

## XXIII IBERIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# IMUNION

## MARCELO: “WE NEED REFORM”



For the 23<sup>rd</sup> Iberian Model United Nations Conference, delegates, staff, press and officers were privileged to have the President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, as Keynote speaker. The IMUN delegates gained valuable insight from Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa's experiences.

Speaking confidently and openly, his excellency recognized the need for organizations to change from the conservative mindset of the 40's in which the UN was first established, in order to reflect 2017's modern society. The President spoke about several topics, including the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, migration and gender equality. Every solution

proposed by the President ultimately linked back to his true passion: education.

After having emphasized the importance of educating future generations, the keynote speaker recognized the potential of conferences like IMUN as opportunities to reform the United Nations. He also urged member states to think of solutions that will not only focus on immediate issues, but also be strategically thought out in order to obtain long term benefits.

IMUN's Press team also had the opportunity to talk to the President after his Keynote speech.

He spoke of the conference as a great way for the future leaders of the world to

### IMUNION Press Team

Leonor Fernandes  
Carolina Rodrigues

Andrea Blattler  
Catarina Santos

Adriana Castro  
Manuel Sá Machado

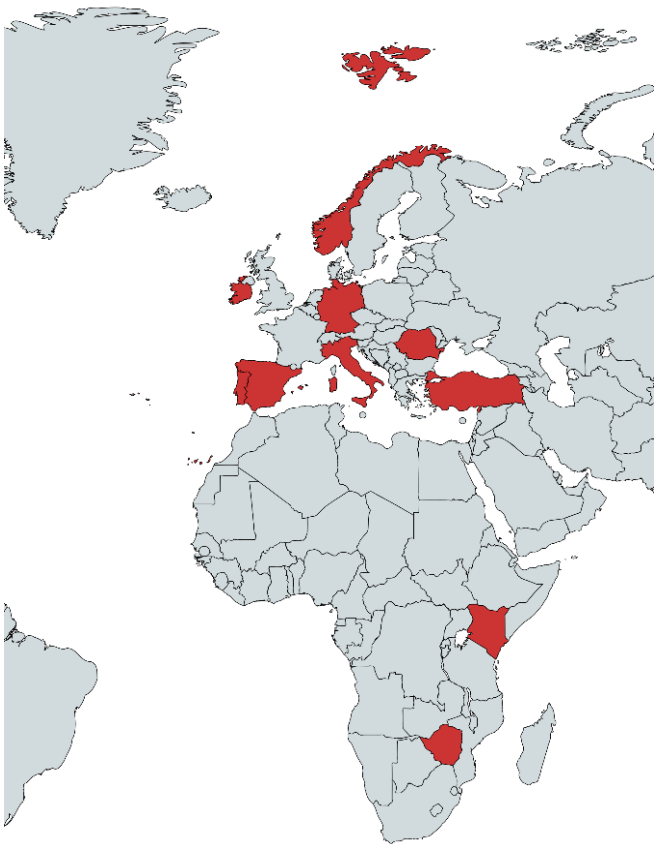
Carina Alamo  
Pearl Partridge

assemble in an experience that is “for sure a way of pressurizing change”. He continued, “When I was young, there were no such ideas or structures, no such concepts and ways of participation, which was a pity. We didn’t have the opportunity to meet so many people from around the world as you [are doing right now].”

*Leonor Fernandes*

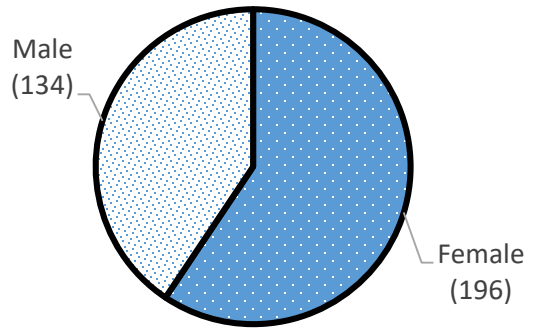


# DEMOGRAPHICS

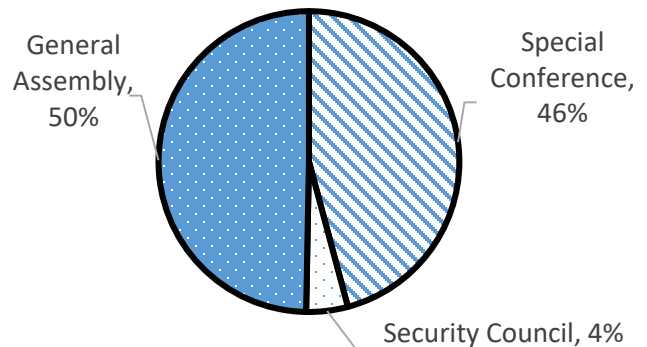


**Where do the schools participating in the conference come from?**

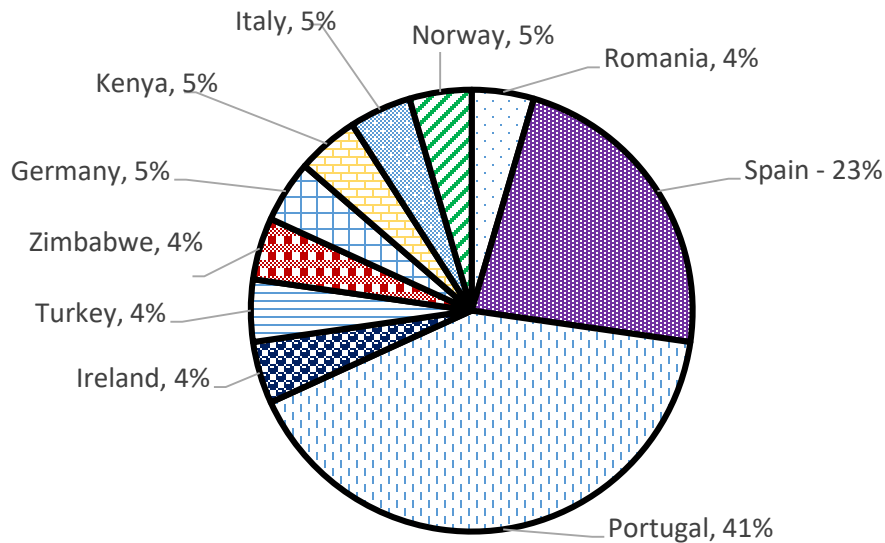
**Female v Male Delegates and Directors**



**Delegates in Different Committees**



IMUN Participating Schools (by countries)



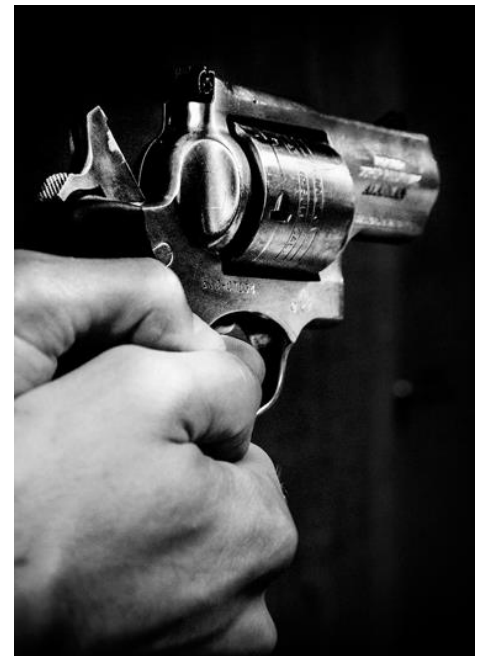
## LIMITING THE AVAILABILITY OF LIGHT WEAPONS AS A MEASURE TO REDUCE URBAN VIOLENCE

Although there are many positive consequences to recent advances in technology, science and medicine, light weapons have become easily accessible, and this has been linked to an increase in urban violence.

The consequences of the availability of light weapons are extensive and do not only impact one demographic. According to Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, in March

of 2000, “the death toll from small arms dwarfs that of all other weapons systems — and in most years greatly exceeds the toll of the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In terms of the carnage they cause, small arms, indeed, could well be described as ‘weapons of mass destruction’.”

During lobby time, the press team asked delegates for their country’s position on the matter.



"The availability of light weapons is an extremely big liability towards international security and peace. All delegates should be making an effort to prevent its impacts."

- Delegation of Finland (GA)



"Due to the fact that Romania does not have any explicit laws, we believe that light weapons are dangerous and should be accounted for by the arm's system that Interpol has in place."

- Delegation of Romania (GA)

"Limiting availability of guns for the civilian population is a good idea especially in light of recent attacks using light weapons, where simply banning light weapons for civilians would have prevented them from occurring and negated the effect to an incredible degree."

- Delegation of Venezuela (GA)



"It's a big problem and we will have to solve it in this assembly. We will find a way to diminish the deaths and have everyone involved content with the resolution."

- Delegation of The Gambia (GA)

"Light weapons should not be available, and the Delegation of Norway believes that the killing of 70 innocents in our soil could've been avoided. Delegates, let's say no to guns."

- Delegation of Norway (GA)



*Carolina Rodrigues*

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The vision of the future, imagined as a utopian society where man and machine live side by side, may actually not be too far away. As increasing technology and automation advance, such a future may just be attainable within our lifetime – however, at a price.

Artificial intelligence (AI) poses the threat of taking away thousands more jobs than it can create, promoting further social inequality, in a rather short amount of time. Back in 1930, economist John Maynard Keynes argued that technological



progress “would make us so productive we wouldn't know what to do with all our free time”<sup>1</sup>, yet it seems not for the best reasons. The world's a' changing with AI technology, so how to ensure the job market does not implode?

Job security fuels the fear of AIs, and too much science fiction builds up the idea that AIs will make humankind obsolete; many headlines speak of a kind of “Robo-pocalypse” style uprising, where “47% of all employment opportunities will be occupied by machines within the next two decades”<sup>1</sup>, for instance. Just this week Stephen Hawking warned “The rise of AI could be the worst or the best thing that has happened for humanity”<sup>2</sup>, joining Elon Musk, who earlier in September warned AIs could spark a third world war, if not properly regulated. The main fear to consider, however, is how rapidly increasing automation in society will strictly affect lower-income workers, and how it may widen social inequality. Administrative or low-skill jobs, from paralegals to taxi



drivers may well be reduced, if not totally gone in the not-so-distant future. This new “age of acceleration”<sup>3</sup>, as New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman argues, demands every worker to adapt to the changing times, re-inventing themselves and their functions, so as to remain relevant. Nevertheless, AI, as with previous industrial revolutions, can increase productivity, potentially reducing prices in competitive markets, which ultimately leads to growing consumer demand. This could increase wages and provide more employment opportunities, increases wages and provide more employment opportunities, at least for educated workers. However, routine jobs, which often sustain workers with only a high school education or less will not fare so well.

As economist James Bessen argues, “we should instead shift our attention to making sure workers — particularly low-wage workers — have the skills they need to compete in an automated era”<sup>4</sup>. Education is key to invest in if automation shows no signs of stopping.

The way we interact with the world and with each other is changing because of artificial intelligence. Protesting like Luddites did with the introduction of weaving machinery is of no use; while still weary of the risks, instead, governments should be encouraged to embrace progress, yet ensuring job security, investing in education to make this rapid transition as smooth as possible.

**Catarina Santos**

<sup>1</sup> Stark, Harold. "As Robots Rise, How Artificial Intelligence Will Impact Jobs." *Forbes*, 28 Apr. 2017, [www.forbes.com/sites/haroldstark/2017/04/28/as-robots-rise-how-artificial-intelligence-will-impact-jobs/#56459a7b7687](http://www.forbes.com/sites/haroldstark/2017/04/28/as-robots-rise-how-artificial-intelligence-will-impact-jobs/#56459a7b7687).

<sup>2</sup> Koetsier, John. "Stephen Hawking Issues Stern Warning On AI: Could Be 'Worst Thing' For Humanity." *Forbes*, 6 Nov. 2017,

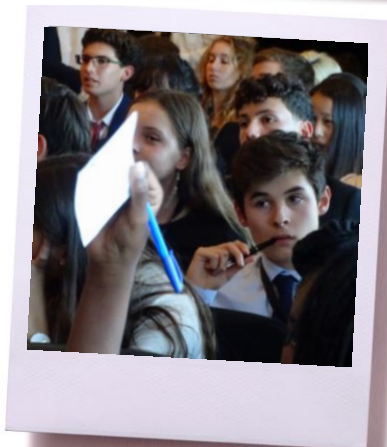
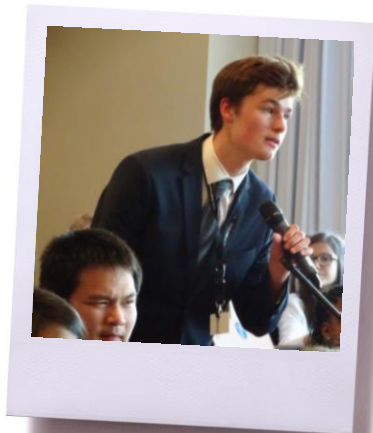
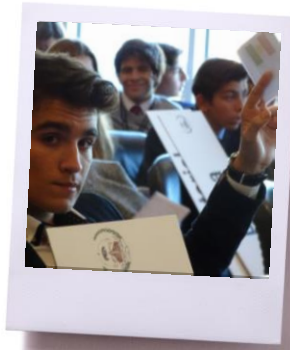
[www.forbes.com/sites/johnkoetsier/2017/11/06/stephen-hawking-issues-stern-warning-on-ai-could-be-worst-thing-for-humanity/#2ae3f42453a7](http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnkoetsier/2017/11/06/stephen-hawking-issues-stern-warning-on-ai-could-be-worst-thing-for-humanity/#2ae3f42453a7).

<sup>3</sup> Holzer, Harry J. "Will Robots Make Job Training (and Workers) Obsolete? Workforce Development in an Automating Labor Market." *Brookings*, Brookings Institution, 19 June 2017,

[www.brookings.edu/research/will-robots-make-job-training-and-workers-obsolete-workforce-development-in-an-automating-labor-market/](http://www.brookings.edu/research/will-robots-make-job-training-and-workers-obsolete-workforce-development-in-an-automating-labor-market/).

<sup>4</sup> Dastagir, Alia E. "Robots Stealing Human Jobs Isn't the Problem. This Is." *USA Today*, 29 June 2017,

[www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/06/29/ai-stealing-human-jobs-isnt-problem-is/412217001/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/06/29/ai-stealing-human-jobs-isnt-problem-is/412217001/).



# BEHIND THE SCENES

Delegates, parents, teachers, guest speakers, and staff are all important to IMUN. During this conference, we took some time to ask questions to the teachers. Get to know what the teachers do behind the scenes and their thoughts on the preparation and conference.

## What do you do/what is your role when preparing for IMUN?

“I’m the MUN director at our school... I work with the 110 students that are involved in MUN in some way or another. For IMUN, what that looks like is, coordinating participation in our elective program and getting students ready for the conference; showing them how IMUN works, showing them how to do the research, and all the tiny little details.”

- *Tori Marroquin - American School of Barcelona (Spain)*



## In your opinion, what’s the hardest part in preparing for IMUN?

“The hardest part is making the kids realize that it’s not as hard as it seems. Some of the formality makes the kids think it’s something they can’t do and it makes them very nervous.”

- *Peter Martinez - Agora Sant Cugat International*



## What is your favorite part of the conference?

“Watching my students shine... when they have something really interesting to say and they hop up and you can see, one, the relief on their faces that they haven’t embarrassed themselves, but two, it’s like a really proud moment. I like seeing how much the students gain confidence from the beginning to the end.”

- *Sharna Tobin - Harare International School*

## What do you think is the best part of the conference and what are you looking forward to the most?

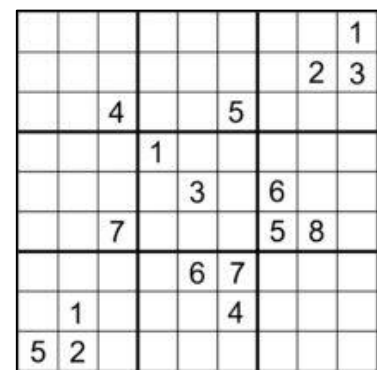
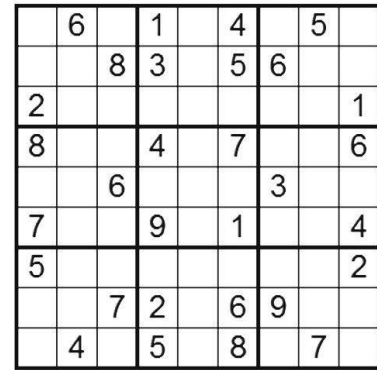
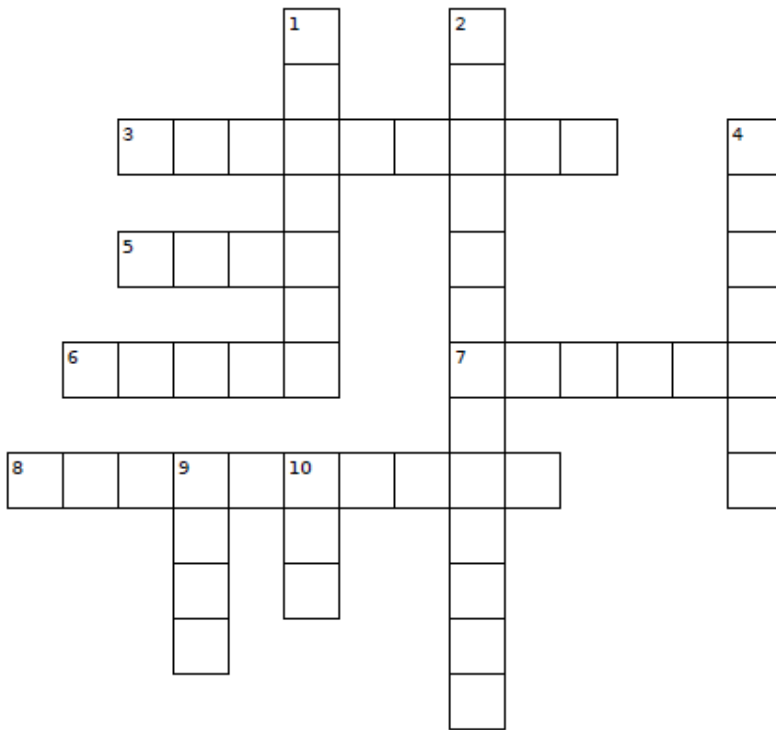
“We were incredibly excited, my co-director and myself, to see that the president of Portugal is speaking tomorrow... we’re excited about the debates and to see our students perform.”

- *Shanna Kenyon - International School Hannover Region (Germany)*



*Pearl Partridge*

# ENTERTAINMENT



**Down:**

- 1. The sixth official language of the UN not listed: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Clause that states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. (Hint: often these clauses end with a coma)
- 4. City where the main UN headquarters can be found.
- 9. True or False? Each of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council have gone to war or invaded a country without Security Council approval.
- 10. The acronym for the successor of the Millennium Development Goals, put into effect in 2015, being the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Across:**

- 3. This American President was the first to suggest the name "United Nations" in 1941. (Last name only).
- 5. The first name of the seventh Secretary General of the UN, serving from 1997-2006.
- 6. Last name of the politician who delivered the longest speech ever recorded in the UN (talking for nearly eight hours) in 1957.
- 7. The specialized agency of the UN whose purpose is to promote international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms.
- 8. The latest nation to become member of the UN (2011).