Thank you for taking part in the Model United Nations. I appreciate your commitment to our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Our world today enjoys remarkable opportunities to advance common progress. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our blueprint for dignity, prosperity and a healthy planet.

But “we the peoples” also face many complex challenges. Armed conflicts have deepened. Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War. Climate change is moving faster than we are. Inequality and nationalism are on the rise, while trust and solidarity are on the decline.

These problems and challenges are increasingly global – and increasingly grave.

We need less hatred, more dialogue and deeper international cooperation. Multilateralism is more important than ever. Empowering the world’s young people is also an imperative.

We must do more to enable young people to shape the decisions affecting their lives. Your potential is the world’s potential. As you stand up for our shared values, the United Nations stands with you.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful Model United Nations Conference.

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General
Dear WIMUN 2018 Participants,

It is my great honor to welcome you all to the 4th WFUNA International Model UN Conference 2018. This conference is a remarkable opportunity for all of you to interact with fellow delegates from across the world and reach consensus on some of the most pressing issues plaguing our contemporary society. The General Assembly brings the unique dynamic of collective decision making that carries a responsibility to have careful consideration for the ideas of your fellow delegates.

I’ve been passionate about Model UN as an enabler and very sincerely believe that leaders of tomorrow cannot change the world unless they see the world around them. WIMUN provides this unique platform and opportunity to not just learn from experiences of fellow delegates but at the same time make meaningful contributions towards ideas for bringing sustainable change while following the UN’s approach.

Our theme for this year’s conference, ‘Sustaining Peace’, should be always kept in mind during our discussion and deliberation in committee and active efforts should be made to correlate the committee agenda and the conference theme.

This opportunity, being here in New York, attending a session at the UN Headquarters is a privilege that should be judiciously used to make positive impact to the world around you. We should share the responsibility on behalf of our generation who we represent as part of this conference and canvas the world we want the next generation to inherit.

I wish you all the very best for the endeavors you undertake and hope that you go back home with memories to cherish for times to come.

Yours faithfully,

Nikhil Goyal
President of the General Assembly
WIMUN 2018
A New Generation For Innovative Solutions

One thousand high school and university students, from 44 countries, representing 117 member states. Thursday, February 8, a whole generation gathered in the United Nations Headquarters for the Opening Ceremony of WIMUN 2018. All of them with a goal in mind; sustaining peace. Here to help, distinguished speakers came to provide guidance, hopeful in this generation’s capabilities.

CMO’s ushered last minute delegates to their seats, papers quickly handed out. The atmosphere buzzing as the excitement builds up. Finally, Angela Hou. The WIMUN 2018 Secretary-General’s words fill the United Nations headquarters;

“On behalf of the WIMUN 2018 Secretariat, Best Delegate, and WFUNA, we thank you for joining us here today, and we can’t wait to see you immerse yourselves in this real UN experience.” -Angela

Sustaining peace through change

“You don’t need to be the secretary general to make an impact”, WFUNA’s Secretary-General, Bonian Golmohammadi, was the first guest speaker. The bittersweet, yet hopeful tone of his speech, reflected the current state of the world.

“When the UN was founded, it was with a vision to build a better world, a peaceful world, one in which we can cohabit in unity. Unfortunately, this goal has not been achieved in many ways. Syria, South Sudan and Yemen are faced with daily reports of people suffering, innocent civilians dying”. Hope, however, entered his speech when addressing his young audience directly.

“Through youth networks and over 100 UN associations, there are always ways to be engaged. You, WIMUN delegates, are embracing leadership among your peers already and I wish for you to stay involved”. His speech is a realist view on the problems, but also the solutions.

“We need to put a new lense on the issue of peace. Not just peace building, but sustaining peace”.

Sustaining peace through compromise

Sri Lankan representative of the Permanent Mission to the UN, Dr. Amirth Rohan Perera, was next. One of his main points was the importance of unity and compromise.

“As new delegates you will encounter the concept of consensus. You will also discover the process of taking time to listen and engage with different points of view and reach compromises. It’s a simple pillar of the UN”. For Dr Perera, actively engaging with conflicting viewpoints and trying to reach a consensus is critical to make peace and prosperity possible. To finish off his speech, the Sri Lankan representative quoted the current Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres;

“We need greater unity and courage, unity and courage to meet today’s most urgent needs, to ease the fears of the people we serve and set the world on track towards a better future.”

Sustaining peace through youth

Consul General of Denmark in New York, Anne Dorte Riggelsen, was the last of the Opening Ceremony keynote speaker. The Consul General focused her speech on engaging the young delegates in the room with humor.

“Delegates, I salute you. You are absolutely the best-looking delegates in this building”. After humor, followed advice. “In just a few years, many of you will play an important role in sustaining peace. That doesn’t mean you should wait to get involved. The UN created 17 goals about what we want the world to look like in the future. In order to do so, is it essential that youth are active participants.”

#WIMUN2018
Opening Plenary Continues Discussions on Peace

Led by the president of the General Assembly, the opening plenary kicked-off with a sharp reminder from Angela Min Yi Hou, Secretary-General of WIMUN 2018.

“Peace is not an exclusive arena for the elite and the powerful.”

Angela Min Yi Hou emphasized the neglectable importance of sustaining and redefining peace.

“By challenging the traditional view of peace, its definition has extended far beyond the realm of the warfare, ranging from the risk reduction to humanitarian aids to the empowerment of women.”

Global participation is the key.

Different from the Opening Ceremony, the Opening Plenary marks the beginning of the simulation of the UN committees.

After adopting the first report of the committee, the delegations of Laos, Egypt, Mexico, China, Afghanistan, Ecuador, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Estonia, Canada and Sri Lanka made statements on behalf of their respective nations regarding the sustaining of peace.

Emphasising the importance of national efforts, the delegate of Laos called on all parties to intervene and build up a better community in a secure and peaceful manner.

The delegate of Mexico also highlighted that global collaboration is the key to successful global peace.

"Whatever battle we have raging inside us, we always have a choice that makes us who we are, and we can always choose to do what’s right," Nikhil Goyal said. Goyal is WIMUN 2018’s President of the General Assembly.

He spoke about how every single simple step starts from our own decisions in daily life and how each choice shapes our behaviours, and we can always choose to be the right one.

Global communities are composed of each of the individuals in the world, and each of our decision affects our future. Now, the delegates are working in 13 committees to find ways of sustaining peace and answer an important question:

“What does the sustaining peace mean to you?”

“As youth, stand up for human rights, not only for yourself but also someone else.”

Kellie-Shandra Ognimba from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights gave a detailed elaboration regarding the committee topic promotion and protection of human rights on the second day of the conference.

Talking about the world programme for youth ranging from employment, hunger, poverty, health, environment, substance abuse, juvenile justice, leisure-time activities to education, she especially recommended delegates to ponder on issues such as migrant child and workers, and come up with possible resolutions, from a professional view.

Furthermore, she also points out that the juvenile and child issues should always be discussed and solved to the best interest of the youth.

At the same time, she also reminds the none of us should take human rights for granted. It takes hundreds, thousands of years to bring up the human rights mindsets and we should continuously fight for it, not just for ourselves but also the global citizens.

From a professional perspective, she urges the youth to engage with the global affairs instantly instead of waiting for the youth to "grow up". In concluding her presentation, Riggelsen emphasized her hope that this new generation will be the solution, rather than the challenge.

“Use these days to learn, challenge, voice your opinion and have fun. Once you travel home, do not leave your enthusiasm, take New York with you."
Delegates Work Toward Sustaining Peace

Understanding history for a better future

“Nobody has the monopoly over the truth in Syria”.
Shuhrat Sulaymanov from the UN department of political affairs, shared his knowledge on Syrian conflicts during the high school security council.

“Over the past seven years, life has evolved differently in various parts of Syria”. Comparing the country to a patchwork, Sulaymanov showed the different landscapes found in Syria. Beautiful sceneries of mountains, beaches and historical buildings blending in with ruins and traces of massive destruction.

“Behind those images, hide the people, said the Political Affairs officer. Who are the Syrians?” They are civilians, local armed groups, men and women leaders, religious leaders, the government.

To get estimates of death tolls or percentages of occupation, the UN has to rely primarily on open sources, media or activists. This lack of information is due to the conflicts making information hard to reach.

“Some countries like turkey or Qatar tried mediation with government and groups opposing in 2011, tried to find solutions locally, even monitoring the right to protest of the Syrian people”. Unsuccessfully, since violence started to overtake the ancient country. This speech with accents of history class, enlightened the delegates, making it easier for them to discuss and debate a situation they understand.

Engaging everyone to prevent disasters

Rocio diaz-agero roman, Associate Expert in the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, played the role of the delegate during the “GA3: disaster risk reduction: building more resilient societies”.

To the question “what can a country do for populations that are poor and therefore might be more likely to suffer disasters? She answered; “Being poor doesn’t mean being vulnerable. It comes from where they live, from the lack of awareness, or their marginalisation from society.”

One of the solution suggested? “Information. We need to engage civilians, foreign governments, businesses, transnational corporations - this is not about all countries finding solutions on their own, but countries acting in unity”.

Much like the idea of finding ways to sustain peace instead of just building it, seeking resources before disasters happen prevents long term chaos post-disaster.

Multilateral solutions for gender equality

Draft resolutions for the GA 4 about mobilising women and men for the protection of rights of women and girls are being submitted. At the heart of their program is a focus on education, health and sanitation, society and culture as well as politics and economic.

The delegates of this committee are trying to cover every aspects of gender disparity. Finding solutions for all of those angles is the only way for them to make a step towards equal human rights.
Different priorities for renewable energies

“10% of Norway’s GDP relies on petroleum exportation. However, since discovering wind and solar energy, we want to transition to a low carbon society”. For Norway in the High school GA 5, it’s all about balance. Balance between renewable energies and more polluting sources, while the changes are being put in place.

Singapore, has a more passionate speech. For them, promoting the benefits of new energy sources is critical for the future. “We want to prevent wars and conflicts, when the sources we are currently using come to an end”.

For other countries such as the UAE, Qatar, Libya or Israel, the main goal was the same: sustaining the economy and the environment through solar energy and building strong partnerships to advance their ideas.

Tajikistan’s ideas about empowering women and youth

Amidst a myriad of speeches about gender equality, Tajikistan’s ideas stood out.

“Those issues might concern women, but no concrete solution can be put in place without the engagement of men, especially in middle eastern and african countries”.

Starting early through education is the key to Tajikistan’s goals for women’s empowerment. “It is especially important that boys and girls are informed and aware of the gender disparities from an early age”.

It is also important that both genders follow the same curriculum to give them equal career opportunities. “It is crucial for countries in development like Tajikistan, because of the poor ways in which women are educated”.

What is the country expecting to achieve during the week of debate? “Specifically, a better integration and a better consensus between the member states, men and women making decisions together”.

Promoting social cohesion in multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies

Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN Anwarul Chowdhury began the Culture of Peace committee, University General Assembly #1, by emphasizing the role of youth participation.

“The United Nations needs more and more young people to consider themselves a global citizen,” Ambassador Chowdhury said. He spoke about his more than 45 years of experience working as a global citizen, including time as the Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United Nations.

He also discussed how problems without passports, such as HIV/AIDS, environmental disasters, terrorism and drugs, extend from country to country.

“All of these things need to be addressed in a collaborative way,” Chowdhury said as he encouraged the delegates to find solutions promoting equality and involving civil society.

The delegates in the Culture of Peace took that to heart as they chose four areas of focus. The first incorporates stakeholders into solutions, such as members of the youth, press and civil society.

The second protects marginalized and vulnerable groups such as sexual and gender-based minorities, children, indigenous peoples, refugees, and migrants.

The South American bloc plans on focusing on indigenous people’s rights in South America by making an inclusive resolution that embodies the culture of peace.

This ties into the committee’s third goal, which looks at education, peacekeeping, peace building, preventative diplomacy, reconciliation, environmental protection and media as potential solutions for implementation.

Finally, the committee wants to focus on addressing inequality and marginalization as a whole, by examining factors such as poverty, race, ethnicity, gender and religion.
Working to Bring Humanitarian and Development Together

The coherence in conflict committee, University General Assembly #2, moved to concentrate on three areas to find ways of furthering peace in the world.

First, they will discuss preventing conflict on the local and domestic levels. The delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis emphasized the importance of starting small. “Through conflict in certain parts of the world, we’ve seen displacement and crises caused around the world,” she said. “It causes a lack of resources.”

Once the local issues are addressed, the international delegates then hope to collaborate on funding schemes and partnerships to form a framework of cooperation.

The final area of discussion includes mitigating the overlapping roles of humanitarian and development efforts, as well as resilience building. The delegation from Suriname felt this is the most important section. “All of our actions are to alleviate the problems that we can control,” he said. “We need to make sure our future generations have the tools to solve conflicts.”

The goals outlined by the various delegations echoed Chunyaoyi’s teachings earlier in the day, where she spoke on collaboration and long-term projects.

“Our collaboration, in each respect, is principle,” said Yi, an officer with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. She finished with a lecture on sustainability.

“You need to look at the long-term impact on the country’s economy and social structure,” Yi said. “With this change in approach and thinking, you can work towards peace.”

Harmony with nature

For long, the importance of nature and its resources have been undermined.

Today, we are starting to realise the dramatic repercussions of overusing what nature has to offer.

As climate change is becoming more and more of an issue and natural disasters are occurring at a faster pace, the UN as well as young delegates are afraid for future generations.

Which is why the GA7 “Harmony with nature” is trying to find solutions to have a balanced relationship between our resources and the production and consumption flow.

For this, the different delegations are trying to give nature legal rights, to fight against environmental deterioration.

Building more effective and accountable institutions

The goal of WIMUN this year is to not only building peace, but sustaining it. With this idea in mind, GA8 wants to build strong institutions, not just in times of war, but in peaceful periods as well.

To establish such goal; the “people-centered approach”. By this, they mean engaging the different populations into building a more cohesive community, capable of delivering justice and public services.

In practice, a few challenges such as socio-economic or political constraints, unique to each country must be taken into account. From this week, delegates hope to find a way to overpass such challenges.
Agenda for tomorrow

Saturday, February 10, 2018

- 9:00am - 12:00pm  Committee/Council Session III (Grand Hyatt)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm  Lunch
- 1:30pm - 5:30pm  Committee/Council Session IV (Grand Hyatt)
- 3:00pm - 4:45pm  UNODC FA Workshop (Alvin)
- 4:45pm - 5:30pm  Faculty Advisor Meeting (Alvin)
- 5:30pm - 6:00pm  Head Delegate Meeting (Alvin)
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm  Dinner
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm  Committee/Council Session V (Grand Hyatt)

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