

The MUN Feed

The official COBIS Model United Nations newspaper

The Sessions Commence...



A wonderful thing about when the sessions start is that no other factors matter; gender, age, nationality—or the sacredness of the mentos. Discussions flourish, debates explode, and all manner of messages get passed by the super-fit note passers. Today: alliances were formed; resolutions drafted; and countries stood proud and loud for their beliefs. We can be sure that “Freaky Friday” will go down in the history of COBIS MUN as the day that Bucharest confronted “The Beast of the East.”

Elena Urzica, the General Secretary and Co-Chair of ECOSOC Council, addressed the delegates with these words: “Thank you everyone for your participation and engagement in the MOCK MUN on the first day. It was great to see you all excited about lobbying and “resolving” on the topic of a meteorite collision with the Earth; It appears from the weather that fact was indeed stranger than fiction. Hope you had a great start to our conference and I wish the delegates a successful three days... NO SITTING IN SILENCE!”



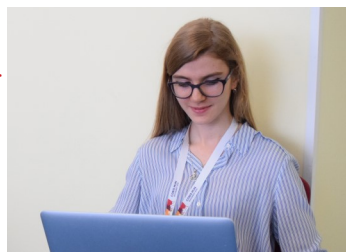
“THIS IS MY LAST CONFERENCE AND I THANK ALL THE DELEGATES WITHIN MY COMMITTEE FOR MAKING IT SO WONDERFUL.”
— MIA ANGIOLETTI, CO-CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



**spot yourselves in
the photos !!**



“IF YOU SURVIVE YOUR FIRST MUN, YOU CAN SURVIVE ANYTHING.”
— SARA KHASHLOK, CO-CHAIR OF THE REFUGEE AGENCY



Environmental Committee

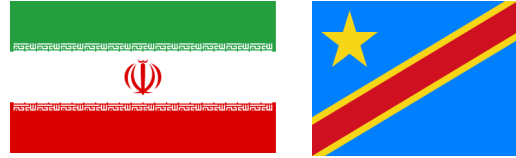
Today, the Environmental Committee covered the first topic: the alliterative, “high-tech trash and human health issue.” As per procedure, opening speeches were given. A majority of the MEDCs acknowledged the importance of the proper disposal of e-waste and wished to resolve the situation. The countries that were less developed agreed the topic was of “significance” but that they did not produce enough “tech-trash” to be a severe hazard to the planet.

After the opening exchanges; the floodgates of discussion opened.

With a flurry of activity, Russia led the way. However, it was the mighty Congo and Iran who fended off the Russian bear and their resolutions were passed with enthusiasm and applause.

“Clapping is now in order.”

The veteran MUN delegates and the new MUN delegates worked together like a well-oiled machine. One veteran, representing DR of Congo, Yasmeen Ahmed, debated with distinguished presence and steadfastness. The general consensus was that the resolutions passed were powerful, important, and detailed.



By Lena Stefan

ECOSOC Council

“The subject for today is: Universal Access to Medicines.”

Twenty-something delegates sank their teeth into this thorny issue. Many immediately converged into little groups and began heated discussions about how to put all their ideas together and think of the best way to articulate them.

After two hours of lobbying and a 15 minute break, delegates mingled and took “ECOSelfies” (© LS, “Lead Nitpicker”).

Chairs announced that all resolutions must be handed in immediately and left delegates waiting nervously. Bonds were formed between places as far apart as Colombia and China, Sri Lanka and Sudan, and, interestingly, the UK and the USA. MUN people from around the world not only debate pressing matters, but become great friends too!

Before the delegates were dismissed for lunch, the Chairs organised a “dare contest,” where everyone handed in dares. Some may have been hesitant to carry out these challenges, but did nonetheless. The dares are too dangerous for this publication to mention.



Stomachs full and post-prandial, open debate began in the committee and the resolutions were annexed and edited until two full resolutions were agreed upon and delegates left the room weary but eager to resume debating on the morrow.

By Victor Popa

UN Security Council

“Striving to make the world a safer place: ‘Technologies against Terrorism’.”

After an informal introduction with all eight delegates and the two esteemed chairs, China, one of the Big Five and a key player in the UNSC, took the first step in stressing their support for technology against terrorism. Discussions ended with the United States of America stating that terrorism is a “threat to social, economical and political life.” Go figure.

A clause suggested by the USA stated that “long lines” should be used to intercept calls and to identify terrorists. The debate flowed like molten lava with significant contributions from France, Uruguay— who were in agreement—while China, Russia, Iran, and Ethiopia took an opposing view. The arguments ranged over individual privacy, state safety, fear of surveillance, and ultimately in taking steps to create a safer future for all countries.

By Kathleen Hughes



Human Rights Committee

“Improving the observance of human rights on the internet.”

“The internet was made for cats.”

Human Rights Committee delegates thought otherwise and presented in their opening speeches their country’s stance regarding the observation of human rights on the internet. All countries strongly believed that the acknowledgement of human rights should be augmented as recognised particularly by the Ugandan delegate. “Several laws [in Uganda] will be changed to support human rights on the internet.”

Regarding the debate on the question of internet censorship, a resolution submitted by Iran mentioned that strict laws against online terrorism and pedophilia should be implemented

as well as the incorporation of firewalls and filters on inappropriate websites. The resolution passed with flying colours.

The second debate of the day commenced, involving the resolution submitted by the UK affirming the encouragement of UN members to fund and assist countries in need of digital development as well as the shutdown of websites violating human rights and the creation of a branch to control the countermeasures against these violations. The delegates of Equatorial Guinea, Uruguay, Brazil and France supported the resolution. The debate concluded when the delegates voted for the resolution and thus allowed it to also pass on. Human rights were upheld today in this committee.

By Ioana Balan

Refugee Agency

Enthusiastic from the start, delegates were involved in engaging discussions, amending resolutions, and adapting to the MUN mindset. During the lobbying of the first topic: Humanitarian innovation for ensuring refugee protection and well-being, Chairs Sara Al Khashlok and Andrei Marin were helping delegates find suitable co-submitters according to their country’s position. With both keen participation of Chairs and delegates, the session was a productive one once delegates fully understood procedure.

In the middle of the session, the delegate of France screamed “NON!” due to the sudden fall of a table, which left two casualties: a backpack and note pad. However, in the same way that the committee had been effective in amending resolutions, they were all fast to attend the scene with aid.

Throughout the long lobbying session, delegates grew closer, such as the delegates of Brazil, South Africa, and Greece, or the delegates of Uruguay and France through the love of cheesy pickup lines. Delegates such as but not limited to: Uruguay, Congo, Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea were thoroughly proof-reading their resolutions, and working together to identify who would be affected. Just when everyone was

losing their energy, and the delegate of France proposed “nap-time,” the committee made their way to lunch.

Once resolutions were complete, they were sent off to the printer. Meanwhile, Chairs read out messages from the “gossip box,” which included several compliments, puns, and inside jokes—which must remain confidential. Due to the printing delay the adaptable Chairs entertained the committee with fun ice breakers including MUN charades.

When debating time came along, all delegates showed their true critical skills and were very passionate about their stance. It became a tennis game, requesting follow up after follow up; it was clear to see that the refugee committee is an active, bright, and articulate one.

At the end of the day, only one resolution was passed, the main-submitter being the UK. In summary, it suggested that countries even if not accepting refugees themselves should do their best to provide aid for displaced people (and chairs) outside of their borders.

By Milena Vergara



“THE START OF MUN HAS BEEN REFRESHING AND EXCITING. I’M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE WHAT THE BRILLIANT MINDS IN MY COMMITTEE CAN COME UP WITH.”

— LISA PUIU, CO-CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Romanian Traditional Dinner

After heroic efforts by the staff to smooth over transportation issues, all the MUN participants waded through the knee-high slush and arrived at the majestic Hanul lui Manuc, a traditional Romanian restaurant with a rich past located in the vibrant old city of Bucharest. In order to stop “Asocial Generation Syndrome,” the various tables settled for different kinds of socialisation and interaction; our table specifically started to play verbal games in order to pass the time, to maybe get to know each other more and especially to forget about our rumbling stomachs. Whilst waiting for the platters piled high with food to arrive, delegates, despite the fatigue accumulated throughout the day, gathered the courage to go out and have a blast in the snow; verbal jousting being replaced by snowball fighting. Needless to say, hands like aid budgets, were soon frozen, but everywhere smiles abounded. Delegates will be sleeping soundly in preparation for “Stellar Saturday.”

By Ioana Balan



Visit their website for the former inn’s loveliest moments:
Hanulluimanuc.ro/en



Yesterday’s Events

- First day of sessions for all five committees!
- Traditional Romanian Dinner.

Today’s Events

- Second day of sessions.
- Thematic party.

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