



FAMUN 2020
FACAMP MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NEWSLETTER

5 SEPTEMBER 2020



Shaping our future together

In the celebration of its 75th anniversary, the UN calls civil society to build the future we want

By Maria Eduarda Cazula e Julia Green



Photo: UN 75 Toolkit

The UN75 campaign invites all peoples to join the world's biggest conversation about the future we want.

The United Nations (UN) is celebrating its 75th anniversary and, since its creation, it has shown an impressive record for an international organization: it has been the forum for the pacific settlement of conflicts; provided the framework for international instruments for the protection and promotion of the human rights; coordinated humanitarian assistance for millions of people in need; and mainstreamed the concept of sustainable development to fight climate change and protect the environment and ecosystems.

On the other hand, the celebration of its anniversary is also a moment to rethink those areas in which the work of the UN has been insufficient or limited. Especially due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN needs to work better and in a more efficient way to address various numbers of global problems, such as: climate change, human rights violations, food security, violence and harassment in the work environment, threats to peace and security, the role of youth and the use of technology in the international context.

The UN has realized that a truly global conversation involves not only Member States but all stakeholders; and that this is the key to build a better future, especially with our present context of multidimensional crises. So the UN has launched the UN 75 Dialogues, an initiative to call on all peoples to crowdsource solutions on global issues in accordance with the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development. The UN75 Dialogues focuses on the future and how all peoples can shape it: peoples from the North and the South, peoples from urban and rural areas, peoples of all colors and ethnicities, and from different social groups. In fact, it is only with inclusive thinking and cooperation that the future will be shaped constructively by the promotion of empathy, respect for diversity, understanding, solidarity, and tolerance. The UN has launched an online platform specially focused on information for civil society actors, and it counts with a one-minute survey, in which every voice can be heard regarding what should be the priorities in the response against the pandemic and what is the vision each one has for the future.

Hearing the voices of young people is a priority for the UN in these dialogues. Young people for so long have been seen through negative stereotypes, but now it is time for the youth to be fully recognized as real actors of change, whether in peace talks, fighting against the climate crisis, or standing up for the human rights of minorities and vulnerable groups. FAMUN is a great opportunity for Brazilian young people to raise their voices and foster empathy, solidarity, and greater understanding in order to leave no one behind. Let's embrace this dialogue and shape our future together! Take the UN 75 survey and share your views for the future with your colleagues and family! Link to the survey: un75.portal/partners/famunfacamp

HIGH SCHOOL Committees and Councils

UNGA 1C

By Gabriela Nunes Pinto

How to guarantee that sovereignty will not be disrespected by measures of arms control was one key topic addressed by delegates during the first session of the First Committee. Spain, for example, alleged that sovereignty is one of the main principles on which the United Nations was founded, so it must not be disrespected when dealing with arms control. Similarly, the United Kingdom stated that while addressing disarmament efforts, national security remains a priority for their country. Cuba, as part of the NAM group, made a remarkable speech about States having different realities and conditions, so cooperation should be prioritized over unilateral solutions when dealing with international security. During negotiations, it was interesting to note that most of the delegates agreed with Germany when it emphasized the importance of expanding the dialogue about the implications of science and technology for international security with other actors, such as the youth, private sector, and academic community.

UNGA 2C

By Santiago Nuri Fernandes

The general debate on agriculture development, food security and nutrition presented different positions between Northern and Southern countries. For developed countries, such as Germany and Portugal, they affirmed their commitment to the international community to finance technological projects for sustainable agriculture development in developing countries. From the G77 group, Ethiopia reinforced the importance of multilateralism when it comes to address the effects of climate change over food production. Afghanistan called on a crucial point: food waste. There is enough food being produced around the world, but there is no equality in food distribution, affecting especially those who live in rural areas and dedicate themselves to family farming, which is a huge market supplier. Democratic Republic of the Congo focused on how food insecurity will affect the growth of new generations, bringing to the debate the role of youth in the fight against hunger.

UNHRC

By Patrícia Kuae Neves

In the general discussion, delegates highlighted the need of choosing sustainable practices to avoid climate change and protect human rights. However, countries diverged when discussing ways to tackle these issues. Bahamas called great powers' attention to assume their responsibilities as the countries that emit the most polluting gases in the atmosphere and urged them to come together in a global effort to combat climate change and promote human rights in developing countries. The Republic of Korea stated the importance of ratifying the Paris Agreement as a way to address the issue and brought the attention to the protection of the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. The country emphasized the importance of unity among countries to protect human rights and the environment.

UNSC 1

By Bárbara Caroline Rodrigues Marques

The United States mentioned that the issue of refugees should be considered central to the YPS discussion. They have emphasized the importance of assisting youth in refugee camps, especially in countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Russia and Germany also agreed with this statement. China reinforced that the Council should consider extremism as a central part of the agenda since young people tend to be subjected to radicalization. In turn, Indonesia has emphasized the need for supporting and strengthening local communities to empower youth. Germany stressed that young women are especially affected by injustice and violence against young people, and stated that this should be considered unacceptable. The Council also discussed the negative impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on youth.

UNSC 2

By Bianca Porcari Corraça

The lack of transparency from the Burundian government was one of the topics addressed by the UNSC in the first session. Niger and Belgium explained that as the political situation is uncertain, the UN should continue monitoring the situation in the country, without interfering in its sovereignty. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines highlighted that the UN has already made its contribution to the country and that it should refrain from intervening in domestic issues. The United States reinforced that Burundians are subjected to human rights violations and an anti-democratic government, so it was important to the UNSC to remain seized on the matter. China and Russia, in turn, argued that priority should be given to ensuring resources to the Burundian government through economic investment in the country.

UNIVERSITY Committees and Councils

UNHRC

By Carolina Tanaka

In the first session of the University Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur emphasized that “to deny climate change means to deny human rights for all”. She brought to light the impacts of climate change on several countries, which threatens the enjoyment of human rights, especially in the case of vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees. Worldwild, the number of migrants has doubled in the last twenty years, and more than 25 million people were forced to leave their homes due to natural disasters. She explained that persons with disabilities suffer even more when forced to migrate. Mrs. Machado mentioned some countries in her statement, such as Denmark, Fiji, Czech Republic and Cameroon. Those States are working progressively to minimize climate change through projects that protect and preserve their biodiversity, stimulate small farmers, and eliminate their use of coal as a source of energy. However, when mentioning the European Union, the Special Rapporteur made clear that developed countries are failing on their duties of guaranteeing human rights for their population. The 2008 economic crisis led to loss of income and poverty. In response, the representative of Italy mentioned the country’s responsibilities and highlighted that the Italian government has been dealing with COVID-19 and also said they are open to embracing new ways to ensure human rights. In his statement, the delegate of Cameroon affirmed that developing countries are the ones that contributed less, but suffer more with climate change. The Philippines agreed with Cameroon and requested that developed countries collaborate with projects and ways to minimize climate change. Both political groups, the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union, discussed the need to collaborate with the mitigation of climate change and improve human rights all over the world.

UNSC

By Bianca Porcari Corraça

In today’s session, Council members discussed if the situation in Burundi should still be a matter to the UNSC. Germany and Tunisia agreed that the Council should continue debating the situation in the country. France highlighted that the Council has a role to play in the promotion of peace in the country and remembered the consequences of the organ’s inaction in Rwanda. For Niger, the UN did its part to establish peace in Burundi and that now the situation is no longer a threat to international peace and security. China and Russia reinforced the importance of respecting sovereignty and emphasized the need to strengthen economic and cultural alliances with Burundi, in order to assist national development. In turn, Belgium suggested that the UN should support the African Union in advancing the Inter-Burundian Dialogue, so that regional efforts for the construction of the peace in Burundi can be enhanced. The United States said that “years of conflict cannot be erased”, but there is no need for direct intervention in Burundi, since local authorities should be the ones responsible for ensuring stability. Still, the US reinforced the need to promote human rights and democracy in the African country, so that civil society can enjoy better conditions.

ILO

By Julia Roberti

Delegates of the Standard Setting Committee have shown the ambition to draft a Convention that specifies which courses of action should be taken in order to prohibit violence and harassment in the world of work and also provide remedies to all those who are victims of any kind of violence and harassment in the world of work. On the other hand, the opening statements showed that each bloc had different priorities. The delegate of Sweden, as the Employers Vice-chairperson, emphasized the role that women and other minorities play in the discussions, since they are more susceptible to acts of violence and harassment. The delegate of India, as the Workers Vice-chairperson, stated that the workers priority was to define the concepts of violence and harassment in the Section 1 of the Convention, so that such acts can be more easily framed. The Government delegate of Sweden expressed its full indignation with the existence of such issues in a society that calls itself “modern”, highlighting that these “represent a clear violation of labor and human rights, and are incompatible with the ILO’s agenda”. On the other hand, the Government delegate of China asked the rest of the Committee for respect and comprehension regarding different national work situations.

The UN had to adapt: so did we!

Challenges and opportunities of simulating online

By Bianca Porcari Corraça

Did you ever log in an online meeting wearing formal attire on top, and flip-flops and sweatpants down? So, let me tell you a secret: even UN diplomats assumed they do this during Zoom conferences. The pandemic pushed us through a tough situation and even diplomacy had to change. Face to face contact and that typical diplomatic handshaking are no longer a reality in the UN, and the adaptation process was not easy. If we, students, had difficulty adapting our lives for the online format, can you imagine how it was for more experienced diplomats who barely had cellphones years ago?

As the UN had to adapt, so did FAMUN. And it was challenging: we had to rethink schedules, rules of procedure, we had technical problems... but we did it! In fact, going online has advantages: we were able to hear from specialists from other countries and cities, and also to meet students from other regions. Fernanda Fonseca, delegate of Argentina (HS HRC), thinks online simulations attract more people as they can participate from their homes. It also allows more time for studying the topics, said Marcela Rosseti, delegate of Australia (HS HRC).

Yet, nothing replaces the excitement of simulating in person. Esli Miranda, the representative of the Employers of Sweden (ILO), misses "the unique hurry for the coffee breaks and being tired of walking in high heels (and carrying sneakers for the conference) for nearly 10 hours a day". Just because we are simulating online, it does not mean that we can not act further. For Vinícius Lyro, delegate of Tunisia (Uni UNSC): "The change could be started from our homes". Presential or online, we are all together in the objective of being the change.

Coming up next...



SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

PHOTO OF THE DAY

High School

- 09:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Session 2
- 10:30 a.m. - 02:00 p.m. | Lunch Break
- 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. | Head Delegates' Meeting
- 01:30 p.m. - 02:00 p.m. | Stakeouts (UNSC)
- 02:00 p.m. - 03:30 p.m. | Session 3
- 04:00 p.m. - 05:00 p.m. | Faculty Advisors' Meeting
- 06:30 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. | Live Social Event

University

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Session 2
- 12:30 p.m. - 01:00 p.m. | Stakeouts (UNSC)
- 12:30 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. | Lunch Break
- 02:30 p.m. - 03:30 p.m. | Head Delegates' Meeting
- 04:00 p.m. - 05:30 p.m. | Session 3
- 04:00 p.m. - 05:00 p.m. | Faculty Advisors' Meeting
- 06:30 p.m. - 08:00 p.m. | Live Social Event



FAMUN 2020 has been officially called to order Photographer: Isabelle Fernandes



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