

# IMUNION

## MYROSLAVA GONGADZE:

### *“The Pursuit of Truth Leads People to Freedom”*



The 25<sup>th</sup> Iberian Model United Nations conference was fortunate to have Ms. Myroslava Gongadze as this year’s keynote speaker. As an advocate for democracy, human rights and freedom of the press, Ms. Gongadze shared her passion and motivation with the participants.

She has been actively involved in politics and journalism since the early 1990s, and served as the head of department for several newspaper publications. Ms. Gongadze married Mr. Georgiy Gongadze in 1995, who was also a journalist, and together they worked to oppose the former president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma’s, through the media.

In 2000, Mr. Gongadze, the father of their two children, was kidnapped and brutally murdered. After the tragedy, a tape recording was released by Kuchma’s political opposition revealing that the

President had ordered the murder. This event diminished Kuchma’s popularity and laid the foundation for new elections in Ukraine. Since then, Ms. Gongadze has transformed her sorrow and anger into the energy and strength needed to fight for freedom of the press and the safety of journalists in her country and around the world.

In her speech, Ms. Gongadze stated that today’s democracy is not sustained on fact-based decisions due, in part, to the lack of free speech. She further claimed that the best way to promote factual and objective journalism is to start with ourselves. “If you see news, make sure to find another source,” she said, “do not share untruthful news.” Ms. Gongadze encouraged all delegates to participate in MUN, “as future leaders and decision makers, the future of democracy is in your hands.” As a final note, Ms. Gongadze asked participants to “make decisions that are based on facts, knowledge, and inclusion of different perspectives. Supporting the reporters, we, as a society, are protecting our future. Go, think, argue, find a common solution, based on facts for the greater good.”

We had the opportunity to interview Ms. Gongadze. Speaking on the most important aspect of journalism, she stated that “the final truth in this world is unattainable, but that pursuit leads people to freedom. And journalism is that pursuit.” She hoped everyone would take the following message from her speech with them: “by protecting reporters and journalists, we are protecting our freedom.”

Lily C.

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# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

IMUN is hosting the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the second time in its history. Yana Tucker, the head of ICJ, spoke on the importance of this body in the United Nations, defending that “the ICJ is the primary judicial body that solves conflicts between states. The Model United Nations, however, also provides students with many opportunities to advance their learning. ICJ is, firstly, an excellent opportunity for eager delegates to get a chance to work and specialize in international law. Moreover, it is a great way for advocates to improve their impromptu speaking in a smaller committee. ICJ allows students to be exposed to international law and provides them with more opportunities at future MUN conferences”.

Otmar H. told IMUNION that he is very honored to be selected as a judge in this important debate and highlights that it is a very difficult task. “The law must be impartial and there must be a clear record. Every single impartiality must be noted and addressed.”

This year’s conference is focused around the issue of the placement of the embassy of the United States of America on the border between the Israeli and the Palestinian parts of Jerusalem. The American Embassy’s decision raised multiple religious and territorial concerns for Palestine, as it could be breaking the law of *corpus separatum*.


Each side presented their points during the first day of the conference. Palestine claimed that Jerusalem is recognized as its capital and defended that there are several documents showing Israel’s illegal acts in East Jerusalem. Even though no laws were broken in the relocation of the US embassy, the delegation of Palestine believes that an exception should be made due to the current status of Jerusalem as a disputed city. The United States of America, however, argues that “The US doesn’t take religion into consideration in its politics; we are looking out for the good of the

state of Israel. We really should put aside the religious matters in order to consider having political success in President Donald Trump’s presidency”. According to the president of ICJ, Yana Tucker, and Judge Otmar H., the debate will be heated since both parties have brought up strong points. There will be one victor, but, for now, it isn’t clear who it will be.

## What could be the potential arguments from your opposition?

“The United States could argue that they are moving their embassy to the functional capital of the state. However, we state that this is an exception and due to the current status of Jerusalem, this tendency should not be followed, because there is a major conflict between religions and, therefore, must be tended to differently than other capitals that aren’t within this dispute.” *Advocate for Palestine*

“There are religious arguments, they are going to say that Jerusalem is the holy city, but the US doesn’t take religion into consideration in its politics.” *Advocate for USA*



### Most Repeated Words during Opening Speeches (SPC)

**NATIONS** ††† IIII

**ORGANIZATIONS** III

**OVERPOPULATION** IIII

**FRUITFUL** ††† II

# SPC AGENDA ISSUE: Government Surveillance

Within the ever-evolving world of technology, politics, and social awareness, a new consideration has risen regarding individual privacy from government surveillance programs.

Edward Snowden, a former CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) employee and security consultant, shocked the world with his public disclosure of highly classified information from the NSA

(National Security Agency) in 2013. The contents of this disclosure revealed that several government surveillance programs had been taking place in the USA. This revelation prompted discussions throughout the world about national security and individual privacy.



## What do the delegations think of this issue?



“Mass government surveillance through CCTV cameras should be in place because it is a matter of protecting national security, public safety, lowering crime rates and having information of citizens for the immediate future.”

**Delegation of Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

“[Romania] is part of the European Union, so this delegation signed a law that says that [this delegation] is for data protection and against mass surveillance; but Romania, as a country, believes in mass surveillance when it is time to protect citizens and to fight crime and terrorism.”



**Delegation of Romania**



“Interpol’s stance on this topic is complicated, as government surveillance helps law enforcement, and Interpol, being a police force, needs such information to find criminals. [However], Interpol is also a big partner of the UN, and agree that [individuals] should have their right to have their privacy kept.”

**Delegation of Interpol**

# GA AGENDA ISSUE: Migrants' Cultures

A migrant is a person who moves from one country to another to escape their current political circumstances and to obtain a better quality of life.

In some countries, migrants are forced to change their culture in order to gain admission due to conflicting ideals and values and to better integrate them into society.

According to the 2017 International Migration Report from the United Nations,

"The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000," showing that this issue's relevance has grown exponentially over the past years.



## What do the delegations think of this issue?

"UNICEF doesn't want to force migrants to leave their culture behind. They do not have to change their culture nor their ways to have a better life in their host nation or simply to fit in the country."



*Delegation of UNICEF*



"The issue of maintaining cultural values amidst the integration of migrants requires the provision of fact-based and objective information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of modern migration. All Member Nations will work towards building an accurate perception of migrants in the society of both origin, transit and destination places."

*Juncal L.*

*Delegation of Jamaica*

## Popularity of Each Agenda Issue During Lobby Time

### GA

**Most popular:** Ensuring security and freedom of expression in journalism

**Least popular:** Maintaining cultural values amidst the integration of migrants

### SPC

**Most popular:** Allocating essential resources to deal with overpopulation

**Least popular:** The ethical implications of genetic modifications

# MODEL UNITED NATIONS AND THE FUTURE



The student-lead MUN website, [bestdelegate.com](http://bestdelegate.com), held a questionnaire about how MUN contributes to future college life. One of the students wrote, “Model United Nations is the reason I got into Yale. I started doing MUN because it was a fun way to study history, but it also developed my communication skills and gave me the confidence to express myself. As I devoted more time to the activity, I gained leadership experience by winning awards, chairing committees, running conferences, and training my club. When I started applying to college, I was able to seek advice from people I’d met through MUN who were attending or had attended competitive colleges...”. But what skills does MUN give you, exactly?

## *Delegates*

- Provides leadership experiences that universities’ admissions offices look for
- Gives training for personal essays and interviews
- Helps students develop analytical, problem-solving, and research skills
- Provides insight into diplomatic and political views and procedures
- Teaches participants to write formal speeches and present the view of a delegation that may be contradictory to their own, which is a very important skill to have, since, in the future, you will not always present your opinions but often the opinions of a company or a client
- Gives the opportunity to practice public speaking, which is crucial for most careers in order to be able to deliver your ideas in a clear manner with arguments supported by evidence, which is exactly what a delegate does when writing opening speeches and presenting their resolutions.

## *Press and Admin*

Press members gain experience of:

- Writing and editing articles in short periods of time
- Designing, formatting, and publishing newspapers
- Conducting interviews.

Admin members gain experience of:

- Planning and organizing events
- Communication with both members of the event and those working at the venues
- Establishing business connections.

## WHO ARE WE?: The IMUN Team



From August up to November, the IMUN officers worked diligently to organize this conference. During after school rehearsals, lunch meetings, and practice debates they worked tirelessly to make sure the conference ran smoothly. Without them this conference wouldn't be possible!

"It's really easy to think that you have all the power when you get this position. I worked really hard to get here but it would be wrong to say I can dictate what everyone does. That's not how it is. I have a wonderful team of people and Admin that I can depend on, so it's definitely not a solo thing.

***Barbara Z., Secretary General***

"At the end of the day, the Model United Nations is what we dream the United Nations will become in the future."

***Laura T., Deputy-Secretary General***

"I would personally really like to see the topic of allocation of resources because my generation and the generations to come are really going to have to face this. What are we going to do with the resources we have once overpopulation becomes an even more overwhelming issue?"

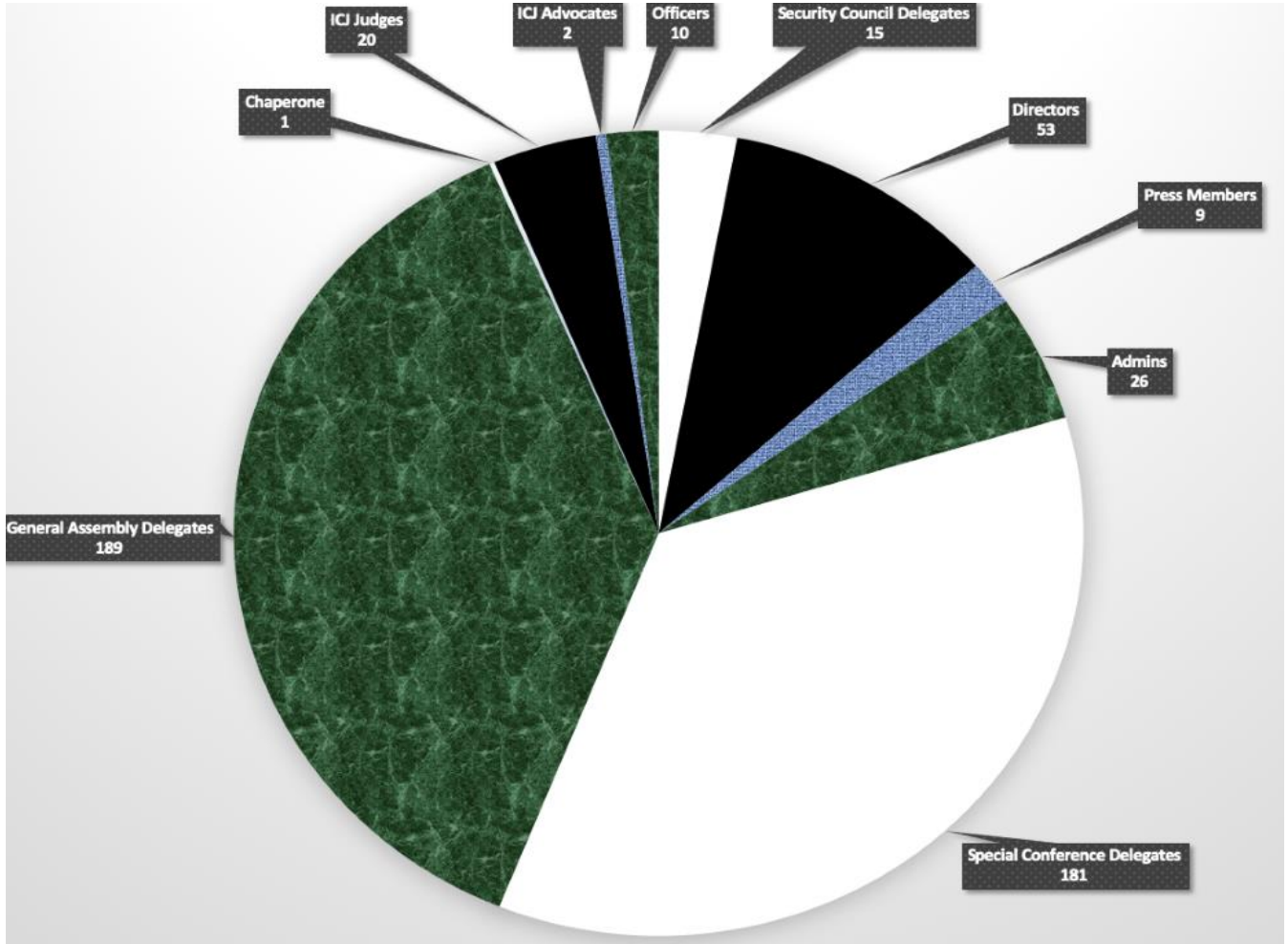
***Antoine B., President of Special Conference***

## *Thank you!*

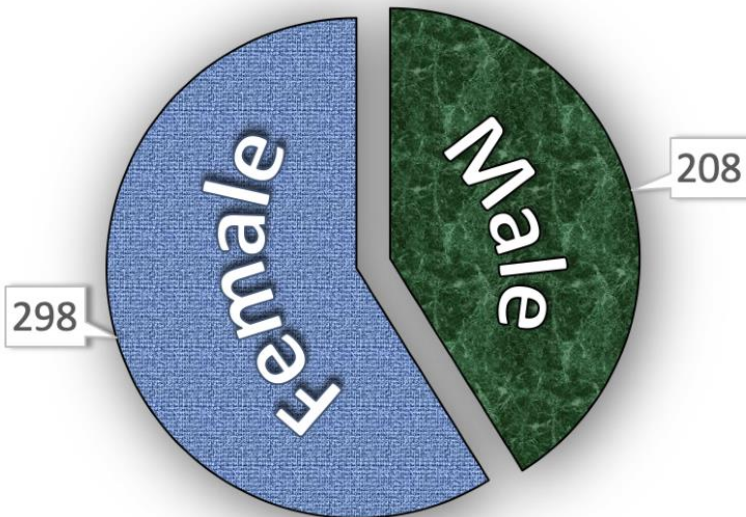
An additional thank you to the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Directorate of School Establishments, St. António International School, St. Dominic's International School, the Embassies of Canada, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, S. Tomé e Príncipe, Ukraine, and the UK, for showing their support for our conference and its participants.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

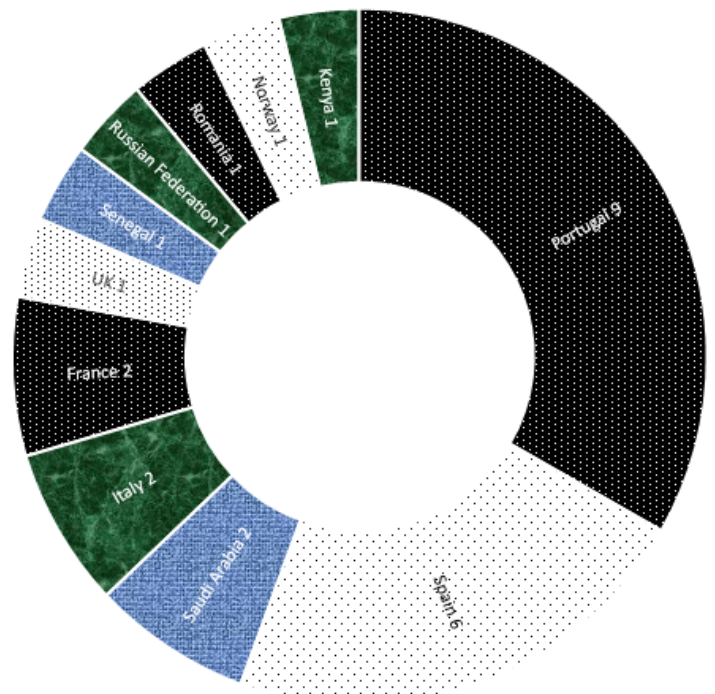
Number of Participants per Role



Male vs. Female Delegates



Where do IMUN's Participating Schools Come From?



# ENTERTAINMENT

1. ANMNMDEET \_\_\_\_\_
2. TOOIMN \_\_\_\_\_
3. OSOUTERILN \_\_\_\_\_
4. DYLEI \_\_\_\_\_
5. LANTOEIEGD \_\_\_\_\_
6. VEERTOPAI ELUASC \_\_\_\_\_
7. CEAES-ERANRELYGTR \_\_\_\_\_
8. NOPITIOS REAPP \_\_\_\_\_

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

B E E W U L W I Q X N B L P I J G L Z D C A V K  
 E W B D Z M J P N O I T A N D E T I N U Z S E C  
 R L T C E E N Z Z B N A V D S N V F D G T C T R  
 G Y I W L M F V X P I W X J M Z U O D G M G O W  
 U K N B F B L C B X A B J D D Y R R Z B G Z U V  
 I H X E V E Q Y I T T O O L Y Y S F B X U B I V  
 B R K I R R V J O W S J G C S M R M U X V N J V  
 U C B B W S E G K X B K F N G Y R E M D X N J E  
 X M I U V T N I M L A J Z L C Q B V W P L M I N  
 F T G T J A C Y K N X C I G F C F R R N D A R Y  
 Y T U P V T M N T Q O P Q M A J N A T C C K Z X  
 O E G O W E Z S E C U R I T Y C O U N C I L M S  
 Z X O A B N H K G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y V  
 H U L R R E S O U L U T I O N P J Z S O V M Y Q  
 E R E W S P Y U S A F E A R E A S Y D O X X U R  
 I N H B I N D I N G U M R Q H S H M C N H Q Q E  
 A O N O I T C N A S E D A R T M Y U L F O H A M  
 Z R Z S D G S U C R T Q L W G H N N X V V S K A  
 Y I I G L W X J Z Z V Q Q A W D N P O D A A D E  
 Y I W S K H Y O Q M Q Y X J F F B C U T T L F X  
 H H I Y E A H J G K S L U V X W L F W H O N M T  
 G Y U E S W M Q F Z E U L Y O O H L H N O S P N  
 X P E A C E K E E P I N G A O U U I N G S N T S  
 B H M L R L P E A C E E N F R O C E M E N T A S

abstain	binding	general assembly	member state
peace enforcement	peace keeping	resolution	safe areas
security council	trade sanction	united nation	veto

1) Amendment; 2) Motion; 3) Resolution; 4) Yield; 5) Delegation; 6) Operative clause; 7) Secretary-General; 8) Position Paper