

XXII IBERIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS IMUNION

A Short History of IMUN

IMUNION Press Team

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The Iberian Model United Nations was first founded in 1994, when a group of CAISL students decided to initiate the event that would later become a prestigious program. It has grown from its humble beginning and this year has 379 delegates, from 11 countries and 25 different schools.

The conference is a fun way of learning about the world. In this era of globalization, being globally aware is more important than ever. Also, having fun makes it easier to learn and remember something.

It develops leadership skills. IMUN is an exercise in research, public speaking, and teamwork. These are skills that you will need throughout your career, and IMUN gives you a chance to practice them while you're a student.

Thank you for being part of the 22nd IMUN conference. It is the dedication of the delegates and staff that makes it such a success.

Andrea Blattler

Michael Suhr



Delegates, Chairs, Staff and Press were all pleased to have Michael Suhr partake as the keynote speaker in this year's Iberian Model United Nations conference. Mr. Suhr is the Ambassador of Denmark to Portugal. His leadership of the embassy began on August 1st 2014 and he has been the chosen representative ever since. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador, Michael Suhr represented Denmark in multiple European embassies as the head of several departments, such as the Deputy Head of Mission in 2008 for the Royal Danish Embassy in Paris, France. He has had a long and distinguished career in the political world and Portugal is fortunate to have him as the Ambassador for the Danish embassy in Lisbon.

According to the mission statement of the Danish Embassy, "It is the Embassy's overall task to represent Denmark and the Danish interests in Portugal, as well as to seek cooperation in the many areas where Danish and

Portuguese interests are mutual or complementary".

In Michael Suhr's speech, he highlighted the three most important factors for every country to focus on, which he called the "Three D's". Development, Dialogue and Dignity are, according to Mr. Suhr, essential for the wellbeing of all countries, not just Denmark. Developing renewable energy sources in Scandinavia has increased the economy, while reducing carbon emissions. Dialogue is key to finding new ways to make money and develop technology. One way that a country can provide its citizens with dignity is to ensure equality. Denmark is well known for its gender equality.

In March 2016, the UN World Happiness Report (WHR) announced that Denmark had once again ranked as the 'happiest country in the world' - the third time since the list was started in 2012. Mr. Suhr stated that the Danes' happiness was because of the equality in the country and the safety that the citizens feel within its borders.

In relation to social issues, Michael Suhr believes that changes should be implemented both nationally and internationally. He emphasized the need for education, and giving people a fair chance to receive this education so that they are able to support themselves and their family and live a better life. He also believes in reducing the wealth gap between classes to prevent conflict.

We were all very honored to have the Ambassador of the happiest country on Earth as the keynote speaker for the 22nd annual IMUN conference.

Maya Koshet

At the 22nd Conference



After the first day of lobbying at CAISL on November 10th, Delegates from 25 different schools, from countries as far as Zambia, Ireland and Romania gathered this year to attend the 22nd Iberian Model United Nations Conference, which was held at the Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon. There they debated the 8 different agenda issues that were presented to them.

The press team was curious to see what the delegates' favorite parts of the conference were. First-time delegate Gabrielle Kambikambi from the American International School of Lusaka in Zambia (who took a 29 hour flight to arrive here in Portugal!), representing Turkmenistan, said she joined because she enjoys debating and the social experience from being involved in IMUN. The Press and Admin teams were also excited and looking forward to meeting new people.

The second day of IMUN contained a speech from Danish Ambassador Michael Suhr in which he discussed global issues, relating them to the conference and giving the Delegates insight into the life of a politician. Later on during the day, the Delegates gave their opening speeches and had a short time to lobby before debating.

Giorgia Greco, speaking on behalf of the Admin team, stated that the work done by the admin staff is no mean feat. Members of Admin are the ones who sort out the rooms, placards, badges, resolutions and much more, organize much of the conference behind the scenes. Another admin member, Julia Reese said; "I think the most difficult part of being admin is the stress because everything has to be exact or it could mess up the conference."

With the impeccable planning and so much effort put in from all sides, from Admin to Press and Delegates, the first two days of lobbying and debating were a success. Delegates showed an incredible level of professionalism and dedication to the matters discussed and the teams behind the scenes ensured the smooth communication between delegates.

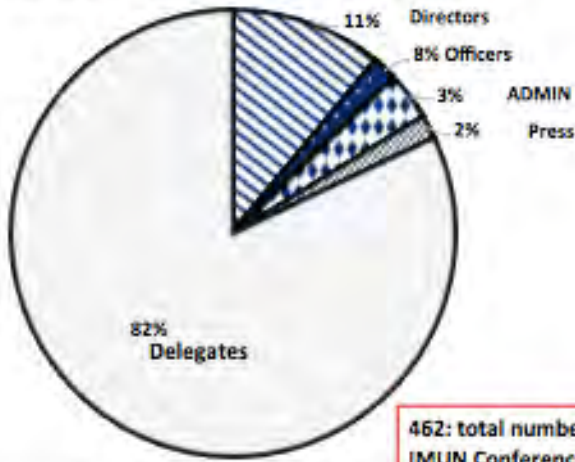
We hope that the final day of the conference is as productive and that all Delegates enjoy it thoroughly. Good luck to all Delegates!

Selma Espinosa



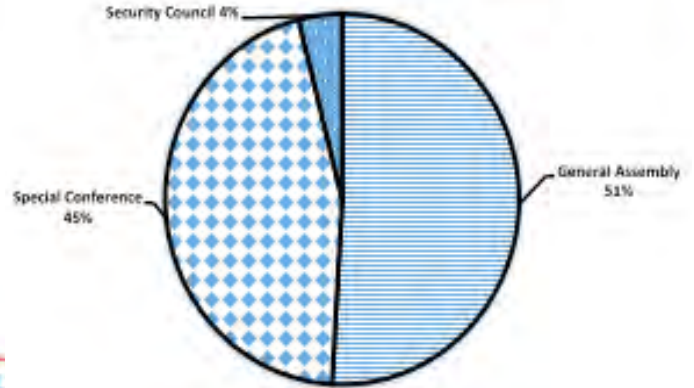
Demographics

IMUN CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

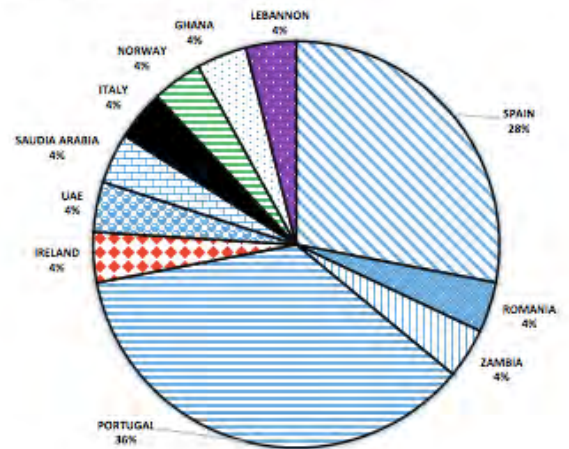


462: total number of people at IMUN Conference

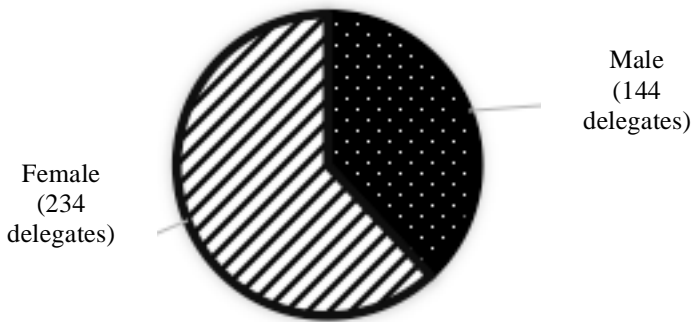
DELEGATES IN DIFFERENT CONFERENCES



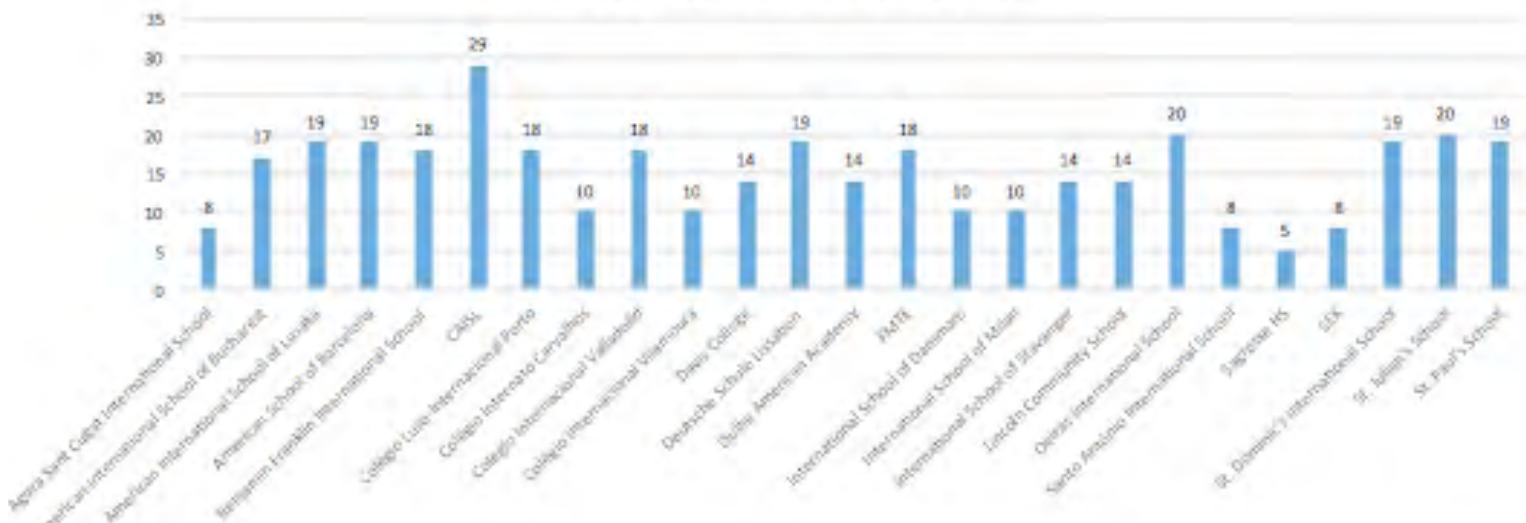
IMUN PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS (BY COUNTRIES)



MEN VS WOMEN DELEGATES



Number of Delegates per Participating School



Leonor Fernandes

About the Delegates

IMUN's main purpose is to develop students' skills, build their learning and possibly open up doors to what they would like to do in the future. IMUN also builds a lot of leadership, confidence and teamwork between students. Activities such as writing resolutions, debating, making speeches and lobbying opens the students' eyes to the complexity of present world problems and challenges that countries are facing. IMUN puts a spotlight on current events, and makes people see things in a way they would have never imagined.

Understanding why people choose to come to IMUN every year is so important. Antonio Cabral, delegate of China, said, "I chose to be a delegate in General Assembly because I feel that it would be more beneficial for my own learning and to the conference, to debate topics that my country has a big position on. I think IMUN helps us because it shows the young people's interpretation of these problems."

Sara Silva, representing Andorra, said, "I chose to be an IMUN delegate because it is a great chance to meet international students with similar interests to me. I also enjoy debating very much and IMUN is a perfect way to grow my confidence. All of our topics in IMUN are all real problems that are happening in the present day, and I think IMUN shows us how the rest of the world lives their lives."

Jisse Gustafsson, representing Togo, said, "So far I think the hardest part of IMUN is trying to see and understand issues in a view different than your own. We take the position of a country that sometimes we might not agree with, but it makes us think outside of the box. We learn so much about everyone's point of view and how they think."

Cristina Xia, a member of the Press said; "I chose to be part of press because with this I will gain more experience and future knowledge. I also wanted to see and examine what happens behind the scenes of major conferences like IMUN. I think the most difficult part of IMUN is finding the confidence to interact with so many international students you don't know."

Every aspect of IMUN is very important. Each member is totally unique, and making IMUN so great. Coming together to discuss such globally important issues is wonderful, and we hope you enjoyed the 22nd IMUN Conference.

Lucy Sheehy



António Guterres

"Diversity is a richness. It's not a problem" – António Guterres

According to the United Nations, the Secretary- General is a "Symbol of the United Nations' ideals and a spokesman for the interests of the world's peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable."



<http://unfoundationblog.org/7-quotes-fro-1>

The Secretary-General is the "chief administrative officer" of the UN and, according to article 97-101 under Chapter XV of the United Nations Charter, is defined as a "diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO". The Secretary-General must take the concerns of Member States under consideration at all times. He or she must also uphold the United Nations' morals and values of peace, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.

Born in 1949, António Guterres has been elected the ninth Secretary General of the United Nations. Guterres was the Prime Minister of Portugal twice before becoming the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. His long, distinguished political career in Portugal and the United Nations has prepared him for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations. He is internationally respected for the work he has done at the UN Refugee Agency since joining in 2005.

Speaking earlier this year, Richard Gowan, a UN expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said insiders believed Mr. Guterres, from Portugal, "could give the UN the kind of kick up the backside it needs". His vision for peace, equality, security, and climate change will be shown clearly when he begins his term as a Secretary General on January 1, 2017.

Mapi Arce

Friday Debate in the General Assembly



At precisely nine o'clock, all delegates gathered in their conference rooms at the Centro Cultural de Belem (CCB). The morning began with speeches by the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, followed by a motivating speech presented by Ms. Blannie M. Curtis, a longtime supporter of MUN and the director of CAISL. The introductory procedures continued with this year's distinguished keynote speaker, Mr. Michael Suhr, the Ambassador of Denmark.

After a one-hour snack break, the conference commenced with opening speeches given by more than 100 delegates, with frequent replies from Member States in the audience. Once the opening speeches concluded, lunchtime permitted delegations to lobby and prepare for their first IMUN debate.

The issue to be debated on Friday was the question of strategies to ensure greater transparency in the use of technology by governments and affiliated organizations. The selected resolution was submitted by Myanmar, who supported her resolution with an explanatory speech, followed by points of information from delegates, and then yielded the floor to co-submitter Tajikistan. While most Member States were in favor of encouraging transparency and honesty among governments, some delegations objected, such as DPRK and China.

China submitted an amendment suggesting "the elimination of corrupt mainstream media," causing a stir. Both China and DPRK, which are nations that follow strict regulations regarding the Internet, defended this amendment. Due to an overwhelming majority, the amendment did not pass. Out of a total of seven amendments submitted on Friday, only one passed. It was submitted by the delegate of Estonia, and called for Member States to "provide additional tax/or incentives to open computer stores and training centers".

Following IMUN procedure, the General Assembly voted on the resolution as a whole before closing the debate. Member States concluded that the resolution submitted by Myanmar, including the accepted amendment, was not effective and therefore, with 72 votes for and 79 votes against, it did not pass.

At the end of the busy day of debate, delegations, directors and staff members gathered at the Pastelaria de Belém to enjoy some typical Portuguese pastries known as *Pastéis de Nata* and enjoy the Portuguese Culture.

Gea Greko

Implementation of Paris Agreement

At the Paris climate conference in December 2015, 195 countries from the UN adopted the first universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a plan to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. Governments agreed to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since that would reduce the risks and the impacts of climate change.



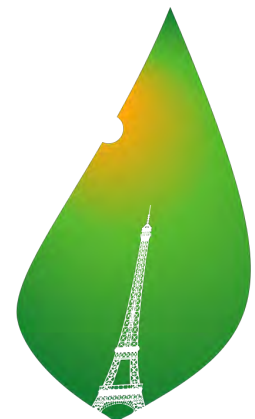
Each country that signed the Paris Agreement has already submitted a national plan for how it will limit greenhouse gas emissions. India, for example, has promised to generate 40 percent of its energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. The Chinese government also signed the plan, pledging that their emissions will peak in 2030 and then decline.

There is some flexibility within the Paris Agreement. Requirements to report on any progress towards lowering global emissions, are binding. However, some of the elements of the agreement are not binding, such as the setting of emission reduction targets. (*Nature.org*)

However, there are still questions about how to hold the countries accountable for their pledges, and how to pay for some of the initiatives. Those issues will come up at the conference in Morocco. Susan Philips of NPR reported, "Developing nations want wealthier countries to help finance their efforts to reduce emissions and prepare for rising sea levels." It was stated that the climate deal would be put into effect 30 days after 55 countries deposited their acceptance or ratification of the agreement to the Secretary General.

On the 4th of November the global climate deal was put into effect and officially became the first universally adopted climate deal.

Cristina Xia



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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Unite