



## MUNFW Session 63: A Call for Cooperation

By: Benjamin Kirk, World Press Co– Editor

Yesterday's Opening Plenary session marked a strong theme of global unification. Secretary General Aileen Sayre began the session by asking each delegate to dwell on the importance of sustainability and human rights in the coming days.

The Secretary General emphasized that achieving successful resolutions to these issues meant delegates would need to employ multi-lateral solutions and actively accept ideas and contributions from other Member States. She quoted Schopenhauer, stating, "Human life is but the struggle for existence", hoping delegates would recognize that an individual's right to survive is something to be fought for on a world-wide scale.

This year's keynote speakers added significant weight to Miss Sayre's words.

Guest speaker Dr. Christopher MacLennan spoke first and solidified the severity of MUNFW's issues by explaining, "Sustainability is the 21<sup>st</sup> century problem," and that, "These issues require international attention."

He also highlighted the challenges that await the upcoming committees, saying that, "There are no permanent solutions, and there are no perfect solutions." However, he excitedly acknowledged that finding resolutions means every parties perceptions are being equally heard.

HE Ambassador Philip Parham urged delegates to collectively create a clear plan for achieving their objective. He asserted that there is, "No substitute for knowing all you can about the issues at hand."

Though justice, peace, and development are all independent entities, Parham believes getting them to operate in tandem

could be the key to both human and environmental preservation.

Student delegates continued the session by reemphasizing these important global conflicts. India's representative implored his fellow delegates to, "Remember that we are working with individuals." His words served as a remembrance of the fact that decisions made among Member States affect real people.

The delegate from Venezuela took a hard line approach to the issues by scorning the prioritization of economic growth over environmental sustainability in some countries, and stating, "Private capital should not destroy basic human rights."

She continued her remarks by discussing Venezuela's advocacy of reforestation and subsequent plan for future environmental sustainability, hoping other Member States would willingly follow her



country's example. The delegate empathically explained that the Venezuelan Tree Mission has planted 33.6 million trees since its creation, and the country will only continue its green endeavors by using wind and solar power electricity systems.

A more civil, cooperative attitude was shown by the delegates from South Africa and the United Kingdom who spoke about coming together for the greater good. The United Kingdom called upon each delegation to begin building a foundation of lasting hope and security for the world's children.

Overall, hopes for the conference remained high and there was noticeable excitement to start work for the pressing issues at hand.

## "THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS FAILED TO END CONFLICT IN SYRIA"

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

The international community has continually failed the civilians and government of Syria by not responding to the conflict in Syria in a manner that both respects the sovereignty and people of the nation.

As of February 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that the death toll in Syria had reached 70,000, of which the vast majority were civilians. In an effort to escape the violence that has laid waste to their country, millions of Syrians have fled from their homes and are now displaced in neighboring States.

Countries around the globe are still considering what the next course of action must be to secure peace in the region, many focusing on policies that benefit their own nations rather than that of Syria and its people. Several Member States have erroneously attempted armed outside interference in order to facilitate a regime change in the region.

However, a change of regime by means of external military, political or economic pressure will only result in the loss of more Syrian lives, ultimately abolishing the sovereignty and independence of Syria as a nation.

Member States should seek alternative peaceful means to end the Syrian civil war, while simultaneously respecting the sovereignty of Syria's government.

For peace to last in the region, a successful ceasefire must be put into place, one free of both pretexts and preconditions. Previous attempts at a ceasefire failed because the self-interest of certain nations took precedence over the well-being of the Syrian government, leading to the inevitable demise of the ceasefire.

Prioritizing the agenda of respective Member States and thrusting regime change and geopolitical interests onto the country, rather than attempting to foster an independent, peaceful resolution of the conflict, will only exacerbate the situation.

What the government of Syria requires is a non-violent forum to discuss their future steps, a forum which the international community can only give them if external pressures subside.

If the June 2012 Geneva Agreement outlines are strictly adhered to, and not manipulated by Member States seeking to further their own international agendas, the United Nations Special Envoy to Syria will be able to successfully oversee the formation of a Syrian transitional governing body, resulting in a swift toward peaceful resolution of this conflict.



## A Model United Nations Reflection

By: Ethan Choi

During my college days, I never thought I would be commuting to meetings on a helicopter and collaborating with foreign officials to open schools and clinics. While it is an exciting, and equally rewarding job, it didn't come easy. Like many college students I was confused about what I wanted to do after graduation. I changed majors at least half a dozen times and pressure from my family only exacerbated things. Then one day as I was walking through the University Center, I came across the recruitment table for my university's chapter of Model United Nations (MUN). Something convinced me to stop by, and ten minutes later I walked away as their newest member. I enjoyed MUN for the occasional travel and numerous social gatherings. In retrospect, the experience helped me develop critical professional skills and ignited my interest in international development.

Every day I handle an immense amount of information. I organize this information in a way that will allow me to leverage it to inform my planning and decision making. This is similar to the task required of MUN delegates who research and absorb large quantities of information on new topics and use it to draft resolutions and guide negotiations. When confronted with such an immense task, knowing which questions to ask, and where to look, can save you a lot of time. This will be a common task regardless of the profession you end up going into, so I encourage you to develop these critical habits early. For me, MUN was a great platform to exercise and nurture these skills.

Public speaking has never been a strong suit of mine. My presentations always felt forced, and as a result, my delivery was weak and my messages diluted. Through MUN, I learned to take complex ideas and present them in a simple, succinct manner. It also introduced me to the art of persuasion and consensus building. I leverage these skills regularly when I brief ISAF generals and negotiate with

foreign government officials. Although this is something I am continuously working on, there is no doubt MUN put me on the right path. MUN was a great forum to put myself out there and learn from my mistakes.

I've always considered myself a global citizen; it was MUN that taught me how to be an active participant. Reading about global conflicts and studying sources of their tension changed my perspective of the world. As I learned about the different forces that shape our world, I began asking myself how I could contribute to a solution. This curiosity motivated me to join the Peace Corps and led me to my current assignment in Afghanistan. The problem sets I encounter as an international development professional are unique and very challenging, but remain immensely rewarding. I can't see myself doing anything else.

Everyone has that one defining moment that influences our long term trajectory. For me, it was MUN. It played a large role in identifying my passions and interests, and gave me an opportunity to develop the necessary skills to be successful. Like so many other things in life, MUN is what you make of it. It is a good environment to make mistakes and grow. It just takes personal initiative to capitalize on the opportunity.

Good luck delegates!

*Ethan Choi is a Western Oregon University alum (Class of 04'), where he received a B.S. in Political Science. He was a delegate at MUNFW in 2002, 2003 and co-chaired a committee in 2004. After serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bulgaria, Ethan earned a Masters of Public Administration from DePaul University. Ethan is presently serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan as a Field Program Officer with the United States Agency for International Development.*

medicine, and aid for children.

"As we have learned in other parts of the world in the wake of massive disasters" – from Kobe to New Orleans, Tangshan to Bam – rebuilding the physical, social, and human capital of shattered communities takes years," said Bill Clinton, tsunami envoy to the UN at the time.

Organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have all provided aid in the form of food and shelter to individuals whose lives have been displaced and disrupted in the wake of natural disasters.

However, the discussion is far from over. The topic of climate change and disaster management will once again be deliberated at this year's Model United Nations Far West conference in the United Nations Environment Programme Committee.

Countries such as Russia will seek to reemphasize the importance of membership in bodies such as the IPCC and the United Nations International Strategy Disaster Reduction. In a statement after celebrating the world's first annual "World Humanitarian Day" last year, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon further affirmed the necessity of disaster relief management by all Member States.

"Today, we recognize the millions of people who count on us for their very survival," said Mr. Ban. "The one billion people afflicted by hunger. The tens of millions forced to flee their homes because of disaster and conflict. We need to tackle these problems at

## A Welcome From MUNFW Host Heidelberg University

By: Dr. Robert A. Huntington

Dear 2013 MUNFW Delegates,

On behalf of Heidelberg University, welcome to the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Model United Nations of the Far West Conference! We are honored to serve as this year's host school, and in the true spirit of the United Nations, we accept this responsibility most seriously. I want to wish you an excellent five days discussing some of our world's most pressing sustainability and human rights issues.

I participated in the Opening Plenary of the 2011 MUNFW Conference and observed several committee sessions. I know the exertion and care involved in preparing for this conference and the kind of sustained effort required to excel at MUNFW. There is no doubt in my mind that every participating institution and all delegates will excel this year.

The Heidelberg Secretariat is led by Ms. Ali Sayre, a senior who is engaging in her fourth Model UN. Ms. Sayre and the extended team have worked in close collaboration with the consortium schools (Whittier College, Western Oregon University, Humboldt State University, and the College of Saint Benilde) to prepare for this conference. The goal is to give you the best simulation possible. I appreciate all of their hard work and hope that everyone enjoys the experience.

Every member school should be very proud of its students at the MUNFW Conference!

Best wishes,

Robert H. Huntington, Ed.D.  
President, Heidelberg University

## "UN FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT"

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

With the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988, the pressing need to monitor the volatile relationship between climate change and disaster management became evident to the international community.

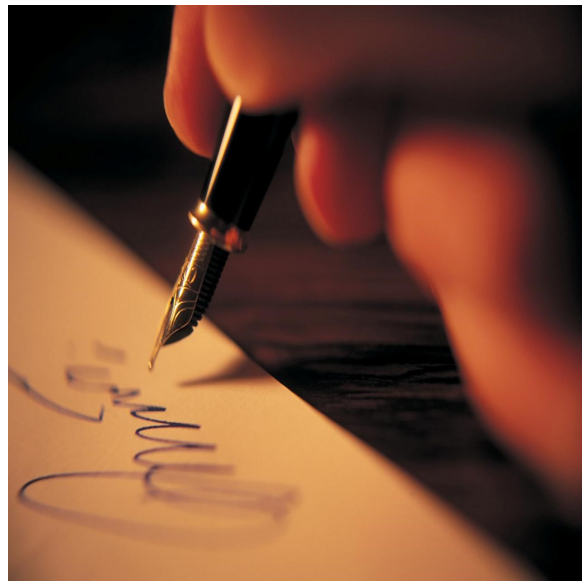
Two years later, the General Assembly deemed the years between 1990 and 1999 the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, further reiterating the global movement to take preventative measures in the face of natural disasters.

A 2009 United Nations-supported report stated that climate change has already caused displacement and migration and could uproot millions more in the future.

The report also recommended that countries begin safer environmental practices to avoid spurring along climate change and to better plan for human security and migration strategies.

Today, the movement to bring awareness about the international impacts of climate change has yielded impressive results on the world stage.

In response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, the UN coordinated one of the world's largest relief operations to supply aid in the most urgent areas of those affected. These supplies included food, shelter,



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their root. But until we do, lives will hang in the balance. And the humanitarian community will be on the scene, rushing bravely towards danger, determined to help people in need."





## Human Rights Council Faces Divide

By: Barbara Ketchum, Finland

While approaching the first topic of child labor and debt bondage in Human Rights Council yesterday evening, the brave delegates who did not shy from voicing their opinions seemed, at least at first, to be on the same page when it came to their opinions and concerns about the topics. As the issue unfolded, however, the room became divided.

The session quickly developed a theme of ethics, and whether a certain set of standards could be applied universally. The delegate from Saudi Arabia raised an important question directed to Italy, "When is a human no longer a child?"

At this point, it is understood that language will be key for this committee and accommodation for all participating nations will be the common interior struggle.

As the delegates work, there will

likely be regular calls for definition and edits to phrasing. A reminder for careful and thoughtful use of language was brought to the committee's attention by the delegate from the Russian Federation when he spoke about current working papers.

The division of the room became evident when two working papers surfaced midway through the session. During a moderated caucus, the delegate from Thailand rose and expressed concern about committee communication being disjointed.

Thailand asked fellow delegates, "Are we not working for the same goal?"

The current working papers vastly differ in their approach to the issue. One group, consisting mostly of the European voting block, is focused on a conference called The Summit. The Summit would occur at a proposed 5 year interval and would aim to educate Member States about the use of money.

During the moderated caucus, several delegates expressed dismay about the time frame of The Summit. It is regarded as too long term for some nations that desire a quicker solution. Representatives also felt that a conference would not be a definitive solution, even if it did provide a certain amount of aid for the issues at hand.

The type of advising that would be provided at The Summit was a concern for those who believed certain ethics would be imposed on different cultures.

Saudi Arabia's delegate proposed the idea that, "resolutions must be regionally and culturally specific." This is the focus of the other working papers.

Delegates collaborating on this oppositional proposal are focused on protecting the views of respective nations, rather than trying to implement one code of ethics and standards universally. The aim is to protect dissimilar cultures and to draft guidelines for each on a case-by-case basis.

Two promising proposals are currently on the table in the HRC. With a very definite and even distribution of the committee advocating either working paper, it is a tough to know which will prevail.



In response to the deaths of protesters earlier this week, the opposition is planning a massive march of protest on the US Embassy in Caracas, intending to demand international intervention. The US Embassy is guarded by the Venezuelan military and United States marines, and its location on the top of a hill, where multiple countries have embassies, makes it unlikely to be overrun.

A situation similar to that of the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, where a US ambassador and three others lost their lives, seems improbable.



The MUNFW Humans Rights Council at work

## URGENT PRESS RELEASE

### Electoral Turmoil Rocks the Venezuelan Government

-FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS-

Tensions are rising in the city of Caracas after the national presidential election following President Hugo Chavez's death. Nicholas Maduro, Chavez's Vice-President and handpicked successor, won the presidential election held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, beating challenger Henrique Capriles Radonski with a total of 50.8% of the vote, against 49% for Capriles. Tibisay Lucena, President of the Venezuelan National Electoral Council, certified the results and declared Maduro the victor on Tuesday.

The narrow difference in the electoral outcome has caused widespread protests from Capriles' supporters, and numerous clashes between protesters and the National Army have resulted in at least 8 deaths and 61 injuries. While both candidates have urged calm from their supporters, they have also traded accusations over blame for the post-election violence. Maduro insists that violence has been instigated by the United States, who have yet to accept the election results, while Capriles insists the violence is a "smokescreen" perpetrated by Maduro's supporters to distract the public from calls for an audit of the election results.

A number of Latin American presidents have convened in Lima under the

auspices of the Union de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR).

With President-Elect Maduro in support of his inauguration, the goal of discussing ways to prevent a further escalation of violence has been established. Following the increasing number of calls for a full audit of the election results, Mr. Lucena confirmed that the National Electoral Council would indeed conduct such an audit, but that it may take up to 30 days.

Capriles has insisted that United Nations Electoral Observers participate in the audit in order to prevent "the Chavistas from cooking the books". President-Elect Maduro is scheduled to be inaugurated on Monday, regardless of calls for a postponement in light of the controversy.

While UNASUR is meeting, the Organization of American States (OAS) have already reached an opposing conclusion that an audit and re-count should be undertaken. The United States, which is a member of the OAS, but not UNASUR, has hesitated to recognize Maduro as the leader of Venezuela, with Secretary of State John Kerry declaring, "We think there ought to be a re-count" to the US senate Foreign Affairs committee of the US Congress on Wednesday.

While the two international organizations have reached different conclusions, the oppositions to Maduro have become increasingly emboldened.



## Natural Disaster Management: Multi-lateral Thinking in a Unilateral Direction

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

Members of the United Nations Environmental Programme worked to consolidate two larger working papers into one comprehensive solution for natural disaster management yesterday afternoon after hours of sharp division between regional and political groups.

The two groups had worked on drafting working papers separately, despite the fact that they both called for similar action to be taken to address the topic. These actions included improving education, policy implementation, research and prevention methods related to natural disasters.

"We believe in a more individualized approach to disaster management. What works in one country won't necessarily work in another," the Venezuelan delegate said. Venezuela worked with other Latin American and OPEC member states, as well as China and Russia, to develop a plan that would allow for regional differences.

Other members of UNEP agreed that working papers should account for regional differences, but were cautious about how these measures would be implemented.

"From what I understand, the other working paper focuses on individualized cases by going through the state, but the state doesn't always have the capability to help," the delegate from the United Kingdom said. The United Kingdom, along with other

members of the European Union, worked on drafting a working paper that addressed education, prevention, and research.

While many agree that a single working paper is a step in the right direction, many UNEP members agree that developing the working papers separately was beneficial.

"It was the most effective means of coming to a resolution and finalizing details, but hopefully we can streamline the process to produce one comprehensive working paper," the Russian delegate said.

The decision to combine working papers followed hours of division between the European Union group and the Latin American group, with smaller groups choosing not to take sides. The divisions were made worse by criticism made by some members regarding others.

"Saudi Arabia denounced Venezuela for its oil drilling practices and made broad criticisms of OPEC as a whole, despite being an OPEC member itself," the delegate from Venezuela said.

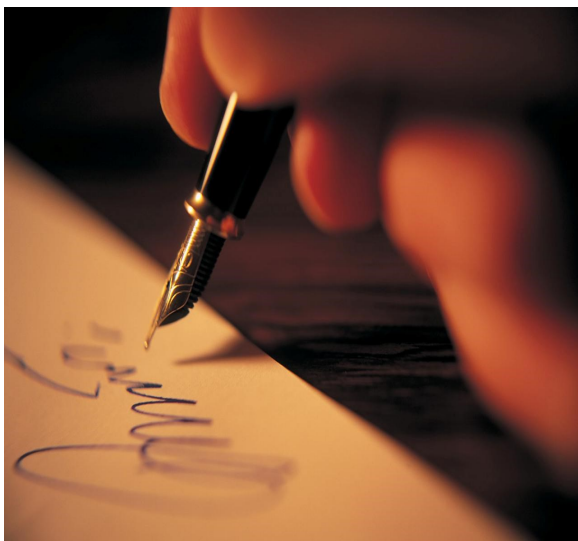
"Perhaps Saudi Arabia should focus more on their own oil drilling practices, and in the meantime OPEC nations should work together to address problems concerning disaster management."

On top of the issue involving divided nation states, members of UNEP were also concerned about

On top of the issue involving divided nation states, member of UNEP were also concerned about the secretariat's decision to omit the issue of climate change from the topic.

"It was jarring when the chairs decided to emphasize disaster management over climate change, especially concerning the Kyoto Protocol," one member state said. "Disaster management only works in the short term, and if we don't do something about climate change now natural disasters will only get worse."

According to United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 9,330 people were killed by natural disasters last year, with an additional 106 million others affected. The damages totaled cost approximately \$138 billion United States dollars. Furthermore, the United Nations estimates that by 2100 climate change will have worsened droughts, heat waves and tropical cyclones among other things.



***Do you want to write an open letter to another delegation?!***  
***Why not a guest editorial?!***  
***Do you have a great story idea?!***

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## MUN Pickup Lines!

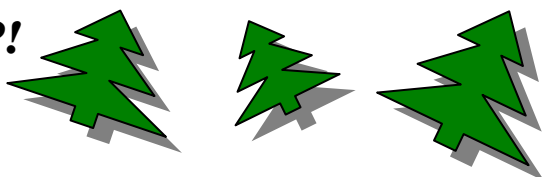
What to say when another charming, young delegate tickles from fancy!

- I'll Czech your Republic
- Belize let me hold you!
- Motion for a one-on-one unmoderated caucus
- You're my point of personal inquiry
- I'm Hungary for Djibouti!
- Is that a placard in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?
- You can lift my sanctions any day!



Delegates successfully push the conference's theme by working on a unified front

***Green with envy?!?!***



Do you believe the conference is environmentally friendly?  
Do you have suggestions on how to transform MUNFW into a green experience?

Email the World Press editors by 3pm Sunday at munfw-green@gmail.com!

We excitedly await responses and are will be doing a piece on this issue, so help out if you can!!



## CSW debates issues of sexual reproductive health and rights

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

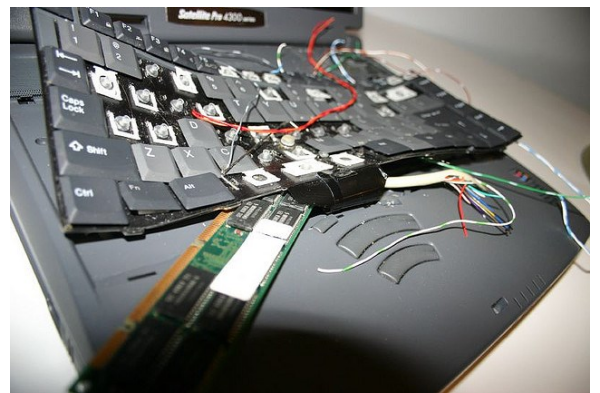
Members of the Commission on the Status of Women began debates on the most effective means of addressing reproductive health and rights yesterday evening, with conflict emerging over issues of national sovereignty and cultural differences. Concerns over sexual reproductive health and rights have been a topic of great concern in the United Nations for decades. According to the World Health Organization, HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. Furthermore, developing countries experience 99% of maternal deaths. “Problems that affect women affect all of society,” the delegate from Iran explained. While there is widespread consensus that action needs to be taken to address these issues, and prevent them from worsening, disagreement erupted over how to do so. Some member states pushed for a broader approach, which included the creation of an international framework regarding sexual reproductive rights. “The Millennium Development Goals, which encompass many of these issues, are going to expire,” the German delegate said. “We want something that would transcend and build

upon these goals and other international agreements on the topic.” Germany worked with the Russian Federation to develop a framework that covered topics ranging from education to female genital mutilation. The delegates stressed the need for a more unified approach to tackling these issues, while still respecting the sovereignty of individual Member States. Despite this, some countries still objected to the idea of a framework. “An international framework is too unrealistic at this time,” the Japanese delegate affirmed. She went on to emphasize the need for education and “tangible” projects to improve infrastructure. Debate also arose over the accommodation for cultural issues. “We are concerned about the implementation of a set of universal reproductive rights without any provision for regional or cultural issues,” the delegate from Libya said. Other delegates urged Member States to consider issues when human rights come in conflict with cultural issues. “We hope the term cultural differences will not be used as an excuse to carry out actions that violate human rights,” the Japanese delegate commented. Despite the many disagreements in

the committee, delegates remain hopeful that a consensus can be reached on the issue. “In order to truly improve the situation for women around the world, the international community needs to take a more unified approach,” concluded the delegate from Russia.

### A Note From the Editors

Hello all! We would like to apologize *profusely* for the tardiness of the first two issues. Severe technological mishaps coupled with some timing problems prevented us from providing you with World Press entertainment! We know committees are long and a refreshing glance at the paper, and an understanding of what’s happening in other sessions, allows delegates to stay alert and invested. We hope you enjoy the photo below, which serves as an accurate representation of our currently feelings about technology.



## Czech Doubles Up: How Two Delegations Became One Republic

By: Sam Bennett, Czech Republic

A low key meeting between the Czech delegation from American River University and the Czech delegation from Mesa CC resulted in good vibes all around, as a slight scheduling mix up was smoothed over with

both diplomacy and tact. The scheduling error, which resulted in two schools being assigned to one country, was fortunately caught before the conference began. A meeting was arranged to allow the two delegations to discuss a joint strategy over a dinner graciously provided by the confer-

ence. A varied mix of seasoned attendees and new delegates made this grouping ideal, as older members helped their counterparts to settle into the routine. The two schools now venture into new territory, as such sharing between schools has never happened before in the history of MUNFW.

Robert Suratt, Czech's permanent representative from American River, along with Tyler McKinion and Cullen Rogers, PR and deputy PR respectively from Mesa, spent day one diligently keeping tabs on the Czech delegation as a whole, and were frequently spotted with their peers in various committees. “The struggle to exist together,” referenced by Christopher MacLennan in his opening speech, was really no struggle in this case, as a shared interest in success as a unit prevailed and all parties seemed satisfied with the outcome. In the end, the meeting served to exemplify what Model United Nations strives for – diplomacy, decorum, and a sense of camaraderie in working toward mutual goals.



*The Complete Delegation of the Czech Republic*





“I don’t always MUN, but when  
I do, I FW”

April 21, 2013  
Volume 63, Issue 3  
Evening Edition

# World



# Press

## General Assembly Backs Maldives in Time of Crisis

*By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation*

The General Assembly worked to address a crisis situation that unfolded after island nations in the Indian Ocean were hit by a super typhoon this morning, submerging the islands of the Maldives and leaving more than 100,000 people displaced.

The super typhoon left the Maldives completely uninhabitable, leading to water contamination that caused a reemergence of cholera, salt water contamination of the water supply, food shortages and the rising of sea levels. The secretary general’s speech highlighted the connection between climate change and worsening natural disasters. According to the Human Impact Report, climate change will seriously impact the lives of 660 million people by 2030.

“It is a great tragedy that we have been hit so hard, and we are working to ensure the survival of the Maldivian people,” the delegate from the Maldives said. He went on to say that the Maldives would accept any form of help from the international community.

“We know that any one nation would not believe that this is not a cause that needs help,” the Maldivian delegate said. “But we realize that that not every country has the financial capacity to do so.”

The secretary general urged delegates in the General Assembly to address three key points in regards to the crisis situation: developing a definition for environmentally displaced person, responding to the needs of the environmentally displaced, and responding to the needs of states affected by the super typhoon.

“Our biggest concern right now is creating a definition for environmentally displaced persons, so that we can better handle these kinds of terrible disasters in the future,” the delegate from Russia said.

Delegates decided to focus on establishing a definition for environmentally displaced persons. Debates arose over whether it should involve internally and externally displaced persons, what United Nations agencies should be responsible for handling issues related to environmentally displaced persons and whether or not people have to be forced out of their homes by an environmental disaster.

“Another issue I feel is important to include in the definition is refugees,” the Venezuelan delegate said, “We need to make it an expansion of the refugee situation. Nineteen percent of Venezuela’s population is refugees coming from nations such as, Colombia, Portugal, Italy, Syria, and Cuba.”

In addition to these problems, delegates also had to figure out how to craft a definition and policy in regards to the current situation, in which the Maldivian people had no land to return to.

Although many of the delegates felt that defining environmentally displaced



The GA delegates in caucus

persons was the body’s first priority, others felt that there were more pressing matters to be discussed.

“Rather than focusing on terminology and sorting out a definition, we need to talk about why this happened,” the delegate from Cuba said. “I believe that this happened because the international community has not been environmentally conscience. Larger nations claim that they want to be environmentally friendly, but refuse to adhere to international environmental agreements, like the Kyoto Protocol.”

The delegates also discussed the issue of Maldivian statehood, considering the loss of the majority of their lands. Delegates inquired as to whether the Maldives would lose participation privileges within the UN, but it was soon established that the Maldives would not lose their voting privileges.

“A nation does not exist in land or commerce or trade,” the Maldivian delegate said. “While the land of the Maldives may be gone, the nation of the Maldives exists in its people.”

### The Maldivian Struggle

- A Letter From PR Ben Kieffer, Maldives-

Given the current calamity, the Maldives has lost the struggle to exist on its own land. The Maldives will not however, give up. The past four years have been spent pleading with the global community to reduce carbon emissions to 350 parts per million, which would reduce the clearly devastating impact of global climate change.

carbon emissions to 350 parts per million, which would reduce the clearly devastating impact of global climate change. In the time spent campaigning for reduced emissions, the count has risen to nearly 400 parts per million. The Maldives is saddened that it has now become the example of the very real effects of global climate change and rising sea levels.

In the General Assembly steps are being taken to work towards a definition for environmentally displaced persons, which will better guide discussions of how to handle the issue and set a precedent for future island nations which are likely to face a similar fate. The situation is completely unprecedented because the Maldives has not been forced into refugee status by a threat from another person or group, rather global climate change. The

Maldives is very appreciative of the members of the General Assembly who have shown support and made pledges to work together. One of the largest issues left to handle regarding the situation will be to determine how the Maldives will remain a sovereign nation while the land is uninhabitable. The Maldives has not given up hope and will begin to with the recovery of the sovereignty of the Maldivian people. Much work is left to be done, but with the cooperation and encouragement from the global community the Maldives is confident that consensus will be reached to find a solution which will alleviate this tragedy and set in place guidelines which can react swiftly and appropriately in the future if a similar event were to occur again.



## Not Refugees: Defining EDP's

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

Members of the General Assembly have turned in a single working paper regarding the issues of environmentally displaced persons after a super typhoon hit island nations in the Indian Ocean, causing extensive damage and rendering the Maldives uninhabitable.

The working paper creates a universal definition for environmentally displaced people. The new definition states that environmentally displaced people are those who are forced or choose to leave their homes due to changes of the environment that adversely affect their lives.

"By redefining environmental displaced people, it allows for a country affected by the super typhoon to be considered for aid from other countries and the United Nations," the delegate from Seychelles said. "With the current definition, people might be able to get the help they need."

The delegate from the Seychelles went on to express their gratitude for all of the work the body had done to address problems facing their country, which was hit by the super typhoon.

In addition to creating a definition of environmental displaced persons, the working paper also suggests that the Human Rights Councils, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme take action and establish a process for helping na-

tion and establish a process for helping nations "in the face of these extreme circumstances."

It also urges that the sovereignty of nations hit with natural disasters be recognized, regardless of the state of their land. The working paper encourages creation of a new commission or committee specifically to address the problems facing environmentally displaced people and to promote a more "sustainable future."

Despite some debate that arose during initial discussions on the topic, members of the General Assembly were able to work together to produce a single working paper. The working paper has eighteen sponsors, including Kuwait, Maldives and Seychelles.

"We really wanted consensus among the body, so we combined several different definitions proposed by different countries into one all-encompassing definition," the delegate from Kuwait, who helped write the working paper, said. "It's the only working paper on the table right now, so I believe it will pass."

For the nations affected by the disaster, the new definition was just the first step in addressing the issues these nations face.

"What the working paper doesn't do is establish what to do with the people of the Maldives, but the GA doesn't really have the power to address this problem and we need this working paper in order

to work towards that goal," the Maldivian delegate said. "It is substantial help, however, as it addresses the immediate problems and establishes a way to enact long term goals."

The delegate from the Seychelles agreed, saying that the new definition will allow affected nations to receive the help they need, but further action should be taken to address these problems.

"The next step should be to create a protocol or way of handling these situations in the future," the delegate from the Seychelles said.

The president of the GA stated that he expects the working paper will be voted on later tonight.



**Do you want to write an open letter to another delegation?!**

**Why not a guest editorial?!**

**Do you have a great story idea?!**

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## Confusion in the Agenda Delays Second Committee

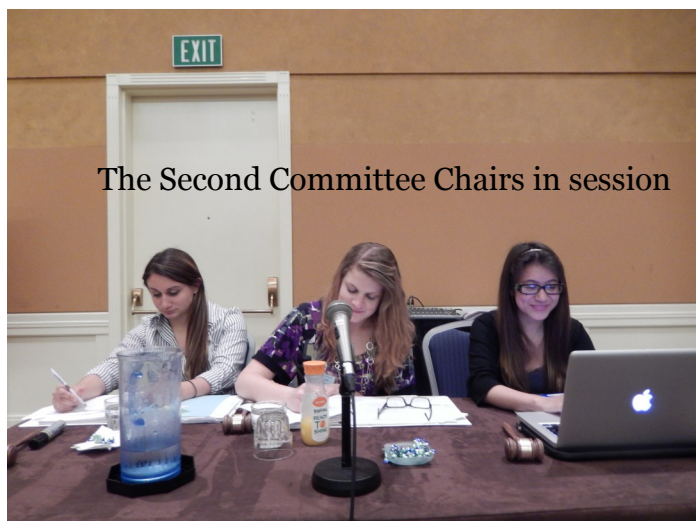
By: Amanda Bretz,  
Assistant Videographer

Second Committee is focusing on three issues: the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference, the Context on the Right to Sustainable Development, and Micro-Lending. However, in reality, no one is really sure what is happening. If you ask one person, you receive one answer. If you ask another person, you receive a completely different answer.

In between caucuses, which some "Stopped counting as they got into the high teens," the delegates were, at the time, focusing on the second issue of the Context on the Right to Sustainable Development. At first, many were unsure what the actual difference between issues one and two were. Delegates would attempt to offer input and were shut down because said input should have been offered while focusing on the other issue.

An anonymous delegate mentioned that the "Topics are too close together and issue one and issue two are virtually the same things and are just too broad." Some other anonymous delegates were, "Unsure what the major goals are as there are many caucuses and switching of the agenda often."

Once the ball got rolling on the first issue, a few things became blatantly clear to several in committee: many people are unaware of how the country they



The Second Committee Chairs in session

are representing would actually act in the UN, many people are not voting with the right block; enemies were allies, allies were enemies, underdeveloped countries are rallying for issues they never would, and the developed countries and forced to back off. All in all it was quite confusing for many.

Now that Second Committee has finally reached their second issue, some have said that things are going a somewhat smoother now.

As of the late, here are some thoughts: One of the delegates said, "There is no major opposition but arguing on what to agree on, but the substance but really the terms of what is most important. All are working toward great resolutions." On the other side, someone said, "Not all delegates know policies. Some countries are having identity crises." However, they con-

## International Solidarity Will Be Key in the Rehabilitation of the Maldives

-A Message from the Delegation of Seychelles-

The small, developing island nation of Seychelles is grateful to the international community for its demonstrated support. The nation of Seychelles is devastated to hear our companion island nation of Maldives has been so tragically affected by the recent disaster.

Seychelles is currently assessing the damage and is deliberating on potential actions to help ameliorate negative impacts. Seychelles is working with the General Assembly to address the UN's current understanding of EDP's.

Seychelles plans to use aid from South Africa in the form of temporary residencies, and seeks the attention of the international community and humanitarian organizations. Seychelles hopes for international cooperation and solidarity during this time of tragedy. Again, we thank all nations for the ongoing support and any assistance provided at this time.

**(Second Committee Cont.)**

firmed it was great working with enemy countries who are now great allies.

This is not to say that nothing is getting done and the caucuses are not leading to some potential successes. A large handful of those in committee are optimistic saying that things have been slower to get off the ground this time but the committee will find success and progress.



## “Call Me, Beep Me”: The Technological Advancements of MUNFW

By: Erin Crenshaw, World Press Co– Editor

This is the first year Heidelberg’s delegation has utilized “Group Me” during the MUNFW conference, a development Chef de’ Cabinet Eric Gobel described as, “the most efficient way to contact other members of the Secretariat.”

For those who are unfamiliar, “Group Me” is a texting advancement that allows every individual on a specific “texting list” to simultaneously receive a message from any other person who sends one. If the Secretary General asks the Chef de’ Cabinet to call out someone wearing apple bottom jeans in committee, every other person on the Secretariat knows (and laughs) about it.

Mr. Gobel elaborated on what a luxury the program has been, and stated, “It’s honestly way easier to get things done with such an immediate line of communication. It’s been really great and has eliminated some of the more hectic components of trying to talk to everyone.”

On the whole, it seems most delegations prefer to use texting as a means of contacting their colleagues and other members of their committee. When looking in on GA, many of the delegates are messaging each other as speakers present their ideas or resolutions on a given issue. It appears note passing is gradually beginning to taper off.

Bernice B. Guzman, a representative from France’s delegation, championed the use of texting in session, and explained, “Notes are far more distracting than just sending a text. It eventually becomes annoying to see people constantly standing up while a speaker is presenting.”

### Voting is ‘Fair’ Game

By: Barbara Ketchum, Finland

This afternoon, the FAO entered the final voting bloc for their first topic, International Trade & Agriculture. The past two days of discussing and working towards a solution for this issue has come to a stage to finalization.

In its early beginnings, the FAO committee was divided into many sub-groups, each with a different focus or idea. Originally, about five or six working papers were floating around the room. Through the process of discussion and debate, these papers have merged and dwindled down to three polished bids for a successful resolution. The once competing working papers, headed respectively by Egypt and the United Kingdom, have now formed alliances. Iran has also formed a resolution proposal with the Democratic Republic of Korea and the third paper is lead by the delegate of Venezuela.

The process of discussion that lead the committee to this long awaited vote revolved around issues of subsidies, free trade, and technology transfer. As with any other committee or topic, the core challenge of this process has been finding a balance between meeting both universal needs and the needs of individual nations.

Subsidies were a focal point of the discussion. The question that consistently arose in various speeches was that of fair-

Stephanie Scheerschmidt, of the Vietnam delegation, reiterated Guzman’s point, and commented, “You have to search behind or in front of you to find the message’s recipient. No matter what you do, people will look at you and stop listening to what’s happening up front.”

When asked about the value of group or delegation texting versus that of speaking face to face, Scheerschmidt stated, “Direct contact is obviously preferable when caucusing but messaging is great when you can’t readily communicate with someone.”

While the shift to technology is apparent, delegates still enjoy the use of notes and find them to be a comfortable way to deliberate with one another. It remains a “MUNFW habit”, even if there are drawbacks (Chairs caught a representative writing a note with another country’s name in the morning session of the GA).

“Overall, I think it’s better for students to pass notes,” affirmed Dr. Amy Berger, a Heidelberg student advisor.

“Constant texting does distract them. I find that their preoccupation with

phones inspires them to ignore the chairs.

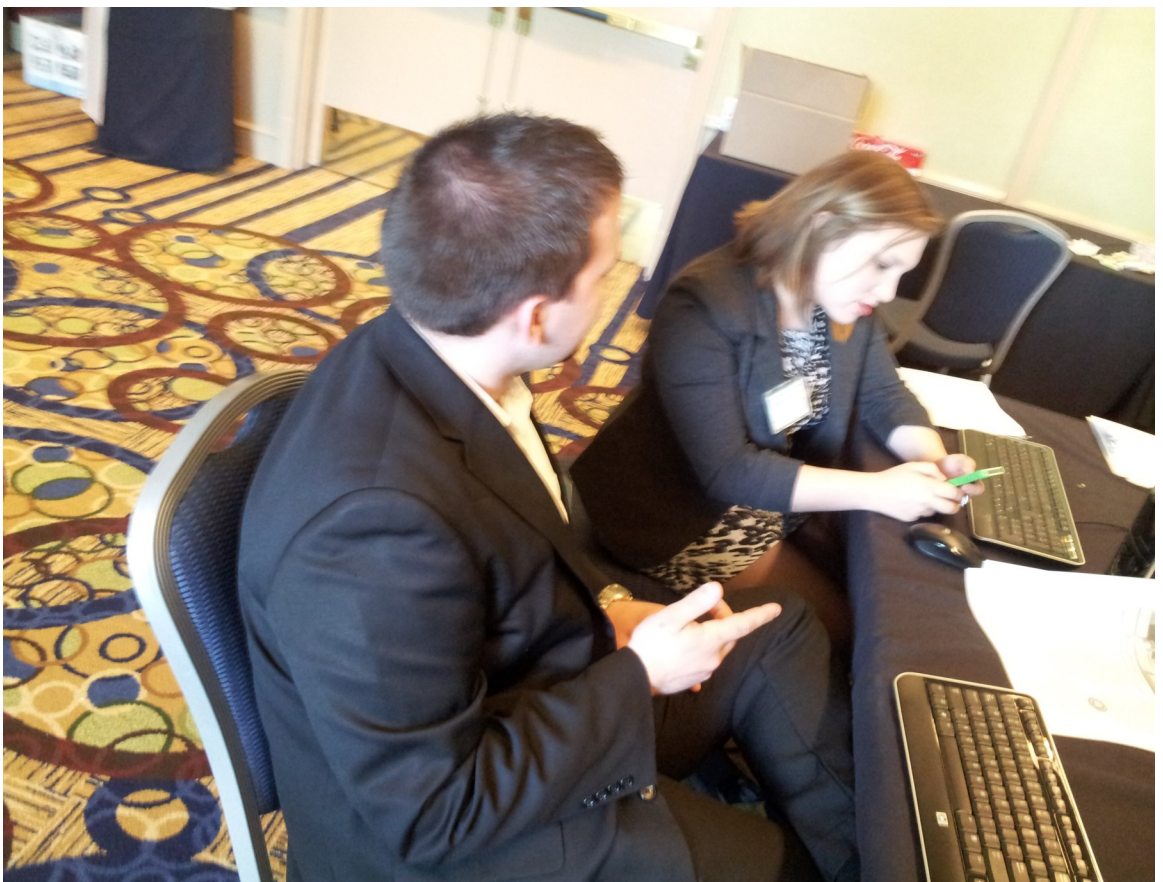
They then make comments that are less pertinent or are unrelated to the topic at hand.” She also believes, like the majority of delegates, that interpersonal communication is the key to drafting a successful resolution, whether one uses texting or not.

The technological debate amuses long term MUNers, like Karen Chan, who remembers when the Secretariat and the committee representatives had to use radios to speak with one another.

Chan, the loveable DPI shut in, explained that, as late as 2006, advisers were still calling for student Secretariat members over walkies. DPI was essentially the “home base” of all MUNFW operations, and the only way to find someone was through this, now aged, line of communication.

It is clear that most MUNers have a preferred method of interaction, whether it be note writing, texting, group chatting, or none of the above. However, the most productive and successful manner to speak with fellow representatives is still a matter of opinion.

CSW Chair Meredith Higgins and International Law Expert Mark Maruszak



ness of subsidies and which nations or cultures will end up experiencing the greatest effect as a result (positive, or more importantly, negative).

Poorer nations also gave regular reminders to the committee about the differentiation between economic statuses, and to consider what is not only best for their own nation but what could be potentially harmful or beneficial to developing nations.

The purpose of their reminders was to promote a goal of achieving global symmetry. Fair trade is the primary point of focus in the working papers that have been lead by Venezuela and other nations who exhibit similar industrial agriculture practices.

Since free trade and subsidies can be a very broad topic, other narrower sub-

jects were brought to the table as well. The United Kingdom and fellow members of the European voting block zeroed in on fisheries and the importance that they may hold in relation to the topic of International Trade & Agriculture. Ideas and issues revolving around fisheries did manage to be integrated into their proposed resolution. While this is a niche issue that may not draw in a large amount of supporters in the voting bloc, it may prove substantial enough for the committee nonetheless.

With no preference for any of the proposed working papers, it will likely be a close call for which will be accepted as the passed resolution. Considering the merges that occurred between the original working papers, it is likely that each proposal is appealing to the diverse group of delegates and therefore has a fair chance of success.



## The Venezuelan Crisis Postpones Other Issues



By: Sam Bennett, Czech Republic

China's Delegate Daniela Vargas

Worrying news put both a vote toward a resolution regarding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and debate over the Syrian civil war on hold as the council added the newly broken Venezuelan crisis to their agenda.

A peaceful protest ended in violence after tensions between opposing factions came to a head with the assassination attempt of President-Elect Nicholas Maduro. Shots were fired at Maduro as he finished a speech to supporters in Altamira. Both Maduro's Chief of Security Manuel Morales and Press Officer Monica Taves were injured, and as of now remain in critical condition.

With the arrival of this news, an SC-4 was invoked in order to allow a delegate from Venezuela to properly represent her country. In her opening statement, the delegate reassured the

In her opening statement, the delegate reassured the body that Venezuela is fully capable of handling the situation without international aid, downplaying the uncertainty surrounding Venezuela's electoral process.

This assertion was called into question by several delegates on the basis of the legitimacy of the current Venezue-

lan government – as Columbian delegate Kevin Gobuty pointed out, the transparency of both the initial election and subsequent recount were somewhat questionable and have not yet been verified by the US. The Venezuelan delegate, Marissa Rhoades, did her utmost to mitigate these concerns, alluding to the fingerprint requirement at the ballot box and the claim of 170 international observers from over a dozen countries.

The issue at the heart of the discussion, according to delegate Rhoades, is the sovereignty of Venezuela. She reiterated that the elections conducted in the country were indeed fair and any claims otherwise were the losing parties' endeavors to undermine the electoral system.

The delegate also stated that any attempts by the international community to mount any further investigation into the election would be vehemently opposed in "the spirit of democracy". The state of the Security Council in the matter remained dubious.

As the delegate from Venezuela returned to her duties, news broke about the escalating violence in the streets and the kidnapping of three Chinese dignitaries. The council was about to move to vote on proposed resolutions for other issues as this happened. However, in light of the circumstances, the motion faced some opposition. "It is imperative that we address this now," said Daniela Vargas of the Chinese delegation, adamant that this had just become an international issue.

This sentiment was shared by both Columbia and the UK. Still, the protests of both China and Columbia were overruled in favor of returning to other matters. With substantive debate over the Syrian civil war still on hold, the issue of WMD proliferation at last came back onto the table and votes were finally cast.

Delegates and Chairs of the Security Council



## A Geological Note From Dr. Amy Berger

As the global climate warms, the ocean responds by also warming. This warming has two consequences related to the crisis currently facing the Maldives.

First, water expands as it warms. This expansion currently accounts for about half of the measured increase in sea level, the other half resulting from melting of land-based ice. Secondly, warmer equatorial waters spawn both more frequent and higher intensity storms such as hurricanes and typhoons. High winds generated in such storms push water ahead of them as storm surge. The incoming water is catastrophic to low elevation areas in the form of flooding and erosion. As the surge dissipates, it leaves behind regions stripped of soils and potable freshwater.

Any future rise in sea level exacerbates the consequences of storm surge.

As a result of the most current storm surge event, salt water moved into inhabited lands of the Maldives and some regions of the Seychelles. Freshwater sources have therefore been rendered undrinkable. In addition, the rapid inundation corrupted sanitation services and dispersed toxic sewage.

Cholera has broken out in the Maldives and threatens to become epidemic. The nearshore environment has also been contaminated, and in combination with warmer waters will likely result in the permanent migration of local food sources away from the area.

The rate of sea level rise is increasing, and this rate may in fact dou-

ble by the year 2039. Therefore further warming places all low-lying nations at risk for high intensity tropical storms. Many of these nations have formed the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to address issues such as those facing the Maldives. Representative countries include Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru, Trinidad & Tobago, and 36 other low-lying countries.

*Dr. Berger is a professor of Geology at Heidelberg University. She has investigated everything from modern and ancient reef environments to the chemical processes of toxic drainage. She is an expert in her field and felt compelled to write a geological prospective on the crisis in the Maldives.*



## Equal Rights for Women: Is It A Global Possibility?

By: Esty Aviksis, Cuba/El Salvador

Many women in rural areas do not have any rights, are treated poorly, and do not get their voices heard. Many delegates have had lot to say about this pressing issue.

Canada spoke first in general debate today and commented on how vital women's issues are to Canada. They explained that in rural Canada the Canadian government has experienced a lot of cooperation with women's rights groups. Their general inequality index can be perceived as number 1 in providing rights for women. This was extensively addressed in the CSW.

Canada said that they will gladly work with all Member States in bettering the lives of women globally. The Canadian delegate explained that the country supports education and creating educationally based programs. The U.S. commended Canada on their position. The U.S. delegate also added that they were ranked #7 according to gender inequality index in labor market, reproductive health and education.

Many of the delegates collaborated on the idea of removing economic sanctions so they can help women in rural areas.

Belgium, Togo, Russian Federation and Germany are all working on getting a resolution with these ideals passed, and as of 5:00pm today, they have it turned it and awaiting approval. Germany is targeting the same issue

from different angles and hopes to improve food security, as well as economic and political empowerment. Food security policies outline the need to strengthen the access to food for rural women. Economic empowerment policies emphasize the need for commerce and promote micro-lending. Political empowerment policies entail elevating women's rights and making sure their voices are heard. Usually for rural women it is difficult to be heard because the kind of environments they live in and these advancing policies give them venue to advocate their civil rights.

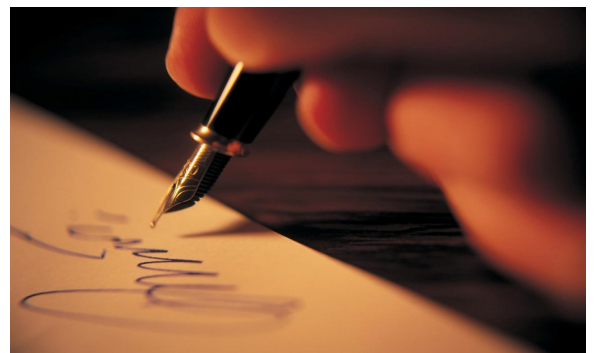
The German delegate said that they do not think there would be a problem with a resolution of this nature passing. Many countries have supported their plans and few countries have opposed their proposal thus far.

Togo's delegate stated they will sponsor a resolution titled "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights". This resolution encompasses all nations but will pay specific attention to developing Member States, as they currently need the most attention. Their accountability system is established with many countries but the delegate stated that they are not mandating any reports or institutions regarding each countries progress. The committee is currently awaiting the results of the resolution.

## How Urban Dictionary Defines MUN:

- 1.) A chance to escape from the mundane flow of a normal school day.
- 2.) An opportunity to test corny pickup lines half of which involve the country of Djibouti.
- 3.) An opportunity to see scores of socially inept teenagers in one room.
- 4.) A place to meet many diverse and interesting people who will only be known by the name of their country.
- 5.) The only place where an agreement between Israel and Palestinians has ever been reached.
- 6.) Place where parliamentary procedure goes to die.

*Interesting and possibly accurate...*



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## The United States Delegation: Blatant Bullies or Successful Diplomatic Strategists?

By: Rylee Grafil, Russian Federation

Members of the Human Rights Council, United Nations Environmental Programme and Second Committee have accused delegates from the United States of "bullying" other representatives into voting on, or changing, working papers.

According to a member of the HRC, the United States threatened to withdraw funds and economic support from any country that opposed the working paper the US supported.

"They are bringing external economic and political policies into an otherwise diplomatic and peaceful setting and were able to strong arm a number of delegates into abstaining when the draft resolution sponsored by the United States and European Union was brought to vote," one delegate said.

The resolution, which called for the implementation of an entirely new conference, as well as the creation of new programs and agencies, passed with fourteen votes for and zero votes against, with the remaining delegates abstaining.

"In contrast, the other two resolutions drafted by a string of diverse, but

concerned, delegates who worked together positively to combine their ideas passed almost unanimously, with one abstention in each roll call vote from the United States," the delegate said. "The discrepancy in the passing of the first resolution is concerning due to the utilization of bullying by the United States, which is contradictory to what the HRC and the UN stand for."

Further complaints came from members of UNEP, who claim that the United States forced them to remove their name from working paper due to tenuous relations between the two countries. The delegate said that, although the delegate from the United States had claimed similar requests were made of others, no one else had been instructed to do this.

"I ended up withdrawing sponsorship of the working paper, even though it was something I agreed with," the delegate said. "I felt like I had to take my name off the paper in order for it to pass."

Similarly, delegates in the Second Committee stated they were told

the United States would not support anything sponsored by the Venezuelan delegate, and the delegate was pressured into removing their name off of the working paper. Another delegate in the committee said that United States was discouraging other nations from working with them at all.

"I understand that they have their own agenda, but it seems contrary to the spirit of diplomacy that this conference is supposed to promote," one delegate explained.

The delegation from the United States has denied these claims.

"My team has been instructed to treat other delegates with the upmost respect," the permanent representative from the United States asserted. "If a United States delegate believes that something another delegate said was offensive, we have a right to reiterate our stance as a Member State. We're here in light of being diplomatic and equal, and we have no intention on trampling on the character of any delegate, but if hard accusations are made against us, we will respond in due matter."



## Violence in Venezuela: An Update on the Escalating Crisis

By: Sam Bennett, Czech Republic

The interlude in Security Council, which brought some of the body's first agenda items to a satisfactory close and began discourse on the topic of Somalia, was brief yesterday as the council was soon forced to return to the spiraling situation in Venezuela.

Concerns about the escalating events were heightened as credit was taken for the kidnapping of the Chinese diplomats. The group, which identifies itself as "Venezuela Realidad", made demands for the "false President Maduro step aside and allow the democratic process to take its course in the light of day." They then executed diplomat Li Hong on camera for all internet viewers to see.

Along with the previous problems of an exploded oil tanker, widespread rioting, dead military personnel being paraded through the streets, and FARC forces advancing toward Caracas, Venezuela seems to be inundated with problems. The delegate from Venezuela continued to assure the body that they can, and will, handle these issues without the aid of the international community.

However, the pushback from others, especially those with embassies on Venezuelan soil, is finally mounting. The delegate from Russia seemed especially adamant about protection of Russian diplomats, citing earlier violence which ended in a firefight between protestors where stray shots entered the Russian Embassy and injuring several people.

China, upon discovering one of their diplomats was murdered and two were still unaccounted for, was "not only saddened, but disgusted" by the situation. Nevertheless, the Member State continues to support Venezuela's sovereignty, stating, "We must continue to trust the delegate from Venezuela that she can handle this on her own". Venezuela remained adamant on the matter of peacekeeping troops, stating, "Any foreign invasion would be seen as a declaration of war". Tensions were especially high and chaotic as the Security Council caucused late into the night.

On this issue, Colombia has remained steadfast in their desire to flush out the FARC terrorists and continues to find it "disgusting and reprehensible that certain nations... do not feel that action is necessary". The delegate from



Colombia also wished to, "...remind the entire world that a massive oil spill recently occurred on the border," which has provoked serious concern about potential ecological and economic implications.

The delegate from India, Matthew Glover, also expressed concern over the French tanker currently hemorrhaging oil off the Port of Caracas. Although he believed it would be "very rash" for the Security Council to immediately jump on these highly charged political issues, the delegate went on to state that Venezuela, "...continues to hurt only their cause and themselves by dismissing any type of aid or help that this body offers."

### HAPPY EARTH DAY 2013!

By: Amanda Brezt, Assistant Videographer

Earth Day has been recognized by over one billion people for forty three years to promote green economies, community action, awareness campaigns, clean technology, and a healthy, clean, all around environment. Earth Day is coordinated globally by Earth Day Network and is acknowledged by 192 countries.

Heidelberg University professor Dr. Amy Berger says, "there is concern in the environmental community that Earth Day doesn't serve its original purpose. Some think it has become a sound bite for corporate advertising and others feel it deflects focus away from environmental issues the remainder of the year."

She went on to explain that many in the community are instead advocating for a new Earth Action Day. Earth Action Day would promote people to make a resolution for the year to become greener as a way of life.

As a focus at MUNFW, a delegate from Canada says, "[Earth Day is]

a great way to promote awareness of green energy issues." He continued to say that Canada is on its way to being more green but the current economic situation requires Canada to focus on economic development. A delegate from Greece said that they are focusing on sustainability through regional blocs as it is the "only way they can." Libya followed by stating that with the vast amount

of desert land they are looking to install solar fields so they could, "...sustain [Greece] that way, as they cannot contribute a lot."

The delegates of Venezuela and Russia are confident about being able to become greener and preserving their oil industry at the same time. Venezuela is planning to promote hydro-electric power regionally. North Korea is attempting to hop the Green bandwagon as well, but with the current sanctions the way they are, their attempts have been brought to a screeching halt.

Two delegates from Denmark are "all about the go green initiative in any and all ways possible." Denmark supports all efforts slowing and combating climate change. They want to attach their names to any green resolution they can, and are encouraging all to support their Energy Strategy 2050, which is the only energy plan of its kind. The Energy Strategy 2050's main goal is to make Denmark completely independent from all fossil fuels by the year 2050. Denmark hopes others will be able to use their strategy as a guideline to develop their own energy programs. Canada is not on board with Denmark's plan, and one of the delegates from Denmark reacted by saying,

"This is Canada's attempt to hide real goals with no concern for the environment." A delegate from the Maldives reported that, "Our main goal is to reduce carbon emission in order to reduce global climate change which could potentially render the Maldives uninhabitable." While the Maldives is devastated, they are happy to now be called, officially, environmentally displaced persons.

In all, the majority of countries are in favor of a greener world. Even with a few stragglers behind, most countries are heading in the right direction.



## Democracy Practice: United Nations Reform and Model UN

By: Abner Hauge, Spain, FAO

Why do we participate in the MUN? Model UN is perhaps one of the most comprehensive learning tools available for practically simulating what is taught in fields ranging from political science to linguistics. Therefore, we can comfortably ask *why* we participate in Model UN, and why it is practiced?

There are basic concrete reasons. But when one asks why, this typically leads to other questions. *How* can we to model the way the United Nations functions? The most reasonable answer seems to be to explore how the United Nations actually functions. I argue there is more to be explored.

In the United Nations, there has been a rich history of debate on how to reform the United Nations body. Why should the real United Nations do this? Let's take some of the examples of reform proposed. Security Council reform is often cited and with good reason. Why should five countries hold veto power over a body that is supposed to claim global consensus about military action? Why are only fifteen countries allowed to participate at a time with the veto rendering the votes of non-veto states less important? How can this be considered democratic?

Another example might be the idea of the People's Assembly. Why a People's Assembly? Take a look at what the General Assembly is. It consists of a body of people appointed by governments, and it is meant to represent a kind of global consensus. How-

sentatives?

Irrespective of our own preferences, they represent us without any meaningful consent despite the fact that as citizens, we pay their salaries. This goes as well for the IMF, World Bank and WTO, where votes are weighted by wealth and often have little to do with public consent. So reform in the UN is a real and vital debate.

Therefore, I propose these topics be implemented in Model UN practice. There are a vast amount of experiments we can undertake. Think of how much we could learn through this. We could test out the proposals, develop new models, and become a thriving and active lab for testing how democracy develops. It could be incredible. Even the real UN might learn something from us. What's could we do that's more powerful?

### Who's really running the show?

By: Undercover WP Contributors

Some of you may have noticed a few individuals fervently running around like well-dressed, headless chickens. These illustrious individuals are the behind-the-scenes members of the MUNFW secretariat. But who are they really? They appear to hard-working, studious individuals but when asked about his job, Chef de Cabinet AJ Lacefield said, "Conference? Wow, I had no idea. I have this short-term memory problem, so I can't really remember things for long. Who are you? I'm sorry; I have this short term memory problem. Can you help me find the hotel I'm staying in?" He *gingerly* added, "It's the Hyatt Express."

It is quite the understatement to say that Secretary General Aileen Sayre's job is by any means easy. "The work never ends," Aileen bemoaned. "It takes concentration and a patient attitude. Whenever I walk into a room, there is always more to do. It can be a thankless job at times. I mean in four years no one will remember who took the time to count all the carpet fibers but I will always know." Ms. Sayre stated that there were currently 1,245,364 carpet fibers accounted for.

Under Secretary Kearstin Bailey took the time to sit down with the World Press for an interview as well. "My job is to assist Ms. Sayre as best I can. It can be very stressful sometimes. I get my rights and lefts mixed up so I often get confused as to what



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*Why not a guest editorial?!*

*Or maybe a full length story for the last issue!*

*Do you have a great story idea?!*

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*Under Secretary Kearstin Bailey, keeping track of her hands*

hand I should hold her drink in. However, the location of the gas stations on either side of the Hyatt has reassured me about working here," the Undersecretary remarked. "I was worried I'd have to remember which way to turn."

Chef de Cabinet, and notable antiques aficionado, Eric Gobel made a comment to us regarding the prominent water urns throughout the conference. "A good water urn is really tough to find, and these are some of the best I've seen. They have a nice shape to them and their use of negative space creates a really nice aura to be around. After conference, I'd like to gather all the urns up and just sit inside a circle of them. It's very relaxing."

We also caught up with Under Secretary Emily Jones as she was preparing for conference this morning. "I love these little mints!" Ms. Jones exclaimed. "Sorry, I just get really excited about mints. I also really love wrapping them each morning. Sure I know they already come wrapped, but I like to add a personal touch. When people open each mint the crinkle should say, 'You're special.'"

### Banquet Announcement

The Diplomats Banquet will occur tonight at 7pm in the Grand Peninsula Ballroom. All attendees must remember to bring their credentials. If you do not have any credentials, you WILL NOT be admitted.

Also, all MUNFW participants who attend the banquet should remember to practice proper etiquette for this event:

- Show up on time
- Dress appropriately for this formal dinner
- If you want to sit with your delegation or a specific group, please arrive early
- If you arrive late, you will be served the current course. Servers will not back track to accommodate you