



# NEWSLETTER

3 September 2022



# Nobody is safe until everyone is vaccinated

FAMUN is back in-person and we thank vaccines for that!

By Ana Júlia Ansoni and Helena Bridi



Photographer: Chris Alves

Immunized delegates on campus with their vaccination certificate

Two years after the spread of coronavirus, there are still concerns regarding the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to some regions, especially those in conflict. As stated by Aruã Penteadó, delegate of France in UNSC 1, we are very lucky to have access to vaccines because many other countries still do not have the chance to promote immunization to all. According to Fernando Reis, Epidemiology Activity Manager of “Médecins sans frontières” (MSF), low-income countries and countries in conflict situations had a vaccination rate of only 16,9% of their population by August 2022, while high-income countries reached an average of 73% of their people.

Humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross and MSF, play an essential role in reducing this gap and guaranteeing fair vaccination access against COVID-19. These organizations not only distribute vaccines to countries that cannot afford them but also advocate for reasonable prices in acquiring them, questioning patents and monopolies. Understanding the role of these organizations is fundamental for the decision-makers to establish agreements on the matter and stimulate vaccination equity for all regions.

We cannot forget that civil society also has its role in guaranteeing that everyone is immunized. We should demand and insist on vaccination equity from our political leaders and private companies. In addition, we need to be active

in raising awareness about the importance of vaccines to prevent diseases and stopping the spread of fake news about vaccination. According to Fernando Reis, informing reliable data and talking to people that resist taking additional doses can be very effective. If people trust in vaccines, it can help reduce the number of deaths from COVID-19.

Being able to be vaccinated is a human right, and it is essential to return to social events safely as we did in FAMUN. One advantage of online simulations was meeting people that live far from our cities (or countries). However, it is easier to make new friends when simulating in person, which makes Model UN more exciting! For the Faculty Advisor Priscila Ruella, from Colégio Sete de Setembro-COC Poços de Caldas, being at the campus is much more of an experience for the students.

Therefore, we invite delegates and readers to reflect on the importance of vaccination and its equity. It's time to speak up to authorities and pressure governments to provide vaccines, health professionals, and logistics tools to guarantee immunization for all. In this sense, vaccines open doors to new possibilities, and the additional doses make a safer environment for academic and social events. But it is important to remember that, besides being vaccinated, we must keep wearing masks and following the COVID-19 protocols. Let's all wrap up our conference safely!

# Highlights from Committees and Councils

## High School General Assembly 2

*By Gabriel Vieira*

Countries from the Global South enriched the discussions during the General Debate. Haiti, for example, highlighted the importance of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, which states that no child should be born stateless, and the UNHCR's I Belong campaign. In addition, the Democratic Republic of Congo recognized that children are the protagonists of the future, so they deserve a rightful life. The problem is when the country's speech is not aligned with its actions. How can Lebanon defend the rights of stateless persons if its laws determine that only the father can grant Lebanese nationality to his children? Delegates must remember that gender discrimination is one of the main reasons for statelessness! In the same way, the United States (US) representative claimed the rights of more than 6 million stateless children, which is a bit hypocritical since the US still has not signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)! In addition, Myanmar, which does not recognize the right to nationality to the Rohingya population, proposed an amendment emphasizing SDG 16 and its target 16.9 about granting legal documents for everyone! Surprisingly, the country was having a hard time promoting this change in the resolution as the Assembly resisted adopting this amendment.

## University Rio-92

*By Paula Almeida*

A spirit of cooperation marked the General Debate. Inaugurating a new moment in its history (and ours), Russia declared that money once invested in weapons should now be destined to fund environmental projects. Delegates stated that economic prosperity and poverty eradication are the same as sustainable development. Curiously, developed countries did not react to this statement. Therefore, equal development conditions and investments to alleviate poverty were emphasized by Jamaica and Pakistan, respectively, and came to the fore in the discussions. During session 2, SIDS and G-77 were frenetic but EEC and others were not, so they assumed a passive position during the debate in session 3. The United States and Sweden recalled former actions taken by the United Nations, such as the 1972 Conference and the 1987 Brundtland Report. Suriname and Malaysia were keen on pointing out that developed countries have a historical responsibility towards environmental degradation and that sustainable development must not limit their right to development. In turn, the small islands manifested their worries about the residual disposal and the current consumption and production patterns. Haiti had an active role in guaranteeing that environmental protection stayed in focus in the negotiations.

## High School Youth Council 2

*By Helena Bridi*

CAN started the General Debate by making a bold statement: "When will greed stop ruling men's actions? Our actions transform the world, but it is naive to think that we will change the world alone". Meanwhile, AYICC noted that it is paramount to include youth-led actions against climate change in the Youth Council resolution, since little was said about the role of young people on this topic. Meanwhile, Mapas, in the Latin America regional group, defended the urgency to pressure developed countries to reduce the emissions of CO2. Curiously, AAS advocated for a less aggressive recommendation on this topic - which was not consensual, as climate change needs to be tackled with bold initiatives right now. Moving to the Asia-Pacific group, DEW brought to the attention the role of corporations to mitigate climate change, suggesting that "green" companies should receive tax incentives for their sustainable actions. Does youth believe that Green Capitalism is the solution for climate change? In the European and others group, CJA encouraged countries to resume commitment to the Paris Agreement. Finally, in the African group, representatives seemed to be lost as they suggested erasing the operative paragraph concerning intergenerational inequality in climate change debates from the draft resolution.

# Highlights from Committees and Councils

## High School Security Council 2

*By Melissa Silva*

In the Open Debate, Council members recognized that vaccines and medical equipment are distributed unequally among countries, which affects international peace and security. Delegates used different languages to approach the issue. Ireland provided simultaneous translation in sign language. Russia opened its speech in Russian and Mexico opened in Spanish. In the informal consultations, Kenya proposed the creation of safe places in conflict areas to guarantee the security of health workers and the population to deliver COVID-19 vaccines. Russia defended safe zones within the borders of Ukraine, instead of stopping the conflict in the country. But the UAE criticized how the international community has prioritized helping Ukraine over Palestine. After discussing the distribution, Russia stated that vaccine production was the central issue, defending the lift of COVID-19 vaccine patents. However, the US was against patent infringement. China proposed that Member States transfer their technologies to developing countries to improve the location of vaccine production. Despite these proposals, Palestine and the DRC, both observers, are more committed to the issue than Council members. Do non-Council members care more about vaccine equity in conflict zones than its members? And will the permanent members accept China's proposal?

## University Security Council

*By Ana Júlia Ansoni*

In the Open Debate, France, the President of the Security Council, emphasized the importance of donating COVID-19 vaccines to countries affected by conflict. The country has donated 40.5 million doses so far, and its first priority is to foster international cooperation on the issue. However, Gabon denounced how countries such as the US have disposed of expired COVID-19 vaccines and pleaded for vaccine donations within the expiration date. In the stakeout, the delegate of Ghana denounced that more attention was given to Ukraine than to Africa, which is the continent with the lowest vaccination rates. One measure to increase vaccine access is patent waivers. However, the US delegate denied her willingness to make vaccine's waivers more flexible. It was expected that Brazil would present itself as a mediator of the debate. Surprisingly, the Brazilian delegate said, "sorry, but I have more things to do now", not showing interest in answering more questions from the press corps. Meanwhile, Palestine - as an observer - stated that they would hold the five permanent members accountable for their lack of actions in ensuring COVID-19 vaccines to countries affected by conflict. Palestine said it would fight for both its interest and the interest of other countries in situations of conflict.

Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti



Delegate of Mexico choosing a journalist to make questions at the Security Council 1 stakeout

Photographer: Chris Alves



Delegates of Security Council 2 negotiating

Photographer: Gisele Bertinato



The President of the University Security Council during her statement for the press

# Flashes from the campus

Photographer: Chris Alves



The High School delegates made their voices heard with That '90s Show karaoke



Photographer: Gisele Bertinato

The University delegates dazzled us while singing in the sunset at That '90s Show karaoke

## Coming up next...



Sunday, 4 September 2022

### High School

- 08:30 – 09:00 | Head Delegate's Meeting
- 09:00 – 10:30 | Session 4
- 09:00 – 10:30 | Faculty Advisors' Meeting
- 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 | Session 5
- 10:30 – 16:00 | FAMUN Global Forum

### University

- 13:30 – 12:00 | Head Delegate's Meeting
- 14:00 – 15:30 | Session 4
- 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 17:30 | Session 5
- 10:30 – 16:00 | FAMUN Global Forum

## Voices of Youth

Photographer: Francesco Garbelotti



“Even though many people consider that the pandemic is already over, the COVID-19 pandemic is still a public health problem that deserves attention, not only from national leaders, but also from the entire international community.

Member States need to cooperate so that COVID-19 vaccines reach the places that they have not yet reached, so that people are protected against this virus. Only then can the pandemic end.”

*by Tallison Gomes, PGA, and Fernando Cavallari,  
Under-Secretary-General for DGACM*

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