



FAMUN 2021
FACAMP MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NEWSLETTER

6 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Challenge accepted! (again)

Let's rise for the rights of refugee women and girls

By Carlos Augusto Barros



Leticia Fernandes (UNHCR Brazil)



Luana Galdino (Red Cross Brazil)

Once again, FAMUN embraced the call to participate in the MUN Refugee Challenge, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)! The initiative seeks to raise awareness among students about the situation of refugees and other people forced to flee their homes, aiming to promote their social and economical inclusion. In 2020, FAMUN received an honorable mention for the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution on human rights and climate change. The resolution was chosen by an official jury and the best ideas were shared with policymakers and promoted on UNHCR's social media.

This year, FAMUN joins the Challenge with both High School and University HRC, with the topic "Promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations". Humanitarian crises can impact women's and girls' lives and accentuate existing inequalities and discriminatory structures. Moreover, in emergencies and disasters, women and girls are threatened by gender-based violence. Data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs show that, in zones of armed conflict, 90% of girls are out of school and 70% of women in places of humanitarian crisis are more likely to suffer gender-based violence.

In order to raise awareness of this topic, FAMUN promoted initiatives on its official Instagram page, by sharing videos of amazing refugees' stories and presenting the work of civil society organizations such as the Center of Immigrant

and Refugee Women (CEMIR), which supports refugee and immigrant women and girls in achieving their full potential and leadership.

FAMUN also brought two experts to address the protection of women and girls in humanitarian situations: Ms. Luana Galdino, National Coordinator for Protection, Gender and Inclusion of the Red Cross (Brazil); and Ms. Leticia Fernandes, Senior Protection Assistant at the UNHCR Office in Boa Vista. During the HRC Interactive Dialogue, Ms. Galdino discussed how the effects of humanitarian crises are not neutral in terms of gender and exemplified it by a study carried out in the late 1970s, after a hurricane in Bangladesh, showing that cultural factors were the main causes of the massive number of deaths of women and girls. Ms. Fernandes explained the steps of humanitarian assistance in the field and, when asked about how NGOs can act together with States in promoting human rights of women and girls, she replied: "Our role is not to replace the services that already exist and that are working, perhaps not correctly, but strengthening them and responding together until the responses are delivered autonomously. Our role is to strengthen the structures that the country can provide".

The specialists highlighted the urgency of the debate about gender-based violence, especially in humanitarian emergencies, and the effort to foster women's and girls' leadership, making them agents of change, and thus, succeed in promoting and protecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights.

Highlights from the General Assembly

UNGA 1

By Carlos Augusto M. Barros

The matter of international cooperation, especially the role of developed countries in assisting developing countries in the transition to a cleaner energy system, was widely discussed within the Western European political group. Meanwhile, in the G77+China, the delegate of Kenya highlighted that countries contribute differently to climate change, depending on their socioeconomic realities and energy system. In the same token, the delegate of Afghanistan, as a member of the Least Developed Countries group, stated that since industrialized countries pollute the most, they should lead the transition to clean energy. When discussing this issue with the whole committee, Member States agreed that every country should assume the responsibility towards energy transition to cleaner resources and the reduction of fossil fuels. The US suggested atomic energy as an option to enhance energy access in the least developed countries and encouraged investments in programs to implement clean and low-cost nuclear power plants. The idea was supported by Japan, which affirmed that technology is the key to achieve a sustainable energy system. However, the US proposal was controversial, since several delegations argued that this measure aims at satisfying unilateral interests. After a long discussion, delegates reached a consensus on the importance of multilateralism, considering the current goal of making sustainable energy accessible to all. Regarding this, the Second Committee discussed other initiatives and programs besides the one from the US.

UNGA 2

By Victor Pamplona

Sao Tome and Principe and the Solomon Islands highlighted the human rights aspect of energy access as a topic to be discussed. With this in mind, Nepal supported the necessity of raising the share of renewable energy in national energy sectors as a short-term goal. This contrasted with the point made by the delegate of United Arab Emirates, who recognized the urgency of the climate crisis, but advocated for the transition from non-renewable sources to renewable ones in the middle to the long term. Argentina defended energy integration among countries that have diversified renewable resources, both regionally and in South America, in order to meet their different energy needs through cooperation. Mexico suggested the role of private companies in applying technologies capable of raising the energy efficiency rates in places where there is a lack of energy access. Ukraine highlighted that he considers private companies as important stakeholders, especially regarding job creation. When discussing with the whole committee, Australia was disappointed by the lack of European support for its proposal of deregulating the energy sector, withdrawing its amendment on the matter due to pressure from the Least Developed Countries. Ultimately, Russia has recalled the lack of sustainable energy on its territory and proposed international surveillance of its nuclear power plants to promote security. Even though there have been divergences on matters such as which sources are really clean and safe, the General Assembly seems to be moving towards a consensual resolution.



Lucas Mendonça, delegate of Kenya



João Oliveira, delegate of Mexico

Highlights from the Human Rights Council

HRC – High School

By Carlos Augusto M. Barros

The debates of the preambular paragraphs were lively, especially the mention of natural disasters as a factor that enhances gender inequality. The delegate of Eritrea defended the removal of this mention, stating that men and women are equally affected. On the contrary, the African group, with the support of the Council Members, were vehemently against this position. Cuba strove for the endorsement of all States in the fight against child labor and human trafficking and in fostering education to increase the participation of women in leadership positions. Council Members seemed to agree with Cuba and they discussed the difficulty of combating child labor in extraction and mining sites. They also reached a consensus on encouraging sex education as a means of preventing sexual and gender-based violence, a proposal made by Côte d'Ivoire. Gabon emphasized the importance of inserting a socioeconomic perspective into a more inclusive humanitarian approach when dealing with women and girls in emergencies. The Council also fiercely debated an amendment for an operative paragraph proposed by France, which advocated for the creation of temporary residence for refugee girls and women who are financially dependent on abusive partners. The delegate suggested to provide this temporary residence through a partnership between international, non-governmental, and national organizations, but the measure was classified by least developed countries in humanitarian situations as utopic. The amendment is under discussion until this moment.

HRC – University

By Carlos Augusto M. Barros

In the informal consultations, Bolivia proposed that States should provide quality sexual education for girls and women to learn about contraceptive methods and communicable diseases, foreseeing the promotion of the well-being of refugee women and girls. The theme was also addressed by Cuba, which emphasized the importance of developing sex education for both boys and girls to promote awareness and prevent gender-based violence. Accordingly, Cuba also reinforced the need of sex education mechanisms in all countries to prevent sex tourism in peripheral countries and highlighted the problem of female genital mutilation. Marshall Islands proposed an amendment that covers victims of nuclear accidents caused by armed conflicts, which affects the health of women and girls and causes complications in their reproductive system. The topic was widely discussed by the Council and it was considered of high relevance to mention the damage caused by human actions, including the harm caused by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The Council called for all States to provide physical and psychological assistance to refugee women and girls, as well as treatment for sexually transmitted diseases in refugee camps. Finally, the discussion underscored the importance of cooperation between Member States in providing financial assistance for women and girls in humanitarian situations, and fostering their role in leadership positions. They stressed the importance of seeking resources to supply the needs of women and girls in humanitarian situations.



Iolanda Villela, delegate of Gabon



Maria Eduarda Arruda, delegate of Bolivia

Flashes from Rise and Shine



Bianca Remédio Alecrim rising and shining



Leonardo Barbutti embracing yourself as you are

Coming up next...



TUESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

High School

- 09:00 – 10:30 | Session 6
- 10:30 – 13:30 | Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 14:30 | Session 7
- 14:30 – 15:30 | Break
- 15:30 – 16:30 | General Assembly Closing Plenary (live on YouTube)
- 16:30 – 17:45 | Closing Ceremony (live on YouTube)

University

- 11:00 – 12:30 | Session 6
- 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 14:30 | Session 7
- 14:30 – 15:30 | Break
- 15:30 – 16:30 | General Assembly Closing Plenary (live on YouTube)
- 16:30 – 17:45 | Closing Ceremony (live on YouTube)

Sing with FAMUN!



GET IN THE MOOD OF THE HRC WITH OUR SPECIAL PLAYLIST!

Girls just wanna have fun

Cyndi Lauper

Run the world

Beyoncé

Power

Little Mix

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Aretha

Speechless

Naomi Scott

No Scrubs

TLC

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