



# NEWSLETTER

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# The right to belong

The importance of raising awareness on the rights of stateless persons

By Maria Eduarda Hefener and Gabriel Vieira



Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti

UNGA 1 making sure the resolution has innovative measures to end statelessness

We are sure that you never leave your house without your ID and that you always use it to confirm your identity. This happens in simple situations, such as when visiting a friend's apartment, or in big ones, such as traveling or registering for a conference - just like you did with FAMUN 2022. We also have a nationality, which means that we have the right to belong somewhere and entitled to human rights. This may seem obvious to us, who can use our ID to be integrated in national educational and health systems, but for approximately 10 million stateless persons, the right to belong and have rights is a lifelong battle.

The United Nations (UN) defines a stateless person as someone who is not recognized as a national by any State jurisdiction. Therefore, they do not have a nationality and do not have access to other rights, such as education. That is why the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have been working with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, launched in 2014 in order to eradicate statelessness within 10 years by identifying and providing protection for stateless persons. The I Belong campaign, also launched in 2014, counts with the collaboration between States and civil society. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize

that a nationality is a human right and that it can only be granted by a State. But, the role of civil society is essential in raising awareness and in pressuring political leaders to ensure that everyone has an ID and becomes a citizen.

Therefore, we invite you to join us in the mission of eradicating statelessness: FAMUN is once again part of the UNHRC's MUN Refugee Challenge, with two UNGA simulations on the theme. Rebeca Camargo, Chair of the UNGA 1, stated that it is our duty as youth to clamor governments to ensure everyone who lives in their territory is entitled to a civil registration. Bianca Porcari, USG for Global Communications, declared that it is essential to inform people and promote this cause. For this, she was proud of researching the topic and creating informative posts on social networks to raise awareness.

Ms. Camargo and Ms. Porcari were specially inspired by the story of Maha Mamo, who was born in Libano without legal recognition and, after 30 years of resisting as a stateless person, is now a Brazilian citizen and an activist for the I Belong campaign. Ms. Porcari hopes the example of Ms. Mamo inspires FAMUN delegates to suggest innovative actions to end statelessness.

# Highlights from Committees and Councils

## High School Security Council 2

*By Melissa Silva*

During the stakeout, the press corps pushed delegates for an immediate response on the issue. The US delegation did not uphold its traditional position in the Council, agreeing with patent waivers and technology transfer to produce vaccines in conflict zones. Kenya included some of the issues raised by the international press in the resolution, such as the creation of humanitarian corridors and peace zones on the borders of conflict areas. During the Formal Meeting, the UAE delegate thanked the permanent members for prioritizing Africa and the Middle East in the resolution. The resolution was adopted with 14 votes in favor and only 1 abstention, and the Council “requested the formation of the Covid-19 Immunization in Armed Conflict Countries Assembly (CIACCA) to specifically address vaccination in areas affected by conflicts”. Despite the adoption of the resolution, the delegates from Brazil and Russia made reservations in their statements. More specifically, Russia appreciated the exclusion of the ceasefire term in various parts of the resolution. But one question remains: After all negotiations, will the Member States, especially the five permanent countries, comply with the resolution and concretely reduce the vaccination gap in conflict areas?

## High School Youth Council 2

*By Helena Bridi*

Only in operative paragraphs delegates start debating the youth’s demands and problems, and yet, the final resolution did not have a clear paragraph about economic asymmetries and how it affects young people. Although there were amendments about diversity among youth, there were few discussions about gender and the role of indigenous and marginalized groups. The final resolution cited the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The CliMates delegation urged for a change in consumption and production patterns by countries, companies and society, but the NGO did not specify any solution on that matter. Even though delegates did not address or question sustainable development and green capitalism, they recognized the rights of Nature, the importance of environmental education and the need for public policy to make substantial changes, which are important topics for youth to keep track of. The Youth Council was able to reach consensus and, in the end, all delegates sponsored the final resolution. During the press statements, the representative of WRI Mexico reinforced the importance of NGOs: “High-income countries value economic development in detriment to environmental development. NGOs fight in political and social fronts so that these demands are heard”.

## University Rio-92

*By Paula Almeida*

SIDS and G-77 blamed multinational companies for pollution, and the EEC reacted and blamed developing countries for not having national policies to deal with environmental degradation. In response, the SIDS questioned developed countries if “shared responsibilities” are not essential for sustainable development. The debate escalated when the US affirmed that unbridled consumption is crucial for their economic activity, which is essential for promoting sustainable actions. Haiti protested, and so did the civil society that stormed into the session urging for social and environmental justice. Protesters sat on the floor and refused to leave the room. Haiti provoked the US, saying: “be well aware of what the people are asking for”. The role of civil society also gained attention: Vanuatu stressed the role of indigenous groups in preserving the environment, while Sweden emphasized women, youth, and children as agents in combating environmental problems. The Marshall Islands called attention to the effects of wars and nuclear weapons on nature. The Committee adopted the Declaration by consensus. The US and Cabo Verde did not sponsor the document. While the first alleged that the document affects their consumption patterns, the latter stated that environmental issues were not fully perceived in the Declaration.

# Highlights from Committees and Councils

## University Security Council

By Ana Júlia Ansoni

In the 4th and 5th sessions, France reaffirmed the importance of a global ceasefire in order to establish humanitarian corridors in all areas of conflict to deliver COVID-19 vaccines, to which the Russian delegation disagreed, since it would take too long to establish a ceasefire and vaccination should be done as soon as possible. We all know this was not the real cause of the disagreement, but the other Member States accepted the Russian change of wording to “safe zones” instead of “ceasefire”. The delegation of Kenya questioned if the Russian delegation had pretensions of invading another European country since they were so uncompromising with a ceasefire. Notwithstanding, during the 6th session, the Secretary-General, Larissa Lyria, announced a humanitarian crisis in Pakistan due to the recent floods in the country and asked all Council members for a press statement to inform the media on the situation. In the press statement, the president of the Security Council announced that the Council views climate change as a threat to international peace and security, with the potential to increase violence and trigger political crises. Then, the UNSC adopted the resolution and pledged to remain seized of the matter, with 7 votes in favor, 0 votes against and 3 abstentions.

## High School General Assembly 2

By Gabriel Vieira

Based on the UNHCR guidelines, Portugal proposed an amendment that advised States to have an efficient system of identifying stateless persons in their territory, but did not specify it more. South Africa also recommended that States should grant nationality according to the place of birth, since the absence of this principle in national legislation is one of the main causes of statelessness. Germany and Cuba highlighted the importance of creating a temporary document that ensures that stateless persons are recognized as legal residents while the legal procedures of naturalization are not finished - a proposal that was included in the resolution. But one amendment, proposed by Mexico, suggested that stateless women should marry male national citizens to gain nationality. This amendment was clearly based on gender discrimination and caused dissension in the committee: Why should the right to a nationality be conceded through a misogynistic law? Nationality should not be hitched to marriage and rights should not depend on marital status as if women were commodities. It is a shame that not a single country opposed this proposition. However, after approving the resolution by consensus and talking to the press, the delegates seemed to be pretty satisfied with the decisions taken.



Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti

The delegate of South Africa at the UNGA 1 discussions



Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti

UNGA 2 delegates negotiating the resolution

# Flashes from the campus

Photographer: Gisele Bertinato



The Global Communications Team showed how the media coverage matters for international affairs



Photographer: Gisele Bertinato

The Conference Management Officers ran a marathon everyday to make the conference run smoothly

## Thank You Note

*By Bianca Porcari and Gabriel Demuner*

What's up, FAMUNERS? Bibi and Gab here, speaking directly from our media center! Keeping memories goes far beyond our ability to memorizing everything in our heads: It can also be about transforming remarkable facts into eternity through photography and writing, which we definitely consider as forms of art! That is why our Global Communications Officers (GCOs) team was essential during FAMUN 2022: We were able to immortalize this conference in the Newsletters and on social media thanks to the hard work and sensitivity of all of you, who were always listening and looking actively at everyone. As leaders of the Global Communications Department, we could not be more proud of your efforts, as we know that FAMUN in a face-to-face format is even more challenging, and you all have masterfully performed this difficult task of running up and down to register the best moments for us. We also thank all delegates who were insightful in discussing topics of extreme importance for international

affairs! Each one of the FAMUN 2022 participants will be etched in our memories for their dedication to making this conference the best ever! We hope you will continue to cherish consensus and fight for a fairer world.

See you all soon!  
XOXO, Bibi and Gab



Global Fusion – oil on canvas

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