? Would every participant find an environment that enables him to contribute to his or her best?

Most of those questions have been answered meanwhile through your active contributions. Eventually, having seen all participants together in our school yard is the best answer to all the hopes and concerns we had before.

Although our busy togetherness comes to an end, our work should not. Individually you might continue your MUN work – and together we should continue to realize the future we dream of. Because these are the questions, concerns and hopes that really matter – and those are still open to be answered.

Featuring:

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





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The Changing role of non-governmental organizations

by **Nancy Lymperopoulou**

The existence of NGOs is proving to be a necessity rather than a luxury in societies throughout the modern world. I believe that the history of the 20th century persuasively demonstrated the inability of the welfare state and free enterprise to create just and sustainable societies. Prompted by the inadequacies of the state and the market, citizens across the globe have developed organizations of civil society – NGOs – to help address a wide variety of social needs. They often impact the social, economic and political activities of communities and the country as a whole. NGOs address a host of issues, including but not limited to, women's rights, environmental protection, human rights, economic development, political rights, or health care. In numerous countries, NGOs have led the way to democratization, to battling diseases and illnesses, to promoting and enforcing human rights, and to increasing standards of living.

I believe we should first examine the reasons why NGOs have become increasingly important in the past decade or so. Firstly, according to Edwards and Hulme, since the end of Cold War in 1989, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies have pursued a 'New Policy Agenda' which gives renewed prominence to NGOs in poverty alleviation, social welfare and the development of civil society. NGOs are seen as the preferred channel for social welfare. They were seen as the integral part of a thriving civil society and an essential counterweight to state power. Secondly, communications advances, especially the Internet, and have helped create new global communities and bonds between like-minded people across state boundaries. The media's ability to inform more people about global problems leads to increased awareness where the public may demand that their governments take action of some kind.

Furthermore, I believe that NGOs have two primary roles in advancing modern societies. First, NGOs provide opportunity for the self-organization of society. NGOs enable

citizens to work together voluntarily to promote social values and civic goals which are important to them. They promote local initiative and problem-solving. Through their work in a broad array of fields – environment, health, poverty alleviation, culture and the arts, education, etc. – NGOs reflect the diversity of society itself. They are established and sustained by individuals working collectively in their communities.

Finally, NGOs enable experimentation and social change by taking on challenges that the public and private sectors simply cannot or will not. Civil society organizations are able to take risks that are economically unacceptable to business and politically unacceptable to government. In modern societies across the globe, countless innovations pioneered by NGOs have subsequently been adopted as government policy. Numerous models of service delivery that are considered "best practice" today were devised, tested, and improved over many years of experimentation by NGOs. In addition, NGO advocacy campaigns induce reluctant governments to adopt policy reforms and force improvements in business practices.

All in all, NGOs must continually strive to meet the highest standards of good governance: transparency, accountability, sound management, and ethical behavior. NGOs can only serve as credible advocates and watchdogs of government and business if they uphold the very standards they expect the public and private sectors to meet.

Articles

Report on the situation of feminist activists in Kenya

Taken from the website of amnesty international, published on October 16th, 2013

While doing research on women's rights and the work of amnesty international, we found a brutally honest, yet enormously inspiring article on the situation of feminist activists in Kenya. Naomi Barasa, Campaign Organizer with Amnesty Kenya reports on women struggling for more rights, facing forced evictions – and how seeing this inspired her to become a human right activist:

“ I come from the second largest slum in Kenya, Korogocho. I've been an activist most of my life, but I probably didn't know it when I was very young. We experienced a lot of discrimination and violence growing up – I witnessed women and young people being murdered, and children being married off at 12. I used to try to get people involved in responding to these things, because I knew that they were wrong. The moment I realised I was an activist was when I became a member of a movement championing the release of prisoners of conscience. There was single-party rule in Kenya until 1992, and activism for political prisoners really intensified before they were released. Women – mothers, daughters, aunties, sisters – were on hunger strike in a public park, and they were very badly mistreated. I was barely 19, and I took part in that protest even though I didn't know a single political prisoner myself. The women even stripped naked to protest against their loved ones being detained. It was surprising to see old African women's nakedness – this is an abomination culturally. After I heard the women's stories, I felt like I was a prisoner of conscience too – not within four walls, but in a wider geographical prison. Without the right to security and safety, a secure and dignified home, and access to education, how can you be free?”

Furthermore, she describes the brutal reactions to the women's protests – a shockingly cruel picture is painted by her words:

“I've witnessed a million and one forced evictions. They are always abrupt in Kenya – people are just ambushed at night or very early in the morning, and bulldozed. Red Xs are sometimes marked on buildings, or you'll hear rumours the night before. It's a tactic to immobilize, disorganize and disperse people, because that way, communities can't resist. I saw another eviction in October 2009. It was a school day and national exam time. They even crushed people's chickens. We found women scavenging for their children's sweaters in the rubble because it was raining.”

For more interesting and honest reports, refer to the website of Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org/>



Nafplion and Mycenae

On Sunday, there is a planned excursion to Nafplion and Mycenae... We present some photos and a little information, in order for you to have a first taste...

Nafplion

Nafplio is a seaport town in the Peloponnese in Greece that has expanded up the hillsides near the north end of the Argolic Gulf. The town was the capital of the First Hellenic Republic, from the start of the Greek Revolution in 1821 until 1834. Nafplio is now the capital of the regional unit of Argolis.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mycenae/The Mask of Agamemnon

The Mask of Agamemnon is an artifact discovered at Mycenae in 1876 by Heinrich Schliemann. It was him who named it “The Mask of Agamemnon” after the legendary Greek king of Homer’s Iliad. She saw this as an evidence that the Trojan War was a real historical event. The artifact is a funeral mask crafted from one gold sheet, and was found over the face of a body located in a burial shaft, designated Grave V, at the site "Grave Circle A, Mycenae". Modern archaeological research suggests that the mask is from 1550–1500 BC, earlier than the life of Agamemnon, as tradition regards it. The mask is currently displayed in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens.



Charikleia Angelidou, Chair of the Disarmament and International Security Committee
interviewed by Katerina Louvrou

Interviews



Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.

Answer: My first MUN experience was as a delegate exactly two years ago in the Human Rights Committee of the DSAMUN conference. So it is quite a moving fact that my last MUN experience will be in the DSA, but as a President Chair this time.

Q: Would you consider pursuing diplomacy in the future?

A: I genuinely enjoy participating in diplomatic talks about subjects, which concern us all and have thus previously thought of pursuing a diplomatic carrier. Yet my dream since I was little was to pursue a carrier in the medical sector and I am a fond of the "make your dreams come true" motto.

Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?

A: This quote is relevant with my previous answer:
"Lose your dreams and you could lose your mind."
-Rolling Stones, from their song "Ruby Tuesday"
Because only when we dream do we have hope for tomorrow.

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

A: Dear Newcomers, we were all newcomers once! My advice thus is quite simple... Dare! Dare to take the floor, dare to disagree, dare to stand up in the GA and you will see that it is worth it. Because for what is worth, this conference is for you. So seize the opportunities it generously offers you and make the best out of it!

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

A: All three topics of this year's Disarmament Committee are of special importance since they all refer to issues that concern the modern society. A flaming issue at hand though is the US embargo on Cuba, which has been dragging on for over half a century. Alarming is also the proliferation of (nuclear) weapons that constitutes a global problem and needs an immediate line of action.

Saturday, October 19, 2013

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Vanessa Pasalidi, Head of the Action Paper I
interviewed by: Alexandra Pecha



Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.

Answer: My first MUN experience was the DSAMUN last year, in the Action Paper II. So I think it was my fate to become again the head of Action Paper II. I gained inside into MUN world and I became so engaged and participated in every MUN conference DSA participated in. After becoming an ambassador of France at the PSMUN, I became really keen on MUN.

Q: Would you consider pursuing diplomacy in the future?

A: Yes, definitely. Actually before MUN, I had a tendency for maths and science, but now yes. It flickers in my mind.

Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?

A: Socrates. He thought that every person is a “tabula rasa”, which means white table. His philosophy was that no one is born as a criminal but becomes a criminal. He believed that the human soul was a white board, on which experience and environment curve into his soul and shape the character, meaning that nobody is a criminal.

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

A: Never to be shy, to confine in our team, as I trust that we never criticize someone, as we all give our best for the conference. We’re here to learn, to curve shapes of first experience with politics. New-comer as I was once. Some have a tendency to speak only when they have to. But to become something in life –not only in the conference– we must utter our voice and not hide behind others people’s voice. We must learn to be brave and not to hide in someone else’s shadow.

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

A: Palestine, this issue is of great importance. They want to be a separate country. There was a vote whether it should be an observer state. At the voting an interesting incident happened: Greece voted yes, Israel voted no. There was also a vote on Cosovo. The same vote. UK claimed to go to the toilet, so that they were not to vote. Since we have democracy, we should enable and support people to claim their rights and to fight for it.

DSAMUN Party

Time: Saturday, 19th October, 22:00

Place: Kabal night club

Invitations at the Information desk!!!

Committees Day 2

General Assembly

Political Committee

At the beginning, the delegates fruitfully discussed about the issue on preventing bribery and corruption in political processes by implementing international guidelines. As a result, they passed one resolution from the two existing. There were many amendments on this theme. After that, the delegate of Norway presented the resolution about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and further debate took place.

Athina Gaitanou, Alik Megali



Disarmament and International Security Committee

In the Disarmament Committee, the day for the delegates started with some lobbying on the issue of Mongolia's international security and Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) which lasted approximately one hour. After that the debates started. The first discussion focused on the issue of the Embargo in Cuba. The countries against the resolution stated that in order for the Embargo to be lifted, the government of Cuba should agree with the terms.

Whereas the countries in favor of the resolution stated that the United States violate the human rights of the people from Cuba. During the discussion, many notes were passed, two amendments were made and lastly the resolution was passed. The second resolution was about Mongolia and nuclear weapons. The most important part of the debate was Afghanistan's statement that no nuclear weapons should be used. Two amendments were also made but one of them did not pass and last but not least the resolution was passed.

Roza Chaspari



Environmental and Cultural Committee

The Environmental committee occupied its delegates with the responsibility to preserve the cultural heritage of minority groups which had taken place in the committee on the first day as well. After they had finished expressing their opinions and sharing not only thoughts but also solutions, they decided it was time to move on to the next important matter of this conference. And so, they took some time to prepare themselves for the next topic which was the completion of the successor-agreements for the extended Kyoto Protocol. More subjects await for the following day such as deforestation.

Katerina Louvrou



Social and Humanitarian Committee

On the issue of young refugees and the right to education in hosting countries three resolutions were discussed, from which only one passed, whereas on the issue of strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations two resolutions were debated. From the three resolutions on the young refugees and the right to education in hosting countries only one passed. There were many amendments as well. All in all, it is a really tough committee and the resolutions do not pass with ease, despite the fact that most of the delegates are newcomers. They are really active and hard workers!

Athina Gaitanou, Alik Megali



Security Council

The topic that was discussed today was the conflict between Iran and Israel. A lot of clauses were presented and a heated debate took place in the Security Council concerning the implementation of sanctions on Iran. The fact that numerous clauses had been vetoed was particularly interesting. It should also be noted that the Ambassadors of Iran and Israel both joined the Council. Moreover, they delivered speeches on their countries' positions and answered the questions of the members.



Aliki Megali

ECOSOC

The second day began and the delegates started energetically. The lobbying on the fourth topic establishing a banking union in the Eurozone ended at 10:30. After that, the debate finally took place! The delegates, who were excited for all topics, expressed strong opinions about amendments on resolutions but not all of them passed. It is to be mentioned that they managed to debate all the topics of the agenda at least once. The last resolution, submitted by Peru, left an interesting tone in the air. Hope the last day will be such a productive day as the days before!

Peny Galanou

Special Conference

The second day was very productive for the Special Conference Committee. The day started with some lobbying. Regardless of some minor technical problems, the delegates debated on three resolutions, from which two passed, namely the protection of women against sexual harassment by Egypt and supporting women as political leaders by Cuba. The delegates submitted many amendments and the discussions were nothing less but passionately. What was really remarkable was the eagerness and zealousness of the delegates as well as the great work of the student officers.



Nancy Lymperopoulou

Youth Assembly

Action Paper I

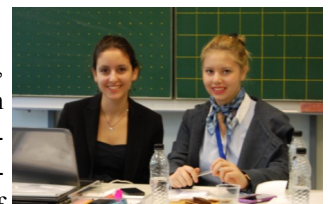
The delegates had submitted three amendments on the Year of International Water Cooperation, of which only two passed. More specifically, the first one failed (4 in favour, 7 against, 0 abstention), while the second and third passed with 10 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions - 7 in favour, 4 against, 0 abstentions. Last but not least, we are expecting the conclusion of their final Action Paper.



Leda Papakonstantinou

Action Paper II

The active delegates of Action Paper II debated on each aspect of their topic (Big Data), whereas there was a contradiction on two main points: whether the issue of viruses have an important impact and threat on Big Data as well as whether Big Data could extinguish viruses. On top of that, the committee took into consideration the case of compressing unnecessary files, which would probably offer a viable solution to the massive accumulation of Data. By the end of the day, Action Paper II was expected to have composed the Action Paper!



Leda Papakonstantinou

International Court of Justice

The second day in the ICJ started with entertaining the evidence and the two witnesses of the respondent party, Chile. The first witness was the Ambassador of Chile himself, member of the Political Committee. The second one, Deputy President of the General Assembly, Gürcan Gülersoy, an unconventional kind of witness as he is a UN official for this conference and must thus stay objective. A phase of deliberation followed, when the members of the Court apparently discussed about the testimonies. The rebuttal, the presentation of the second piece of evidence by both the applicant and the respondent party, started shortly after lunch. The day goes on with a long deliberation with a discussion on the rebuttal.



Emmanuel Spanoudakis

Photos







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