

MUNFW Session 66: A Brief Introduction

By: Bridget McGraw, World Press Editor-in-Chief

As the nations of the world gather for the 66th session of Model United Nations of the Far West to discuss pressing issues facing the global community today, the Secretariat welcomes the esteemed representatives coming together to find consensus in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

MUNFW has a long, illustrious history among the many global Model UN simulations. Just a few short years after the formation of the United Nations, MUNFW held its first conference in 1951.

There have been many distinguished speakers at this conference over the years, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and a former President of the UN General Assembly, Ralph Bunche.

Every year, the conference theme and issues focus on pressing matters relevant to the United Nations, ensuring students focus on prescient topics and work together to resolve issues facing the global community today.

Students arrive from as near as San Francisco to as far as Russia and the Philippines, bringing varied backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge to build consensus and positive connections that will address these urgent global concerns.

MUNFW provides opportunities for students to embrace and embody perspectives that may not be their own personal viewpoints by representing another country, empathize with the opinions and concerns of others, and gain understanding of the collaboration and compromise required to enact positive change on a global scale.

This year’s theme allows students to determine practical implementation methods for great ideas and goals, instead of abstractly considering these concepts more theoretically. Here’s to another fabulous year of MUNFW!



Secretary-General Marilyn Liu addresses the body during Opening Plenary of the 66th Session of MUNFW

"A Lesson on Semantics from the Security Council"

By: Cesar Saldaña, United Kingdom

During the 66th session of the Model United Nations of the Far West, the Security Council has an agenda that includes weapons of mass destruction, the refugee crisis, and terrorism. So, one might be surprised that the esteemed group of delegates spent a significant amount of time debating a topic as detailed as semantics.

After a discussion about the root causes of terrorism and how to approach them, a conversation surfaced about the meanings of the words “eradicating” and “combating” and when to use them. Some member states believed that specific terroristic ideologies need to be addressed and eradicated while others detailed an approach that would combat recruitment.

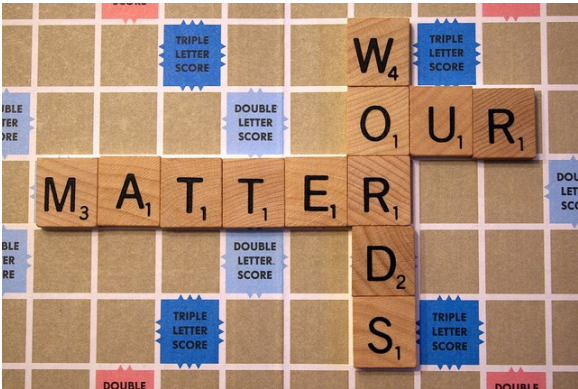
Mallory Kurtz, a Security Council Chair, said that discussing semantics may seem arbitrary from an outsider’s perspective – especially given the Security Council’s influence on the United Nations and the globe – but it’s an issue that demands discussion.

“Language is the best tool that bodies have to solve issues,” Kurtz said. “So it’s always important to keep in mind what you’re trying to say and what the resolution says. It’s possible that what’s in your head may be different than what’s on paper

and by the time you get through amendments, your resolution can be completely different than what you started out with.”

In other words, Kurtz suggests using caution when raising a resolution and explains that delegates should pay close attention to the words they choose and what they mean to their country as well as considering how other delegates may perceive them. One word can pivot an entire discussion, and if used correctly, it can refocus the conversation in your state’s favor.

One last piece of advice from Kurtz: “It’s important to be aware of your language and aware of the language your country would use to accomplish a goal *and* the language *of* your goal.”



“Initial Tensions Quickly Ease in ECOSOC”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

Tension early on in ECOSOC quickly gave way to negotiation as delegates worked to cooperate towards the goal of coordinating efforts to prevent and alleviate humanitarian disasters. The tension surfaced early during the session when Argentina called out the Russian Federation for claiming to support humanitarian relief while simultaneously contributing to one of the greatest ongoing humanitarian disasters in Syria.

When asked whether he felt this question was relevant to the discussion, the Russian Federation delegate responded that it was “absolutely not,” and that “The Middle East conflict is not important in this conversation. ...Russia’s involvement in Syria is about the preservation of Syria.”

The Russian Federation also expressed doubt about the legitimacy of Argentina’s positions, stating that just one day ago Argentina’s Economic Minister himself said that Argentina’s statistics are unreliable.

“ECOSOC and the Humanitarian Aid Debate”

By: Marisa Carrion, Portugal

The first topic on ECOSOC’s agenda is humanitarian aid, and different countries have their different perspectives, as per usual. During the first session, there was a lot of talk about how exactly to help developing countries with humanitarian aid. What would be the best way to assist developing countries? Should the United Nations do more than fix the problem? Are developing countries actually interested in helping the less developed in the long run? Italy was one of the main spear headers of these talks. Italy felt that “reform for humanitarian aid is lagging behind; we want to bring focus on creating a partnership while keeping a nation’s sovereignty intact”

The United States, Argentina, Malta, and Greece all agreed on the fact that humanitarian aid is using outdated methods. They felt that it was time to change the way we think about humanitarian aid. Nepal then came into the conversation and agreed with this idea stating that “because we are a less developed country we have no money, we depend mostly on donations to help with humanitarian efforts.”

Nepal favors the idea of working with another, more developed country to provide this aid. Pakistan also started to spear head a resolution they thought others would favor, and they reached out to Bolivia and Botswana, seeking their consensus. These three nations feel that it would be better for the UN to create and train an assemblage of people to go into the nations to provide disaster relief, people like doctors, people to clean up rubble, and people to show the government how to properly handle these situations. Pakistan and Bolivia also agree that the “peace keepers,” as they called them, would help the government of that nation prevent future disasters as well.

Portugal, however, feels that although humanitarian aid is an important

Fortunately, delegates in ECOSOC have demonstrated a tendency toward cooperation and negotiation: the Argentinean delegation had no further comments about the Russian Federation, instead moving forward to promote Argentina’s White Helmet Program.

“The White Helmet program is a federal program under the cabinet’s departments, formed in the 1980s. It’s a similar concept as the United States’ Peace Corps. When a country requests them, the White Helmets are sent to that country.”

The White Helmets provided aid after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, the earthquake in Nepal, and currently are providing aid for the Syrian refugee crisis. Argentina hopes to encourage other countries to promote similar programs independently.

The delegation from the Russian Federation also seemed eager to move on to other topics, and stated that they will be pursuing cooperation with Argentina on

their proposal for a BRICS Alignment.

The BRICS Alignment is a loan program for developing nations sponsored by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, that would provide an alternative to other sources of international loans.

The Russian Federation stated that, in contrast to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund who often hand money to corrupt bureaucrats, the BRICS Alignment would “hold their hand through the process,” and push for “full transparency” regarding the use of the loan money.

Delegates across the board expressed positive expectations about the direction the committee was heading in. ECOSOC’s members seem to have taken to heart keynote speaker Sarah Cussen’s advice that “reaching an agreement we can all live with is more important than being right.”



Australia delegate Camille J. Ontengco and Sweden’s Ayessa M. Nilong discuss common goals during open caucus in ECOSOC on the first day. Ontengco filled World Press in on the “Inasafe” mechanism mentioned in Australia’s speech. Inasafe is a hazard impact modeling tool that Australia developed in collaboration with the World Bank and Indonesia. Australia’s focus is on disaster reduction and risk management, as well as the participation of women in the national agenda. They plan to discuss new technological innovations and education. (Photo and Caption by Hope Coulter, Norway).

subject, climate change is the true cause of humanitarian crises and main problem we are facing. Portugal wants to get the resolution built and voted on in order to move to the next issue. Portugal wishes to use a preexisting committee called the European Civil Protective Mechanism, which was created in 2001 and includes 31 states in the EU which pool resources together to respond to emergencies or disasters and provide assistance and relief, to create a more global committee that does the same thing. While speaking with Argentina on this new resolution Portugal stated that: “That’s the core of the problem, is climate change. Climate change is what causes all these disasters”

Argentina agrees that climate change is the core problem, but not just

for natural disasters but man made ones as well.

Portugal wants to combine everyone’s ideals into a resolution to create this new international committee quickly so that they can be more productive and move on to what Portugal feels is the main problem. During the next step of getting a resolution voted for, we should remember that consensus is key. As we move into the debate stage of this process nations should be able to listen to one another’s opinions and look for opportunities to compromise. When nations are able to compromise and come together for the better, the changes that they all want to see are able to happen. So remember fellow delegates, consensus is key.

“Countries’ Efforts toward Gender Equality”

By: Hope Gautney, Albania

Delegates from around the world have gathered together in the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations to address social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. In the first session, the biggest topic of discussion was on gender equality, focusing specifically on women's rights and sexual discrimination.

Countries are currently striving to address many issues related to gender inequality. As mentioned in Sustainable Development Goal number 5, the United Nations is actively working towards eliminating the problem of gender inequality. Additionally, many member states have agreed to written laws on human rights that include gender equality. According to goal 5, “Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.”

Some member states believe efforts to address gender inequality should be made outside of and in addition to the en-

deavors within committee. Upon engaging in a dialogue with the Third Committee delegate of Malawi, it is evident that this issue is prevalent throughout society. In sections 20 and 41 of the Malawian constitution, it is clearly stated that women have the same rights and privileges as men do, however, many would argue that these laws are not being properly enforced. When asked and confronted on this issue, Malawi replied by saying that greater action does need to take place, suggesting that it can be done by active participation on the grounds of the country through organizations that target women's health and education.

It is steps like these that must take place for change to occur. The battle of gender equality is not, by any means, a new or foreign topic for any country. As a global community, we have come a long way, yet that does not mean the work is done. On the contrary, it is just beginning. It will be interesting to see how this topic unfolds throughout the rest of conference.

P-25: Point of Information is your New Best Friend

P-25 Point of Information: If a representative wishes to obtain a clarification of procedure or a statement of the question before the body, the representative may address a point of information to the Chair who shall answer it without delay.

What does this *really* mean?

Whenever you do not understand what is happening in committee, if you are lost as to the current phase of debate, the topic being discussed, essentially any confusion you have regarding committee procedure, rise under a P-25 Point of Clarification.

Chances are, if you are confused about something, you are not the only one!

“Yik Yak and Hashtags: How Social Media is Changing MUN Conferencing”

By: Asaad Al Raeesi, Malta

A recurring theme throughout MUN conferences recently has been the increase in mobile phone applications usage like Yik Yak. Yik Yak enables users to post anonymous messages which other users can ‘upvote’ or ‘downvote,’ depending on whether or not they like the content. Curious to say what delegates actually think of the opening ceremony, I took a look at Yik Yak during Opening Plenary. Let’s face it: most of us are not the biggest fans of being forced to listen to the same old speech, yet again, about world peace and saving humanity. Here comes the perfect solution: where better to express my

displeasure (or possibly, frustration) towards this than Yik Yak?

The most upvoted Yak at Opening Plenary was about the physical appearances of delegates and the Secretariat, which I personally don’t believe is appropriate to post here. This does, however, raise an interesting question: how are MUN conferences now different because of advances in social media?

A key element of attending conferences such as this one is meeting people from different places. Social media apps provide an easily accessible platform under a single unifier; in Yik Yak, this is a location, whereas we can typically only view Yaks posted within close proximity.

Another such common unifier has been the use of hashtags. One look into #MUNFW and you will see selfies of suited and booted delegates expressing their excitement about the start of today’s conference. This adds a sense of excitement for you as a viewer; you’re looking at your next resolution writing partner (or, to the potential dismay of many, the person that calls for a roll call vote)!

In honor of this active involvement on the social media scene by this year’s delegates, I encourage you to post a selfie with another delegate you have befriended under the hashtag #MUNFWFriends. Don’t do this during committee, of course!

“Shakira: Pop Princess or Global Inspiration?”

By: Kimberly Manriquez, Ireland

The Security Council has a long list of items that they are set to address during this year’s MUNFW conference. Among other topics being spoken about are combating terrorism, discouraging youth from joining extremist organizations, non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and having Shakira as part of their YouTube propaganda campaign. As they begin to speak on such pressing issues we see an emergence of a strong vocal presence from the United Kingdom, the Federation of Russia, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

After extensive debate and two unmoderated caucuses the council sets their agenda. The most pressing issues that the council will address will be combating terrorism, the resettlement of refugees, and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As beginning talks take place on how to combat terrorism, a surprising coalition begins to coalesce behind creating

a social media propaganda campaign. The delegate of the United Kingdom brings in an interesting thought; having pop superstar Shakira star in their propaganda video.

By creating a social media campaign with celebrities such as Shakira it seems as

though the delegation of United Kingdom believes that Shakira would help to educate the public and combat terrorist groups such as ISIS who have been remarkable successful with YouTube videos. We will see if the rest of the council agrees with the United Kingdom.





“Food and Agriculture – Sustainability Crisis?”

By: Chase Bigelow, Russian Federation

Just minutes into the first meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organization, one of its member states made its voice heard in a big way. The delegate from Bolivia kicked off the proceedings by demanding reparations from Western civilization as a whole, specifically citing the fault of the delegate from the United States, for the degradation of their land.

While the demand for reparations money was quite obviously not met, the US delegate did offer Bolivia foreign aid as a solution to this issue of sustainability. The delegate from Bolivia refused, making a point to identify the difference between reparations and international intervention. Bolivia then went on to condemn developed nations for taking no responsibility for this sustainability crisis, citing specifically their lack of resource distribution to developing nations.

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The next delegate from Brazil elaborated on the point of land degradation in their own state. Brazil stressed that the selfishness of the West has polluted their waterways and caused an unusually high amount of methane emissions, killing their farms and destroying the economic growth of their state.

Focus on the second day of conference as it pertains to sustainability of food resources remained consistent, lead by the delegate from Serbia. Flooding of farm land, pollution from fertilizers and the importance of good soil for local agriculture were among the main points made by the Serbian delegate, with most of the reaction from the floor being agreement with the delegate.

“Progress toward Consensus in Third Committee”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

With Saudi Arabia next on the speakers list in Third Committee, Norway is leading the EU bloc in cooperation with the Latin bloc and the Islamic and Arabic bloc to develop a resolution for gender equality that respects state sovereignty.

Thomas Brown of Norway’s delegation encouraged other members of the EU bloc to focus on supporting developing nations through education infrastructure. Norway has a strong record of placing development aid high on its national agenda, providing the 3rd most aid in 2015, second only to Sweden and the Arab United

Nations, with 1.05% of Norway’s gross national income going to official development assistance.

The bloc is working to create a resolution that respects the sovereignty of states

An apt analogy provided by keynote speaker Sarah Cussen regarding the nature of negotiations, demonstrating how much goes on beneath the surface and how many of the underlying motivations may not be easily seen at first approach.

Nations, with 1.05% of Norway’s gross national income going to official development assistance.

The bloc is working to create a resolution that respects the sovereignty of states while still providing them with assistance that will promote gender equality through education and infrastructure.

The delegate from Egypt, representing the Islamic and Arabic bloc stated that the EU bloc’s resolution is encouraging. “We recognize that we need the EU’s support with funding for NGOs. It’s also very important to maintain our state sovereignty.” The delegate from Mexico, representing the Latin bloc, expressed a desire to focus on the role of accessible education



PRESS RELEASE: 16-APR-2016

MUNFW BBC eyes Hurricane Sarah as it triggers warnings for Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI 1500 GMT (MUNFW BBC) - Flooding and wind damage abound as Hurricane Sarah passed through the Lesser Antilles early today, the MUNFW BBC reports. Reports from Montserrat indicate extreme storm damage and gusts as high as 140 miles per hour. Hurricane Sarah, a former Cape Verde storm system, continues to rapidly strengthen due to unusually warm water in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean. Reported casualties are high, with estimated deaths in the hundreds between Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Dominica, closest to the storm’s westward track. Forecasts indicate a high potential for Hurricane Sarah to turn northward as it passes south of Haiti, and Haitian authorities are bracing for what is anticipated to be a historically strong Category Five storm. Mariano Fernandez, the current head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), has issued an urgent plea for assistance, noting the upcoming Haitian election on 24 April and the potential for massive civilian loss of life.



“Disaster Alert—Hurricane Sarah en Route to Haiti”

By: Chase Bigelow, Russian Federation

Breaking news out of the MUNFW BBC last night as a massive tropical storm is tearing through the tropics with a possible Category 5 Hurricane headed to the island of Haiti. Officials have reported that casualties have already taken place in some places such as Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Dominica, with reported deaths in the hundreds and an unknown amount of civilian injuries or disappearances.

Likelihood is high for large scale damages to continue occurring after the storm passes South of Haiti as is expected to turn northward, with a possibility of the storm reaching Cuba and possibly the Southernmost region of the United States, most notably Florida.

Officials out of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti have issued a plea for assistance in the wake of this announcement, citing the upcoming election on the 24th of April.

Just after the news broke yesterday at 2:30 PM, the focus of the Model UN Security Council transitioned quickly from the combating of International terrorism and the consensus that was minutes away from being reached to this crisis. Secretary-General Liu appeared in Security Council to inform the delegates of the press release, causing them to reconvene from an unmoderated caucus which had been called about ten minutes prior.

The overwhelming majority of delegates in Security

“The Intelligence of Anonymity”

By: Kimberly Manriquez

Throughout the second day of conference, the Security Council continued its debate on combating terrorism. A major issue that continues to rise is the sharing of intelligence information among nations. The delegate of New Zealand brings in the possibility of having all member nations share intelligence information through an anonymous website. How reliable will this information be?

Issues of reliability of information become a hot button topic within the council. The delegate of Chad distresses the fact that by having a sharing of information be anonymous could be dangerous. But, is the delegate right in not limiting access to state who could manipulate the website by providing faulty infor-



Secretary-General Marilyn Liu announces Hurricane Sarah crisis to the General Assembly. Photo by: Hope Coulter, Norway

Council called immediately for the preparation of aid and relief efforts to be sent to Haiti in preparation for this disaster, including the United States and United Kingdom, while states such as Chile and Jordan suggested doubling the amount of peacekeepers already occupying the region. The delegate from New Zealand then proposed a postponement of the upcoming elections, to which there was a clear opposition from the rest of the council. We will have more information regarding this disaster as it develops.

So, should the council limit the access that countries have to the website? “No” says the delegate of Chad. Could this not be putting all member states at risk?

It seems that the risk of having unreliable information from anonymous states was not worth it for the council as they choose to move away from anonymity. However, the council still sees an importance of strengthening intelligence sharing. To do this the delegate of the United Kingdom proposed to strengthen Interpol. Many countries seem to agree with the UK as they do not believe that a new form of body should be created to help with the sharing of intelligence information. Through the usage of current resources and policies it is possible to strengthen Interpol making it more efficient in combating terrorism. As Malaysia seems to say it best “We do not need to re-invent the wheel”.

PRESS RELEASE: 17-APR-2016

Hurricane Sarah escalating, said to cause massive destruction

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI 0800 GMT (MUNFW BBC) – Interim

Haitian President Jocelerme Privert is missing in the wake of Hurricane Sarah, the BBC reports. The storm passed over the island of Hispaniola, causing extreme damage and loss of life in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Measured winds in the eye wall of the storm prior to landfall reached 190 miles per hour, making Sarah one of the strongest tropical cyclones on record. The storm’s passage has obliterated many smaller and temporary structures in Port-Au-Prince and the surrounding area. Search-and-rescue operations are only just beginning, but local sources with Medicins Sans Frontieres anticipate a death toll in Haiti alone numbering in the thousands. Privert’s status raises fears in the wake of tragedy regarding the upcoming election on 24 April between Jovenel Moïse and Jude Célestin, with several previous election attempts being disputed and Moïse having previously argued against further postponements. Still, the possibility for safely and fairly conducting an election in the post-storm climate is questionable. Mariano Fernandez, head of MINUSTAH, issued a statement stating, “We fear the Haitian people may lose faith in the democratic process. And if this happens, then partisan violence may not be preventable.”



“Strategic Communication: Communicating Across Cultures and Genders”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

After keynote speaker Sarah Cussen's Q&A session in Second Committee, World Press asked if she could offer a few pieces of advice from her international experience about communicating across cultures. “Number one is being respectful of the cultures you’re with. For example, in Nepal people often are hesitant to tell you if something is wrong.

You can try opening the question



Oliver Siebe, Permanent Representative from Nepal, talks with keynote speaker Sarah Cussen about her experience working in Afghanistan with CARE, a nonprofit dedicated to providing disaster relief, fighting poverty, and educating children. Siebe was serving as a Sergeant with the U.S. Army in Western Afghanistan at the same time Sarah was engaged in humanitarian aid in the country

up, so that they can tell you what is really going on.” Sarah went on to share some examples of cultural differences she has encountered. “Dutch people can be very direct. Where we might say ‘I see where you are coming from, but...’ they’ll just say ‘That’s a terrible idea.’ Coming from our culture, that can be a bit shocking.

In some cultures it’s very rude to walk into a meeting with somebody, sit down, and get straight to the point. First you should ask how everything is, how their family is, how their children are. It’s important to tailor your approach to your audience.”

Sarah also talked about her experience with African culture. “In Africa, they like to touch you while they're talking to you. Most of the conversation takes place while you're still holding hands.”

Keeping cultural differences in mind is key in successful negotiation. Do your research, make sure you understand cultural norms, and your discussion will go a lot more smoothly.



Want to write an open letter to another delegation?

Do you have a great story idea?

Is something happening in your committee that hasn’t been addressed by World Press yet but you think should?

If you responded yes to any of the above questions, you should submit a guest editorial!

All of the above, as well as questions, comments and concerns, should be directed to Bridget McGraw, World Press Editors-in-Chief, located in the World Press Office.

“Commission on Population and Development: the Migration Debate”

By: Jenny Werthman, Cambodia

The CPD is discussing the issues of International Migration and Development, Sustainable Urbanization, and Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development, but for the past two days CPD has focused on International Migration and Development as their most pressing topic. As delegates in this commission begin to speak on the issue at hand, some countries – like Iran, the United States, and Peru – have had a more prominent voice than others, speaking with passion and desire for a solution. After widespread debate and multiple un-moderated caucuses, several countries have already taken active steps toward drafting a resolution on International Migration and Development.

During his speech, the delegate from Iran states that globalization has many benefits in relation to International Migration and Development. Iran goes on to say “globalization brings humanitarian

challenges like sexual abuse and human smuggling. Iran proposes that it is important for the international community to come together and achieve consensus.” Iran also states that border management is imperative, and that more work needs to be done on this pressing issue. The United States delegate believes “making a commitment to stand on the same platform globally to help each other and create job opportunities is significant.” The US also presses on that “if we work on issues of International Migration and Development, legal implementation must be a part of it.” Lastly, the delegate from Peru, Lorea, spends ample time in un-moderated caucus with the Latin America group, Serbia, the United Kingdom, and much more. According to Lorea, “we are all in agreement and working towards a resolution on this issue. We are proposing to take monetary funds from the European Union who has already set aside substantial amounts of money in order to have revolutionized ref-

Through the work of delegations like Iran, the United States, and Peru – with collaboration in un-moderated caucuses, a truly successful resolution will happen on this issue. The Commission on Population and Development has a long road ahead, and in the end we will see if the rest of the commission agrees with these outspoken countries.



Peru’s delegate to CPD, Linea

“Get to Know Your Chairs: ECOSOC”

By: Marisa Carrion, Portugal

I had the pleasure speaking with the chair of the Economic and Social Committee, Kelcey Negus who is in her third year of participating in MUNFW. I wanted to talk about how this committee was flowing. I asked her what her opinion on the form of the committee was. “There is a lot of good language going on here, we have a lot of working papers as well.”

Since there are so many working papers in this task force I wanted to know if she felt the delegates were being friendly and if they had consensus on certain ideals and positions. “Everyone is very cooperative with one another”

Yesterday’s session was very civil and straight to the point, the two spear heads, Pakistan and Italy once again were working more on their resolution propositions. They were surrounded by other nations and were all writing down positions that they agreed with. It seems that a resolution, maybe even two, are coming together very quickly. We will wait to see what the countries come up with and how they plan to put these to working papers together.



“Joint-Statement from the Security Council”

The main objective of the Security Council is to save and protect as many lives affected by Hurricane Sarah as possible through the administration of humanitarian aide, medical services, and continuation of vital power and water systems. Calling Mexico and Cuba under SC-4, the Security Council is committed to a solution that is best not only in the eyes of the Security Council but also in the hearts of those in the region, collaborating with previously successful regional systems. Our deepest sympathies reach out to all individuals, regardless of national status, affected by the natural disaster.

Written by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the People’s Republic of China
Edited Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

“Statement from Jordan and Chile”

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Chile would like to clarify that during discussion on responses to Hurricane Sarah’s destruction in the Caribbean, there was no statement in which the Delegations support doubling the number of U.N. Peacekeeping Officers as was reported by the World Press on April 17, 2016. While the Delegations and the Council as a whole are discussing increasing the number of Peacekeeping Officers and Volunteers to help administer aid in the region, it is not our prerogative to exponentially increase the size of the Peacekeeping Mission.

Currently, the goals of the Delegations are to ensure that there is a multifaceted plan

agreed upon and enacted by the Security Council to ensure that humanitarian aid is administered to the persons affected, accessibility to polling stations is certain for the upcoming election to support political stability, and the Interim-President Jocelerme Privert is located. Both Delegations are in the midst of discussion to increase collaborative efforts with the remaining Member States in the Security Council.

If you would like further information on this, please contact the Security Council delegates from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Chile.

Furriently Reminder:

As the longest day of conference continues, please remember that MUNFW requires Western Business Attire during committee sessions.



All clothing must adhere to guidelines that portray professionalism and modesty, If a delegate’s attire is deemed inappropriate by MUNFW, the delegate will be asked to leave the session and return with appropriate attire. Committee attire shall be standard western business dress.

Clothes that expose excessive bar skin, reveal undergarments, or are otherwise revealing are inappropriate.

Men should wear a jacket and tie with appropriate shirt and pants. Sweaters are acceptable in place of jackets and ties. While this mode of dress is desirable, it will not be mandatory.

Women should wear dresses, skirts or pants with appropriate blouses. Sheers clothing should be avoided.

No jeans or athletic wear, sneakers, T-shirts,

“Hurricane Slams Haitian Islands, Destruction Leads to Disease Outbreak”

Now confirmed as being the largest Atlantic tropical storm on record, the hurricane which made contact with the island of Haiti, and the damages are as devastating as forecasted.

Local authorities in Haiti have confirmed an ‘exceptional amount of damage’ caused by the storm, including destruction of infrastructure, specifically water and waste facilities, which has in turn resulted in a number of reported cases of Cholera in Southern Port-au-Prince.

Conflict in the region has already begun. Clashes between supporters of the two potential Presidential candidates from Haiti, Jovenel Moise and Jude Celestin, have been reported by sources on the ground, as well as isolated incidents involving Haitian citizens and United Nations Stabilizations Peacekeepers due to the outbreak, creating complications in search-and-rescue operations in the community.

PRESS RELEASE: 17-APR-2016

Hurricane Sarah Lands in Haiti, Destruction Leads to Cases of Cholera



PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI 1300 GMT (MUNFW BBC) - With Hurricane Sarah, the strongest Atlantic storm on record, having left the island of Haiti behind, local authorities have begun to take stock of what can only be described as exceptional amounts of damage. Widespread destruction of infrastructure, including water and waste facilities, has resulted in numerous reported cases of cholera in Southern Port-au-Prince. Tensions between the Haitian government and civilian populations remain high in the wake of the destabilization of the government, particularly their potential inability to host a free and fair election. Sources on the ground are reporting clashes between supporters of Jovenel Moïse and Jude Célestin, as well as isolated clashes between Haitian citizens and MINUSTAH peacekeepers due to the outbreak, complicating search-and-rescue and immediate aid operations even as the international community moves to marshal relief for the beleaguered island nation.

World



Press

“MUNFW UNDER ATTACK BY MISOGYNY”

Guest Editorial

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”
- Audre Lorde, Caribbean-American radical feminist and civil rights activist

Sometimes when a delegate or Chair, particularly when they are a woman, uses their strength in the vision of MUNFW there seems to be a reaction of distaste. This is a challenging normality to address, as it is so embedded in our everyday culture. Our Secretariat for the 66th Session, this year, for the first time in a long time, is almost exclusively comprised of women. They have been actively addressing the unfortunate patterns of sexism and gender-based prejudice head on. While they might not use the same verbiage we use today, they are hyper-aware of the recurring micro-aggressive sexism. Many times, masculine behaviors are favored over traditionally feminine ways in professional spaces like these. This can create a disadvantage for women, despite being equally qualified as their male counterparts.

Recently in this session, there have been reports in varying degrees of discomfort. The real challenge is in addressing the air of sexism amongst committees, while also deconstructing their presence, as it intensely undermines the 5th Goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, one of the main goals MUNFW is trying to achieve in this very conference. Simulations of the United Nations are meant to foster diplomacy amongst future leaders, and the sexist dynamics between participants are cringe-worthy and unproductive to the mission of MUNFW as it is “inappropriate and undiplomatic”, says a returning student.

How can consensus be built around achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, when female delegates and Chairs are facing the very barriers we are trying to break down?

“Haitian Interim President Missing, Historic Tropical Storm Rips Through Region”

By: Chase Bigelow, Russian Federation

In the wake of yesterday’s raucous tropical storm which is said to have devastated the island of Haiti, Interim President Jocelerme Privert is missing, the MUNFW BBC reports. The storm most recently passed over the island of Hispaniola, resulting in severe damage and loss of life in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Winds in the eye of the storm reached 190 MPH, marking one of the most powerful storms on record. Smaller scale structures in the area have been obliterated, and search-and-rescue efforts have only just begun, however the death toll in Haiti is expected to reach the thousands. With the interim President missing and the status of the Prime Minister in question as it pertains to the citizens, Mariano Fernandez, Head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, fears that the “Haitian people may lose faith in the democratic process.”

Early Sunday morning as Security Council reconvened at MUNFW, the focus of the delegates shifted quickly to the possi-

bility of relief efforts and relocation of displaced citizens in what was described as a refugee effort. Delegates from the United States and Venezuela echoed willingness of their respective states in retain displaced citizens if need be in the wake of the tragedy, while those from New Zealand and Jordan remained steadfast in their belief that it is imperative to withhold these citizens in their own state and instead offer relief and safe zones, if at all possible.

Word from Haitian officials on the status of the upcoming elections and the status of the candidates remains to be heard, however this is not the first time an attempt to postpone these elections has been made, with several previous election attempts having been disputed, and candidate Jovenel Moise having argued against further postponements.

“Crisis in Haiti: What Happens Next?”

By: Jenny Werthman, Cambodia

The Security Council spent most of Sunday morning debating on the current crisis in Haiti and what the best solutions would be in handling the issue of displaced persons. During the morning session, the Secretary General Marilyn Liu issued a press release about Hurricane Sarah escalating, with winds escalating up to 190 MPH said to cause mass destruction. Interim Haitian President Jocelerme Privert is missing in the wake of this hurricane, which raises an issue with the upcoming election taking place on the 24th of April.

Outspoken voices during this session were heard from Malaysia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the Russian Federation. One un-moderated caucus occurred, where Malaysia initially said they are planning for the worst, and wants to consider delaying elections based on the current situation with the hurricane. Malaysia’s ultimate concern was if the United Nations would take control of elections or

wait until Haiti is capable of running them on their own. Malaysia also stated in finding the President it would give people great hope because the current President holds great favorability.

Overall, the two greatest concerns in light of this situation are to save lives and find the president.

The Security Council has said the biggest priority is to avoid political violence. The ultimate distress boils down to whether or not the elections in



Haiti should be postponed, and what to do with the displaced persons in the meantime. Countries across the board are willing to take people in, but with the Presi-

“Earthquake in Ecuador”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

At least 235 were killed and over 1,500 injured yesterday when a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck in northern Ecuador.



SOURCE: MAPBOX, OPENSTREETMAP

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The MUN delegate from Ecuador to the Committee on Population and Development stated that assistance from the WHO, Red Cross, and Doctors without Borders will be vital to the country during this time. The delegate stressed that the government of Ecuador is devoted to making sure its citizens are safe, and is working around the clock to limit damage.

The provinces of Guayas, Manabi, Santo Domingo, Los Rios, Esmeraldas and Galapagos have been declared to be in a state of emergency. The quake in Ecuador follows

two in Japan last week, which killed at least 41 people and injured hundreds more.

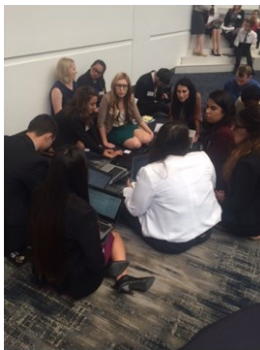
These real-world events draw attention to the need for improved infrastructure and disaster-prediction technology. As delegates at MUNFW work to minimize damage from the simulated Hurricane Sarah crisis, these events in Ecuador and Japan serve as an important reminder that ambassadors and delegations around the world are working tirelessly to resolve real-world crises.

“Third Committee Starts to Reach Consensus”

By: Marisa Carrion, Portugal

During the Third Committee Saturday Session, there were lot of ideas and proposals going around about promoting gender equality, social equity, and women's empowerment. Portugal currently has several committees within its own boarders to help with this issue, like the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) so we are trying to bring this to a global scale.

Portugal delegates were working two different blocs; the European bloc and the Latin America bloc, to achieve the two goals they were working on. Portugal is a sponsor for the draft working paper that the Latin America voting bloc created. The spear head for this draft working paper, however, was Ecuador who informed me that “We want education for everyone, not just men and not just wom-



African and Latin blocs

en. We need it to be inclusive for everyone.”

Peru then informed me that after going around and trying to rally other voting blocs to join their resolution there seemed to be a lot of positive feedback about their plan, especially from the African voting bloc. Africa decided they wanted to implement microloans into the resolutions and all the other countries agreed. Microloans were “established in different African countries, they receive donations from other countries as well as non-profit organizations. They have low interest rates so that people are able to pay these loans back.”

The voting bloc of Latin America and Africa want these state promoted microloans of about \$50 to \$200 to be more accessible because they can help empower small businesses. Latin America, African bloc, and the European bloc are now starting to bring their two working resolutions together in order to form a consensus. All three of these voting blocs want to see an empowerment of the poor, education infrastructure, and women's safety. The del-

egation of Uganda enlightened me on the fact that they want to see in this merger a way to produce the sustainability of nations. They want to be given money or resources to build their own schools and hospitals instead of other countries or NGOs coming in and building it for them. They feel that this way they will want to take care of these buildings because the Ugandans built it with their own hands and will then know how to build more if need be.

All three of these voting blocs, European, Latin, and African, have been working hard to merge their three working resolutions and have come close to producing a finished product. They are leading the way on how to compromise willingly and still get what each of those specific nations need in resolutions.



“Progress towards Gender Equality”

By: Pamela Razo

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that “Gender equality and women's empowerment have been a top priority for me from day one as Secretary-General. And I am committed to making sure that the U.N. leads by example.” The United Nations states gender equality is of the utmost importance for the progression of all member states.

With this in mind, the United Nations has created a united body to accomplish and achieve the empowerment of women throughout the world. The Committee on the Status of Women has achieved great strides regarding the empowerment of women and gender equality, but there is much more progress to be made.

For this reason, The General Assembly Third Committee has been discussing the topic of Promoting Gender Equality, Social Equity, and Women's Empowerment in this session. For example, the delegate from Lebanon expressed the following ideas in regards to gender equality and the empowerment of women; “Within Lebanon, they are one of the most progressive countries in the Middle East in terms of gender equality regarding women. Lebanon is trying to progress on developing a legislation that is going to empower women and promote gender equality

within their borders”.

Identifying women's needs on equality and empowerment can help develop legislation to promote progress on these topics. By creating a dialogue towards proactive legislation it will encourage women to take action on objectives within their state. In developing education that benefits women, it enables them to make objective choices and to become equal in society.

One of the hindrances to this goal is the gender parity which reduces women's access to education and equality. Saudi Arabia is one of the many Member States working towards increasing access to education for women as stated by their delegate; “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been investing in education for gender equality by giving females in the lower level of education access to a school where they can learn and not interfere with their beliefs. Saudi Arabia has opened many universities especially in the private sector such as Princess NourahbintAbdulRahman University which is one of the largest universities for women in Saudi Arabia. They are slowly educating a more classical education in small communities by showing them a future for a civilized society in Saudi Arabia lies on education”. The General Assembly Third Committee is currently working on ideas to promote gender equality.

“The Global South’s Initial Efforts to Merge Fall Flat”

By: Hope Gautney, Albania

The Food and Agriculture Organization has gathered in efforts to reach a united resolution that aids in the well being of every country in regards to sustainable food and land degradation. Reports have been made on the country of Libya’s aggressive front in the first gathering as they raised concerns in working with the developed western countries on the changing of these policy statements. Soon after, it was noted that the People’s Republic of China, Syria, Turkmenistan, Albania, Russia, and the Republic of Korea had merged together in order to confront the western counties policy and resolution statements that do not comply with their needs. As world press engaged in dialogue with Turkmenistan and Albania it was made clear that a key issue, prompting, had to do with each countries ecumenical status.

The less developed counties needed to find solutions in the financial bounds of what they could provide. A delicate representing Turkmenistan commented saying he believes the western countries possess a “one size fits all” mindset in finding solutions. Shortly after the merge took place it dissipated. The Global South soon discovered there was either, a clashing of resolutions or deference in specific demands each country was proposing. Syria commented by saying they faced issue different from the others, and required policies able to aid in economic resolutions.

As a part of the western developed countries France commented on this issue by saying they believed that each country was in partnership in drafted the resolution and everyone is looked upon as equals; however, this proposes a question in practicality of solving these types of problems. Perhaps some countries require more guidance and support from others? Viewing countries as social and cultural equals is one thing; however, viewing them as economically equal is another.

Editor’s Note: tensions in FAO since the writing of this article have much improved, and currently the committee has strong two draft resolutions submitted which they are eager to discuss and negotiate, building consensus through the debate process. The more current article below further demonstrates this.

“FAO and Progress: Resolution Has Finally Arrived”

By: Kimberly Manriquez, Ireland

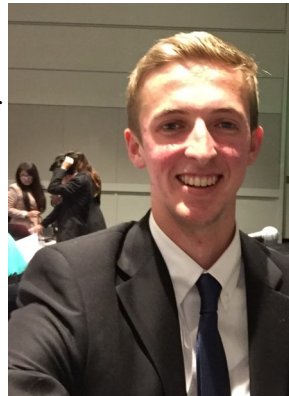
On day three of conference, the FAO has had to deal with a long and strenuous day. As the committee began its day it seemed as though things were well on pace and the committee would soon move to substantive debate before noon. However, as countries where attempting to come together, creating consensus, on various working papers an unexpected fifth paper came into play. With a fifth paper from the Turkish delegate now in play merging of the papers into one became much more difficult. Caucus after caucus the delegates worked endlessly to resolve the issue of merger while still attempting to reach as much consensus among the delegates as possible. After three long hours of debate, back and forth, and negotiations delegates had gone back to 4 working papers. With four working papers the three chairs and the delegates were ready to move on to the next face. However, another problem awaited for them around the corner.

A P-30 motion to move to substantive debate was asked and voted for however, it failed to muster the 2/3 votes necessary for the motion to pass. This shocked many of the delegate as it seemed that the motion would clearly pass. After a re-establishment of quorum and a re-vote on a P-30, the motion to move to substantive debate had finally passed. "Finally! We are moving to substantive debate" many delegates told World Press when we spoke to them. By the time resolutions were submitted it seemed that delegates had managed to merge working papers into two. The delegate of Turkey submitted one and the rest of the delegation managed to gather behind the other resolution.

The committee is set to begin substantive debate soon. But, are all states actually happy with the final resolutions and the wording in them?

HUMANS OF MODEL UNITED NATIONS

“I thought the hurricane was real”



“How did you prepare for the 14 hour day?”
“I brought my flats with me.”

“Back to Business at the FAO”

By: Asaad Al Raeesi, Malta

After an ‘interesting’ start to the first committee session from the Bolivian delegate asking for reparations from Western civilization, the delegate did not back down from his initial statement. In an interview with World Press, the delegate of Bolivia reiterated his country’s stance and further elaborated by saying, “Bolivia is of the view that this is an important step that Western civilization and Imperialist powers cannot veer away from.” The delegate explained that by being placed second on the speaker’s list, “Bolivia wanted to set the stage in the right direction and we think we have been heard.” The delegate noted that Bolivia’s statement has received support from several Latin America member states in addition to smaller European states.

World Press also took this opportunity to discuss with the delegate of Brazil, who has claimed to have been ‘misrepresented.’ “While we share some of the sentiments of Bolivia, we have been actively working with other groups to provide solid solutions.”

The Food and Agricul-

ture Organization (FAO) has seen some intense debate over the past two days, as nations switched gears towards converging with each other. Ideas were varied and ranged from the French Republic’s imposition of 1% levy on cross continental air travel to Burkino Faso’s leading effort towards increasing North-South and South-South cooperation through setting both local and national goals through working with FAO experts. “We believe that developing nations should be active, rather than dependent,” stated the delegate of Burkino Faso.

World Press also caught up with the delegate of Iran, as a spokesperson of his working bloc. “We have focused our efforts towards building upon existing frameworks such as UNCDD and UNREDD.” The delegate further elaborated that rather than create additional levels of bureaucracy.

The general atmosphere of debate has been fruitful with a total of five working blocs each focusing on their respective countries’ specific focuses. All groups interviewed expressed their willingness to eventually merge into one draft resolution, after reexamination of all clauses by all members.

“Latvia Making Noise in Second Committee”

By: Chase Bigelow, Russian Federation

Preliminary proceedings in second committee early Sunday morning included a speech from the delegate of Greece, and got just a touch heated thanks to the motion on the floor by the delegate from Latvia.

Greece’s speech covered global financial risk and Greece’s willingness to take in refugees in the past in an effort to improve upon economic and financial status. It is the intention of Greece to protect vulnerable populations in this way, and that all people experience economic instability.

The Latvian delegate motioned to comment on the speech, asking Greece why they would want, or claim to want, refugees if they have trouble sustaining their own population. The intensity in the room immediately skyrocketed, followed by the chair asking the delegate if she would like to respond, and the delegate essentially reiterating her sentiments before returning to her seat. We will await a response from the Greek delegate once the Latvian delegate takes the floor.

“Secretary-General Gives Insight into the 66th MUNFW”

By: Jenny Werthman, Cambodia and Chase Bigelow, Russian Federation

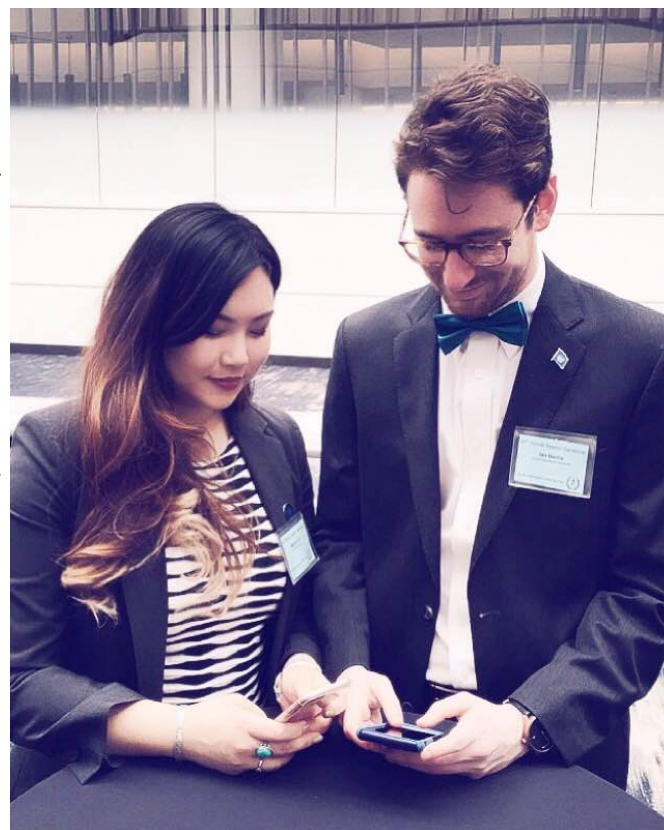
This year, the theme of the conference is “Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals,” focusing on the humanitarian response in terms of aid, problems arising from a weak global economy, social development, and meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge. Other factors include strengthening disaster relief assistance and the integration of population issues into sustainable development.

We spoke with Secretary-General Marilyn Liu in March, whose role is to oversee the conference. She stated the overall purpose of MUNFW is to integrate students into the United Nations system through real life issues. Liu said “it is important to learn to negotiate and build consensus through experience.” She went on to say that “to learn more about the world, grow empathy for third world countries, and to work together are the main purposes of the conference.” At the end of our interview, Marilyn finished with what the overall experience of MUNFW is like. “As a delegate it can be nerve-racking, but through making friends, debating, and caucusing, the conference aids in individual growth and success.”

On the first night of the conference during the opening plenary session, Secretary-General Liu reiterated the theme of this year’s conference, being the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from the turn of the century. These goals were re-introduced to the UN last year in 2015, and are gaining ground as a legitimate milestone for the year 2030. Liu also went on to stress the importance of change on a fundamental level, and included the potential for powerful changes thanks to these goals.

A current update on how the conference is going so far was given on April 17th by Liu. “Everything is going smoothly. Faculty and advisors complimented the opening plenary, which brought two dynamic speakers with relevant experience to the table. Liu also said that “committees are working hard and have only had minor slipups. Most committees are moving to substantive debate because tomorrow is the last day and preparation for voting bloc is in effect. Amendments are happening and hashing out all changes is where we are at.”

This year’s conference has brought new ideas and opportunities on the issue of sustainable development. Thanks for participating in the 66th session of the Model United Nations of the Far West Conference!



Secretary-General Marilyn Liu and Under Secretary-General Ian Harris working hard to ensure Session 66 runs smoothly

Official Statement from World Press Editor-in-Chief

I would like to issue a clarification regarding the guest editorial published in the previous edition of World Press titled “MUNFW under Attack by Misogyny.” Let me make it very clear that this article was not in response to any singular incident, and in no way was intended as any form of attack or slander against individual delegates. The authors’ intent of this article was to identify these larger themes and potential concerns so that conference participants might be more conscious of, and intentional in, their own interactions and the overall energy that they bring to conference. The idea of writing an article that touches on some of these themes was considered at the very beginning of conference, so any perceived connection between this article and specific events is inappropriate and inaccurate.

Any time specific instances occur, they are resolved through appropriate channels and would not be broadcast in such a way as to point out specific individuals involved. The article titled “Model UN Addressing Sexual Harassment Accusations” in this current issue was in response to a specific incident that was resolved for all parties involved, placing focus on the concern for a safe space for everyone to participate in this simulation and enjoy themselves, rather than encouraging any gossip or slander.

Again, the guest editorial included in the previous edition was not in response to any specific incidents, and was simply meant to start a broader conversation and remind delegates of the real reason we are all here: to foster diplomacy, compassion, empathy, and collaboration.

PRESS RELEASE: 18-APR-2016

Haiti looks forward in wake of storm

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI 1600 GMT (MUNFW BBC) - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the body of Jocelerme Privert was discovered late last night; the cause of death was determined to be cholera. To add further tragedy to this already woeful natural disaster, there have been numerous accounts of sexualized violence at the hands of UN peacekeepers. Though actions have been taken to ameliorate the issue, specifically local forces taking the accused UN peacekeepers into custody to be tried under Haitian law, there are still tensions between the local Haitian people and MINUSTHA due to the occurrences with the peacekeepers. On a more positive note, tensions have eased between supporters of Jovenel Moïse and Jude Celestine in light of President Privert’s passing. There is an increased presence, particularly in and around the makeshift polling places, that has helped restore order and provides optimism for the upcoming election. The international community has rallied around the events transpiring in Haiti, resulting in the hash tag #HaitiCantWait and significant increases in donations to rebuild in the wake of this natural disaster.



“Climate Change Finally Under Debate in ECOSOC”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

Sunday around 2:00 ECOSOC finally moved into general debate about their second agenda item, Climate Change. Before allowing the committee to enter open caucus, the Chair gave an overview of the issue and reminded delegates to focus not only on prevention, but also on disaster risk reduction. The Chair urged the committee to seek out and discuss innovative ways to approach the issue.

Colombia, first on the speakers' list, stated their desire to emphasize Sustainable Development goals 13, 14, and 15. These goals focus on climate action, life below water, and life on land respectively.

Colombia stated that they were eager to establish new alliances and to reaffirm those in existence, and would welcome input from delegates wishing to work together.

In following speeches and open caucus sessions, delegates from Argentina, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Korea focused on curbing carbon emissions and developing sustainable & renewable energy sources.

Other countries expressed strong positions as well. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan emphasized infrastructure improvement to reduce the effects of disasters, citing its Vision 2025 concept, a program which would promote the mainstreaming of the climate change issue and provision of tax incentives for companies that make an effort to utilize clean energy and reduce emissions.

France promotes a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, and Georgia emphasized that it has large hydropower capabilities, and Brazil wants to focus on disaster risk reduction

Brazil expressed the sentiment that while climate change is important, more pressing issues such as starvation, lack of

education, terrorism, and civil wars provide a more dire threat to international peace and security.

Italy, very vocal during the speeches with plenty of P23s to go around, urged delegates to focus not only on preventative measures, but on choosing new tactics to address the environmental, economic and political issues that climate change has already created.

The delegate from China delivered an encouraging speech during which China

countries into less developed countries “in order to improve national capacities for disaster risk resilience.”

The working paper calls for a program through which developed countries lend infrastructure, technology, and research resources to less developed countries and are paid back through research sharing.

According to delegate Jonathan Sweeney of China, The group's goal is to see “reduction in corrupt industrial prac-



Delegates in ECOSOC diligently draft working papers on Climate Change

admitted that it is not

exempt from poor practices, stating that it has sacrificed environmental concerns in the name of progress for too long. With continued investment in hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy, China plans to work with affluent nations to reduce the risk of future disasters.

During unmoderated caucus between speeches, delegates continued to work in groups to develop problem-solving working papers on the topic of climate change and environmental degradation.

One group consisting of China, Malta, Botswana, Nepal, Japan, and India is developing a program that focuses on technological investment by developed

tices to help mitigate malpractice and the possibility of future disaster.”

Another group including Brazil, Serbia, France, Guatemala, and Greece are working on technological advancements to help negate climate change. One example is promoting the use of genetically modified seeds to produce plants that don't require as much water and emit more oxygen.

Despite disagreements regarding methods and priorities, the countries represented in ECOSOC are, for the most part, agreed that climate change is a vital issue requiring immediate attention and action from the international community.

“CPD Passes First Resolution”

By: Marisa Carrion, Portugal

After three and a half long days of negotiation, the delegates of the Commission on Population and Development pass their first resolution. The topic at hand was International Migration and Development. The Portuguese Republic wishes to continue to hold paramount the need for sustainable practices within development.

Portugal took the stance of welcoming migrants to the country, so they were very adamant about including a clause that informs migrants of where they can and cannot go. Portugal wants to the migrants to be “informed that Portugal accepts migrants, and has lots of available space for them.”

Currently Portugal has many employment opportunities especially in agriculture; there is also a positive attitude from citizen to include migrants into the country. This is mostly due to the aging population in Portugal. Most Migrants come from other Portuguese speaking languages.

Portugal was also adamant about including a clause of evasion for Haiti refugees because of the recent crisis that happened there. The delegate from Portugal felt that agreeing on a resolution would not be difficult because “we all have similar stances on migration”

After the draft resolution was printed there were only a few friendly amendments that adopted into the draft resolution without requiring a vote of the body, then the delegates voted for the entire resolution and it passed unanimously, thus closing the first agenda item.

“Economic Partnerships”

By: Pamela Razo, Malaysia

Economic sanctions have inadvertently created hindrances towards respective Member States in achieving financial stability, and have further burdened future economic growth in said states. With this in mind, delegates from Germany, China, and several fellow member states have come together to encourage a reassessment of financial sanctions which would be addressed through Security Council, and to urge preventative measures be adopted to avert another financial crisis.

Moreover, these preventative measures would endorse plans to address financial instability in global markets. Of these measures, transparency and accountability are of the utmost importance to these respective member states as they have agreed that the lack

of transparency is a leading problem in establishing a financially sustainable future.

For example, Germany is working with the Asian block especially with China for preventative measures as stated by Germany; “Able to come to an agreement over sanctions of how debt restrictions should be approach and how spending restriction should be imparted through a new kind of credit through The International Monetary Fund”. The credit is designed for states that have previously received significant relief packages and need to reassess their debt burdens. This credit line, coupled with transparency and preventative measures, seek to fully address the topic of financial risk and provide framework for a sustainable economic future.

“Portugal Address Financial Risk”

By: Marisa Carrion, Portugal

Addressing global financial risk was the topic of discussion in the second General Assembly Sunday morning. Since the 2008/2009 recession many nations have been trying to find a way to prevent anything like this from happening again. Portugal feels that commodities are critical in order to come out of the debt crisis that we are currently in. Portugal relies on Brazil and Angola to buy imports from them. During the discussion with Portugal we were approached by the France delegate and they strongly feels that “Smaller countries have a hard time importing goods from developed countries because their currency is less than the United States dollar.” Well what do you propose we do about that problem? “Create a common currency for those small nations within the same region so trade can be increased.”

France wishes to create a system that reflects that of the European Union where different countries have the same currency. However, Portugal feels that the best way to help our country is with commodities, commodity control is key. Portugal is currently in debt and has been since about 2001, seven years before the beginning of the world recession. “Economic growth is at a standstill, we are struggling with 20% plus unemployment.”

In this conference Portugal does not have a lot of swing on how things should go because it is a small state. Portugal has

to join in a voting bloc that will ensure its needs are met.

“Germany is calling all of the shots and we are frustrated with austerity. But the loans provided helped a lot with relief.”

So Portugal has joined forces with bigger nations such as Singapore, another middle dollar country, both countries have a lot in common according to the delegate from Singapore. Portugal is also in line with Poland who says that their voting bloc is “willing to do a little debt reach, but not all of the debt forgiveness that developing countries want.”

They want to create preventative measures and decreases existing debt so that current poorer countries that are in a lot of debt will not get into even more if a global recession occurred once more. Another thing that this voting bloc is working into their resolution is lower government cost, regulations on banks to ensure they are not giving out risky loans.



“Reflections on a Monday Afternoon of MUNFW”

By: Pamela Razo, Malaysia

William Shakespeare has said that “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them” Model United Nations is an experiential learning program that provides students with a better understanding of the inner workings of the UN and a forum to hone skills in diplomacy, negotiation, critical thinking, compromise, public speaking, writing, and research. MUNFW is known for its self-determination and outstanding delegate participation in each committee.

This 66th session of this conference brought together students from all different creeds and various regions of the world, to help progress the goals of the UN in hopes of achieving a sustainable future. Such topics that were addressed by fellow member states include: gender equality, global financial risk, and world hunger. Despite the setbacks in each respective committee, the conference remained extremely productive. Resolutions were deliberated upon and passed, and many delegates walked away from this learning experience with knowledge that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.

“Delegates Show Cooperation and Collaboration are Possible”

By: Hope Coulter, Norway

A rare moment as delegates from the United States, Egypt, and Israel work together during the Special Session of the General Assembly on Sunday. General Assembly broke into regional working groups for unmoderated caucus to develop operative clauses that could be universally agreed to by the members of each bloc, and ultimately by the entire committee. The blocs focused on four key aspects of education: accessibility, sustainability, quality, and opportunity. Pictured left to right: Jesse Nelson of the U.S. delegation, Pete Lucier of the Egyptian delegation, Adam Silow of the Israeli delegation. (Photo and Caption by Hope Coulter, Norway)



“The Death of Wording”

By: Kimberly Manriquez, Ireland

After long debates and caucus the FAO had finally reached substantive debate with two resolutions. However, before draft resolution 66/20/2 had officially been submitted, there was some last-minute rewording that Cambodia had not originally envisioned for this draft resolution. When World press originally approached the delegate of Cambodia, she was displeased with the rewording of an operative clause. The original intent of the clause that Cambodia was in favor of spoke about individual farmers, but the new rewording no longer included that language.

As World Press approached Cambodia before voting block because, we found out that the operative clause that had been reworded meant that the delegate could no longer support the draft resolution. Cambodia has now withdrawn its support and taken its name off the sponsorship list. The delegate state that “I am very disappointed in the wording of the final resolution. I am not pleased since Cambodia and so many others had worked so hard to create this resolution.”

This demonstrates how vital specific wording is, as it can endanger a resolution. Cambodia abstained on this resolution, but the body as a whole passed it.

Model United Nations Addressing Sexual Harassment Accusations”

By: Hope Gautney, Albania

“If any of you feel discriminated against, unsafe, [or] disrespected please speak to your advisor. Please speak to us as the committee, so that we can address it. The only way that you get respect in this world is if you give respect; and that is a core principle of the Model UN and of life...”

In respect to the parties involved names and countries will not be used.

This statement was given by Aaron Holts, the assistant executive director of Model United Nations of the Far West, in every committee meeting during the final hour of sessions and proceedings. What prompted the remark was concerns raised by a few delegates regarding sexual harassment. The issue was handled by members of the executive board, in order address and find a resolution that was impartial to each delegate involved. Holts later commented by saying any form of the sexual harassment will not be tolerated in this organization and efforts are being made to prevent such issues in the future.

Holts comments on the effects of social media’s role in sexual harassment situations. He recognizes that this form of communication cannot be controlled by the board, nor would they want it to. The executive board can only ask delegates to understand that “this simulation is above and beyond the issues of international concerns about learning how to engage to each other in a professional and respectful way.”

“Don’t Underestimate What I’m Capable of”

An Interview with Aidee Campa
By: Hope Gautney, Albania and Hope Coulter, Norway

Aidee Campa, substantive chair for 3rd committee, sat down with world press during her lunch on Monday, April 18, to share her story & her experience with MUN.

Campa has been blind since childhood. She arrived in the U.S. at a young age along with her parents, in search of proper medical treatment after being diagnosed with cancer. Her family made the decision to remain in the United State in order to provide a more substantial education and greater opportunities. She grew up in Pasadena and attended Temple City high school before being accepted to Whittier College.

At Whittier, Campa is pursuing an English major with a minor in Political Science. Whittier’s MUN advisor, Mike McBride, was Campa’s freshman writing seminar instructor, and she began attending an evening session of McBride’s International Organizations class that was specifically focused on the United Nations.

Campa became increasingly involved with MUN, attending conference as a delegate from Peru with UNHCR before being chosen as a chair for this year’s conference. She spent the summer and fall preparing third committee’s issue book.

Her job at Conference is to run moderated caucus within substantive debate. She says her fellow chairs have been very supportive, as have other members of her team. “They help me out with a few things, let me know when delegates want to

speak.” Another student walks with her to the different parts of the hotel and helps her out with other things that the chairs would be too occupied to help out with.

“We knew the challenges before we got here, so we thought of ways to work around them at school. We made a mock session of a moderated caucus and we practiced, ‘Okay one of you will tell me when someone is raising their placard.’”

Campa wanted World Press to understand that although she’s glad her story can inspire people, she doesn’t do this for the purpose of inspiring other people, and she does it because it’s something she is interested in. “This is me going about my life,” she explained.

One thing Campa enjoys about conference is watching how much of an influence the chair has over the delegates, simply by recommending or advising things.

Campa’s future plans include going to law school and becoming a civil rights attorney, because she believes “The legal system has a lot of power to shape how civil rights are dealt with in certain situations.”

Campa’s advice to Model United Nations delegates is to take it seriously, but not personally. Don’t make a mockery of the session, because that helps no one.

We asked Campa if there is something she wants sighted people to understand about her as a blind person.

“Don’t underestimate what I’m capable of doing,” Campa responded. “I’m capable of doing most of what sighted people are capable of doing. Don’t underestimate me in any way.”

“An Interview with Aaron Holtz”

By Cesar Saldaña, United Kingdom

Aaron Holtz, who is now a senior policy adviser for human rights at the United Kingdom Mission of the United Nations (UN), started his career as a vocal performance major. When the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 occurred, he entered his international relations class at Mesa Community College and his professor began a conversation about terrorism, dissecting the issue down to its root causes which encouraged Mr. Holtz to change his major and, consequently, refocus his career path.

At his community college, Mr. Holtz participated in Model United Nations and attended a total of six conferences. He then transferred to Lewis and Clark University in Portland, Oregon where he graduated with a degree in International Relations.

Fresh out of university, Mr. Holtz earned an unpaid internship with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New York City and worked diligently until he was offered a full time position at the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations.

He says that he entered the world of the UN with rose colored glasses: he realized that working on human rights can be challenging and working at the UN certainly doesn’t always come with the glamor of diplomacy that people might see from the outside. In fact, there were times when he disagreed with his colleagues to the point of asking himself if the work he was doing mattered.

The pivotal moment in Holtz’s career was when he rediscovered the purpose of the UN, which struck a personal chord. “I’ve realized the U.N. is for everybody. Particularly with L.G.B.T. rights, I thought ‘The UN is for me, too!’” Mr. Holtz said

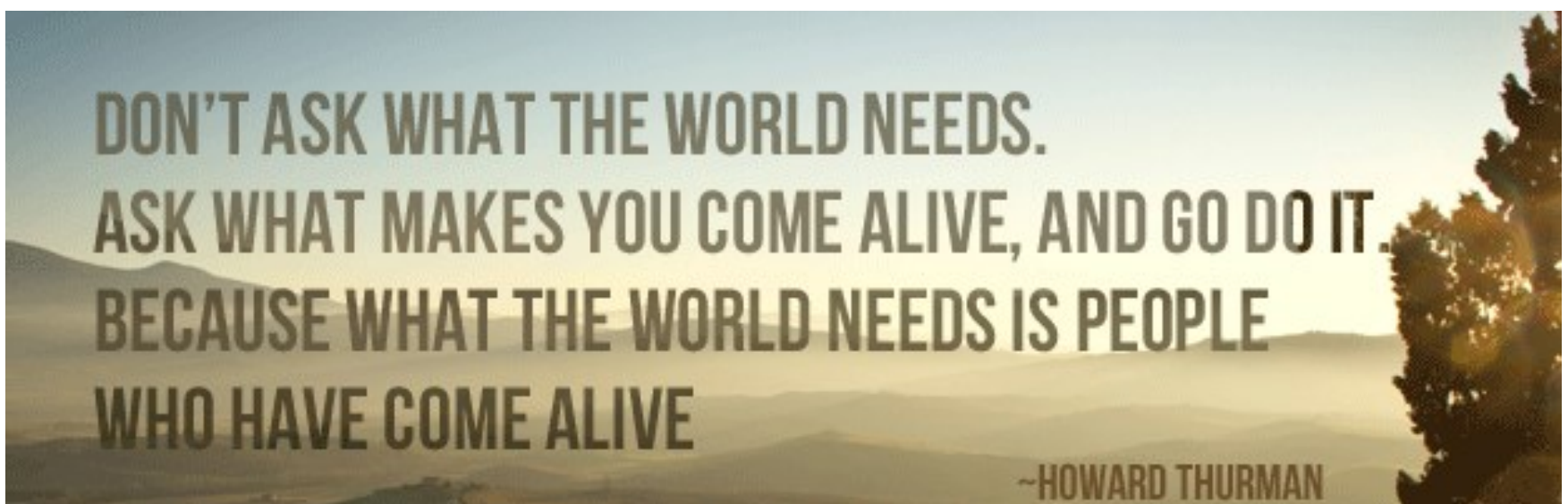
He felt empowered that he could advocate for others and have his work be a reflection of himself and said, “I made the connection that your human rights impact my human rights. If you don’t have your rights respected, who is to say that my rights are going to be respected.”

Understanding this crucial message has propelled Mr. Holtz forward in his career to the senior position he holds today and is an example of how delegates of the Model United Nations who have aspirations of working for the UN can achieve them.

Mr. Holtz used the majority of his savings and had financial support from his parents during his internship, and understands that he had a privileged opportunity that not everyone can afford. He is disappointed with the amount of unpaid internships, but says that there are many paths to attaining a position at the UN.

He encourages students to research scholarships and paid internships and also advises students not to feel discouraged if they are unable to find them. He also says to research and take jobs at non-governmental- and local human rights organizations that are accredited to the UN.

In addition to the tenacity and the necessary educational background, Mr. Holtz says “the passion to make a difference in the world is the most important thing” to reach success.



“Looking Forward: A Reflection on MUNFW Session 66”

By: Asaad Al Raeesi, Malta

After three days of intense discussions, deliberations and debates, the 66th session of Model United Nations of the Far West is coming to an end. Over the past few days, all of us have been witnessed to unique experiences unlike other MUN conferences (post committee included). This was my first time as a World Press delegate and I was looking forward to the experience. I had unlimited access to all committee sessions, and got to see first-hand the contrast in the overall atmospheres in the committees. One delegate went as far as to say that “some delegates have a personal vendetta against it because of my work” when describing their draft resolution. A common denominator between all committees was an outspoken delegate on ‘Western or Imperialist powers.’ Then there are the committees where delegates were able to move on to their second and even third topics. We had Humans of Far West for the first time. Only seventeen million likes to catch up to you, Brandon Stanton. The two words mentioned most were probably sovereignty and funding. Yes, we all learned something, at least, from this experience. I would like to reflect on my own personal experience as a world delegate and why you should consider being one at your next conference:

Adaptability

Walking around different committees, it became clear to me why some people only succeed when they are delegates of a certain committee. While the platform of MUN conferences are typically uniform, the delegates of every conference are different and this means that you should be prepared to work with anyone. The key feature for me from this exposure was that delegates should be able to adapt themselves to the working environment around them. While you can excel with the format and to-dos of the committee, adapting to the delegates of the committee means analyzing your compatibility with others around, and how you can build upon each other’s successes.

Discipline

The 14-hour day on Sunday was not easy on any of us. Tensions were running high in all committees, and no amount of caffeine or sleep is ever enough for that. MUN conferences are pivotal to your professional development and #MeltdownSunday should be a testament to how prepared you are for your future careers. Discipline should mean that you prepare yourself for when you are not so prepared – to leave your comfort zone. Only

once you do that will you be able to grow yourself, both as a delegate and an individual.

Accessibility

Being a press delegate has allowed me to become more informed of all the topics in hand. More importantly, this opportunity has allowed to me to better understand the frame of mind of delegates, as I got to challenge any proposal being presented. MUN conferences symbolize the coming together of solution finders to previously presented questions – opportunities to dive deeper into why the delegate proposed what they did are limited.

Creativity

Prior to this conference, all my research into being a World Press delegate told me ‘to have fun with it.’ Opportunities of being World Press are limitless, as you are not confined to a particular topic or issue being discussed. My first article was about Yik Yak of all this. I initiated the idea of a photo blog. I am not the most creative person out there; I like to stick to the rules, schedules and detailed planning. Yet, what this opportunity taught me was that I should not always be that way if I want to be more creative.

Engagement

Being a journalist means that you should not always take what people say in person at face value; sometimes, anonymous messages are more revealing. The new trend that has recently emerged at conferences is delegates using Yik Yak – and for me, that is where the most revealing information come from. While it must be said that the information is not necessarily reliable, it should not be discarded. Being a press delegate’s means that you should be more resourceful, and this definitely includes social media.

Divergence

One more often repeated word has been ‘consensus.’ Yes, working papers can only become resolutions if delegates work together. Convergence is vital to any committee. Except that is not the case with being a World Press delegate. Two World Press delegates can write conflicting accounts of what happened at each committee, as long as you provide the evidence. Be perceptive in reception and firm on exposing.

Yes a delegate, being a World Press delegate is a different experience. Maybe you’ll be the next Pulitzer win. Can I get a motion for that?

