



# XXI Iberian Model United Nations IMUNION

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## Night at the Library

Every year, members of the Administrative Staff stays at the CAISL facilities on Thursday, lobbying day. It is their duty and responsibility to organize a strategy for debates to run smoothly on Friday. What other way than editing, approving and printing resolutions? There must be printed resolutions for each issue of the GA and SPC, including a back-up. More than 1,000 documents were printed after a thorough examination for semantics, spelling and structure.



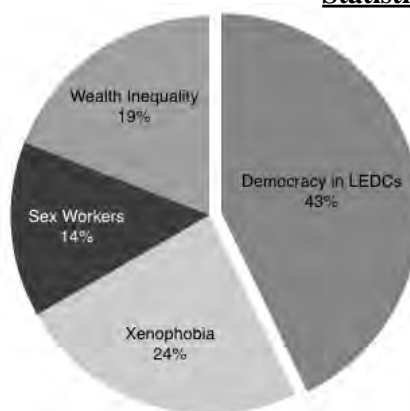
and then passed. There is a separate approval panel for Security Council. For a resolution to be able to be approved, it needs to be signed by 10 co-submitters. They must all be an USB pen or sent to the IMUN e-mail. We are open for submission from 2:30 pm to 5pm, each shift having 7 MUN directors present. During that time any resolutions will be fixed and improved. After 5pm, the officers and the chairs that were chosen in the chair workshop, will all meet in the library and chose the resolutions that will be debated on Friday and Saturday for each respective room. Every issue will have a back-up in case of absences or unexpected turns".

### Take a Peak Inside:

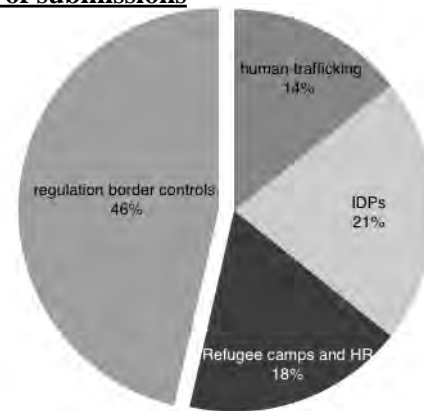
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Nothing could have happened, however, without Francisca Matias, Head of the Approval Panel. She told the press team the following: "The approval panel is where resolutions are corrected

### Statistics of submissions



**General Assembly**  
 Wealth Inequality (4)  
 Sex Workers (3)  
 Democracy in LEDCs (9)  
 Xenophobia (5)



**Special Conference**  
 Regulation of border controls (13)  
 Human Trafficking (4)  
 Refugee camps and HR (5)  
 IDPs (6)

Maria Norton

## Prior to lobbying, Friday Morning Proves Worthwhile

According to President of Special Conference, Maria Mira, the chair workshop “tries to make future chairs into even better chairs to have experience, its main objective is to have the best possible chairs at IMUN, even if they don’t get selected. This will give them confidence, even for future conferences; it enables them to gain experience and credibility”.

9 am. Scattered papers. Frenetic anxiousness. 11 delegates at their desks, doing last-minute studying wishing to excel under the pressure test. Manuel Abecasis, Deputy Secretary General, welcomes and greets the newcomers. After a round of introductions, basic parliamentary procedure is reviewed with the help of the experienced officers. Next, each

delegate receives a 40 minute written test consisting of three parts: current events, IMUN issues, parliamentary procedure and lastly, a motivational letter. This test counts for 50% of the final grade, the other 50 is determined by an oral interview. After a tough 40 minutes, the tests begin to be corrected by Manuel and Margarida Rosa, Vice-President of Special Conference.

While grading is taking place, Gustavo Sarmento, Secretary General, and Maria Mira start with the interviews. The interview looks at the candidate’s IMUN experience, their chairing preferences, and ends with a



couple of challenging, on-the-spot questions. Each candidate promises not to share the questions with those who haven’t taken the test yet. The selection committee meets again to weigh the pros and cons of each candidate, and make a final decision. Those chosen to chair are: Roy Keinan from EMIS, Alexander Almeida from DSL, Jorge San Roman from CAISL and Yoojung Lee from AISB. The decision defies any claims of bias not only because of its international diversity, but also because only one out of the five CAISL candidates was chosen.

*Maria Norton*

## Spotlight: “Newbies” in the hot seat

IMUN Press caught up with the four delegates who were chosen from the chair workshop, to find out how they are feeling before chairing their first IMUN debate.

Alexander Almeida - DSL

*Which issue do you believe will be the most controversial?*

I think the issue of developing responses to reduce the number of IDPs in areas affected by natural disasters will be the most controversial since it has not been talked about internationally yet, and the majority of people don’t think about it as much as the refugee problem.

*Any concerns about debating today?*

I’m somewhat nervous, but when the debate starts flowing and delegates are participating, it gives me more courage to speak and make points of information. It’s normal though.

*What are you looking forward to the most?*

Of course, I am looking forward to co-chairing as well. Moreover, I look forward to seeing some controversies between the major parties in the discussion.

Yoojung Lee- AISB

*Which issue do you believe will be the most controversial?*

I think the issue of the protection of the rights of sex workers will be the most controversial. In the sense that this type of issue has no exact for or against forces, because of course all the nations want to protect a basic human right. However, there are different approaches that can be taken. Some countries criminalize sex workers where others don’t. So I feel like that will be controversial because of the different manner the countries approach the issue.

*Any concerns regarding your upcoming debate (biggest fears)?*

Well, last IMUN conference I co-chaired, but this is my first time chairing. This leads me to have a general concern, in case I mess up, or forget something.

*What are you looking forward to the most?*

While chairing, I guess I’m looking forward to having the authority of getting to pick which delegate speaks, controlling, and letting the overall debate flow.

Roy Keinan- EMIS

*Which issue do you believe will be the most controversial?*

Well, I will inform you about two issues I believe to be the most controversial. The two most controversial ones include regulation of national border controls, and using military intervention to tackle transnational organized human trafficking. Now, the regulation of border controls is controversial because of its highly militarized

borders in the Korean region and even if the countries are not at war or conflict there are still high tensions.

*Any concerns regarding your upcoming debate?*

I've chaired before, so I have experience. However, what I really think I need to keep an eye on is for people to address the issue of funding and what should be done and what should not be done. Also, if there comes a point where people are saying the solutions proposed don't contribute to human rights and this leads to a chaotic disorganized debate and I will do my best to prevent it.

*What are you looking forward to the most?*

I love the feeling of getting a good resolution passed and being able to

conclude that the debate was not a waste of time and that there were no forced resolutions. Above all, I hope the delegates enjoy how the debate is being run in the committee.

Jorge San Roman- CAISL

*Which issue do you believe will be the most controversial?*

I think the question of the regulation of national border controls is controversial for all nations. It is controversial especially since DPRK has a very strong military border and while other states have reduced border control, such as European States which are part of the Schengen Agreement.

*Any concerns regarding your upcoming debate (biggest fears)?*

No, I have no fears I believe the delegates will take good care of the debate and hopefully everything will go as planned.

*What are you looking forward to the most?*

I'm hoping to engage with all the delegates and above all see that every opinion is respected and every perspective is heard. everything will go as planned.

*What are you most forward looking to?*  
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*Valerie Loutphi*

## Opposing Entities Unite With A Common Goal

The Eastern Mediterranean International School is among the new schools joining the 21st IMUN conference. EMIS is an international boarding high school in Israel. The school founder, Odad Rose, explains that "the students traveled from all around the globe and chose to attend EMIS, not their parents. All our foreign students don't have family in Israel". EMIS was founded with the primary aim of reminding students, that despite the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they are all human beings with similar interests, likes and dislikes. 40% of EMIS's students come from the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (20% Israeli and 20% Palestinian). The other 60% of students are international with over 40 nationalities.

IMUN was brought to EMIS by a former CAISL student, Roy Keinan. He studied at CAISL for two years and found the IMUN conference to be an outstanding experience and opportunity. EMIS has attempted to participate in IMUN since last year, however they had to overcome some obstacles. To be able to get all students to travel to Portugal, they had to send a request to the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs to be able to get visas and permits for the Palestinian and Jordanian students. This was difficult to accomplish as, due to the Israel-Jordan peace treaty signed in 1994, Jordanians are not allowed to fly through the main Israeli airport, Ben Gurion. After a full year liaising with Israel's



ministry of foreign affairs, EMIS managed to arrange for all students to travel to Israel at no costs.

This year's keynote speaker, the ambassador of the United States, opened doors for EMIS students to speak their minds, with specific questions regarding refugees. EMIS also actively participates in volunteering at refugee camps, including the African Refugees Development Center. The primary volunteer work regards teaching refugees to speak English, Arabic, and Hebrew, enabling them to start a new life for themselves and increase their job opportunities. Volunteering students feel empowered as they are changing the refugee's lives. Other volunteer programs consist of social services where the EMIS students support foster families. Tom Sagiv, an EMIS student, states that "I started volunteering knowing that I am privileged enough to have the means and capability to better others' lives, this brought on an overwhelming sense of self-gratitude and appreciation; and that was all that it took, honestly. Helping others is one of the noblest things one can do. If the world collectively adopted that attitude for just a day, the world would significantly be a better place".

*Kylie Koshet*

## Inside Closed Doors: Security Council

The Security Council consists of 15 members, 10 of which are temporary members, and the other 5, USA, UK, Russia, France and China, make up the permanent members who hold the power and responsibility of the VETO. Unlike the General Assembly or Special Conference, the Security Council will have continuous debates among all members and a resolution and operative clauses may only be passed with a 2/3 majority. The council is able to enforce sanctions, call for peace keeping operations and even peace enforcement operations which consists of aggression tactics. The issues debated in the following order: Question of Libya, question of South Sudan, and question of threats to International Security. Before each question there will be opening speeches regarding the question, and at the end of each question, the committee will call upon a delegate for the question's corresponding country to contribute with their stance.

As soon as lobbying began, all the delegates gathered together to merge their resolutions however the question of Libya seems to have resulted in a fervent response with an almost even split between two opposing groups. One pro military led by the United States, and the other against, led by the People's Republic of China. In the end, the resolution proposed by the United States of America was approved. The light, enthusiastic atmosphere previously present throughout the lobby dissipated as the resolution was read. The delegates present recognized the question of Libya as one of great urgency and importance. There seemed to be an unusual alliance formed between China, the Russian Federation and Australia as they submitted a resolution together and seemed to be fully dedicated to amending every clause proposed by the USA, one of Australia's allies.

The debate immediately created conflicting ethics and a misunderstanding in labelling along with controversies regarding the implementation of alternative governments. Lithuania, USA and Chad stood out the most, taking on a leading role within the debate with their confidence and vast knowledge on the question. The delegates all had an excellent understanding of the structure of the GNC and HoR, defending their countries' opinions with ease. Chad, specifically, seemed to strongly support government stability in the long term and suggests time constrained negotiations, which, if proven



unsuccessful will be followed by an arms embargo for the GNC and HoR and a demilitarized zone in Benghazi. Tensions were high between the United States of America and Chad, the debate between them causing an awed silence among the other delegates. Soon enough China made a threat to VETO a clause regarding the transfer of weapons to HoR from UAE which is, what China claims, a groundless and irrelevant claim that antagonizes the UAE. The delegate will only withdraw their threat when presented with a satisfactory amendment, which was successively implemented. Progress was made clause by clause, as the council moved away from the more conflicting points, the tension quickly dissipated and Chad and Luxembourg brought a touch of humour to the debate during a lull when waiting for an amendment. The council soon discovered that a bout of banter would sharpen the focus of the debate for the remaining resolution.

By the end of the debate, the resolution contained 20 operative clauses and the perambulatory clauses caused minimal issues. The council proceeded to call in the delegate of Libya from the General Assembly as to assess the validity of the resolution. He states that: "Libya whole heartedly agrees with a peaceful resolution, however it is important that the council remembers the HoR is the legitimate government of Libya." The resolution passed with only 3 abstentions right before lunch on the second day.

The council launched into the question of South Sudan directly after lunch. After a quick lobbying session which was much more familiar as the delegates became acquainted with each other, the nations were able to reach one single resolution that satisfied everyone. Thus, the following debate was almost non-existent except for Lithuania's inquiries for further information and minor amendments to merely a few of the 16 clauses. However, due to time constraints a conclusion will only be reached the following day.

The Security Council has entered a steady rhythm in continuously constructive debate and has obtained the utmost diplomacy through their discussions, producing outstanding resolutions and will hopefully do the same for the remaining question.

*Luxi Xu*

## Real World Relevance of IMUN

The importance of one of the issues being debated by the Security Council became clear on Friday 13, 2015 with the most recent massacre in Paris. At time of going to press, the death toll stood at 120 but this is still expected to rise. The IMUN Press was able to talk to Lucas Nacif, the President of the Security Council, who shared how this affected him personally. He states "Obviously this is sided to the issue of threats to international security(...) it is an atrocious act, I have friends living in Paris. When I first heard the news yesterday I was devastated. I've been to Paris, it's a well guarded city, full of military and the police. It is sad to see that with all that protection it is still vulnerable, seen in other terrorist attacks whether it be Charlie Hebdo or the attacks in the Jewish supermarket. Regarding the solution, it is essential to have multi-lateral cooperations amongst nations such as Germany and hopefully wait for the best". On Saturday morning, IMUN delegates stood for one minute of silence to remember those affected.

*Maria Norton*

## IMUNION Exclusive: Interview with Ambassador Sherman

IMUN Press was given the opportunity to sit down with Ambassador Sherman and get his insight into solutions for some of the issues debated at this year's conference. He told our reporter what he thinks is needed to combat terrorism worldwide and the importance of strong border checks to ensure the right people are getting refugee status. He also shared his views on why he feels Portugal has a lot to offer and why it has every chance of taking a key role in technology in the future.

**IMUN Press:** *Was there a specific moment in your life when you went from being an under achiever to becoming a focused politician?*

**Ambassador Sherman:** I don't think that there is any one particular moment (...) I think that I got very serious about the world, in particular world affairs, when I was in high school and I participated in the model UN program (...) but, I don't think I've yet reached my potential. I spent 35 years as a lawyer before becoming an ambassador, and this was a major shift in my life. I've got a couple more adventures still before me, I don't know what they are but I'm still looking to reach my potential.

**IMUN Press:** *You said in your key note speech that peace is not too much to ask for. It seems that it's something that eludes us, if you could advise global leaders to take one action to combat terrorism, what would that action be, and why?*

**Ambassador Sherman:** I think that to combat terrorism you have to create the economic conditions (...) where people feel like they have a future in front of them. Terrorism is bred when people see no hope, when they see no opportunity, where basic human rights are not respected, where they don't have the freedom to express themselves to worship as they see fit and where they don't have an economic future. So, my belief is that we will not solve the problems of the world until we create those kinds of conditions.

**IMUN Press:** *You said that your family fled Russia because of religious persecution. How do you feel about the US putting a cap on the amount of refugees being taken in?*

**Ambassador Sherman:** I think that you've got to temper your heart with practicality. That as much as you would like to see everybody that is looking to make a better life for themselves have that opportunity, the fact is that the number of refugees and the number of migrants that are streaming in to Europe

right now doesn't allow for that. Hard choices have to be made, if the choices were easy, we wouldn't even be talking about them right now. I think that the legitimate balance starts with the true refugees. (...) I think the focus (...) has to turn back to what the root cause of the problem is, and I think that the root cause of the problem is what I said before, the lack of opportunity in countries. There needs to be political stability, there needs to be [respect] for basic human rights and there needs to be economic opportunity and so, the focus needs to go in that direction.

**IMUN Press:** *According to the Daily Mail and other newspapers, some non-Syrian citizens are intentionally destroying their passports so they can enter the European Union as refugees. In your speech you stated that action is being taken to verify that the people coming in to our borders are in fact refugees and not terrorists, can you give me more detail?*



**Ambassador Sherman:** Well I think that it would be naïve to assume that everybody that presents themselves as a refugee qualifies as a refugee. I think that there's a fear of terrorists infiltrating the groups of refugees and there are also others claiming to be fleeing from a particular country who are not in fact refugees. [They] show up with no identification and no means of verification, although their motives may be legitimate, in terms of trying to seek a better life, they don't have the verification needed. In order to control this, you need to have the kinds of border patrol and

security systems in place to do what you can

to identify the groups of people who are the legitimate refugees, and those who might pose a threat (...) because their motives are those of terror. That is something that the world needs to work on together and those countries that have strong border protection agencies need to be involved with each other to help sort that problem.

**IMUN Press:** *In your speech you mentioned NATO, seeing that there are political parties which may be part of the Portuguese government that are against NATO and want to leave it, why do you think Portugal should stay? And what is America's view of Portugal's current economic and political situation?*

**Ambassador Sherman:** First of all, the socialists have made it very clear that they are pro NATO and that they are willing to keep the commitment to NATO, (...) I don't expect that if António Costa were to be appointed Prime Minister, that's going to (...) result in any changes. I think that what we have learned in the past couple of years is that NATO is more important than ever, [such as] when we saw Russia invade Ukraine and snatch Crimea. We understand that the common

defense among the 28 countries in NATO is not only important for Europe, but with the rise of asymmetrical threats like ISIL and with the prospect of cyber-attacks, that a unified NATO is important to the safety and security of the world. I think that NATO is now going through a third phase; the first phase was the Cold War, the second phase (...) occurred after the Berlin Wall came down and the third phase is what's happening right now both in terms of Russia and in terms of extremist threats. The one thing that unifies NATO is common democratic principles and although the democracies are not all the same, the values behind the democracies are the same. So I think that Portugal, which is a founding member of NATO and does not have an ability to truly defend itself in the absence of NATO, needs to continue to play an important role not only for the sake of Portugal, not only for the sake of Europe, but for the sake of the safety and security of the world.

Regarding the second part of the question, I think that Portugal is on the cusp of doing some great things economically. As I travel around this country, I see that there is a vibrant and high quality start up community right here in Lisbon [as well as in] Coimbra, Porto and Braga. I think that you have a generation of people in Portugal that are my age [who] were taught that you have to look inwards at your markets (...) and then you have the future of Portugal which is really reflected by [the younger generation], which has grown up in the internet and are looking outward. (...) are the Portuguese themselves. (...) What I think is missing here is (...) confidence in what is

being created. [This confidence is what] will allow Portugal to really take its place among the leading countries in the world and I think it's absolutely there for the taking.

**IMUN Press:** *From the very beginning, you supported the election of president Obama. In your speech you mentioned that some believe there has been a lack of leadership. Looking back at the past two terms do you think he has achieved everything you expected?*

**Ambassador Sherman:** I think it's impossible for any leader to achieve everything that's expected of him or her (...) simply because world events are not static, things change and the political realities also change. I think that President Obama will go down in history as a transformational president, I think that what he has done is restore the prestige of the United States as a leader in the world. I think that he recognizes that the world is way too complicated for there to be simple solutions to problems. What I mean by that is that, when I grew up the world was black and white, we knew who the good guys were and we knew who the bad guys were, we even knew the bad guys' addresses. Now we can be against Russia for their actions in the Ukraine, but they were our partner in the P5+1 talks. So it's not so simple anymore (...). I think that what President Obama does is implement (...) smart leadership and (...) he has made people proud of America (...).

*Ana Rita Mateus*

## New schools in "Awe" at IMUN

The 2015 IMUN Conference welcomes various new participating schools and is delighted to welcome returning participants eager to debate. To those participating for the first time, or perhaps even for some returning delegates, it can be intimidating to travel to a different country, meet strangers and talk about serious issues. Returning delegates, and others who have been in their position, are ready to help calm nerves, contribute to insightful discussions, and provide a warm welcome. The press team interviewed new visiting delegates about their impressions of IMUN and Lisbon.

Those who never visited Portugal before commented on the country's beauty and how they "like the scenery, and its mild temperature" (Delegate of Portugal SPC), or they mentioned, "the sun and the sea" (Delegate of Georgia SPC).

The Delegate of Georgia from the Special Conference remarked that "the presence of the streets is different. You don't see these types of streets. They're classic, but modern at the same time, no other place in the world [is like it], you have to explore".

The Delegate of Lithuania from the General Assembly gave her view on the country: "Ever since Albanians got the opportunity to get enter the Schengen area without a visa, my family and I have been travelling quite a lot around Europe, so I've seen a lot of European cities. Europe is my favorite place in the world, and just to get to see more of it is always a privilege. But Portugal ... it's just something else. I expected something very different, and I got surprised in the nicest way. I am surprised how green it is. It's so beautiful and it's so... I don't know, it feels really fresh; feels like a fresh place".

Regarding the IMUN Conference, the positive comments continued and the interviewees all said that they are enjoying the conference. The delegates of Greece and the Netherlands from the Special Conference, who have been a part of other MUN Conferences, said that IMUN has "more people from other countries". When asked if they'd recommend the conference, they answered "It is a great idea to come to IMUN (...) it is very interesting". All those who were asked the same question agreed. IMUN is so strongly recommended because of its value, the Delegation of Lithuania, from the General Assembly said it well: "I think it has the potential to actually make a huge change, and not just in the world, I think change starts in the individual, and if you just can make a change in yourself, that's already a huge step".

*Catarina Santos*

## Inside Closed Doors: General Assembly

The morning began with the opening speeches which posed the questions, “How do we prevent xenophobia? How do we strengthen democracy in LEDCs?”

These questions and many others were asked by every single nation present in the general assembly. Every nation except one: DPRK, who said the DPRK is the example the other delegates should follow as 100% of the population voted for were for Kim Jong Un, “The great and glorious supreme leader”.

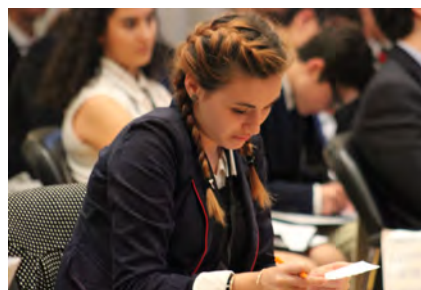


Before the debate, the delegates were asked a series of questions regarding the issues being debated. The UK and Armenia both stated that, “Through a support system, democracies can be permitted” and that “the transparency in voting is essential for improving in LEDCs.” New Zealand on the other hand, strongly believes that the protection of sex workers is the most concerning issue and that “the way of promoting sex workers’ rights is to legalize the sex industry”. In addition to New Zealand, Botswana believes that the promotion of measures against Xenophobia is also the most concerning

“due to the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean.”

After the opening speeches, the debate for the first issue started, namely strengthening democracy in LEDCs. The resolution was presented by the USA, who proposed that LEDCs adopted democratic principles. All the delegations present

participated in a fruitful debate. From all delegations present, Serbia, Jamaica, Hungary, Interpol and Bosnia Herzegovina stood out, as each submitted amendments which led to an on-going debate. However, all but one of the amendments failed, with Bosnia-Herzegovina being the only exception. The successful amendment urged “LEDCs to create an internally active national committee to develop a system of governing and monitoring that fosters self-sustainability and self-sufficiency, funded by MEDCs and LEDCs”. Ultimately however the resolution failed.



Manuel Abecasis, the Co-Chair of the first issue believes that “the issue of strengthening democracy in LEDCs is important because people are entitled to have a voice in government regardless of their political beliefs (that is one of the foundations of democracy). Moreover, democracy in LEDCs is even more important because many of these nations have been subject to autocratic and totalitarian leaders. The democratic rights that we take for granted, are lifelines for people in LEDs.” Furthermore, Manuel formally

congratulates the General Assembly for a successful debate, and highlighted the delegates of Italy, Macedonia, Lithuania, Switzerland, DPRK and

Germany for the key roles they played in the debate.

The second issue, Xenophobia was introduced towards the end of the session, and will be debated on the third and final day of the conference.

*João Malheiro, Catarina Romariz, Leslie Koshet and Sara Faria*

## Inside Closed Doors: Special Conference

The Special Conference began around 11am with opening speeches. The main topics of these opening speeches varied from human trafficking to the refugee crisis, from the illegal crossing of national borders to the violation of human rights. Indeed some opening speeches stood out more than others. This included, Malaysia, México, Nigeria, Paraguay, Tanzania, Cuba, Guiné-Bissau, Italy and Lithuania. They were assertive when addressing the issues confidently. Some used known quotes or used expressions in different

languages with the translation added afterwards.

For instance, Malaysia stated “Make enemies into friends.” Tanzania stated: “Time for a change in modern society.” and a Frank Zappa quote. United States stated: “When you point a finger to someone there are three more fingers pointing at you.” Angola stated: “Are you working hard or hardly working?”

Bolivia stated “Tolerance over violence. Prosperity over poverty.” Guiné Bissau stated: “Treating Refugees as a problem

is a problem.” Indonesia stated: “We can only predict the future to some extent.” And “I’m a slow walker but I never walk back.”

Although some of these opening speeches stood out because of positive aspects, some stood out their controversial remarks and holistic strategies of approach. Lithuania, for example, addressed a specific issue and encouraged delegates to stand up and implement solutions to these problems against their will.

Contrasting with the quality of the opening speeches, the debate on the topic of “Military intervention to tackle transnational organized human trafficking” was not as productive as it should have been. This unfortunately contradicted the initial motivation of the delegates. Towards the end of the day most of delegates were tired and constantly disrupting the President of the Special Conference, leading to a frustrating debate; note

passing was suspended for the misbehavior. Nonetheless, many amendments were passed from delegations such as the Central African Republic, India and Ukraine. Despite attempts to improve the resolution as a whole, it didn't pass.

*Joana Lacerda and Inês Lacerda*



**Meet the Press Team:** (L to R) Catarina Romariz, Luxi Xu, Valerie Loutphi, Ana Rita Mateus, Brunei Arce, Catarina Santos, Kylie Koshet, Leslie Koshet, Maria Norton, Sara Faria, Joana Lacerda, Inês Lacerda and João Malheiro.



Security Council

*The question of Libya*



Special Conference

*Military intervention to tackle transnational organized human trafficking*



General Assembly

*Strengthening Democracy in LEDCs*







