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We are the change!

How Youth can act as agents of change

By Bárbara C. Rodrigues Marques



Photographer: André Amalfi

FAMUN 2020 Team gathered to Be the Change!

Young leaders and activists around the world have been fighting for a long time to gain recognition as agents of peace and development. Usually, the approach towards young people is that they need to be protected and do not have enough knowledge or experience to solve complex problems. Still, young leaders can be a source of original solutions, and they are demanding actions from political leaders and even from the UN, which is reconsidering its position about the role of the youth. Now it seems that the international community is finally ready to hear their voices, and one example is how the UN 75 Dialogues have put youth as a priority.

Young people are creative and curious, so they can play an important role as agents engaged in finding solutions for global challenges. As quoted by FAMUN 2020 Secretary-General, Luiza Stradiotto, in our Opening Ceremony: "Youth: This is your future at stake, and your voices deserve to be heard".

With 1.8 billion young people in the world, there is no way to shape a better future without considering youth as an essential part of the decision-making. However, there is still a lot to be done, since it is not only a matter of allowing the youth to take part in the debate, but also ensuring and empowering them to be part of the decisions at different levels, from local to international levels.

Greta Thunberg, a sixteen-year-old climate activist, is an

example of how students represent a central part in building a future with strong and just institutions. As pointed by the Chairperson of FAMUN ILC Standard Setting Committee, Ms. Aline Salomão: "The youth should be able to rethink the structure of the current institutions and be engaged in developing solutions to international problems together with others of different backgrounds, points of view and cultures".

The online format of FAMUN 2020 allowed more people from all around the world to engage in the debate, being an opportunity for young people to take part as protagonists of change. "I strongly believe that the real value of simulations has never been more evident than it is right now", quoted Arthur Machado, our Under-Secretary-General for Conference and Management.

Improving consciousness about the power of the youth also means to educate and empower them so they can be more conscious about the many problems our society faces and demand changes in the status quo. For Maria Eduarda Jareta, Secretary of the UNGA First Committee, simulations go beyond an academic experience, as students can learn new topics and raise awareness about global problems to make a difference about it. As she said: "Make this experience unique, make the most of it given our circumstances, and use all your inspiration and learning to Be the Change".

HIGH SCHOOL Committees and Councils

UNHRC

By Patrícia Kuae Neves

On the last day of sessions, delegates decided to adopt the resolution by consensus, and Slovakia, Cameroon, Namibia, Somalia, Spain, Italy, the Republic of Korea, and Japan were the first countries to sponsor the resolution. In the action phase, the EU introduced an amendment to protect migrants and refugees by combating prejudice of any type in host communities.

In the adopted resolution, the HRC considered measures on behalf of the human rights of vulnerable groups and ensured a better reception of migrants and refugees who fled their homes due to climate change. In turn, climate change effects would be contained by sustainable solutions, such as the implementation of renewable energy and greater protection over rivers and lakes.

Member States also emphasized the importance of cooperation among countries to mitigate those environmental issues. With that, the HRC was able to address the points present in the guide for UNHCR MUN Challenge, which we are participating in.

UNGA 1 *By Gabriela Nunes Pinto*

By the influence of Germany, Netherlands, and Austria, States were able to reach consensus on the importance of technology transfer, aiming at eradicating the unequal access to new technologies, as long as it is applied for peaceful ends. They are committed to avoiding technological dependence and prioritizing transparency in dealing with armaments. Concerned with the consequences of the military use of smart technologies, States also addressed the new challenges in dealings with instruments such as AI and autonomous systems. Egypt and the Philippines endorsed the proposal of a new treaty about this issue. Ireland affirmed the need to raise awareness of the private sector and scientists for responsible research and innovations, so States agreed that more dialogue with stakeholders is an urgent issue.

UNSC 1 *By Bárbara Caroline Rodrigues Marques*

There was a disagreement in the Council on the role of youth in peacebuilding. While Tunisia recommended public policies to fight negative stereotypes against youth by hearing their opinions, Russia suggested that older people should guide youth using their political experience. In response, Tunisia pointed out that young people are more likely to be recruited by extremist groups when they are marginalized from political processes. In turn, the SC agreed that education creates opportunities for young people. They also mentioned that the pandemic could have negative impacts on education, but China stressed that many countries already had gaps in the educational sector before the crisis. Germany proposed offering assistance to young people subjected to crisis, conflicts, and natural disasters. In the end, the Council was able to adopt the resolution by unanimity.

UNGA 2 *By Santiago Nuri Fernandes*

The Committee was able to compromise and reach consensus on critical points. Considering that family farming is responsible for 80% of food production and distribution, Jamaica emphasized - on behalf of the G-77 - the need of creating partnerships between institutions and family farmers to improve food security. Kenya also considered essential to include an amendment on the preservation of ecosystems, which impacts directly on agriculture development. Japan objected to Jamaica's amendment about the implementation of public policies on pesticides, arguing that it would harm state sovereignty. However, delegates were able to reach consensus on a paragraph that mentioned the link between the use of pesticides and its negative impact on the environment, calling for greater commitment of governments on this issue.

UNSC 2 *By Bianca Porcari Corraça*

The SC received the news of the poisoning of a Russian opposition leader that caused a great division in the Council. The US and France supported the UN oversight of the investigations, but Niger and St. Vincent and Grenadines expressed their concern that the monitoring could violate Russian sovereignty. China questioned the veracity of the German report on the poisoning, and remembered that the CIA, of the US, had manipulated reports before. Russia said that it was willing to take the lead in the investigations and that it would provide monthly reports to the SC. Other members offered help to assist the process. On the resolution, Belgium expressed its disapproval saying that the content would result in an "abuse of power". Still, the Council is committed to the draft, which emphasized the role of the NGOs, the Arusha Peace Agreement, and regional cooperation to deal with the situation in Burundi.

UNIVERSITY Committees and Councils

ILO

By Julia Roberti

The fourth sitting of the ILC was a bit more polemic than the prior ones. The Employers bloc firmly argued that they could not take responsibility for every single person that walks into their companies: this responsibility lies with Governments since it consists of a conflict between two citizens. The Workers bloc claimed that companies should provide a safe environment for their workers to report episodes of violence and harassment that occurred between co-workers, even if those did not take place within the working environment, as well as a proper investigation and support for victims. Even agreeing with this proposal, the Employers bloc felt that Governments were trying to get rid of a responsibility that is theirs by essence.

An amendment proposed by the Governments of the European Union in the section of Protection and Prevention was quite controversial as well, as it affirmed that “workers in lower positions” are the ones that need protection due to the unequal power relationships in the work environment. According to the Employers group, this amendment was not adequate since minorities in powerful positions can suffer as much as workers in lower positions. They argued that society does not expect minorities to achieve high and prestigious positions, so they tend to suffer threats and harassment too, and the governments of the European Union withdrew their amendment.

For the Workers bloc, the redline was to assure that the Convention would cover acts of violence and harassment that take place in specific areas, such as: common break rooms; toilets at workplaces; and also during transportation and commute to the workplace. This proposal was adopted by delegates during negotiations. In the end, the three blocs demonstrated a more resilient posture in order to achieve consensus and reach a Convention that could prohibit violence and harassment in all forms and settings.

UNHRC *By Carolina Tanaka*

As one of the central points of the UNHCR MUN Refugee Challenge, climate change is a crucial problem when it comes to guaranteeing the human rights of refugees. Its repercussions affect hundreds of communities forced to displace by internal and external causes. In the last session of the University Human Rights Council, delegates concentrated on working together in favor of solutions and measures that could minimize the effects of climate change while guaranteeing human rights worldwide. One of the measures was the recommendation to design a special fund with the contributions of developed and developing countries. The fund would be supervised by the UNHCR with the aim of promoting responsible and effective investments in favor of improving infrastructure for refugees and migrants, protecting their lives when they are at risk due to climate change. Australia, the Netherlands, Italy, and Slovakia became sponsors of the draft resolution, and the amendments introduced by Fiji, Armenia, Cameroon, and the Republic of Korea were voted on. States worked most diplomatically together in the final revision of the draft resolution and seemed to reach a consensus; nevertheless, Somalia and Cameroon chose to put the document to a vote.

UNSC *By Bianca Porcari Corraça*

Council Members were struggling to reach an agreement on the resolution. The SC accepted the proposal to intermediate the dialogue between the different political parties in the country, since these differences are the root causes of political instability. Some disagreements, however, emerged while discussing sanctions. Russia, China, and the UK agreed to enhance international cooperation to remove the sanctions imposed over Burundi, aiming at supporting the economic development of the country. France and Germany stated that ending sanctions is an option only if the Burundian government enhances cooperation and dialogue with the international community. Tunisia is concerned about the children's and women's situation and made an urgent appeal to the Council to reinforce the pressure over the government to deal with that. In turn, Belgium and Niger reinforced that the UN should assist but not interfere in the political processes in the country. France insisted on accusations about the Burundian government's lack of transparency and human rights violations. In response, the Tunisian delegate asked how can France condemn this government, if the French government welcomes former Burundian politicians who are human rights violators in its territory.

Isolation does not mean solitude

FAMUN A-Live showed it is possible to stay home, but stay connected!

By Santiago Nuri Fernandes

We are going through unique times, that is for sure. Even though we are familiar with virtual interactions in our daily lives, during the isolation imposed by COVID-19 we sharply increased our internet use and social media interactions. The internet certainly is our ally, making it easier to deal with the isolation and the quarantine, which does not mean solitude! In that spirit, we had on Sunday night our social event: FAMUN A-Live! We can all agree that it was a total success.

For attractions, Pedro Piccoli – IR student at FACAMP – starred playing some live guitar with the sweetest voice we know, bringing an amazing repertory of national and international music. Do not worry if some tears have fallen, it was touching. We also had a special video from our Secretariat members, which was definitely heartwarming. Especially in these times that we are apart, such things make us feel together as one!

According to Ms. Laura Alves, delegate of Somalia in the HRC (UNI): “FAMUN A-Live was simply awesome! Pedro rocked on his tracklist and we had a surprise: a sweet and touching video from FAMUN 2020 Staff! The energy that the video has given was extremely beautiful and I got so emotional! It has greatly surprised me!”. Mr. Marcelo Valle, delegate of Kenya in the UNGA 2C, also enjoyed our live event: “Even with all adversities imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, FAMUN staff was impeccable on their organization and dedication, especially at the Social Event, which had great music and even choreography! You guys rocked!”.

Thank you note!

By: Maria Eduarda Cazula and Julia Green

It has been our honor and privilege to work with this amazing team of Global Communication Officers (GCOs). For our journalists and photographers, thank you for being so patient, dedicated, and hardworking. The idea of promoting change and making a difference with this team was incredible as we have spread the word about shaping our future together.

We worked so hard to make this the best press that FAMUN has ever seen and we couldn't be prouder of how you have given the best of you to achieve this goal. Working with our GCOs has made FAMUN even more amazing! We know that this online setting is very challenging but all of you mastered and handled it! We hope that this Conference has enlightened you that **WE ARE THE CHANGE!**

Let's keep using our voices to make a positive change in the world. Let's keep sharing memorable moments and good solutions to bring joy to this challengeable time. You all have bright futures ahead of you.

Virtual hugs,

Maria Eduarda and Julia!

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Vivian Morii, representing the Mexican Employers in the ILO



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