



NEWSLETTER
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FAMUN Global Forum: Youth initiatives for change

Young delegates promote solutions to foster social and environmental justice!

By Bianca Porcari and Gabriel Demuner



Photographer: Luis Sima

Gabriela Cardoso and Isabelle Moraes, members of the Harmony with Nature study group at FAMUN 2022 Global Forum

Parallel to the official discussions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92), hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), social movements, scientists, activists, and young people gathered at the Global Forum, also in Rio de Janeiro. The event was as impactful as Rio-92. It revealed that civil society had a crucial role in multilateralism, as their demands pressured State representatives and negotiations about “Our common future”. Considering this, FAMUN 2022 organized its own Global Forum to gather young-led initiatives fighting for social and environmental justice to raise awareness among participants and also agitate negotiations in Rio-92 historical simulations.

One of the initiatives at the Forum was “Jovens do Brasil” in which young students work with high-level executives to promote a youth perspective on the social responsibility of enterprises. According to Laura Gottschall, Leader of Transformative Education: “For young people to be successful, they must unite forces with other generations”. In her perspective, the initiative works to change structural barriers and break stereotypes about young people’s role in leading decision-making processes. She also highlighted that young people could open opportunities for younger generations.

The CERI-FACAMP “Harmony with Nature” study group members were also at the Forum. Isabelle Moraes and

Gabriela Cardoso instigated participants to present a non-traditional vision to consider environmental issues: “What if we start thinking about Nature as a rights-bearing partner instead of mere resources?”. They emphasized that youth can lead this transformation of perspective by talking to each other and raising awareness to motivate concrete actions, changing how we think about and treat Nature and the economy. Also, they announced that recently the United Nations Programme about Harmony with Nature invited group members to work as research volunteers.

Jéssica Golfeto, the Coordinator of the National Community of ClimateScience was also present at the event. Ms. Golfeto found her drive for climate action through a network during the pandemic. She was surprised that only a few people were leading solutions for current climate problems, which bothered her. Now she coordinates initiatives from all over Brazil, promoting debates and actions towards the role of science in fighting against climate change. For her, youth should talk more about participating in these causes: “We [young people] do not know if our friends are engaging in social or environmental causes because we have not talked about it yet”.

Leading solutions, driving for change, and surpassing barriers. At the FAMUN 2022 Global Forum, youth initiatives shared experiences and showed participants that acting now is not only an option, but a duty for our generation.

Highlights from Committees and Councils

High School General Assembly 1

By Maria Eduarda Hepfener

The matter of international cooperation, especially the role of countries in assisting stateless persons, was widely discussed inside the political groups. Debating the preamble, the UK said: "It is important to highlight that statelessness is also caused by a lack of information, it is necessary to create public policies that put these people in the spotlight". Looking forward to concrete measures, South Africa proposed an amendment on the operative paragraphs that calls upon all States present to be committed to the full registration of newborns in their countries as a crucial way for them to have access to fundamental rights. Argentina asked for the exclusion of this paragraph, affirming that it will not help and resolve the situation of stateless persons, proposing to discuss an alternative writing. However, the majority of countries were not willing to change their national laws, maintaining the concession of nationality through parenthood. We are watching the persistence of Member States not taking the responsibility to promote and protect the rights of children, who will live with the consequences of being stateless for the rest of their lives. Why are States committed to their own interests instead of doing their job of protecting the rights of children?

High School Security Council 1

By Ana Júlia Ansoni

During the stakeout, the DRC delegation demonstrated discontent with the extreme focus of the Council in Ukraine and the lack of discussion about African countries. On that same note, the Palestinian delegation declared "we are humans too and we are not going to be excluded again", stressing the importance of looking beyond the Ukrainian conflict and into the regions of Africa and the Middle East. However, the French delegation, when asked about vaccinating forced displaced people, stated that they would let refugees, who go to France from these same regions, stand-alone. In the discussion of the amendments, it was expected that China would agree to public-private partnerships, since the country's most important partnership was formed with a private company of open capital that is responsible for a great portion of the COVID-19 vaccine's production worldwide. This movement happened not only in China but in a series of other countries and was absolutely essential to the quickness of vaccine production and incentive for private producers. However, the Chinese delegation was against the amendment encouraging public-private partnerships. Considering this, the question to be asked is: Would we be at this stage of vaccination without public-private partnerships?

High School Youth Council 1

By Ana Flávia Miranda

Continuing the debate on climate change in sessions 4 and 5, the AJED delegate proposed an amendment that highlighted the importance of climate education in schools in order to raise awareness on the topic among young people worldwide. Nevertheless, the Youth Council delegates were really engaged in demanding through international law that States reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to protect biodiversity. They were also focused on writing a resolution acknowledging the serious damage that the fossil fuel industry has caused - and still causes - both to the environment and to humanity, with the YUVA delegation standing out as an advocate of the amendments proposed by the delegations of CYCAN and WRI on this matter. However, it was noticed that only a handful of delegates participated actively in the debates. This really jeopardizes the negotiations, as the views and demands from different NGOs are necessary to include the youth in the urgent fight against climate change. We ask you: Have you forgotten about your role as youth on this Council? Where are the youth voices advocating against climate change? Are Asian, African, Latin America and European and others youth-led NGOs' views and demands homogeneous? Answers are still to be heard.

Highlights from Committees and Councils

High School Rio-92

By Paula Almeida

When proposing amendments, the SIDS and G-77 were in full swing for recognizing the socioeconomic condition and different capacities of each State to apply the principles of sustainable development. The EEC turnout was unimpressive, making one wonder if they are taking the Conference and the future of humankind seriously. The Global Forum took place simultaneously to the Rio-92 sessions, where the civil society manifested their worries about the State's lack of practical actions regarding environmental protection. An unexpected protest burst into the Main Committee at the end of session 4. Protesters reminded delegates that social issues could not be left aside while discussing the environment: "The environment does not come before people". After that, the SIDS kept up the pressure and reiterated the relationship of native peoples with the environment and the need to reduce the use of pollutants in agriculture. The group also asked for technology transfer for research on energy transition. The G-77, however, raised concerns about foreign companies' presence in their territories, alleging they are "the reason for our underdevelopment". The political group also established as a priority for them the renegotiation of their external debt and the maintenance of the global food chain by reducing pollution.

University Youth Council

By Helena Bridi

Delegates with opposing interests agreed too easily about the proposed amendments, and we did not hear much from GAYO and ONG350. What is their silence saying? Representatives finally brought up sustainable development for debate addressing the energy transition from a fossil-based to a zero-carbon matrix. But NGOs did not propose concrete measures to change production patterns. IYNC recalled the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and emphasized SDGs 2 and 4 as urgent matters for youth. AYCC proposed an amendment about education and said it is vital to engage young people in actions against climate change. Diversity was also a topic addressed in the discussions. Delegates agreed that youth is a diverse group that includes women, indigenous, peripheral, and queer people. Financial matters did not have much space in the debate but international inequality was a central concern of the delegates. Engajamundo said NGOs should make regional alliances to strengthen the frontline to fight against climate change. The delegates proposed that States should have their environmental goals monitored, but delegates did not consider that NGOs could do this job. Even though it is a recommendatory council, representatives are doing well debating ideas and proposals for the United Nations.

Photographer: Gisele Bertinato



The delegate of YUVA during the UNYC 1 amendments negotiations

Photographer: Gisele Bertinato



Delegates during the UNYC 2 debate on the amendments

Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti



The delegate of IYCN at the University Youth Council

Flashes from the campus



Photographer: Luis Sima

The people demanded social and environmental justice from the Rio-92 negotiators as they invaded the conference



Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti

FAMUN 2022 Faculty Advisors, an always engaged and inspiring team

Coming up next...



Monday, 5 September 2022

High School and University

- 09:00 – 10:30 | Session 6
- 10:30 – 11:00 | Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 | Session 7
- 12:30 – 15:00 | Lunch break
- 15:00 – 16:00 | Closing Plenary (live on YouTube)
- 16:00 – 17:30 | Closing Ceremony (live on YouTube)

Voices of Youth




"We, as youth, cannot be afraid of trying and cannot be afraid of making mistakes. Everybody will make mistakes in adult life, so we need to try now. But going past the frustration and the unexpected problems, we can see how


great the results of our efforts are and how much we grow as a person. We learn not just how to deal with different situations, but also how to deal and take care of people. Becoming a leader requires hard work and dedication, but it is gratifying."

by Bruna Zanin, USG for Management, and Giovanni Benegas, ASG for Management

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