



# The MUA Times

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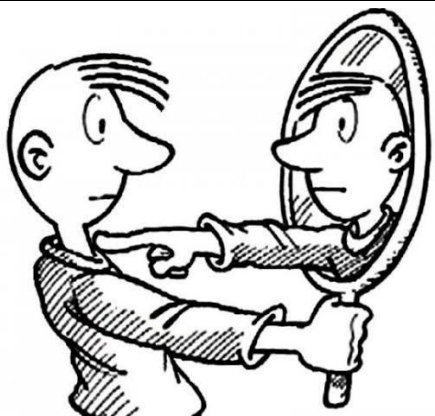
**Lebanon's Water Crisis**  
**Secretariat interviews**



**!COMMITTEES' REPORTS!**

**Do we look alike?**

**Ambassadors' In-  
terviews**



**Lebanon: How  
states fail**

**D(ELEG)ATING**



# Opening Ceremony



Mr Wojciech Ponikiewsky, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Poland, H.E.Mrs Pham Thi Thu Huong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Greece, H.E. Mr Ju-seong LIM, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Greece, H.E Mr Marc Calcoen, Ambassador of Belgium to Greece, H.E Mrs Gerda Vogl, Ambassador of Austria to Greece

The 28th DSA MUN officially started with the opening ceremony, like every year. It featured speeches from our distinguished guests. They all highlighted the importance of human rights, shed some light on events where human rights were violated and shared some personal experiences and stories which were truly touching. They also expressed their delight at the youth's participation in MUN and highlighted the valuable skills participants can acquire through involvement. In addition, some students of the German School of Athens gave some beautiful musical performances.



*Aineias Floros 12c*

*Christos Kaklamanis 9a*

*Stella Priovolou 7d*



# Secretariat interviews

## *-What's your favorite quote?*

**Christina Palamidi:** My favorite quote is: “ we may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race”, because I think that it's just the epitome of society nowadays, and it's really important to keep it in mind.<sup>[P]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## *If you would have one super power what would it be?*

**Evelina Stathi:** I would like to be able to read minds because generally I am very interested in what other people think, how they view the world and their perspective on numerous things!

**Charidimos Styliaras :** Teleportation! A hundred percent. I could travel anywhere anytime, long distance travels in the blink of an eye! Definitely teleportation!!

## *What was your weirdest experience at a conference?*

**Faye Fragkaki :** I wouldn't say weirdest, I would say that the most memorable experience that I have had from a conference was in The Hague, meaning that in the committee that I was sharing, there were over 200 delegates, which made it really hard for a person to keep it under control but it was also very interesting to see how a debate can get with delegates from all around the world.

**Theodoros Dimitras:** We had a delegate at this specific conference who literally refused to speak English, no matter how many times we told him. He could not participate, he would just refuse to speak the language.



# Ambassadors' Interviews

When asked about what inspired him to enter diplomacy and how his understanding of international relations has changed since the beginning of his career, His Excellency Mr Marc Calcoen, Ambassador of Belgium to Greece, said that it was his interest in meeting new people who inspired him to pursue this career path. His main aspiration has been to make the world a better place, which he has been striving for over the past 25 years. He believes that compared to when he first started his career, the world has changed — becoming rougher in many ways, yet also improving in terms of giving proper consideration to global issues.



From left: Mrs Aita Pult, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland, H. E. Mrs Pham Thi Thu Huong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Greece, H.E. Mrs Nahida Rahman Shumona, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Greece, H.E. Mrs Tamara Weingerl Požar, Ambassador of Slovenia to Greece, Mr Alexandre Diebolt, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of France, H.E. Mr Marc Calcoen, Ambassador of Belgium to Greece, Mr Wojciech Ponikiewski, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Poland, Mr Heracles Moskoff, Secretary General for Vulnerable Citizens and Institutional Protection at the Ministry of Migration and Asylum of Greece

However, the ways through which different people connect with diplomacy vary, and a great example is the story of Her Excellency Mrs. Nahida Rahman Shumona. The changing point in her life was her marriage to her husband, who encouraged her to complete her political studies. Ever since her country joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 13 years ago, there have been changes, and it has now succeeded to become a constant member of the UN, which is a great achievement for Bangladesh.

Ambassador Calcoen also pointed out that while negotiations may often seem difficult, communication and its impact should never be overlooked. As long as both parties continue trying to find common ground while being empathetic and respectful toward one another, a compromise can be achieved. After all, for him a compromise is a situation in which neither party is completely satisfied, since both partially give up their beliefs — yet it still represents a win-win outcome. On the other hand, Ambassador Nahida Rahman Shumona suggests that during heated debates it is best to take a break from negotiating and then trying to come off as more aggressive in order to get your point through and to reach a consensus.

H. E. Mr. Marc Calcoen, Ambassador of Belgium to Greece

H. E. Mrs. Nahida Rahman Shumona, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Greece

# Lebanon: How states fail

by Ioannis Sigalas

It was an explosion five years ago that broke the dam and catapulted Lebanon into the headlines of every major news publication. The 207 dead, 7,000 wounded, and over 300,000 displaced that resulted from the catastrophe at Beirut Port jolted the international community awake to the reality that had been both known and felt long since by the Lebanese citizens: the state had failed. It could no longer provide the most basic of services to its citizens, and with militant terrorist groups running rampant within its borders, the situation was bordering on absolute chaos.

Lebanon's collapse had been long in the making. Even before gaining its independence in 1943, the country was what cynical observers might call "a disunited, jumbled mess of different factions vying for power, in a corrupt, barely functional state." Both Christian and Muslim clans, as well as the PLO (active in the sizable Palestinian refugee camps), began forming militias and gradually replacing the state apparatus. When tensions came to a head in 1975, the central government was unable to respond effectively, resulting in a civil war that would last fifteen grueling years and a Syrian occupation that would not end until 2005. With the conclusion of the civil war and the Taif Agreement in 1989, the Lebanese political landscape was fundamentally changed. Until then, parliamentary seats were divided in a 6:5 ratio between Christians and Muslims, representing the country's demographic makeup. Along with the abolition of this provision and the transfer of powers from the president (always a Maronite Christian) to the prime minister (always a Sunni Muslim), the agreement also stipulated the disarmament of all militias active in Lebanon, with the crucial exception of Hezbollah.

On the surface, things really did start to look up for the country.

With foreign loans and investments flowing, major infrastructural projects aimed at reconstruction were undertaken, especially in the capital, Beirut, and the country once again saw economic growth. Because of new "secret banking regulations," the sector saw a monumental increase in activity, earning Lebanon the nickname "Switzerland of the Middle East." However, the main benefactors of all these developments were the nation's rich elite. "Regular" citizens saw little to no improvement in their day-to-day lives. Even worse, in addition to their country's still highly dysfunctional political system, they were now burdened with the destruction that the civil war had brought upon them. One fifth of the population: displaced. 250,000: dead or permanently handicapped. Vast swaths of land: destroyed and left economically inviable. And the politicians? Turning a blind eye toward the needs of their people, all the while enriching themselves by embezzling reconstruction funds. This rampant corruption and nepotism along sectarian lines fostered the growth of the organization that still plagues Lebanon to this day: Hezbollah.

In the wake of the Taif Agreement, the so-called "Party of God" was the only militia permitted to keep its weapons, owing largely to its role as a Lebanese resistance organization against the Israeli occupation of the country's south that had been aimed at exterminating PLO activity there. When the IDF withdrew from Lebanon under UN pressure in 2000, Hezbollah managed to spin the narrative in its favour. They portrayed themselves as the victors, while refusing calls for



disarmament, citing continued Israeli military presence in the Sheba'a Farms region of the Golan Heights, which despite being claimed by Lebanon, was de jure part of Syria and thus exempt from the withdrawal. In the 2005 election, Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc scored 27% of the vote and established itself as a major faction in official Lebanese politics. At the same time, the group created separate social welfare programs in the areas under its control to further sway public opinion. In the aftermath of the third Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006, they played a major role in reconstruction. Then, when Lebanon's financial sector collapsed after the 2019 liquidity crisis, Hezbollah stepped in once again, providing aid and subsidies on essential goods.

By that point the organization had effectively become a state within a state, sidelining the central government in Beirut. Even today, for all intents and purposes, in the areas where Hezbollah is active, Hezbollah is the government. With an unsupervised monopoly on force, it has taken over every state responsibility imaginable, from collecting taxes to building schools and hospitals. Worse than that, its large military and political presence means it has a say in any and all matters relating to the country. Hezbollah continuously blocks the economic reforms necessary to receive the IMF bailouts Lebanon desperately needs. It prevents in-

investigation into the illicit trade and smuggling operations which largely fund the organization. Because of its close ties to Iran and animosity toward Israel, it keeps the country in a constant state of conflict. In 2024, 800 people died in Israeli airstrikes carried out against Hezbollah. Just last Sunday (21st Oct.) five more died after a ceasefire breach. And they will certainly not be the last.

The situation in Lebanon con-

tinues to be grim, and in light of recent events, it is unlikely to improve. Its problems are largely structural and thus difficult to resolve. Corruption and state neglect run deep, with no meaningful central authority to speak of, and scars of distrust left by a brutal civil war. Hezbollah, both a product and a cause of Lebanese suffering, continues to drag the country into international headlines for all the wrong reasons. Still, it is important not to

lose sight of the light at the end of the tunnel, even if at times it seems to be nothing more than a flickering candle flame.



**WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN EXPECTATIONS OR GOALS FOR THIS MUN CONFERENCE?**

**Amanda, Ecosoc:** I want to be main submitter on at least one topic this time and maybe best dressed

**Alice, EC:** I want to have fun and learn more about MUN

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THEME YOU HAVE DISCUSSED SO FAR?**

**Panagiota, EC:** My delegates' interests

**Zeyna, Ecosoc:** To give Cuba bucket economic freedom. It was quite intriguing

**WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CONFERENCE SO FAR?**

**Chloe, Youth Assembly Action Paper 2:** fun, interesting, unexpected

**Naya EC:** different, surprising, fun

**John, Security Council:** Shaping tomorrow

**IF MUN HAD A MASCOT WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

**Angelina, Youth Assembly Action Paper 2:** I would say a raccoon because you think it is easy but it is not.

**Ariadni, Admin stuff:** I guess it would be a blue alien with an MUN sign

**IF YOU WERE RUNNING THE CONFERENCE FOR ONE DAY WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD CHANGE OR ADD?**

**Evita, Youth Assembly:** I would change the second topic of youth assembly

**Sofia, Specon:** Absolutely nothing

**WHAT IS YOUR TOP SURVIVAL TIP FOR NEW DELEGATES?**

**Johanna, Advocate:** To have friends because if you don't have any during lobbying you have to get to know everyone and feel more comfortable when you have someone you know.

**Christina, Specon:** Don't be scared because it's alright and feel free to deliver speeches, it's not something to worry about and if you don't want to you may not answer P.O.Is.

# The Right to Euthanasia: Who Decides If a Life Is Worth Living?

by Ioanna Daniil

If a beloved pet is enduring intractable suffering due to an incurable illness or injury, it is often viewed as an act of kindness to perform euthanasia and “put it to sleep.” However, when it comes to humans, the concept of “ending one’s life” or medically assisting them in doing so gains far more complexity and controversy. So, why is it that one’s life has more value? Who decides when and whose life should end?

First of all, the etymology of the word “euthanasia” reveals a fascinating oxymoron. It comes from the Greek words “eu” (εὖ) meaning good or well, and “thanatos” (θάνατος) meaning death, together signifying a “good death.” The juxtaposition of a positive and a negative concept captures the core of the debate: whether death, often viewed as tragic, can also be seen as an act of kindness that should be allowed in times of desperation.

Advocates of euthanasia argue that one’s time of death should be a product of their own judgment. This view is rooted in the principle of autonomy, meaning the belief that every person has control over their own body and life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 1) states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Many interpret this to mean that individuals should also have the freedom to choose a dignified death.

However, this interpretation leaves considerable room for misuse. It risks creating the illusion that the termination of life, an irreversible action that precludes the possibility of regret, is an acceptable solution to personal difficulties. So, an individual who lacks full understanding about the severity of such a decision but feels “trapped” in their life and sees no way out of a situation might seek medically assisted death as an escape from a temporary crisis.

To prevent euthanasia from becoming an impulsive act of despair, laws around the world have established strict criteria. In countries where euthanasia or assisted dying is legal, such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada, it is permitted only under exceptional circumstances. According to the *Journal of Palliative Medicine* (Liebert, 2015), patients must meet several conditions: they must be mentally competent adults who make a voluntary and well-considered request, suffer from an incurable and irreversible medical condition, and experience unbearable physical or psychological pain that cannot be relieved in an acceptable way. The *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* (2024) further emphasizes that in Belgium, when psychiatric

disorders are involved, a patient’s capacity for decision-making must be independently confirmed by psychiatrists, and multiple physicians must agree that no reasonable treatment alternatives exist.

Nevertheless, critics fear that sometimes it can be difficult to determine whether an individual’s wish to end their life originates from free will or from “internalized” pressure, such as “not wanting to be a burden to others or society.” The idea that illness or disability can be equated to weakness and incompetence to contribute to society has deep historical roots. In Book III of Plato’s “*The Republic*,” for example, the philosopher stated that those who live their lives “amidst illnesses and medicines” should be left to die, implying that physical imperfection diminishes one’s societal worth. During the Roman Empire, the terminally ill who chose to end their lives were often considered rational in

doing so, especially when medical treatment was unavailable. Later, in times of scarcity, famine, and war, such views hardened into social policies: as the biologist Ernst Haeckel wrote in the late 19th century, euthanasia could serve as a means of



“eliminating the unfit” to protect the health of the nation. These ideas reached their most horrifying expression under Nazi Germany, where euthanasia was systematized through the T4 Program, which led to the killing of thousands of disabled and mentally ill individuals deemed “life unworthy of life.”

This traces us back to our original question: how can any life be considered “unworthy of life”? The answer is simple: it cannot. As discussed above, this narrative was historically used as a political strategy and can never truly justify ending something as valuable as life. Life is our most fundamental possession; it is the precondition for everything else we have; life allows us to be. At the same time, this does not mean that we should use excessive treatment, also known as “dysthanasia,” to extend biological life while causing suffering, leaving a patient completely dependent on machines like ventilators or artificial feeding. Nevertheless, recognizing the harm of excessive treatment does not mean that we should end life too early. Life should be lived and valued, and even when a person is in a coma or has a severe condition, it is often better to let nature take its course rather than actively hasten death. Because you can never know, and even the slightest possibility of life is still better than death.

# Committees' Reports

## **ECOSOC**

Today in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) we started with icebreakers, namely soulmates and two truths and a lie. After the opening ceremony we dealt with the first topic, the question of “Monitoring the social and developmental consequences of economic restrictions on Cuba“. Our delegates delivered their policy statements and immediately began with the resolution drafting. Though we experienced some difficulties at first, the delegates proceeded with the second topic, “Assessing the financing of Peacebuilding in the conflict between Turkey and armed Kurdish groups“, which they are actively working on!!!




## **GA3**

The Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee has the duty of tackling global issues like Gender Based Violence (GBV), cultural heritage in conflict-impacted regions and the humanitarian status of Uyгур Muslims as a religious minority. We had a full house! More than 40 delegates drafting resolutions for these pressing issues, which provided us and our delegates with an amazing lobbying experience. We are eager to see what our delegates hold for us tomorrow during debate.



## **YA1**

Here in the Youth Assembly started with some really fun icebreakers and of course the most popular request had to be soulmates. Then we moved on to two truths and one lie, which was quite interesting. After a long opening ceremony, we started lobbying with the first topic, namely Eliminating racism in schools. We formed 2 alliances based on “personal statements” and now our delegates are actively working on their resolutions! We're excited to see  what solutions they will find!



## se



We started off with icebreakers. It's a small committee and it's important that we know each other well. Then we proceeded with lobbying on the topic of establishing security measures at the strait of Hormuz, which was interesting. All the delegates were really invested in lobbying (that's why we ended up with 0 gossips after topic 1..). Lobbying on the other two topics is also going smoothly and the environment is very friendly so far (hopefully that changes with some heated debate)



## ec

Our day at the Environmental Committee (EC) began with introductions and ice-breaker games to help everyone get to know each other. We then went over the basics of MUN and explained the Rules of Procedure. Participation was enthusiastic, and the activities made the atmosphere fun and engaging. Afterwards, we began lobbying on the topic “Managing War Debris for Sustainable Environmental Restoration.” Our delegates collaborated energetically and shared many creative ideas. Overall, the day was successful, and we look forward to a productive and fruitful debate.



## SPECON

The Special Conference Committee (SPECON) held an extremely productive and fascinating session today. Delegates demonstrated extraordinary commitment, professionalism, and cooperation in all discussions and drafting sessions. All delegates approached the committee's agenda with vast enthusiasm and appreciation of different perspectives. Their friendly nature and cooperativeness produced a setting of mutually shared understanding and useful argumentation, exemplifying the true spirit of diplomacy upon which Model United Nations relies.



# LOOK ALIKES!



# D(ELE)GATING



# *Dress to* **IMPRESS**



# Lebanon's Water Crisis

by Anna Frida Vervenioti

Imagine waking up, turning on the tap, and nothing comes out. No water to brush your teeth, take a shower, or even drink. For many people in Lebanon, this is not just a rare case — it's part of their daily life. Water is something most of us take for granted, but in Lebanon, it has become one of the country's most urgent challenges.

So what's going on? Lebanon, a country with rainfall, rivers, and many other natural water sources, has, on paper, enough water to meet the needs of its population. But in fact, the country is facing extensive water shortages. Why? The answer comes down to five central issues: pollution, climate change, old infrastructure, population pressure, and mishandling.

Lebanon's water systems are outdated, resulting in more than half of the water in the network being lost due to poor maintenance and leaking pipes before it even reaches people's properties. Concurrently, rivers and groundwater sources are polluted with chemicals and

garbage, making much of the available water unsafe to use or consume.

Climate change is also worsening things. The rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall have caused

more frequent droughts, especially in the summer months. And as Lebanon's population continues growing (including over a million Syrian refugees), the demand for water continues to rise.

One of the biggest problems is government mismanagement. Lack of investment, as well as corruption and weak policies, have left the country with no effective plan to control its water resources. As a result, many Lebanese families are forced to buy water from private trucks, which are expensive and unregulated. On the other hand, people in poorer areas can't afford to buy water at all.

This crisis doesn't only affect households. Schools, hospitals, and farms are also suffering. Agriculture, which uses around 70% of Leba-



non's water, is going through serious difficulties. Public health is at risk when there isn't enough clean water in clinics and communities.

So why should you care? Because Lebanon's crisis is a warning sign. According to the United Nations, half the world's population could be living in water-stressed areas by 2025. This is not just a local problem but a global one. If we don't act now, more countries could face the same fate.

# g a m e s

## MUN Word Challenge

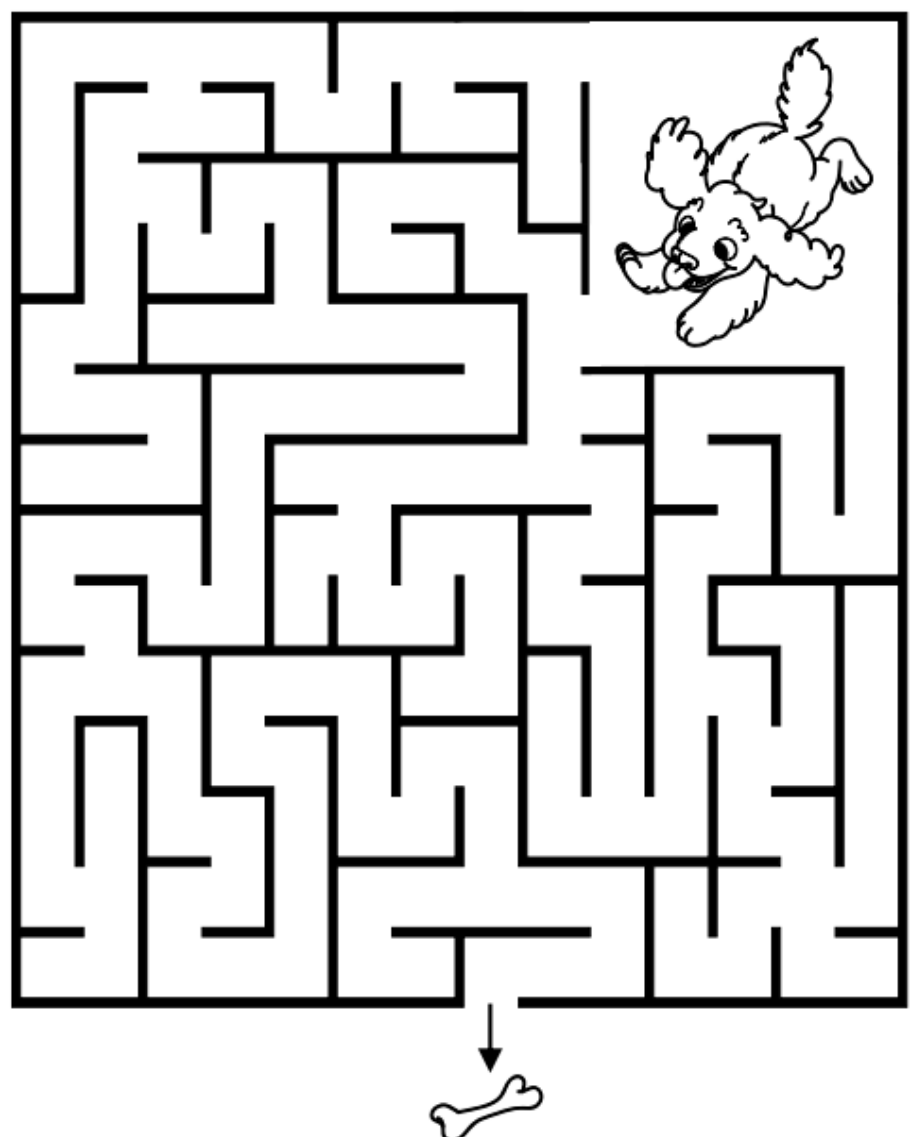
1. The Chair banged the gavel and declared the session \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A document that proposes solutions to the topic is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Delegates raise their placards to \_\_\_\_\_ a motion.
4. When two countries work together on a draft, they become \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If the Chair says "Time has elapsed," your speaking time is officially \_\_\_\_\_.

**Word Bank: motion – resolution – co-submitters – adjourned – support**

7	9			5	8	2		
		4	6		7		5	8
5		3			2	6	7	
	4		2	7		5		6
	3	9	5			1	8	
6	7			1	9			2
9			7		1			4
	6	8			5	7		
3		7	4	8			2	5

## ANSWERS

5	2	9	6	8	4	7	1	3
3	1	7	5	2	9	8	6	4
4	6	8	1	3	7	2	5	9
2	3	4	9	1	8	5	7	6
7	8	1	4	6	5	9	3	2
6	9	5	3	7	2	1	4	8
9	7	6	2	4	1	3	8	5
8	5	3	7	9	6	4	2	1
1	4	2	8	5	3	6	9	7





**FOR YOUR NOTES!**