



UN-FORUM

National Model United Nations 2006

*Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin,
representing the United Arab Emirates,
6 – 15 April 2006, New York City*



Freie Universität Berlin

*“Let history not say about our age that we were those
who were rich in means but poor in will.”*

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

London, July 2005

GERMAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

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IMPRESSUM

Publisher: German United Nations Association, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter
Editors: Jan Ingo Knuth, Tim Nover, Irene Weinz
Layout: Tim Nover, Irene Weinz
Photos: Constanze Esch, Jan Ingo Knuth, Tim Nover et al.
Print: druckhaus köthen

The different reports reflect the author's opinion, not necessarily the opinion of the publisher.

Charge per copy: 3,00 Euro. Additional copies can be ordered at the Secretariat.

September 2006
Copies: 300
ISBN: 3-927 192-28-7

Information of the Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter of the
GERMAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

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*Report of the Freie Universität Berlin,
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published by

Jan Ingo Knuth,

Tim Nover,

and

Irene Weinz

on behalf of the Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter of the
German United Nations Association

National Model United Nations 2006
The Delegation of the United Arab Emirates



*back row: Tânia Nunes, Finn Nielsen, Nils Barnickel, Tim Nover, Lena Marie Boers, Maxime Alimi,
Maarit Vuorimäki, Jule Jürgens, Roxana Popescu, Dania Röpke*
front row: Gundbert Scherf, Dominik Duell, Jan Ingo Knuth, Constanze Esch, Ana Ribeiro, Ziting Zhang

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Foreword

In a time of growing interdependence and globalization, the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations in order to adjust the organization to the changing international system and the current challenges is constantly growing. There are reasons for some optimism: the World Summit in September 2005 where the first reform steps were taken may mark the beginning of a new era for the United Nations – an era from which it could emerge stronger than ever in order not only to secure and maintain peace and international security but to fight other important threats and challenges such as poverty and infectious diseases.

The participation of the delegation of *Freie Universität Berlin* (FU) at the National Model United Nations 2006 Conference was inspired by the ongoing reform discussion. Not only during the preparation process in Berlin, but also during the Study Tour and the Conference in New York, the students constantly followed and observed the reform efforts. The learning process benefited from the fact that in order to represent the United Arab Emirates, the students had to question their own point of view and to adopt the arguments of an Arab country and thereby of a completely different society and culture.

Among the 16 delegates, there were ten nationalities represented. Moreover, the students had various scientific backgrounds: They study Law, Political Science, North and Latin American Studies, International Relations, Computer Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Chinese Studies, and Journalism. Without a doubt, this interdisciplinary composition of the group was an important part of the success of the project. This year, the FU delegation received an “Outstanding Position Paper Award” for their Position Papers handed in before the Conference and was awarded an “Honorable Mention” for their realistic representation of the United Arab Emirates during the Conference. The delegation was one of the most successful delegations during NMUN 2006 and the most successful FU delegation ever.

In 2006, *Freie Universität Berlin* participated for the eleventh time at the National Model United Nations. Above all, this is due to the ardent dedication and work of Ms. Peggy Wittke, Faculty of Law, *Freie Universität Berlin*, who started this project at FU in 1995. Furthermore, I would like to commend Ms. Irene Weinz, Faculty of Law, *Freie Universität Berlin*, who has led the intensive preparation of the delegation for NMUN 2006, for her tireless and very impressive efforts. In the course of a 4-hour class, the delegates studied in detail the structure of the United Nations system and acquired practical skills such as rhetoric, negotiation techniques, strategy and the Rules of Procedure. An integral part of the preparation was the identification with the United Arab Emirates, which comprised comprehensive lessons on the economy, political system, national culture and customs of the country as well as group discussions on current political issues. This 5-month preparation process was complemented by a 3-day Study Tour in the Headquarters of the United Nations where the students had the unique opportunity to discuss current international affairs with diplomats and UN Staff.

Through its practical approach, the NMUN project contributes extraordinarily to the professional training and development of our students by teaching them more than theoretical knowledge. In this regard, I would like to thank the Faculty of Law as well as the Otto-Suhr-Institut of *Freie Universität Berlin* for their essential financial contributions to the project. Furthermore, the *Federal Foreign Office* and the International Affairs Division supported the preparation of the delegation. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Muhammad al-Otaiba from the *Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations*, Ms. Deike Potzel and Mr. Holger Mahnicke from the *Federal Foreign Office* as well as Dr. Andrés González, Secretary-General of NMUN 2006, for their individual and interesting briefings within the course of preparation. As always, our warmest thanks go to Swati Dave from the *United Nations Department of Public Information* for the organization of the comprehensive and informative Study Tour.

This year's participation of the FU delegation was again of great educational value for all participants and an outstanding success for *Freie Universität Berlin*.

Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig

Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation at National Model United Nations 2006

We thank the following persons, companies and institutions for their financial and/or academic support:

Freie Universität Berlin

Otto-Suhr-Institut for Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin

UNA Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

International Affairs Division, Freie Universität Berlin

Swati Dave, United Nations Department of Public Information, New York

Mr. and Mrs. Bento Ribeiro, Berlin

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, New York

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, New York

Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations, New York

Martina Niemeyer, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Deike Potzel, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Holger Mahnicke, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Dr. Andrés González, Secretary-General of NMUN 2006

Dr. Hans-Joachim Vergau, Ambassador (ret.), Berlin

UNi-Gruppe of UNA Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

Sieglinde Plocki, International Affairs Division, Freie Universität Berlin

Pera Wells, World Federation of United Nations Associations, New York

Andrea Weiss and her team

Petra Büngel, Lufthansa City Center, Berlin

Katharina Koch, Michael Stahl, Marieke Fiona Wittneben

The team of „Clash“

1. The National Model United Nations Conference

The *National Model United Nations* (NMUN) was founded in 1946 as a successor to the *Model League of Nations* which originated in 1923. These programs were directed at students to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and the work and function of International Organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of the *Model United Nations* programs has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programs are also being offered at high schools - in the United States more than 200.000 high school and college students take part in the simulations annually. The great acceptance of *Model United Nations* is not limited to the United States: today *Model United Nations* take place in more than 25 countries throughout the world including Germany. The Freie Universität Berlin organizes, together with different cooperation partners like the Federal Foreign Office and UNA-Germany, various Model United Nations conferences throughout the year in Berlin.

The *National Model United Nations* is today the largest simulation of the United Nations in the world. Each year more than 3.400 students from North America, Canada, Asia and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for five days at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York, and the United Nations Headquarters. The *National Model United Nations* is sponsored by the *National Collegiate Conference Association*, a non-profit organization which works closely with the United Nations and was granted the status of a *Non-Governmental Organization* in 1995. The Board of Directors coordinates and supervises the simulation. The conference is administered by a 55-member Secretariat which is composed of graduate and undergraduate students who are elected annually. Head of the Secretariat is the *Secretary-General*, supported by a *Director-General* and a *Chief of Staff*.

Each participating university represents a United Nations Member State or Non-Governmental Organization at the conference. According to reality, these Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations are represented in different committees and International Organizations. It is the task of the Delegations to make themselves acquainted with the history and policy of their country or Non-Governmental Organization in order to act as realistic as possible at the conference. In addition, it is necessary to lay down the position concerning the different topics that will be negotiated during the sessions. The visit at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations offers the valuable opportunity to gather first-hand background information by consulting high-ranking diplomats.

During the five days of the conference the Delegates of the various committees strive to work out proposals and draft resolutions. At that point it becomes clear that the knowledge, which has to be obtained, cannot be limited to the country or Non-Governmental Organization represented, but has to include information on "friends and foes" as well, in order to get into contact with the proper partners during negotiations. The participating students are expected to behave as active diplomats, who have to formulate their positions and try to enforce them, but at the same time have to be open-minded towards compromises, always taking into consideration the special interests of

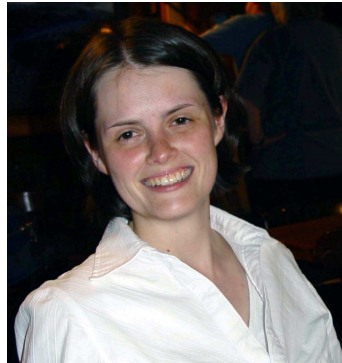
the represented nation or Non-Governmental Organization. This marks one of the major attractions of the *National Model United Nations* conference: each Delegate has to participate in the negotiations by ensuring that his nation's / Non-Governmental Organization's interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other Delegates he immediately realizes his failures and, most important, his success.

At the end of the conference the voting procedures take place at the United Nations Headquarters. Selected resolutions are on the floor of the *General Assembly Plenary* and the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*. The passing resolutions are forwarded to the *Secretary-General of the United Nations*, Mr. Kofi Annan, as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke



Peggy Wittke



Irene Weinz

Faculty Advisors of the NMUN 2006 Delegation

2. The Berlin NMUN 2006 Delegation



Maxime Alimi was born on 31 January 1984 in Paris. After a year in the French “classes préparatoires”, he started studying Political Science and Economics at the *Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris* and *Université-Paris1-Sorbonne*. His ERASMUS exchange year in Berlin made him fall in love with Germany and enroll in a joint Master of International Relations program between Paris and Berlin. He is currently working on his Master’s thesis before completing his curriculum in Economics at the *London School of Economics*. At NMUN 2006, Maxime represented the United Arab Emirates in the *General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2nd)*.

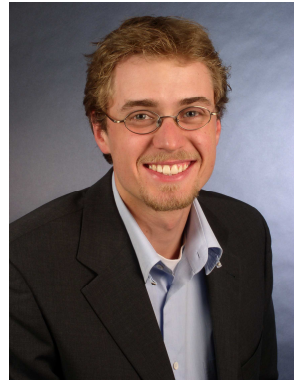
Nils Barnickel, born on 11 November 1980, is a student of Computer Science and Economics at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on eGovernment. He studied for one semester in Hong Kong. Nils joined the NMUN program to get an insight into the work of the United Nations and to contribute to the UN reform efforts through his work in eGovernment. Beginning in September 2006, he will do an internship in this area at the Knowledge Management Branch of the *Department of Economic and Social Affairs* of the UN Secretariat. Afterwards, he will be working in Dakar, Senegal, to support the *UN Development Programme* in an eGovernment project. At NMUN 2006, Nils Barnickel represented the United Arab Emirates in the *World Trade Organization (WTO)* together with Gundbert Scherf.



Lena Marie Boers, born on 21 June 1982, is a student of North American Studies, Political Science and Latin American Studies at *Freie Universität Berlin*. At the age of 16, she became interested in international relations, the United Nations as well as North and South America, when she spent one year in Brazil as an exchange student. She participated in the NMUN program out of a desire to gain insights into the practical workings of the United Nations. Recently, Lena has received a Fulbright scholarship for a three term study at the *University of California*, beginning in September 2006. At NMUN 2006, Lena Marie Boers represented the United Arab Emirates in the *General Assembly Third Committee (GA 3rd)*.

Dominik Duell, born 1 October 1981, is a student of Political Science and Statistics with a special focus on Political Economy and Public Choice at *Freie Universität Berlin*. He first learned about the MUN programs at *Freie Universität* when he participated in a Model European Union session in 2005. Fascinated by the process of international negotiations, Dominik decided to take part in NMUN 2006 to broaden his horizon and learn more about the world of international politics. Beginning in fall 2006, he will spend an exchange year at the *University of California* in Irvine.

At the NMUN conference, Dominik Duell represented the United Arab Emirates together with Finn Nielsen in the *Group of 77 (G-77)*.



Constanze Esch was born on 30 January 1981 in Koblenz. After a High School Year in Wisconsin, USA, and a two-month stay in Israel she began her studies of Cultural Anthropology, Educational Science and International Law at the *Ruprecht-Karls-Universität* in Heidelberg. Since 2002, she is studying at *Freie Universität Berlin*, where she had the opportunity to spend some more time abroad when she took part an ERASMUS exchange at the *Université Paris 8* in Saint Denis, France, for two semesters. Constanze is particularly interested in development aid and international politics and is currently working on her final thesis. At NMUN 2006, Constanze Esch represented the United Arab Emirates together with Ana Ribeiro in the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*.

Jule Isolde Jürgens, born on 29 November 1981 in Berlin, studies Political Science at *Freie Universität Berlin* and spent the spring semester 2005 at the *Sabancı Üniversitesi* in Istanbul, Turkey. Her specialization on International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies includes a special focus on the Middle East. Time and again, Jule has taken the chance to explore other cultures and experience life in different parts of the world. Prior to her studies, she spent time as an exchange student in Missouri, USA, as a volunteer worker in a foundation for street children in Bolivia, and as a volunteer in an international work camp in Ghana. She hopes to get involved in international affairs in her professional career. At NMUN 2006, Jule Jürgens represented the United Arab Emirates in the *General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen.)* together with Maarit Vuorimäki.





Jan Ingo Knuth was born on 11 June 1978 in Wiesbaden. Even though he had never been in the city before, he moved to Berlin in 1999; attracted by two significant aspects: *Freie Universität Berlin* offered him to study Sociology as well as Political Science and Communication without any limitation by Numerus Clausus. He had formally finished his studies before enrolling at the *University of Barcelona* in Spain in 2003-04 but decided to intensify his studies in the field of international relations after his return. At NMUN 2006, Jan Ingo Knuth represented the United Arab Emirates in the *World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)* together with Ziting Zhang. Together with Tim Nover, he was the Head Delegate of the FU delegation.

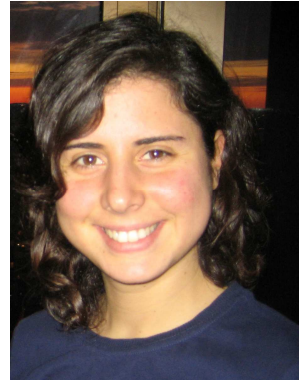
Finn Nielsen, born on 26 October 1979, is a student of Chinese language in Copenhagen since 2000. Being very interested in other cultures and language, Finn has studied English, French, and Japanese in High School and traveled extensively throughout Europe and North America as well as spent a high school year in South Africa. He is also very interested in politics and an active member of the *Venstre* party as well as the European student organization *AECEE*. During an ERASMUS exchange year at *Freie Universität*, Finn learned about the NMUN program and immediately applied. At NMUN 2006, Finn Nielsen represented the United Arab Emirates in the *Group of 77 (G-77)* together with Dominik Duell.



Tim Nover, born on 11 October 1982, studies Political Science at the Otto-Suhr-Institut of *Freie Universität Berlin*. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology from the *International University in Germany*, Bruchsal. In addition to study terms in the USA and Mexico, Tim has taken part in numerous MUN simulations since the year 2000 on the high-school and college level. During his MUN career, he has served as Head Delegate, Committee Director and member of the organizing staff. He will continue his studies with a Masters program in Public Policy beginning in September 2006 at the *Hertie School of Governance*, Berlin. At NMUN 2006, Tim Nover represented the United Arab Emirates in the *Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)*. Together with Jan Ingo Knuth, he was the Head Delegate of the FU delegation.

Tânia Frazão Nunes, born on 28 June 1982, holds a degree in Law with a focus on International and European Law. She was raised in Mozambique and Portugal, which provided her with intercultural experiences and garnered a strong interest in the United Nations. She has studied at *Freie Universität Berlin* for an ERASMUS exchange since September 2005. In September 2006, Tânia will begin a Masters Program in European Law at the *College of Europe* in Bruges, Belgium.

At the NMUN conference, Tânia Frazão Nunes represented the United Arab Emirates in the *General Assembly 1st Committee (GA 1st)*.



Roxana Popescu, born on 24 March 1984, is currently in the 5th semester of her studies of Law at *Freie Universität Berlin*. Roxana came to Germany after completing her bilingual English-Romanian High School studies in Romania and Spain with a scholarship from the *Council of Europe*. Her special focus is on International Private Law, European Law and Comparative Law. After an internship for a Berlin law firm, Roxana will spend an exchange semester in Greece attending courses in European Competition Law and International Private Law in fall 2006. She wants to pursue her career in an international law firm or in a European or international organization. At NMUN 2006, Roxana Popescu represented the United Arab Emirates together with Dania Röpke in the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*.

Ana Muxima Bento Ribeiro was born on 17 May 1981 in Angola and has spent most of her life traveling around the world. She arrived in Germany in 2001 and moved to Berlin one year later, where she has been studying Law at *Freie Universität Berlin* ever since. She first learned about the United Nations when she was very young and living in Africa, where she got to know the United Nations Humanitarian Aid programs. After learning about the MUN programs at the *Freie Universität*, Ana has taken part in several simulations in Berlin before deciding to take part in the NMUN conference. At NMUN 2006, Ana Ribeiro represented the United Arab Emirates in the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)* together with Constanze Esch.





Dania Röpke, born on 16 August 1984, is studying Political Science at the Otto-Suhr-Institut of *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on International Relations, Latin American and Middle Eastern studies. She gained intercultural experience during a volunteer service in Guatemala and an internship at *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* in Costa Rica. As a member of the *UNI-Gruppe* and *WFUNA-Youth*, she is currently coordinating African student initiatives related to the Millennium Development Goals as well as taking part in the organization of the *WFUNA-Youth Meeting* to be held in November 2006 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At *NMUN 2006*, together with her partner Roxana Popescu, Dania represented the United Arab Emirates in the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*.

Gundbert Scherf, born on 15 April 1982, is a graduate student in the Master of International Relations program at *Freie Universität Berlin* and *Humboldt-Universität*. He also works as an assistant for a foreign policy expert at the German Parliament. Because of his academic background in economics, he is specifically interested in international trade relations and the related diplomatic negotiations. Gundbert has taken part in *NMUN* “to escape the autism of academia for once and to experience foreign policy making and diplomacy in interaction”.

At *NMUN 2006*, Gundbert Scherf represented the United Arab Emirates together with Nils Barnickel in the *World Trade Organization (WTO)*.



Maarit Vuorimäki has been studying Political Science at the Otto-Suhr-Institut of *Freie Universität Berlin* for the last five years. A native of Finland, her unquenchable thirst for the world first led her to Germany during a High School year which she spent near Bremen. A true internationalist, she took the chance to participate in the *FU's NMUN* program to find out how the UN really works. At *NMUN 2006*, Maarit Vuorimäki represented the United Arab Emirates in the *General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen.)* together with Jule Jürgens.

Ziting Zhang was born on 25 June 1981 in Hubei, China. She is currently studying Media Science and North American Studies at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a focus on American politics and economy. Before she came to Berlin in 2001, Ziting had studied English and Law at *Guangdong University* for Foreign Studies for three semesters. Her participation in the NMUN conference has provided her with a deeper knowledge about the UN system and international relations.

At NMUN 2006, Ziting Zhang represented the United Arab Emirates in the *World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)* together with Jan Knuth.



*The Head Delegates of the Berlin Delegation,
Jan Ingo Knuth and Tim Nover*

3. The United Arab Emirates – an Introduction



The UAE and its neighbors

The average student probably does not know much about the United Arab Emirates: an Arab country blessed with enormous reserves of oil which endow its citizens with overwhelming affluence. A rapidly growing number of skyscrapers hosting luxury hotels for an increasing number of tourists which are amazed by the seemingly endless sea of sand dunes and the sparkling water of the Persian Gulf. And Dubai of course! The thriving emirate with its fascinating scenery and its abundance of new attractions is certainly a great place to spend wonderful holidays from the stress of everyday life.

Nowadays, the United Arab Emirates is more than an “average oil delivering” Arab state. The economy is booming with steady annual GDP growth rates of around 8 %. The latest developments in the markets for natural resources have put the UAE in a strategic position as an important player in the global economy, since its oil and gas reserves are predicted to last until the 22nd century. However, the Emirates are also in the middle of a process of economic diversification, with Dubai emerging as a regional hub for finance and trade. With its excellent infrastructure include a large port and airport, Dubai already accounts for 85 % of the country’s re-exports, making the UAE the biggest re-exporting country of the region. The tourism industry is also flourishing, as prestigious projects like the artificial islands of “The Palm” and “The World” make headlines around the world and have put Dubai on the map of international tourism.

In the meantime, the majority of the Emirates’ population enjoys a high standard of living. Only 20 % of the country’s inhabitants are UAE citizens, while the majority consists of expatriates and guest workers from all over the world, mainly from India and Pakistan. Even though the foreign workforce is not nearly as affluent as the wealthy nationals and Western businessmen, trouble caused by cultural differences, secularism, or religion is widely unknown. The United Arab Emirates have become a place where the insatiable quest for profit and development by Western businesses and the conservation of Arab traditions and culture do not interfere. Based on the principle of mutual respect, the Sheikhs of the Emirates have created a prosperous surrounding which can serve as an example for the region.

While the ruling Sheikhs keep the power in the hands of the royal families, there are very few calls for more democracy. Both Western expatriates in the UAE and Western governments are content with the country’s stability and see no need to promote a change in the system. The basis of this harmonic setting is older than 150 years: in 1853, the

Sheikhs of the Gulf Coast offered the British Empire a truce in exchange for the free trade between Arabs. Since the UAE was founded in 1971, that approach has changed: the Sheikhs now offer free trade to everyone who accepts their sovereign rule, while they guarantee peace, discretion and stable conditions. Therefore, regional security and stability is of paramount importance for the UAE and has become the highest national priority, since peace is now the most essential resource for the Rulers of the United Arab Emirates.

Jan Ingo Knuth, Tim Nover

Facts about the United Arab Emirates

Area: 82,880 sq km

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Independence: 2 December 1971 (from UK)

Ethnic groups: Emirati 19%, other Arab and Iranian 23%, South Asian 50%, other expatriates 8%

GDP: \$ 113 billion (2005 est.)

GDP growth rate: 6.7% (2005 est.)

GDP – composition by sector: industry: 58.5%; services: 37.5%; agriculture: 4% (2002 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 20.7% of GDP (2005 est.)

Oil production: 2.396 million bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil exports: 2.5 million bbl/day (2004 est.)

Oil - proved reserves: 97.8 billion bbl (2005 est.)

Government Type: federation with specified powers delegated to the UAE federal government and other powers reserved to member emirates

Political parties and leaders: none

Legal system: federal court system introduced in 1971; all emirates have secular courts to adjudicate criminal, civil, and commercial matters and Islamic courts to review family and religious disputes

Source: CIA World Factbook

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ae.html>

4. The Preparation Process in Berlin

The preparation for NMUN was a long process, which began in October. After being selected through the written application and interviews, we used to meet twice a week on the second floor of the Law Faculty building, in a room that soon became the “United Arab Emirates Embassy at Freie Universität Berlin”.

Every one of us can remember the very first session: our Faculty Advisor Irene asked us to hold a “One minute speech” on a randomly selected topic. We barely knew each other in the delegation, so we were quite impressed. Since I really felt uncomfortable with public speaking at that time, I thought “What the hell am I doing here?” But in fact it was a good ice-breaker and the atmosphere warmed up rapidly.



During the preparation we addressed all topics which were relevant to the conference. We began with a detailed study of the Emirates and its history, political system, economy, and religion and had seminars on the system of the United Nations with its different bodies and the ongoing reform process. But apart from knowing all about the UN and the UAE, we had to become experts in the particular subject area of our committee. Therefore, we dug deep into our topics, and, after several visits to the library and some online research, were pundits on diverse issues like natural disaster prevention, trade rounds, women’s rights or sustainable development. In order to brief the rest of the delegation on our progress, every one of us had to give a presentation about his committee topics. We all knew that someone had become an authority on a subject when he could list every single shortcoming of the *Hyogo Framework*, make a passionate plea for the advantages of the Amber Box over the Blue Box, or quote legends like Olympe de Gouge or Sheikh Zayed al-Nahyan.

After learning all about our country and our topics, there was only one more thing we would need in order to be credible representatives of the UAE at the UN: the art of diplomacy. We studied the points and motions of the Rules of Procedure, practiced negotiating strategies by slicing oranges and finding some BATNA, discussed draft resolutions concerning proper diplomatic attire, and learned the “7 Cs” of public speaking to impress our fellow delegates with perfect oratory. All of this was hard work

and took a lot of time. Unfortunately, some sacrifices were necessary: my Master's thesis knows everything about it.

But the preparation was more than just a simple class: we had to build up a team. And in this respect, other elements of the preparation were crucial. The first initiative was to become the best customers of "Königin Luise", the café next to the University. It was really pleasant to talk about something else and above all discuss our projects for the stay in New York! Then we took part in MainMUN, the simulation in Frankfurt: mixed up with other students from all over Germany, we felt for the first time how we had become close to each other and how this solidarity was priceless at a conference. Last but not least, our cocktail party: great fun with the unforgettable "Crazy Camel" cocktail and a nice occasion to raise funds, but also awareness about our project.

The preparation was a long process compared to the conference: about 6 months against just 5 days. But it was definitely worth it. We were not only extremely well prepared and therefore comfortable and credible at NMUN, but it was the largest part of the fun. Now we are almost fluent in Arabic and have got 16 new friends. Why complain?

Maxime Alimi

4.1. Special Session of the UN Security Council on the Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, Berlin, 12-13 December 2005

All of us were looking forward to the two days in December when we would participate in our first simulation. For most of us, it was the first time in "diplomatic mission". In the weeks before, we had learned a lot of theory and were excited to apply our new knowledge, rhetoric skills, and the Rules of Procedure in practice. The session would show how skilled we really were on the diplomatic floor. Especially with regard to our participation in New York, we were curious to see whether our expectations would be met and to which degree we could deal with the sometimes overwhelming amount of work. Furthermore, we were very glad that the *Security Council* Session would be completed by the FU Delegation participating in the *Harvard National Model United Nations* in February 2006, since it was a great opportunity to learn from each other.



The first challenge came up before the session started: Some of the male delegates obviously had problems with correctly adjusting their ties according to diplomatic standard. Nevertheless, all of us were surprised by how fast we found ourselves in the role of diplomats, representing "our" country as experts on the fight against international terrorism. The atmosphere of the session was fascinating. It was amazing to see how much a suit, the flag of "your" country in front of you and a placard could change your behavior and way of acting!

Thanks to the skillful moderation and guidance by our chairs, Xenia Jakob and Irene Weinz, the faculty advisors of the two delegations, and the tireless assistance of the *UNI-Gruppe*, the conference was running smoothly. Nevertheless, the work for the delegates was not easy, and tough negotiations took place.

While debating on the order of agenda items, the *Security Council* split into two factions. One group of countries could not see any sense in discussing measures in the fight against terrorism without having a clear definition what terrorism means. The other members of the *Security Council* had realized the lack of the definition but were of the opinion that finding measures to eliminate the threat was much more important. It took two hours until the *Security Council* members, observer states and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) had come to an agreement by discussing “Measures to Eliminate Terrorism” as the first agenda topic.

During the course of the negotiations, we realized how different the possibilities for gaining influence and negotiating were, depending on the country you were representing. For example, the permanent members of the *Security Council* decided to find consensus among themselves in order to then adopt a strong resolution, locking themselves into a room for hours of negotiation.

Unfortunately, this left the other members of the Council as well as the observers and NGOs out of the decision-making process, since they were unable to influence the debate of the mighty veto powers. This did not stop the delegates from making some headway: after an Arab initiative, the positions of Israel and Palestine could be merged in a draft resolution, which was sadly ignored later on.

On the second day of the session, the different proposals were discussed all over in the plenary. At noon, the *Security Council* finally managed to adopt a resolution about measures to eliminate terrorism. There was not much time left. Nevertheless, during concentrated and hard discussions, all delegates were able to find common ground for a definition of terrorism. These last hours were exhausting for all diplomats and showed us



how tiring and intense intergovernmental negotiations can be. From then on, we thought differently about “endless” negotiations when we read about them in the news, because we had experienced them ourselves and were now able to appreciate their importance.

After the end of the session, we were sure that the two days had been very useful for every single participant. From that point on, we were even more motivated to improve our abilities and knowledge. Nevertheless, that evening we were happy to leave the intergovernmental setting and come together for a glass of wine on a more personal level.

Jan Ingo Knuth

4.2. “United Arab Emirates, to which point do you rise?” – The Delegation of the Freie Universität Berlin at MainMUN 2006, Frankfurt, 5-8 January 2006



Ever since we had been selected to participate in the delegation of the Freie Universität Berlin at the NMUN 2006 Conference, we tried to practice and improve our diplomatic skills as much as possible. That is why twelve delegates from the NMUN and HNMUN delegations went to Frankfurt, the beautiful “Mainhattan”, to participate in the MainMUN 2006 Conference organized by and held at the *Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University*.

Well prepared and eager to start the negotiations, we entered the three committees in which we were to take part: the *General Assembly (GA)*, the *Security Council*, and the *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*. Representing Iraq, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, and Sweden, we dealt with topics such as “*Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects*”, “*The Situation in Sudan*”, and “*Improving the Developing Countries’ Participation in International Agricultural Trade: Better Market Access, Reducing Domestic Support, and Abolishing Export Subsidies*”.

During hours of intensive bilateral negotiations and lively plenary sessions, every delegate from the Berlin delegation gave his best and managed to make this conference an outstanding success for everybody. We trained the Rules of Procedure which are crucial for the course of the session, tried tough strategies of negotiations and handled controversial topics in an effective and efficient manner. In the *General Assembly*, our very own Jan Knuth as the Honorable Delegate of Iraq was in the center of attention when he addressed the committee for a full 15 minutes to explain the details of a merged working paper which he had negotiated with other partners from the Arab world and the United States. In the meantime, our UNCTAD delegates worked together and used every

possible motion in the Rules of Procedure to make the work of the committee as effective as possible. When the Rules failed, both committees tried to resolve a deadlock in the negotiations by holding a moderated caucus. Whereas the UNCTAD quickly agreed to let skilled diplomats like Tânia and Johannes from the Harvard delegation take over, the GA spent half the time discussing who should act as moderator for the caucus, who in the end could only try to limit the quarrelling between the different factions. When the stress of finding consensus with more than 100 delegates became too much, our delegation found some relaxation by using the old Paternoster elevators in the old building of the university. With renewed forces, we once again hit the diplomatic floor and were actively involved in finding consensus and results.

Of course, we were convincing at the “After Negotiations” Party as well. If there had been such thing, we would have won the award for the best dancing performance! But while the Frankfurt nights were ours, we were lost in the streets of Frankfurt during the day. The city center is known for its never-ending “One Way” streets and its irritating traffic lights. Although the location of the conference was not far away from the youth hostel where we were staying, we got lost every single day. So it was a relieving thought already that in New York, we would only have to take the elevator!

Dominik Duell, Tim Nover



Diplomats in action – the Berlin Delegation at MainMUN, January 2006

4.3. Task Forces - the Extra Curricular Activities of our Delegation

The organization of the trip to New York and the NMUN conference participation was carried out by our faculty advisors Irene Weinz and Peggy Wittke. However, there were many things besides the preparation for our committee topics that we had to organize for the conference ourselves. For this purpose, we were divided into several working groups - the so-called Task Forces: the conference preparation group, the party organization group, the fundraising group, and the MainMUN group. Some of these task forces were formed together with members of the FU delegation for the *Harvard National Model United Nations*; others consisted only of NMUN group members.

The fundraising task force had to contact companies and organizations to seek financial support for our project. This task turned out to be hard work and tended to be frustrating at times, since hardly any of the contacts resolved in money. In fact, we only received a few advertising presents, so that by the end of the year everybody had to engage in fundraising activities, without a lot of success.

Although we did not succeed in collecting any money from sponsors, we held a coffee and cake fair before Christmas at the *Faculty of Law* and the *Political Science Department*, which turned out to be a fun event where we earned quite a lot of money. (I should admit that we were lucky enough to welcome Professor Kunig, our best customer, who voluntarily paid exorbitant prices for the self-made cakes and cocktails at our party, and even gave considerable tips high tips.)

The conference preparation task force took the task of developing our corporate identity. The key focus was to find a motto, the design of our business cards, which Jan did with passion, and the design of our delegation polo shirts.

Finally, the homepage task force created a web site for our delegation where we could present the NMUN project and some personal information about us. Jan and Conny had interviewed all members of the delegation and gathered some interesting opinions on Kofi Annan, Santa Clause, and people on desert islands. After some detailed and extensive layout work, Jan, Tim and Nils put the articles and pictures online, and www.nmun-berlin.de was an instant success.

Although the task force work meant giving up even more of our already restricted leisure time, it lent the NMUN preparation an all-encompassing project character. Thanks to the people who were very active in this extra-curricular work, the task forces were a success.

Most of the time, it was fun and brought us closer together. The task forces managed to make a team out of a group of very different people from various countries, with different interests, opinions and study subjects ranging from Computer Science to Chinese Studies.

Lena Marie Boers

4.4. Task Force Fundraising – Finding Sponsors for our Project

Being educated at the center of world diplomacy is certainly a unique and valuable experience, but an expensive one as well. Right from the beginning, it was clear that the project could not be financed solely by *Freie Universität* and our personal contributions. Additionally, we had to find sponsors and donors, not only for our NMUN project, but for the Model United Nations programs as such.

Therefore, in November 2005, we established the so-called *Fundraising Task Force* which was responsible for drawing up a comprehensive plan of action. We agreed to focus our efforts not only on public institutions supporting outstanding education projects and intercultural exchange, but also on private companies which are active in the Arab region or part of the United Nations' "Global Compact".

The first step was to create an overview of what we were doing in the course of the project and why it was worth supporting a project like NMUN or Model UNs in general. We worked out a booklet consisting of an introduction to the NMUN program, our group of students, and the overarching objectives of United Nations simulations. We elaborated on our individual expectations such as gaining skills and knowledge of international politics, diplomatic language, rhetoric, negotiation abilities, and getting to know the work in an international organization. Furthermore we tried to show that, in our opinion, it was valuable for our society to help motivated, interested, well-educated, young people to travel abroad in order to communicate and interact with students of different backgrounds and attitudes.

The Task Force contacted several companies, foreign embassies, interest groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, and different institutions, many of which stated their appreciation for the program and its aims. Nevertheless, it became clear that in hard times especially the private sector is not willing or able to give any money to projects like ours. That is why we concentrated on other fundraising activities: we organized a big cocktail party and a small fundraising event at the Law and Political Science faculties.

The experience of organizing and coordinating such a task force, especially getting in contact with companies and institutions and trying to "sell" our ideas, taught us a lot of social and communicational skills. The knowledge and practice on how to present and structure our ideas in a professional way and on how to persuade others to support our project are definitely a plus in our future professional lives.

Dominik Duell

4.5. "Clash of Cultures" – Our Fundraising Party, Berlin, 27 January 2006

The NMUN team had to solve the task of raising money within the overall theme of internationality and cultural exchange. It did not take the Fundraising Task Force very long to come up with an idea: we had to throw a party for our friends from all over the world who live in the "melting pot" Berlin. Under the headline "Clash of Cultures", 300

people spent an unforgettable evening in the crowded club “Clash” in Berlin-Kreuzberg. People from different cultures mingled in the club and refuted Samuel Huntington’s thesis of the “Clash of Civilizations” by coming together to dance, communicate, and drink perfectly mixed cocktails.



Our DJ offered different styles of music and easily managed to get the people on the dance floor jumping up and down until 5 in the morning. Apart from the beats, laughing and intense conversation filled the air of the club all night long. The continuous intake of German beer, Mexican cocktails, and French water created a mixture of Bavarian “Gemütlichkeit” and metropolitan small-talk at the bar. To make all this happiness possible, the whole NMUN team had spent several hours in preparing the event, including a long debate about a fitting motto for the party and the design of the flyers. By combining the name of the club and a reference to our purpose of intercultural education, we decided to have more than a simple party. The motto “Clash of Cultures” found a majority because it obliged us as hosts to be open to any guest wherever he was coming from, in order to fill the “Clash” with a mix of cultures. The most demanding task in the preparation of a cocktail party, however, was to cut fruits. Already skilled in the art of slicing an orange in a just and neutral way, the Task Force “FF Fruit Fighters” set off to chop 10 kilos of fresh pineapple, lemons, oranges, and other fruits in a never ending production line; and the demand never stopped. In the meantime, the barkeepers were working hard to remember the specific ingredients of the selected cocktails, which had logically been named after the theme of the night. The most-ordered drink was definitely “Huntington Beach”, closely followed by the “Crazy Camel” and the “UAE Ice Tea”. Most of our guests also appreciated the opportunity to play table football and fight hard for the unofficial UAE foosball championship.

During the night, some guests of honor found their way to Kreuzberg. Even though Kofi Annan had to cancel his visit at the last minute, the NMUN delegation of Sweden from the *University of Tübingen* showed up. Of course, we welcomed the chance to improve the Arab-Swedish relations in such a relaxed setting and immediately began informal negotiations. Later on, the red carpet was again filled with members of former NMUN delegations of *Freie Universität Berlin* who showed how the project had changed their life by giving a demonstration of their ongoing team spirit and friendship. The first guests

left the “Clash” no earlier than at 4 o’clock in the morning, after having learned a lot about our project, the UAE, and of course after having had a lot of fun. In the meantime, our delegation was slightly exhausted after cleaning the club until 6 in the morning, but we were in good spirits and glad that our party had been such a success both for our guests and for our project’s bank account.

Dominik Duell, Tim Nover



4.6. Tradition and Progress – Exploring our Identity

NMUN: a crowd of 3,500 students gathered in one hotel, up to 400 students in each committee where everyone is a delegate of one of 191 UN Member States or one of the numerous NGOs. Obviously, it is easy to lose track, making it almost impossible to remember all those faces and what country and positions they stand for.

The most effective way to make people remember you and your contributions would certainly be a coherent “corporate identity” for the whole delegation. This first part of the analysis was easy, but it would be hard to realize our idea. No one in our group had any experience with developing a professional design. But of course, after examining the initial situation, a diplomat would say: “Our endeavor is a unique opportunity to acquire and share new expertise which will foster creative thinking, lead to improvement and mutual benefit and eventually turn into overall satisfaction”.

Actually, this was exactly how it turned out. From the beginning, we tried to include all important elements of a first-rate corporate identity, namely comprehensibility, polarization, memorability and reproducibility. The first step was to find a motto that would represent the United Arab Emirates as good as possible. After weeks of intense study of the defining elements of the Emirates, our “creative department” unanimously agreed on Lena’s suggestion for the motto: “*Tradition and Progress*”. Since the UAE is the most advanced, comprehensive and successful combination of a rich and long history with deep-rooted Arab customs on the one hand and tolerance towards the Western ways of liberalism pushing for economic and technological progress on the other hand, “*Tradition and Progress*” was the perfect illustration of the country’s mind-set and beat all other proposals in terms of precision and shortness.

But our undertaking was not finished yet. After the first step of finding a motto, we still needed to visualize “*Tradition and Progress*” in a fitting way to make it suitable for shirts, business cards, notepaper, desktop wallpapers for our notebooks and stickers for our folders. It had always been clear to me that the two elements of “*Tradition and Progress*” really are two sides of the same coin. Only both aspects taken together describe the Emirates in its current state and therefore the notion of “two sides of the same coin” should be maintained on our business cards. The concept was the following: the business card should be double sided; there would be no front and no back of the card. Only the card as a whole would characterize the UAE perfectly. One side would symbolize *Tradition* and the other side *Progress*. To visualize these two facets, we needed to find suitable icons as a symbol of the Emirates’ character. Since the icons should be kept clear and simple, we chose a falcon to symbolize *Tradition* while the world-famous seven-star hotel Burj al Arab in Dubai would represent *Progress*, the modern characteristics of the UAE. At this point there was a problem: while I had the images drawn up in my mind I was unable to draw them in reality. But my lacking artistic skills were made up for by Marieke Fiona Wittneben. She was the perfect partner to realize my ideas: not only did she have the skills and design experience but, since I was in intense contact with her during the whole NMUN preparation process, she was well informed about what the UAE stood for and for which purpose we needed a corporate identity.

In the next weeks, she managed to perfect the corporate identity of our delegation: the final shape of the images kept in a majestic gold, the distinguished red for the background, the font, the right proportions and a harmonic overall look. All these details would have looked much different and, without any doubt, less professional without her. Hence, the whole delegation appreciated her work a lot and the many compliments we received in New York about our business cards belong to her as well.

While Marieke gave us this brilliant foundation, it was up to me to put our newly found identity into desktop wallpapers and screensavers for our computers, and use the falcon as our national symbol on our note-paper and as the background for our position papers. Lena finally put the falcon on a polo shirt so that our corporate identity was completed.

Jan Ingo Knuth



4.7. State Visit – NMUN Secretary-General Andrés González Visits the UAE Delegation

After just having learned about illicit fund transfers, the trade in services mandate and the global debt crisis, the visit of NMUN's Secretary-General on February 1, 2006, was a highly welcomed break in the tightly packed schedule of our preparation. Instead of talking about the details of international economics, **Dr. Andrés González** had taken the time to tell us about his own NMUN experience and what we could expect from the upcoming 2006 conference.

A native of Ecuador, Dr. González had studied Political Science in Munich, where he had first learned about a Model UN conference in New York. He immediately signed up to take part and became infected with the NMUN virus right away. Since the beginning of his NMUN career as the delegate of the *European Commission*, he had risen through the ranks of the NMUN staff and held various positions including Committee Director and Chief of Staff. This year, he had the great honor to be the head of the organizing staff as the Secretary-General of the conference.



In his talk, Dr. González offered us his own perspective on the NMUN conference, which had fascinated him so much from the very beginning. Through the numerous tales and stories he told, we began to get a clearer image of the conference and what to expect from it. An important question for all delegates was to remain “in character”, i.e. to play the role of a country's diplomat realistically. By giving some examples of delegates that were not acting in consistency with their country's foreign policy and explaining some ways how to deal with them, he helped us in working out our own “character issues”. The stories he told also gave us relief because one rule held even for native speakers from prestigious universities with years of Model UN experience: Nobody's perfect.

After passing on some more knowledge about diplomatic behavior, Dr. González was kind enough to answer many questions from our part and resolve any remaining doubt about our role at NMUN. We were glad that he took the time to visit us and would greatly benefit from his tips and tricks in New York.

Tim Nover

4.8. Special Session with the Delegation of Tajikistan, 4 March 2006

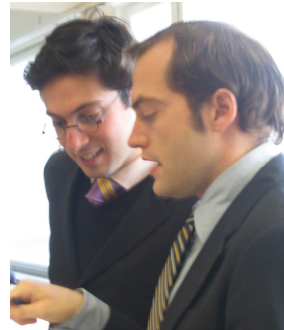
In February, we were contacted by the project coordinator of the NMUN delegation of the *University of Marburg* who proposed to hold a short training simulation for both delegations while the Marburg delegation was visiting Berlin for a briefing at the *Federal Foreign Office* and the *Embassy of Tajikistan*. Our delegation happily agreed, although the delegations of the United Arab Emirates and Tajikistan would probably not be close partners during the NMUN 2006 Conference. We knew that this would be a good chance to improve our negotiation skills and to further practice the Rules of Procedure.



Hence, our Head Delegate Tim Nover and our Faculty Advisor Irene Weinz organized a “*Special Session on the Root Causes of Terrorism*” of a fictitious “*International Working Group on the Elimination of Root Causes of Terrorism*” in cooperation with the Marburg team, taking place on Saturday, 4 March 2006, at the Faculty of Law of *Freie Universität Berlin*.

We wanted to hold just a small simulation and therefore set a time limit of four hours. In order to start working on concrete measures and proposals immediately, the organizers had prepared a draft resolution in advance that had been kept secret until the beginning of the session and was then introduced by the representative of the United States. To jump-start the discussion and prevent an early consensus, the draft included some very controversial points. In one paragraph, the elimination of terrorists had been proposed as a preemptive measure. At first sight, some delegates believed that the phrase was referring to the prevention of terrorist attacks and welcomed the seemingly accurate action against the root causes of terrorism. However, they realized before long that immediate executions without a previous trial were absolutely unacceptable.

Of course, the Working Group sooner or later got into some more trouble: Israel and Palestine were not able to find a common position; neither could the moderate European countries agree to the American proposal. Hence, intensive discussions and negotiations took place during the following hours of session, chaired in a very professional and relaxed way by Tim Nover. Finally, the committee adopted a resolution. All delegates were satisfied with the results of the session and grateful for the chance to practice their skills, having realized where they needed further training and where they needed to extend their knowledge.



4.9. The Position Paper Review Process

“Position papers are a critical part of delegate preparation. They require delegates to illustrate their knowledge of the agenda topics at hand, affirm the positions their country or NGO takes on these topics, and recommend courses of action to effectively address contemporary global problems.”

NMUN Delegates' Handbook

After each Committee team had handed in the final version of their Position Paper, Tim, Jan, Maxime, and Irene met one afternoon in Irene's office in order to amend some last details and to put all Papers together in order to send them to the NMUN staff the following day.

Maxime Alimi: *“When Irene asked me to help Jan, Tim and her to finalize the Position Papers, she just said: “We are almost done; two or three hours will be enough.”. I think no one of us had any idea of what was about to happen. Dear readers, next-year delegates: This is not only about correcting some details or making the presentation uniform. There are thousands of small details you would never think about and every single one deserves your attention. Instead of two hours, we spent the whole afternoon and the whole night on the papers. Anyway, I must admit, I keep a good memory of this night, since we found a good occasion to work together and to deepen our relationship. And anyhow we laughed a lot.”*

Jan Ingo Knuth: *“The good thing of working in a team of four is that you can work faster. The bad thing, however, is that four persons have four opinions. Still, it was a remarkable night: We worked as a team, we were running through three offices, everywhere we looked was paper, we worked so closely together that it was a pleasure and I felt great when I came home at 5.30 in the morning. Honestly, I had always hoped to win this PP Award.”*

Tim Nover: *“Together, we discussed just what makes a good position paper – since we are all perfectionists, we of course aimed for nothing but perfection – and then dug deep into the linguistic intricacies of our fellow delegates' papers. This also meant that we had to remember ALL the facts we learned about ALL the committee topics. A typical problem seemed to be that everything had the highest priority: all committee topics were “key issues” of the highest importance, and of course the UAE was “fully committed”, “deeply involved” and “strongly cared” about every detail. Other colleagues pointed out the “present conceptual confusion” about their topic – a statement which immediately found our agreement, for our own state of confusion had already reached an alarming level. As you can imagine, our obsessive perfectionism was not necessarily helpful in getting the job done quickly. As it turned night outside, we ordered some food so that we could survive the coming hours (thankfully, the coffee machine was fully functional!). After a slice of pepperoni pizza (best with the “Tunk Tunk” dressing), the work continued. Reviewing, cutting, pasting, rewriting, shortening, editing, and then printing out the latest version before passing it on to the next expert (who would of course start over with the scrutiny), was our mode of operation that night. Near 5 a.m. we were*

completely exhausted and satisfied enough with the papers to call it a night. What a night indeed!"

We are very proud that with the help of all 16 delegates and our Faculty Advisor Irene, 2 Position Paper sessions, 3 deadlines, lots of research, emails and questions, 4 people on the “PP Review Panel” and their 5 computers, lots of pizza, chocolate, coffee, grandma’s cake, the UAE Falcon, much patience, fun and laughter – we managed to work out 10 Position Papers which were awarded “Outstanding Position Papers” by the NMUN 2006 team.

4.10. Facts and Fun – The UAE Quiz

Two weeks before our departure to New York, it was time for our delegation to review what we had learned in the last 5 months about the UAE, the United Nations, and the NMUN conference. Instead of holding a dull review lecture, Irene, Jan, and Tim decided to prepare something special for the last regular session of our class. In secret, they had devised a genius plan to refresh our knowledge in an entertaining way, by developing the UAE Quiz. The delegates walked through the door that day expecting yet another Rules of Procedure session, but quickly found themselves enthralled in a fast game with tough questions and fun activities. Split into four groups, the participants raced to the top of the Burj al-Arab hotel which served as our game board. The competition was fierce, and we certainly had not picked simple questions: Name all seven Emirates! Guess the number of palms in the UAE! What is AGFUND? How many states founded the UN? When did the UAE sign the *Kyoto Protocol*?

Fortunately, the delegates did remember all those little details from the sessions held a long time ago. Thus, they gladly concentrated on the even tougher activity questions: Explain an oil platform only in pantomime! Convince other delegates that it’s more important to have lunch break than to vote on a resolution! Draw “globalization”! Sing “New York, New York”!



After an intense fight for the top, the winning team was rewarded with traditional Arab delicacies which were personally delivered by a Sheikh of the ruling al-Nahyan family. All in all, we had a great time and learned a lot. Why are not all university classes like that?

Tim Nover

4.11. The UAE Delegation at the Federal Foreign Office, 27 March 2006

When our delegation gathered in front of the *Federal Foreign Office* on the morning of March 27, 2006, everybody was on time because nobody wanted to miss a second. The chance of visiting and getting briefed by real diplomats, experts with long-lasting experience from the everyday life of international relations, was an exciting opportunity for our delegation after months of intense preparation.

We were welcomed by two speakers with a very different focus: First, Mr. Holger Mahnicke gave the delegation an overview of negotiations within the United Nations system. Afterwards, Ms. Deike Potzel offered us a profound insight into the current political situation in the Middle East and in particular of the United Arab Emirates.

Jan Ingo Knuth

4.11.1. Briefing on International Negotiations in the United Nations

Even if the delegation had been trained in negotiation techniques and strategies several times in the past months, Mr. **Holger Mahnicke**'s presentation was full of useful information. Mr. Mahnicke works for the *Directorate-General (DG) for Global Issues, the United Nations, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Aid*. In 2001, the directorate had been renewed and its tasks had been enhanced. While the old directorate had laid its focus on the work of the United Nations, its organs and its specialized agencies, the DG now has an even broader focus. Today, it deals with crucial issues like conflict prevention and Peacekeeping, the protection of Human Rights, the fight against poverty, the conservation of natural resources, combating international crime, as well as humanitarian aid abroad.

During his posting at the *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations* in New York, our speaker was actively involved in the progress and processes that took place in the *Commission on the Status of Women* and in the *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* over the last decade. During the 60th session of the *General Assembly* in 2005, he participated as the Deputy Head of Division for the Division for UN Basic Policy. During his career at the *Federal Foreign Office*, Mr. Mahnicke has represented Germany as Deputy Ambassador in Malaysia, Latin America and the United Arab Emirates. Of course, the latter posting was of special interest to our delegation.

After an overview of his work and his career at the *Federal Foreign Office*, Mr. Mahnicke began to talk about the United Nations by describing a typical day for a UN Ambassador. For the European Ambassadors, the day begins with a coordination meeting with the representatives of the other Member States of the *European Union* in order to ensure that the EU speaks with one voice. This reconciliation of interests, positions and aims could last for hours, he described, but normally a consensus within the EU was found in a short time. In general, it is much harder to find common positions with other UN Member States. Therefore, a working day at the United Nations normally lasts until late night.

Mr. Mahnicke continued by naming the major players and the regional groups in the UN which offer Member States a forum for negotiating overlapping interests, gaining broader influence and finding a stronger voice. In this context, he stressed that diplomats needed to speak and understand different languages as well as possible, illustrating that the different meanings of a single word in two languages might be minor in colloquial language, but could have an enormous importance in international relations. Moreover, he emphasized the importance of being familiar with the documents which had already been passed in the particular committee. By pointing out the existence of “agreed language”, negotiation partners and sceptics could be convinced that certain aspects of a topic had already been decided and did not need to be discussed again.

After the end of his presentation, a lot of questions were raised from the members of our delegation. The students were particularly interested in a certain period of Mr. Mahnicke’s life, namely his time as the Deputy Ambassador of Germany in the United Arab Emirates. Life circumstances and daily situations were in the centre of the following questions, and our speaker was obviously happy to tell us more about his years in the UAE. He praised the Emirates for their hospitality, the security within the country, the breathtaking new projects and buildings, the strong, reliable and effective international cooperation and their peaceful long-term policy.

Jan Ingo Knuth

4.11.2. Briefing on the United Arab Emirates

Ms. **Deike Potzel** works as Desk Officer for the Gulf countries and Iran in the *Political Directorate General 3* of the *Federal Foreign Office*. Her job description would have already made her a competent speaker for our delegation, but she also had first-hand experience from the region: Due to her work as a diplomat for the *Federal Foreign Office*, she had worked for several years as Chief Officer for Cultural Affairs in the German Embassy in Teheran. During this time, she got to know the circumstances of life in Iran and was therefore familiar with the domestic and foreign policy of the countries in the Middle East.

After shortly introducing herself, she proposed to deliver a rather short introductory speech in order to leave as much time as possible for our questions. She expected to meet a delegation with detailed knowledge about the topics and hoped to get into an interesting dialogue. This discussion was highly welcomed by the delegation: after months of preparation we felt prepared for such a debate among experts, and there were still some difficult questions which we wanted to clarify. Moreover, we had not been able to find a common position within the delegation on how to handle some sensible topics during the conference.

At the beginning of her speech, she set the focus on the bilateral relations between Germany and the United Arab Emirates. Shortly after the UAE had been founded in 1971, the two countries set up diplomatic ties. Nowadays these relations are not only friendly, but the two countries are closely cooperating due to a strategic partnership that has been established in 2004. Both sides share their will to intensify their political

relations beyond trade and economic relations. The trading volume between the two partners is considerable: the United Arab Emirates has become the most significant trading partner of Germany in the Middle East region within the last ten years. This fact furthermore underlines the special economic importance of the United Arab Emirates in the region.

The ties between the UAE and the European Union are also of some relevance. In 1989, an EU-UAE agreement has been signed that covers political cooperation in fields such as agriculture, science, technical progress, and fishery. Ms. Potzel also referred to the ongoing negotiations concerning a free trade agreement. She emphasized how important these negotiations were at this moment and that it was of high importance to come to a result soon. However, both sides agreed on the significant importance of the fields of labor, security and Human Rights, but they had not been able to find a common position so far.

At that moment, several questions were raised: the starting point was the current controversy about the caricatures of the prophet Mohammed that had been published by a Danish newspaper. While the conflict had caused violent manifestations and impulsive responses in several newspapers in countries like Iran, the discussion had been much quieter in the UAE. The public opinion in the Emirates had been that the depictions of the prophet were disrespectful. But in comparison to other Muslim countries, the society in the UAE was more international and had found ways to live with other cultures, traditions, approaches, opinions, and lifestyles in mutual benefit, Ms. Potzel explained. Moreover, the UAE government had expelled several Islamic fundamentalists about 20 years ago.

Another important issue for the UAE which we did not want to ignore was the ongoing dispute about the three UAE islands in the Persian Gulf which have been occupied by Iran for more than twenty years. The government of the UAE has repeatedly mentioned this issue during their speeches at the UN and continuously calls upon the international community to resolve the conflict. The question was how we should deal with this issue during the conference, and to what extent we should mention it in our speeches. Should we urge the international community and push for a fast solution? She explained that we should follow the Emirates' policy: it was our duty to be active and engaged, but we would not focus exclusively on this problem. We then discussed the relations towards the recently elected Hamas government in Palestine as well as the UAE's influence within the *Arab League*, the *Gulf Cooperation Council* and among developing countries. After numerous questions about the UAE's role in the rebuilding of Iraq, the position of the government on the status of women and NGOs, and, of course, Iran's nuclear program, we had gained profound insight about the position of the UAE and Arab diplomacy that would prove to be invaluable in New York.

Jan Ingo Knuth

4.12. Big Brother is Watching You – UAE Delegates in Focus

It is a delicate decision to grant access to your private life to someone whom you do not know at all. We did not know anything about the American filmmaker **Andrea Weiss**, except for the few facts we were able to find online. She seemed to have an impressive reputation: a couple of her films were broadcast on the French/German television channel *Arte*, she actually worked as a professor for film and video programs at City College of *the City University* of New York, and for her work as a director and producer she and her film company “Jezebel Productions” had received several highly acclaimed international awards. Her latest project was a documentary about us - our efforts, our personality, our progress in the months of preparation and during NMUN and the everyday student dramas before and during the conference. But should we let camera lenses follow our every move, have microphones tape our words and show our emotions to a television or even cinema audience? Some people in the group were skeptic and concerned about our privacy and the impact of the filming on our work in New York. Could a camera prevent people from negotiating with us? Would they be scared off and would we still behave naturally?



In February, Andrea Weiss visited us in Berlin for the second time and managed to dissolve all our doubts in just a few days. Andrea and her cameraman Octavio became a part of the project. They showed us some of the footage which they had shot during their first visit and gained our trust. From then on, the filming during the sessions, at typical Berlin sights like the Holocaust Memorial, at an Arab photo exhibition and at a night club was completely trouble-free. We were happy to meet them

again in New York, where Andrea’s crew had grown bigger: she had come with a team of 12 to cover all the big and small events that occurred during the very intense week of the conference. The camera was not a hindrance for getting in touch with potential negotiation partners; some even believed that being filmed would be to our advantage, because Americans love to be taped. Andrea was absolutely professional: after just a few days, she knew all the important NMUN people and even pulled off the nearly impossible feat of getting our whole delegation to sit together in the General Assembly Hall for the Closing Ceremony. Some said that we were corrupt because we took the food she had delivered to our rooms in order to get access to our team meetings. I would say we were compensated for all the stress with a complete documentation about a very special time in our lives. And the pizza we ate? It was the price she had to pay for that one time when we found hidden microphones in the bread baskets at our dinner table...

Jan Ingo Knuth

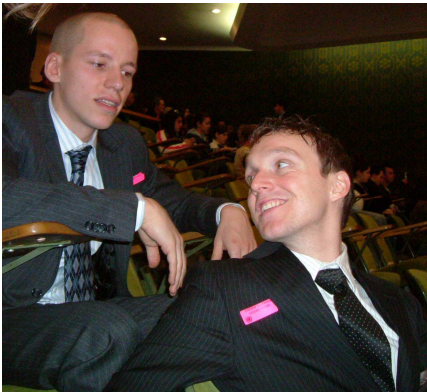
5. The Study Tour at the UN Headquarters, 6-10 April 2006

United Nations Study Tour Program

<p>6 April 2006</p> <p>09.30 – 10.30 h 10.45 – 11.45 h</p> <p>12.00 – 13.00 h 13.00 – 14.30 h 14.45 – 15.45 h 16.00 – 17.00 h</p>	<p>Guided Tour Secretariat Briefing on the UN in the New Millennium – <i>Patricia Seghers</i> Secretariat Briefing on Disarmament – <i>Nikolai Rogosaroff</i> Lunch Break Secretariat Briefing on Humanitarian Affairs – <i>Stephanie Bunker</i> Secretariat Briefing on Peacekeeping – <i>Stadler Trengove</i></p>
<p>7 April 2006</p> <p>09.45 – 10.45 h 10.45 – 11.45 h 12.00 – 13.00 h 13.00 – 14.15 h 14.30 – 15.30 h 15.30 – 16.30 h</p>	<p>Secretariat Briefing on Refugees – <i>Dr. Mike McBride</i> Secretariat Briefing on NGOs – <i>Sol Oca</i> Secretariat Briefing on Human Rights – <i>Giorgia Passarelli</i> Lunch Break Secretariat Briefing on Sanctions – <i>Tatiana Cosio</i> Secretariat Briefing on Iraq – <i>Hamid Abdeljaber</i></p>
<p>10 April 2006</p> <p>09.45 – 10.45 h 10.45 – 11.45 h 12.00 – 13.00 h 13.00 – 14.15 h 14.30 – 15.30 h 15.30 – 16.30 h</p>	<p>Secretariat Briefing on Economic Development – <i>Matthias Kempf</i> Secretariat Briefing on Human Trafficking – <i>Luca Dall'Oglio</i> Secretariat Briefing on Women's Issues – <i>Christine Brautigam</i> Lunch Break Secretariat Briefing on Reform – <i>Peter Smith</i> Secretariat Briefing on Terrorism – <i>Janos Tisovsky</i></p>
<p>11 April 2006</p> <p>09.30 – 11.00 h 14.30 – 15.30 h</p>	<p>Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations – <i>Dominic Porter</i> Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations – <i>Katja Wiesbrock</i></p>
<p>12 April 2006</p> <p>12.00 – 13.30 h</p>	<p>Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations – <i>Muhammad al-Otaiba</i></p>

5.1. In Diplomatic Mission – Exploring the United Nations

After 10 hours on a plane and a few hours of sleep, a brief look outside the window on the morning of April 6 confirmed what we had been looking forward to for almost six months: we were in New York City! But of course we were not out to explore the city as normal tourists; we were there on “business”, or one could call it a “diplomatic mission”. Waking up after a friendly wakeup call from the Head Delegates, slipping into a suit, catching the rest of the delegation in the hotel lobby and quickly grabbing the NMUN power breakfast (bagel, cream cheese, coffee) would be our usual routine for the next week.



Even though we looked no different than the businessmen in the streets of Midtown Manhattan, we were headed to a different destination: the UN Headquarters. Three days of briefings in the heart of international diplomacy awaited us, and it was hard to contain our excitement about getting a chance to visit this famous building during our UN Study Tour. At the beginning was a guided tour through the building, where we managed to completely confuse our tour guide by declaring the gift of the UAE to the UN, the model of an ancient windtower, in former times used as “air conditioning”, the main attraction of the building. Who cares about the *Security Council* anyway?

After visiting the official council chambers, we found the nucleus of international diplomacy in the basement: the “*Viennese Café*” was always crowded as we mingled among the UN staff, ambassadors, and guests that were enjoying their coffee break. Another highlight which the normal guided tours for tourists do not include is the UN’s cafeteria with a spectacular view over the East River and great food from all over the globe. Judging from the mix of all kinds of languages that could be heard it is certainly the most international place in the most international city on earth.

Besides the pleasure of discovering the architecture and international atmosphere of the Headquarters, the days of the Study Tour revolved around the briefings. UN staff members, diplomats and experts took the time out of their working day to talk about topics such as Women’s Rights, Disarmament, Terrorism, and UN Reform. Even though we sat in the UN all day long, it was impossible to get bored. In the evening, most of us were already looking forward to starting the next morning “New York style” and returning to the UN.

Tim Nover

5.1.1. Briefing on the UN in the New Millennium



The first briefing of our Study Tour was about the United Nations in the New Millennium. Ms. **Patricia Seghers**, who works for the *Department of Public Information* of the *UN Secretariat*, gave us a comprehensive overview on this crucial topic.

First, Ms. Seghers focused on the outcome of the *World Summit* in September 2005. This important summit marked the 60th anniversary of the United Nations and was a follow-up to previous conferences such as the 2000 *Millennium Summit*. *The World Summit* analyzed the progress made in the last five years concerning the *Millennium Development Goals* that tackle topics like gender, health, education, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. It redefined the strategy to achieve the goals on time and underlined the need to adapt and reform the UN to the priorities and challenges of today's world.

Ms. Seghers mentioned several important aspects that were dealt with at the Summit and which identified the main challenges for the UN today. She also described the way in which the UN had to change in order to meet those challenges. The lack of consensus in defining the UN's priorities had been criticized: Developed countries saw the fight against terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as top priorities, whereas developing countries considered the improvement of health conditions and the fight against poverty more important. The Summit's conclusion was that all these challenges were deeply interlinked and could therefore not be addressed separately. Kofi Annan had drawn the same conclusion in his report "*In Larger Freedom*" of 2005 which again recognized the impossibility of achieving goals such as development without achieving others such as peace and security.

Overall, Ms. Seghers regretted that the news reaching the public had been describing the Summit outcome as disappointing and negative. In her opinion, the fact that some issues had been left unsolved (such as, for example, the definition of terrorism) did not turn the Summit into a failure. In fact, very important and concrete commitments had been made in different areas: Concerning poverty and development a global consensus on the eradication of poverty had been reached. All UN Member States had again committed themselves to spend 0.7% of their GDP on development aid; and developing countries had obligated themselves to ensure the protection of the environment. In the field of health, the Member States had agreed to implement health quick-impact projects as a practical and efficient strategy to address problems such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. With

regard to peace and security, terrorism had been condemned unanimously; furthermore a working group had been created to elaborate a comprehensive convention against terrorism. All UN Member States had decided to establish a *Peacebuilding Commission*. This Commission will assist the international community in post-conflict regions by giving assistance in the fields of post-conflict recovery, reconstruction, institution-building and sustainable development.

In the field of Human Rights, the past failure of the international community to prevent the violation of Human Rights had been recognized. The establishment of a *Human Rights Council* had been agreed upon, completed only days before the briefing by resolution A/RES 60/251 of 3 April 2006. The UN Member States decided that the task of the Council was to “*address situations of violations of Human Rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon*”. Furthermore, the resolution comprised the distribution of membership.

At the 2005 Summit, all UN Member States endorsed the concept of “*responsibility to protect*”, an emerging international norm, meaning that the international community has the obligation to protect the civilian population in intrastate conflicts or crises in case the government is not able or willing to take up its responsibility. Ms. Seghers underlined that although this was a political commitment, it already represented a significant first step. Finally, the international community acknowledged that the concept of sovereignty in the past had been sometimes used as a barrier to comply with Human Rights principles and it was recommended that the states should not use it to allow violations of Human Rights.

Ms Seghers finished her speech by once more stressing the positive outcome of the *World Summit*. Afterwards, answering one of our many questions, she explained that the main problem of the *Commission on Human Rights* had been its lack of legitimacy as its members were sometimes violators of Human Rights themselves. Our speaker expressed her belief that the lack of consensus in the creation of the new *Human Rights Council* was a minor problem that would neither affect its legitimacy nor its efficiency. In response to a question concerning the lacking contributions to the UN Budget, Ms. Seghers concluded that the scale of assessments was already in discussion. She emphasized the importance of keeping the public informed, especially concerning the UN’s work and its effect on everyone’s daily lives.

Finally, Ms. Seghers stressed that the UN had become more operational by helping countries to effectively implement their commitments and by making sure that “*the story gets told*” as a means of ensuring the achievement of the goals of the international community.

Tânia Nunes

5.1.2. Briefing on Disarmament

Mr. **Nikolai Rogosaroff**, who works for the *Department for Disarmament Affairs*, gave the second briefing of the day. We were delighted to hear that Mr. Rogosaroff had finished his studies of Political Science at *Freie Universität Berlin* some years ago.

Mr. Rogosaroff started by giving us an overview of the many different sub-topics of disarmament and proliferation, namely: Weapons of Mass Destruction, Conventional Arms, Outer Space, Disarmament and Development, and Regional Disarmament and Emergency Issues. The term “Emergency Issues” refers to urgent conditions such as the connection between Weapons of Mass Destruction and terrorism. He explained the organs responsible for dealing with such matters, including the *First Committee* of the *General Assembly*, the *Department for Disarmament Affairs* (DDA), the *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research* (UNIDIR), and the *Security Council Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters*.

After focusing on the threat weapons of mass destruction to today’s world, Mr. Rogosaroff talked about nuclear weapons, underlining the dilemma between preventing the use of nuclear technology to build nuclear weapons and at the same time allowing its use for peaceful purposes. Our speaker gave us comprehensive background information on nuclear weapons and called our attention to the complexity of the problem by providing us with a list of countries which had already carried out nuclear tests. The large number of nuclear warheads still in existence in 2006 is about 30,000 and emphasizes the enormous significance of further work in this field.

After mentioning other instruments to prevent nuclear proliferation such as the *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Agreement* of 1991 (SALT I) or the *Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty* of 1972 (ABM), Mr. Rogosaroff gave us a detailed and very comprehensive explanation of the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT) which entered into force in 1970. The NPT aims to stop the transfer of nuclear weapons and has the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament, while at the same time giving states the right to develop nuclear



technology for peaceful purposes. He further explained that the NPT established a safeguards system under the responsibility of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA). These safeguards had been used to check the compliance with the NPT by inspections conducted by the IAEA. He concentrated on the different nature and goals of the various inspections, as there were ad hoc inspections, routine inspections, special inspections and safeguards inspections. This led us to the *Additional Protocol*, a model which had been adopted by the IAEA in 1997. This Protocol had been signed by the individual members of the NPT, and, according to Mr. Rogosaroff, was extremely effective as it covered the entire nuclear fuel cycle from mining to enrichment and finally the bomb. Furthermore, the Protocol enables inspections of all buildings on the nuclear site and facilitates speedy inspections as the inspectors had multiple entry visas for one year. Mr. Rogosaroff underlined that the NPT was a very important mechanism towards nuclear non-proliferation but that it was still imperfect as not all the states had signed and ratified the Additional Protocol, which considerably decreased the efficiency of the controls. The aim was to get the remaining states to sign and join the NPT and the *Additional Protocol*.

Furthermore, Mr. Rogosaroff analyzed the progress that had been made concerning nuclear disarmament and underlined the fact that there was no reference to nuclear weapons in the final outcome document of the *World Summit 2005*. He expressed his concern on the fact that Iran had been researching in the field of nuclear weapons for 18 years without declaring it.

After his very dynamic and comprehensive speech, Mr. Rogosaroff was at our disposal for questions. He explained how the United Nations could play a more active role in the fight against nuclear proliferation and analyzed the very current issues, elaborating on the nuclear agreement between the United States and India. Finally, the topic of Iran was object of the lively discussion, concerning a possible withdrawal of Iran from the NPT.

Tânia Nunes

5.1.3. Briefing on Humanitarian Affairs

Ms. **Stephanie Bunker**, who works for the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) at UN Headquarters, gave an introduction to the work of the United Nations in the area of complex emergencies and natural disasters. OCHA has two Headquarters, one in New York and the other in Geneva, but is relatively small with only 1140 employees worldwide. In addition, there are regional action centers in over 30 countries. OCHA has an annual budget of US-\$ 128 million, which, according to Stephanie Bunker, constituted only 60% of the funds required.

The field of action is not restricted to prompt help in crisis for affected people, but also the support and guidance of local institutions. The focal points are complex emergencies and natural disasters, which overstrain the authorities of the affected countries and regions. Humanitarian assistance, which the office coordinates, has to be impartial and given in accordance to need. This means that religion, gender or ethnics are not to be considered while granting humanitarian help.

In her introduction, giving the example of Afghanistan, Ms. Bunker demonstrated what the term complex emergencies meant for OCHA. It included different catastrophes at the same time, as it had happened in Afghanistan, where the infrastructure had been destroyed, the economy had been devastated, and the regime had been repressive; joined by problems caused by drug cultivation and trade, refugee streams and war. Complex emergencies often occurred in ongoing conflicts or in post-conflict areas. Therefore, she described her tasks as an enduring challenge.

However, the UN office was only able to act upon request of the affected countries, she explained. During the past few years, missions had taken place in tsunami-affected areas, such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as those areas in Pakistan which had been devastated by the earthquake in 2005. Ms. Bunker thought it was very problematic that assistance was only carried out upon request. At this point, some students started to ask how the United Nations would be able to fulfill its duties when it had to face the ambiguous barrier of national sovereignty. She strongly condemned the fact that some countries gave priority to national sovereignty instead of necessary humanitarian interventions. Asked how the UN dealt with this problem, Ms. Bunker highlighted that they had to accept the principles of the UN Charter.



Alongside limited political accessibility it was also difficult to physically access crisis-ridden areas, for example in Sudan, where it had not been possible to get to 300,000 people in need. Oftentimes, it was impossible to sufficiently guarantee the safety of the aid workers. To decide who needed support or where help was needed, the office depended on the cooperation of the national governments, the *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* and non-governmental organizations. The latter were the office's most important partners, since they had local expertise and resources at their disposal, which made effective aid intervention possible, she outlined.

In the case of an intervention, the office had several tools; however, they were only able to provide the basic supply of the suffering population. This included food, basic health care, water supplies, as well as the construction and management of emergency camps. Moreover, OCHA was only able to offer humanitarian aid, not development aid. In UN jargon this was called *bottom-line intervention*, Ms. Bunker explained. Sometimes the office also provided basic education for children and juveniles in order to promote education, and to help them to overcome their traumata. Often, OCHA coordinates the actions of other institutions in the UN system, like *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) or *World Health Organization* (WHO), who work in the same areas with similar aims. According to Ms. Bunker, it was important to avoid inefficiencies and duplications, which could cause donor countries to reduce their financial support. As she pointed out, the coordination of the interventions in the affected countries was the most

important task and at the same time the biggest problem for OCHA. She perceived as especially enriching the fact that, in affected areas, often the poorest of the poor would help people affected by the crisis until they themselves needed help. In contrast to this, she deplored the politics of those developed countries which were more likely to provide help if the crisis had received a lot of publicity in the media, for example the tsunami catastrophe or the war in Iraq, or would give money for special interventions, so that the office was not able to independently decide on its budget. Ms. Bunker regretted that enduring projects or interventions in less publicized areas of crisis in the world were often neglected.

Lena Marie Boers, Dominik Duell

5.1.4. Briefing on Peacekeeping

The briefing on Peacekeeping was held by Mr. **Stadler Trengove**, a lawyer from South Africa, who is currently working for the *Office of Legal Affairs* of the *United Nations Secretariat*. He started by telling us about his life and career up to his present responsibilities at the UN where he was currently working on the case of Charles Taylor. The former military dictator of Liberia, who had escaped to Nigeria, had been extradited by the Nigerian government on March 30, 2006, only a few days before the briefing took place. Taylor's home country Liberia handed him over to Sierra Leone, where he is about to be tried for massive violations of Human Rights, such as genocide, rape, and forcing children to work as soldiers or sex slaves. Our speaker draw our attention to the *International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda* which had also been designed by the UN, and could serve as role models for a Special Tribunal for Liberia.

Since Sierra Leone is a neighboring state of Liberia, some of Taylor's guerrillas are in the country. Due to this fact, there would be a great danger of Mr. Taylor organizing unrest in Sierra Leone from his prison cell. Therefore, the UN was actively involved in establishing a Special Tribunal outside of Africa, as Mr. Trengove explained. This Tribunal would probably be installed in The Hague, Netherlands, where the *International Court of Justice* (ICJ) and the *International Criminal Court* (ICC) are located.

After having informed us about this very recent topic, Mr. Trengove gave us an overview of the history of UN Peacekeeping missions since 1948, beginning with the first two missions: the *United Nations Truce Supervision Organization* (UNTSO) in Israel, and the *United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan* (UNMOGIP), which observed the so-called "Line of Control" in Kashmir. He explained the important changes in perception of Peacekeeping operations after the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia 1995. Then, our speaker focused on the changes of Peacekeeping operations with the first "robust" mandate in Kosovo 1999. He told us about one of the major problems of the UN's attempts to maintain international peace and security: While the UN's original orientation had been to prevent interstate wars, the "image" of wars had changed fundamentally towards intrastate conflicts. He reported that in the year 2002, more than three quarters of all wars worldwide had been internal conflicts, either between different ethnic groups or between ethnic groups and their national governments, committing gross violations of Human Rights. The UN Charter is ambivalent in this regard. Article 2 Para.

7 describes one of the major principles of the United Nations: “*Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.*” Chapter VII of the Charter, however, authorizes the *Security Council* to decide which measures, such as sanctions or a military intervention, shall be taken if it determines the existence of any threat to peace, breach of peace or act of aggression.

Knowing the provisions of the Charter, but also being aware of tragic intrastate developments, Mr. Trengove was convinced that a new understanding of Peacekeeping measures was needed and pointed out the case of Somalia in the early 1990s. Back then, the *Security Council* took a different approach to the term “peace” by interpreting it in a way that it was not merely the absence of war. In order to have peace in a country, certain provisions such as the respect of the Human Rights of its citizens had to be ensured. In its *Resolution 794* (1992), the *Security Council* considered the suffering of the people of Somalia to be “*a threat to international peace and security*”. The resolution, which had been adopted by consensus, did not justify an intervention from neighboring countries affected by the conflict, e.g. because of the high number of refugees, but it legitimized the US-led military operation “*Restore Hope*” because of the humanitarian catastrophe.



In this regard, Mr. Trengove drew our attention to the outcome of the *World Summit 2005*, where the appreciation of the values sovereignty and Human Rights was decided in favor of the latter. Although not binding, Member States supported a “*responsibility to protect*” which every state has towards its citizens and thus underlined the importance of this emerging norm. As long as a government is able to protect its citizens, the provision of non-intervention remains valid. If, however, a state is no longer able to provide this protection for its people or if the state itself is the originator or perpetrator of massive Human Rights violations, the *Security Council* may decide upon measures to end this situation.

Concluding, Mr. Trengove gave us a positive outlook on the future of international law: “*There is hope that the ICC will be strong.*” The following questions were concentrating on the *International Criminal Court*, leading to a controversial debate concerning its function and effectiveness. There were also substantial questions regarding the various regional examples made by Mr. Trengove. The discussion was completed by a discussion about the perspective of international jurisdiction towards the U.S. interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

5.1.5. Briefing on Refugees

On the second day of our study tour at the United Nations Headquarters, **Dr. Mike McBride**, introduced to us the topic of refugees and the role the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) plays with regard to their return and their resettlement. Dr. McBride is a Professor of Political Science at *Whittier College*. Since he is also a specialist for Human Rights and the United Nations, he serves as a consultant for the Office of the UNHCR.

Our speaker started with a general overview of the mandate and the structure of the Office, which had been established by the *General Assembly* in 1951. It is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and implement refugee programs worldwide. The primary purpose thereby is to secure the well-being and the dignity of refugees. That means to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the choice of returning home, integrating locally, or resettling in a third country.

According to the 1951 *Convention on the Status of Refugees*, Dr. McBride defined a refugee as a person who “*owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country*”. The 1951 Convention could be taken as a cornerstone of refugee protection, but our speaker explained that UNHCR had launched a series of initiatives to strengthen and extend the original mandate. The original mandate had been restricted to three years and limited to refugees in Europe after World War II. After it had achieved its primary goal, it had been extended for five-year terms respectively. In 2003, the mandate had finally been extended indefinitely. The 1967 *Protocol to the Convention*, removing geographical and temporal restrictions from the Convention, had broadened the scope of the Convention. The mission of the UNHCR had also been geographically extended to Africa (1969) and Latin America (1984). Regarding the organizational structure, Dr. McBride highlighted that UNHCR today employed a staff of about 6.500 people in 116 countries with 263 field offices, the Headquarter being located in Geneva. When UNHCR had begun its work in 1951, it had only had 34 staff members and a yearly budget of US-\$ 300,000. Today the budget amounts for more than one billion US-\$ per year. Dr. McBride mentioned a major financial problem the UNHCR was facing: Receiving only 30% of its budget from the United Nations, the UNHCR depended heavily on voluntary contributions from governments. Furthermore, some governments earmarked funds, what means that they only sponsor special projects which they consider important. That of course restricted the self-reliance of the UNHCR, and became a problem in cases of emergency relief.

Furthermore, Dr. McBride drew our attention to the distinction that had to be made between the terms “*refugees*”, “*stateless people*”, and “*internally displaced*”. While both refugees and stateless people fell under the mandate of the UNHCR and special help was given to them, displacement was one of the major problems of today. Internally displaced persons might have fled for the same reasons refugees had left their homes, but they remained within their home state’s territory and were therefore still subject to the

laws of their own country. The UNHCR could only be active when asked for by the respective government or the *General Assembly*. It had assisted about one million internally displaced persons in specific crises, but could not help all of the 20 to 25 millions internally displaced persons worldwide. It was for this reason that there was an international debate on how this group of people could be protected in a better way.

At the end of his briefing, Dr. McBride called our attention to the important work of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in cooperation with UNHCR. He said that around 600 NGOs carried out most important parts of the work the UNHCR was responsible for. Especially in refugee camps and in cases of emergency, the work of the organizations on the ground was essential.

Jule Jürgens

5.1.6. Briefing on NGOs

For our briefing on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), we had the pleasure to meet Ms. **Sol Oca** from the *Department of Public Information*. She gave us a passionate and interactive speech on the relationship between the United Nations and NGOs.

After a warm greeting, Ms. Oca began her speech with an interesting question: how important are NGOs and civil society in our world? Before we could give her an answer, she tried to help us outline the some distinctive characteristics of NGOs: non-profit oriented, political neutrality, efficiency, accountability, and transparency. She then compared civil society and non-civil society and underlined the importance of civil society in the United Nations system, especially in organs and programs such as the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)* or *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*. Many NGOs enjoy consultative status in the ECOSOC. Furthermore, NGOs are affiliated with the United Nations in many other fields. In particular, NGOs have contributed considerably to the implementation of the *Millennium Development Goals*.

According to Ms. Oca, the cooperation between the United Nations and NGOs was a win-win situation. She stressed that the United Nations needed partners when dealing with local and regional issues. Generally, NGOs are topic-oriented and specialize in particular issues. Mostly, they know the local culture and language better than UN staff or agencies. NGOs are able to push the agenda forward firmly because of their distinguished competence. On the other hand, by working with the United Nations, NGOs earn reputation and gain international influence.

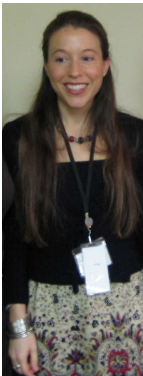
However, it is not easy for an NGO to get accreditation with the United Nations. Any NGO which intends to affiliate with the United Nations has to hand in an introduction about itself, its main focus topic, its information sources, and documents on its budget. It further needs a recommendation letter from the regional information center of the United Nations. Within the United Nations, these documents will be reviewed and evaluated before the accreditation might be approved. In 2005, the United Nations has accredited only 24 new NGOs. However, there are still problematic NGOs which managed to be associated with the United Nations. For the disassociation, the legal office of the NGO

department is responsible. According to the latest statistics, 44 NGOs were disassociated because of disrespecting the principles of the UN Charter, having become intransparent or inactive, or other relevant reasons.

During her briefing, Ms. Oca gave us the touching example about an inspiring 95-year-old lady who was a very active volunteer in civil society and had organized many public workshops before she passed away. She said that only because of these motivated people who were eager to make a change in the world, the world could be altered. She asked every one of us what we could do for the world and how we could make changes. We gave her various and ambitious replies. Some of us told her about their work in volunteer organizations, and some explained that they were already active in NGOs or political parties. Ms. Oca was very moved and satisfied with these exciting answers. She encouraged all of us to do more for our world.

Ziting Zhang

5.1.7. Briefing on Human Rights



On the second day of our briefings at UN Headquarters, we had the pleasure of being briefed by Ms. **Giorgia Passarelli** on Human Rights issues. Ms. Passarelli is one of the staff members of the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* in New York (OHCHR).

Even though the main offices of the High Commissioner with its 200 staff members are located in Geneva, the UN maintains a liaison office with 5 staff members at the Headquarters in New York. OHCHR was founded in 1994 to promote and protect all Human Rights and coordinate the activities of the different UN bodies, agencies, and programs dealing with Human Rights Issues.

In her briefing, Ms. Passarelli explained the work of the *High Commissioner* and the various Human Rights-related activities of the UN. The OHCHR coordinates a number of *Special Rapporteurs* who report to the *High Commissioner* on the Human Rights situation in a certain region or regarding a specific topic. She stressed that even though the reports from the *Special Rapporteurs* did not enable the Commissioner to take concrete measures, they were by no means futile. The reports serve as an important instrument to increase the pressure on states which repeatedly commit Human Rights violations or to raise public awareness about some issues like torture or freedom of expression. OHCHR also provides support and assistance to states that want to solve existing Human Rights problems.

Ms. Passarelli highlighted the growing importance of Human Rights issues within the UN system. For example, there is a Human Rights component in every Peacekeeping operation since the year 2000.

Afterwards, Ms. Passarelli focused on the recently established *Human Rights Council*. Since the founding of the organization in 1945, a *Commission on Human Rights* (CHR)

with 53 Member States had served as the UN's highest Human Rights organ. Its mandate included securing respect for all Human Rights, promoting international cooperation to protect Human Rights, and preventing Human Rights violations. The CHR was a very political body where states were openly criticized and discredited. Human Rights experts were able to alert the CHR of Human Rights violations and to give directions for further action by the Commission. The actions taken did not include sanctions, but pressure from other governments. As Ms. Passarelli put it, *"no government wanted to be put on the list of Human Rights violators."*

However, the CHR was far from being an effective body. Critics repeatedly voiced their concerns about the process of electing members into the Commission. Countries that were known to have committed serious Human Rights violations, like Zimbabwe, Cuba, or Libya, were elected into the Commission and at times even held its presidency. Furthermore, the CHR met only once a year for a 6-week session, leaving not enough time to adequately discuss the serious questions regarding Human Rights. The insufficiencies of the old Commission led to an effort to reform it and create a new *Human Rights Council* which could address Human Rights issues and react to Human Rights violations more efficiently. Ms. Passarelli quoted the President of the *General Assembly*, Mr. Jan Eliasson, as follows: *"By strengthening this machinery and at the same time make an instrument of cooperation and of dialogue, we enhance the common ownership of the Human Rights works of the United Nations."*

The new *Human Rights Council* (HRC), which was created by the *General Assembly* on March 15, 2006, has 47 Member States, which have to compete to be elected into the Council. The HRC will meet more often than the former Commission: it has to convene at least three times a year for sessions which last at least 10 weeks. In a periodic review process, all members can be reviewed by other members of the Council to ensure the transparency of the body. In a new election process, Member States must compete for their votes in the General Assembly to reach a majority of the UN membership. After the creation of the HRC, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said *"This Council represents a great new chance for the United Nations and for humanity, to renew the struggle for Human Rights"*.

By adopting the resolution creating the *Human Rights Council*, the *General Assembly* has proven that even though there are many differences in the world, universal values like Human Rights are still shared by Member States. It also shows that the *General Assembly* can establish an effective Human Rights body and send a message that the United Nations is able to reform itself.

Concluding her remarks on the creation of the *Human Rights Council*, Ms. Passarelli believed that the Council *"has the potential to be different; however, how Member States will achieve these goals remains to be seen"*. All of us felt that she had been a knowledgeable expert with a lot of experience and full of passion who could go on for hours about the interesting and crucial topic of Human Rights.

Tim Nover, Roxana Popescu, Ana Ribeiro

5.1.8. Briefing on Sanctions

As representatives of the United Arab Emirates, the topic of sanctions was extremely interesting and important for us. For this reason, we were all very excited when Ms. **Tatiana Cosio** entered the room. We could hardly have found a better expert than Ms. Cosio with her long-lasting experience in the field of sanctions to explain the topic to us. For the last 20 years, she had been working for the United Nations, of which 17 were spent concerning sanctions. Already the amount of time was impressive. Furthermore, we had to imagine what had happened in the world during the last 17 years and how the use of sanctions had changed during that time. In the 1990s, more sanctions were imposed than ever before. All these things made us even more curious to hear the upcoming briefing.

Ms. Cosio belongs to the staff of the *United Nations Secretariat*. The Secretariat, as one of the main organs of the UN, has the main task to assist the other organs, organizations and programs in all matters, including the administration of their programs and policies. Due to this, the Secretariat has to have a detailed knowledge about all issues currently under discussion in the UN. The Secretariat has about 9000 employees; the majority works in New York, and the rest in other UN offices like Geneva and Nairobi.



At the time of the briefing, Ms. Cosio was working for the *Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee*. The committee was founded in 1999, based on *Security Council Resolution 1267* with the aim of monitoring the implementation of the sanctions imposed against the Taliban for harboring Usama bin Laden. All states are asked to inform the committee about actions they have taken. Furthermore, other groups of experts and a Monitoring Team had been established to support the work of the Committee.

Ms. Cosio started her presentation with a short overview of the reasons for the use of sanctions. She told us that sanctions were imposed when norms of international law had been hurt by state actors. In addition, there could be situations where aggression or repression had taken place. Ms. Cosio stressed that sanctions should not be considered a punishment. Rather they should be seen as an attempt to affect a certain country which has to fulfill some demands. Specifically, this meant that sanctions were designed to

change the behavior of a certain country or to prevent or stop it from taking certain actions.

But at which moment sanctions should be imposed? According to Ms. Cosio, this question should be combined with the decision on the type of sanctions. Thereby, a difference had to be made between comprehensive economic sanctions on the one hand and targeted sanctions on the other hand. She explained to us that there had been a lot of arguing about this topic: the humanitarian impact of sanctions and their effectiveness in general had caused concerns. Especially in the case of comprehensive economic sanctions there was a certain danger that the population of the state would suffer because of the sanctions, even if they were targeting the elite or the leaders of the respective country. Furthermore, sanctions could strengthen black markets. For these reasons, more targeted sanctions are imposed today.

Ms. Cosio underlined that the Member States of the UN were responsible for the implementation of sanctions. This was at the same time one of the biggest problems, as not every state had the resources or was willing to implement all measures linked to sanctions. On the other hand, the *Security Council* alone was not able to guarantee for the implementation of sanctions. To sum up these problems, one could say that the cooperation of all Member States within the UN had to be improved and be made more effective. This meant especially the coordination of resources and actions taken.

In the end of her presentation, Ms. Cosio informed us about the sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban. This topic had been put on the international agenda immediately after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. One of the first reactions of the UN had been to establish the *Counter-Terrorism Committee* (CTC). This Committee was to monitor the implementation of *Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)*. The list of terrorists had become very relevant for the work of the CTC. It was a rather new instrument concerning sanctions. To be mentioned on the list meant in the first place isolation and later other measures, she explained. Each state had the right to put people to the list and to provide other information. In general, Ms. Cosio described the work of the Committee and the sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban as difficult. She said that these measures were necessary, but very limited.

With her presentation, Tatiana Cosio gave us a very good overview about both the development of sanctions and the current situation. It was followed by a lively discussion. Especially the list of terrorists of the *Counter-Terrorism Committee* set off several questions. She explained that each Member State could put names on the list. Another question was how and under which criteria a name could be withdrawn from the list. Ms. Cosio admitted that it was not very easy to be withdrawn from the list. According to her, a regular monitoring system should be created to control the use of the list and to make it as efficient as possible.

Maarit Vuorimäki

5.1.9. Briefing on the Situation in Iraq

On 19 August 2003, the United Nations were attacked. Terrorists from the Al-Qaida network killed 22 UN staff members by detonating a car bomb in front of the UN Headquarter in Baghdad. The UN had never before been targeted like this.

“Normally I would have been working at my desk this morning, like every day since I came to Baghdad” said **Hamid Abdeljabar** at the beginning of his briefing for the group of students from Germany and Japan about the situation in Iraq. The conference room fell silent when Mr. Abdeljabar started to talk. *“I worked for six years in Iraq. I worked for the Oil for Food Program before the last war and I came back after the end to help the Iraqi people. But I had left back to New York on the evening before the attack because it was time for me to go back to Headquarters. If I would have decided to leave one day later, I would not be alive anymore.”*

Reham Al-Farra was at her desk at that morning. The young Jordan journalist had joined the *United Nations Department of Public Information* only recently and had gone to Baghdad after a short time in New York. She took over the office of Mr. Abdeljabar who had worked there for six years. When the car bomb exploded in front of the Baghdad Headquarter, Reham Al-Farra died. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq died as well – Sergio Vieira de Mello had worked for the UN for more than 30 years in places like Cambodia, Lebanon and the former Yugoslavia. He was one of the most respected persons within the UN system.

Hamid Abdeljabar wanted the students to be struck by his story and by showing big color portraits of two victims, only two of 22. He wants to put emphasis on the fact that a lot of UN employees risk, and sometimes lose, their lives for their ideals and the vision of a better world.

Mr. Abdeljabar is from Palestine. Still, in the following 90 minutes, he described the UN's policy concerning Iraq with so much passion that none of the students were mentally absent and everybody would have assumed that Mr. Abdeljabar was from Iraq. The great culture of the country served him as a perfect example to explain to the students how much potential this country has, not only in the past, but as well in present and in future. For a long time, Babylon, called the “cradle of civilization”, had been the centre not only of Mesopotamia, but of the entire world. The first written law texts, the hanging gardens of Semiramis, the impressive buildings, the salience in painting and arts and last but not least the strategic location between the two streams of Euphrates and Tigris, made Babylon and Iraq a target for powerful rulers. For the same reasons, occupation and violence are continuous parts of Iraqi history. The region was conquered, invaded and occupied more than 100 times - as often as no other region in the world. But the desire for independence of the many different ethnic and religious groups, some of them unique in the world, could never be calmed for a long time and never be controlled by foreigners. And that was what Mr. Abdeljabar further stressed: one must be aware of the fact that Iraqi history is one of blood and war. To change this history and to bring Iraq back to the path of peace and security was the idea of the UN's Iraq policy for more than a decade.

Hamid Abdeljabar's second part of his presentation covered the last 16 years of Iraq's history. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, *Security Council Resolution 687 (1991)* combined three ideas: the legitimacy of a coalition to free Kuwait, the disarmament of Iraq with regard to biological and chemical weapons and the most comprehensive sanctions regime ever to weaken the Iraqi government. Especially the latter point failed. Due to the sanctions, half a million children died but the regime grew even stronger. Therefore *Resolution 986 (1995)* created the *Oil for Food Program* that allowed Iraq to sell certain amounts of oil on the world market in exchange of food, medicine and other humanitarian goods for the suffering Iraqi civilian population. One way or the other, the country was close to collapse. The Hussein regime was not cooperative at all and violated international law. As a consequence, American airstrikes hit the country for four days in December 1998. On this day, the United Nations withdrew their staff from Iraq. Therefore, the international community did not have any information about what was going on within the country.

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 changed the situation. The Bush administration suspected Iraq of possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction. Though the UN weapons inspector Hans Blix asked the members of the *Security Council* for more time to pursue accurate examinations, the US led another coalition into Iraq. After six weeks, President Bush proclaimed the end of principal military action. The international community returned to Baghdad and to the Iraqi people in order to coordinate humanitarian aid and influence the developing political processes. At this point, Mr. Abdeljabar stressed how strongly the Iraqi people had welcomed the removal of Saddam Hussein and the help from the United Nations. Still, according to his view, the people had the impression of being under American occupation since 2003.

These days, the situation in Iraq is close to a civil war. Mr. Abdeljabar did not lose his optimism after all the disappointing years: he was convinced that all ethnic groups would eventually recognize that their struggle for power could not be won; they would all lose if the violence continued. Therefore Mr. Abdeljabar argued for a stronger role of the UN in Iraq to build trust with the Iraqi people. He hopes and works for a stronger involvement of the UN concerning the country's future, in a role that ensures more influence, and finally a role with more responsibility. He would like to see the UN in Iraq in a similar position as in Afghanistan or Kosovo, where stability and progress constantly grow.

Jan Ingo Knuth



5.1.10. Briefing on Economic Development

If the most famous body of the United Nations, the *Security Council*, deals primarily with peace and security, the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC) represents more than 50% of the whole UN budget. Its activity has two main pillars:

- the ECOSOC is a forum to find consensus, prepare, promote and set the agenda on economic and social matters;
- it gives advices and coordinates the concrete technical assistance between the United Nations and the Member States on the regional and sub-regional levels.

The ECOSOC is most of times the starting point for discussions and initiatives, but the *General Assembly* occasionally deals with these topics through its Special Summits on Sustainable Development, gender equality, food security, or the financing of development.

The briefing about Economic Development was delivered by Mr. **Matthias Kempf**, a German citizen working at the *Analysis Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs*. He gave us a very insightful overview of the current problems linked to economic development on the global stage. The main mission of the *Analysis Division* is a macro-economic policy analysis with regional focuses, being used by the Secretariat for action. It delivers material to colleagues working in the field and reports them annually in its "*World Economic and Social Survey*". The Division works with its own economic model and provides with numerous quantitative analyses.

After these explanations, Mr. Kempf gave us some keys of the current situation of the world economy. The last 5 years had shown huge differences between developed and developing countries: while the developed world knew a significant slowdown, some developing countries grew very fast, even if this dynamic was not equally distributed. Today's main risks are under-employment in rural areas, possibly leading to social and political tensions, the "twin deficits" in the United States and the Asian surplus, requiring more multilateral coordination, the bubble in housing markets in America and Western Europe and health risks and diseases such as HIV/AIDS and bird flu. However, some factors allow experts to lean toward optimism: growth in investment, potential gains in international trade with positive outcomes from the current WTO negotiations, low interest rates encouraging growth especially in developing countries, and a low inflation in most countries in the world.

Mr. Kempf finally focused on specific issues of great importance for the world economy in the near future. First he dealt with the question of energy and the oil markets. At the time of the briefing, energy prices had been rising dramatically for several months; crude oil in particular had reached the price of US-\$70 per barrel. At that moment, he stated, the situation was not critical, such levels had already been seen in the past. But the structure of the market was totally new: the oil crises in the 1970's and 1980's were essentially driven by narrowing supplies due to the OPEC's strategy to increase prices. Today, price increase was a result of strong demand from fast growing economies like China and India. The main consequence of the current crisis was inflation, but for some

countries in Africa, the net effect was positive: price increases in oil were compensated by increases in export prices for other goods.

His second point was the case of China. The Chinese evolution was actually very similar to what Japan experienced in the 1980's, he argued: strong industrialization, opening of its market, international networks, and the reallocation of resources toward export goods. But given China's size, its emergence was far more important. Nevertheless some challenges were to be tackled by policymakers: would a slowdown in growth be sustainable, given the social and political tensions in the country? How about the numerous structural problems in China such as the bank sector, environment, geographical inequalities, and exchange rates? Policymakers lacked many of the traditional instruments of advanced economies, especially reliable financial markets or an efficient monetary policy. He stated that within the next years, the new strategies of investment and trade in emerging partner countries in Africa and Latin America would be interesting.

Lastly, he came to an evaluation of the *Millennium Development Goals*. They touch various topics: poverty, education, gender equality, health; and set quantitative targets by 2015. He was of the opinion that the good aspect was that they included concrete objectives which made them very workable and measurable. In some fields like poverty, progress was real, though Africa was excluded. Mr. Kempf thought that some goals might be contradictory, for example poverty alleviation as well as the respect for and the protection of the environment. Risks were high to sacrifice the environment on the altar of growth. According to his view, some specific initiatives for regions in difficulty, like Sub-Saharan Africa, should be taken.

After Mr. Kempf's presentation, the audience took the chance to participate actively and further questions were discussed. Mr. Kempf was asked to express his point of view on the ongoing Doha Round development negotiations at the *World Trade Organization*. He replied by stating that from the perspective of the United Nations, the current talks and the possible progress on agreements about liberalization of agriculture markets were seen in a very positive way. Furthermore, he expressed his hope that the Doha Development Round could be finished successfully. Another question dealt with poverty in Europe and Mr. Kempf's analysis of this problem. He agreed that the increase of poverty in Europe had to be considered as a serious negative development. However, in comparison with other regions, he was not able to find any dramatic impact on the overall stability of institutions and states.

Maxime Alimi, Nils Barnickel

5.1.11. Briefing on Human Trafficking

Mr. **Luca Dall'Oglio** was our speaker on the topic of human trafficking. As the Permanent Observer of the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)* to the UN, he was particularly dedicated to the issue.

Mr. Dall'Oglio explained how crucial this topic was at the United Nations, even though it is usually unknown to the public. Human trafficking is intertwined with many other issues: labor, Human Rights, refugees, migration, and development. In his view, a major problem was that human trafficking had not found its place within the UN system; it was not addressed directly, but remained a transversal issue.

However, things are changing: In September 2006, a *High Level Dialogue on International Migration* will take place at UN Headquarters in New York. This will be the first meeting especially devoted to migration and an opportunity not to be missed according to Mr. Dall'Oglio. In the past, the 1994 *Cairo International Conference on Population and Migration* had been much broader in its content; only one chapter had been dedicated to migration as such. He outlined that the goal of the upcoming meeting was to implement a common platform in order to set a global coordinated agenda around four main aspects: human trafficking, governance for migration, Human Rights and environment.

According to Mr. Dall'Oglio, the international system still lacked a true regime against human trafficking. Today, there are only two important texts of international law:

- The *Convention on Migrant Workers* (1990) has been ratified by only 33 UN Member States, among which was no immigration country. Most of the time, states did not go further than merely stating principles without implementing them in national law.
- The *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children*, supplementing the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (2000), has so far been ratified by 97 countries.

Our speaker asked why there was so much trafficking in spite of the existing conventions and went on to answer his own question by stating that a lack of either capacities or political will were the reasons. On the other hand, ratification as a strong binding



instrument meant an open door to international control and monitoring, and the international community could offer its capacities to help a state to comply with its commitment.

He explained that trafficking should be distinguished carefully from smuggling, where the individual crossing borders illegally was master of the process and did it on his own. In the case of trafficking, the victims were in a position of submission to the trafficker. In this respect, trafficking was a violation of Human Rights, often combined with forced labor, the violation of the freedom of movement, and physical or mental coercion. Human trafficking could also occur within a country, as it had happened with children in Ghana, who had been sold by their own parents to fishing communities, or in Mozambique, where children had been enrolled as soldiers during the civil war and abandoned after demobilization. Unfortunately, this was likely to happen in Liberia as well. In developed countries, human trafficking could also take the form of forced begging, he described. The particular difficulty and challenge was therefore to take into account the interest of the child since the family might have been involved in the crime.

Mr. Dall'Oglio outlined some misperceptions: Victims of human trafficking were not only women subject to sexual exploitation, but more and more children and young men. Trafficking was not only an international phenomenon, and traffickers were not only men since some women who had been exploited might have turned into traffickers themselves.

What can the United Nations do against human trafficking? According to Mr. Dall'Oglio, there were essentially two aspects:

- **Prevention:** To inform and alert target groups likely to be victims of trafficking (young populations, specific social background and geographic situations); to offer alternatives and re-channel their aspirations to leave their country through legal migration programs and re-employment.
- **Protection:** To alleviate the victims' situation, create shelters and alternative socializing environments, implement medical and psychological assistance. Sometimes, a new identity had to be created when families might be exposed to retaliation. In European law, programs had been implemented to stay in the country and promote paths to reintegration.

The next step the UN could take was an evaluation of what had worked or not worked in Eastern Europe, especially Albania, he explained. Furthermore, the coordination among UN agencies like the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) or *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) had to be improved to bring expertise into the field and reach better efficiency.

Due to his complex and detailed presentation, we were not able to ask Mr. Dall'Oglio any further questions at the end of the briefing. Still, we all had the feeling that we had learned a lot concerning human trafficking.

Maxime Alimi

5.1.12. Briefing on Women's Issues

When we entered the room, I was surprised: the room looked quite different from what we had seen so far. There were no tables but only small chairs with a little desk on the side, there was no podium for a chairman or a speaker but a cupboard, and the walls were full of posters – I was reminded of my second grade classroom and the “*United Nations Cyberschoolbus*” project for young children came to mind. But as a diplomat, you should not pay attention to appearance but only to substance. This was a good principle for the following 90 minutes since the briefing was about Women's Issues and of course, we should not judge the abilities of people by their look but by their work.

We had the honor to hear a briefing from **Christine Brautigam**, who is the head of the *Women's Rights Section* of the *UN Division for the Advancement of Women*. Ms. Brautigam is a popular guest speaker at conferences and discussions all over the world and during her briefing, it became clear why she is such an expert in the field: her enormous knowledge is combined with a capability to explain complex circumstances in a simple way. When I left the room, I had learned plenty of facts about Women's Issues and felt that I understood the topic much better.

Ms. Brautigam started with the basic facts: she explained that the *Commission on the Status of Women* (CSW) was elected by the ECOSOC Plenary and that it met twice a year to discuss global policies for gender related issues. The CSW is one of the oldest commissions in the UN system: during its 60 years of existence, it has had a great influence on the improvement of the situation of women all around the globe. One of its successes is the fact that the CSW has organized four *World Conferences on Women* which adopted landmark documents to specifically advance the rights of women in the world.

Throughout history, especially in the 1960s, the increasing focus on Human Rights was beginning to draw more attention to women's rights. In 1975, the first *World Conference on Women* was held in Mexico, and the United Nations declared the decade from 1975 until 1985 the “*Decade on Women's Rights*”. After the first conference, there has been a series of other conferences in which the status of women was discussed and promoted. In 1979, the *General Assembly* adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) which was signed by most countries in 1980 and entered into force in 1981. Until today, 182 states have become party to the convention. Interestingly enough, the United States of America have signed the CEDAW convention in 1980, but have not ratified it yet.

The last milestone of the history of Women's Rights was the *Fourth World Conference* in 1995, which adopted the *Beijing Declaration* on the status of women and put forward 12 critical areas of concern to women's rights in a Platform of Action.



After this overview, Ms. Brautigam talked about recent problems the CSW was confronted with: even if most states and leaders completely agreed with the central ideas to achieve equality between women and man, the realization lacked far behind the signed agreements. Especially the political rights of women were still not respected in many countries. Consequently, this was one of the major aspects within the work of the *Commission on the Status of Women*. As an Arab diplomat, I felt particularly affected by this part of her speech, knowing that in a lot of Arab countries women's political rights are more an instrument of positive political publicity rather than the conviction that women's work and opinion is needed in all parts of society to achieve further progress.

On the other hand, I was proud that the following discussion mainly took place between Ms. Brautigam and two members of our delegation: Dania and Roxana obviously impressed the head of the *Women's Rights Section* with their profound knowledge of the issue and their detailed questions. Even though after a certain point of the discussion I was not able to follow anymore, I could observe that both sides enjoyed the conversation. Hence, I was very thankful at the end: to Ms. Brautigam for the insight she gave us, to the entire delegation that showed that young people still care about gender equality, and to Dania and Roxana who underlined that also Arab delegations want to improve the overall situation of women.

Jan Ingo Knuth

5.1.13. Briefing on Reform

Mr. **Peter Smith** from the *Department of Management* at the *UN Secretariat* called himself a "*UN newcomer*"; having spent only the last 18 months at the UN after his work as a consultant at the *US Congress* in Washington DC. The *Department of Management* is responsible for program and human resource planning, ebudget and financial management, and information technology services. The department is the driving force behind UN management reform.

Mr. Smith started his presentation about UN management reform with an example. He asked the audience to look at the meeting room and stated that nearly nothing has changed since 1951. Now the UN Secretariat building was an unsafe old building which had to be renovated. But in the last five years, little progress had been made beyond mere discussions. While the goal was clear, the process was controversial. He pointed out that this kind of discussion was typical for many UN processes where interference with unrelated policy issues hindered consensus finding. His experience had shown that the over-abundance of political will often neglected the careful analysis of arguments in trade-off situations. Then he switched to a more general perspective by drawing an analogy between the *General Assembly* and the *UN Secretariat* with the *US Congress* and the *White House*. From his perspective, the whole problem was the lack of checks and balances with an over-dominant *General Assembly*. The outcome of the *World Summit* in September 2005 had only been reached because the various UN committees were bypassed by their Heads of State. He called the Outcome Document a "*homework assignment*" for the UN.

Our speaker mentioned the main points of management reform, starting with the agreement that all mandates older than 5 years have to be reviewed. Even though this would probably create a lot of agitation because many mandates would not be renewed, the mandate review would set free human and financial resources for more important UN projects. He further mentioned the controversial suggestion for a one-time buyout package to replace unmotivated staff with new people with better skills. One of the few measures of the management reform which had been welcomed and supported by most UN staff members was the establishment of a new *Ethics Office* which should elaborate and train new behavioral guidelines into an annual ethics conduct for UN staff. Afterwards, Mr. Smith explained the changes which had been achieved in the rules for human resource procurement. For example, a UN job offer formerly had to be posted for at least 60 days. Now, it had been reduced to 21 days to shorten the application process, which on average still took half a year.

He continued to point out that, in spite of the media's focus on the institutional level of UN reform, there had been real progress on the operational level. As such, the general business operating system, something virtually unchanged since 1950, like so many features of the UN system, now had been made more transparent and efficient. Part of that reform had been to create a new "whistle blower" policy that more effectively protects UN employees wishing to speak out against corruption and wrongdoing inside the organization. Quite obviously, this serves to prevent further scandals like the abuse of the *Oil for Food Program* for private pockets from ensuing in the future. Similarly, internal oversight had been improved, introducing normal business practices in investigation and financial monitoring to the bureaucracy of the United Nations. Peter Smith emphatically stated that all of these internal reforms were vital to the overarching goal of making the UN more accountable and transparent in the future. Of course, all of this was happening against the background of an uncertain budget for the United Nations, which at that time would have led the UN to be bankrupt by June 2006.

Given the rather transformative and unpopular nature of some of these reforms, which Mr. Smith was actively promoting at the United Nations, the question was raised whether he considered himself an in-house consultant and encountered a lot of resistance from UN staff. His answer was mixed (or diplomatic), stating that the general attitude was positive, as most people had been aware of the damage done to the United Nations through its lack of accountability and transparency. "*On the other hand*", Mr. Smith continued, "*there is the bureaucratic politics*", which led to a clash of opinions with the political interests of UN bureaucracy regarding efficiency. As an illustration, he pointed out that the outsourcing of the UN's printing department would lead to higher savings but would of course imply the loss of some 80 jobs. Relating his work to the bigger picture of UN reform, Mr. Smith concluded, that in the end – be it on the budget, the new Secretary-General, or UN reform – the UN was dependent on the political will of its Member States and could only move as fast as they could strike political bargains. Here the connection between unassociated goals such as development and UN reform hindered effective progress towards the fundamental pillars of a reformed UN: Effectiveness, integrity, transparency, and responsiveness.

5.1.14. Briefing on Terrorism

Mr. **Janos Tisovsky** works for the *Department of Public Information* in the *United Nations Secretariat* and clearly showed during his briefing that he was dealing with a complex and continually “hot” topic. He began his presentation by asking why terrorism was an international and not only a national problem, and why the United Nations should play a role in the fight against terrorism.

At first, he explained his view on the duty of the UN and how this could lead to some problems. On the one hand, the UN was a structure consisting of countless organizations, bodies, committees and negotiation rounds. On the other hand, there was the *Secretariat* as one of the main bodies which was often recognized by the public as the United Nations as such. The *Secretariat* provided a “*minimum of guidance*”, leading the work of the whole UN system which was sometimes accepted by the UN Member States, sometimes not, as Mr. Tisovsky told us.

He went on by answering the questions raised in the beginning: Why was international terrorism a problem of the international community? Mr. Tisovsky said that states alone could not cope with the wide-ranging challenge of this threat, as terrorism did not know any borders. Furthermore, concerning the definition of terrorism and the search for the appropriate measures to counter terrorism, no single state had the legitimization to act alone. This point became clear in the ongoing debate about a common definition of terrorism. The already existing definition did not find any majority within the United Nations. A multilateral approach, such as the framework the United Nations provided with the *Counter Terrorism Committee* (CTC), gave the possibility to legitimize the fight against terrorism and delegitimize terrorist acts. In addition, our speaker said that self-determination played a central role in the debate about a definition of terrorism. Mr. Tisovsky stressed that in his opinion, as long as the conflicts regarding self-determination were not solved, peace and security were endangered. If all countries obeyed the conventions dealing with this topic, potential conflicts could be solved. Especially the everlasting Palestine question bore high conflict potential. In Mr. Tisovsky’s understanding, the United Nations was the right place to fight terrorism although it was not only a state problem, as it included non-state actors. The United Nations were the forum which provided a legal framework for the international fight against terrorism and had a broad mandate to act through its 191 Member States. Therefore, the UN was the most effective international cooperation on terrorism and was able to mobilize a lot of resources.

Nevertheless, the United Nations needed the support of every single Member State because fighting terrorism was primarily a task for the states; this meant according to our speaker that states had to lead investigations and enforce provisions. The UN was not able to carry out these duties. According to Mr. Tisovsky, the CTC provided a forum for affected states to negotiate on the highest level and to find a consensus on how to treat terrorist non-state actors. Terrorism had already been on the agenda of the *League of Nations* and had been discussed in the United Nations right from the beginning. For example, the kidnapping of Israeli athletes by the Palestinian terrorist organization Black September during the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972 had been discussed within the

United Nations. After the collapse of the Eastern Block, non-state terrorism had increased, he stressed, in reality as well as in the perception of international diplomats. The first reaction of the UN had been institutionalized in 1996 by building an *Ad-hoc committee* (Res.51/210; 17th December 1996). This committee worked out three conventions: The *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings* adopted by *General Assembly resolution 52/164* (15 December 1997) to fight terrorist bomb attacks; the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism* adopted by *General Assembly resolution 54/109* (9 December 1999) to stop the financing of terrorist groups; and the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* adopted by *General Assembly resolution 59/290* (13 April 2005) in order to fight nuclear terrorism. Only after the attacks of 11 September 2001 had the majority of the UN Member States found consensus on the fact that the fight against terrorism would have to be strengthened. The CTC, which publishes reports on international terrorism each year, was one of these outcomes, he explained.

By *Resolution 1373* (2001), the *Security Council* had introduced the CTC to supervise the implementation of the measures which had been agreed upon previously. In Mr. Tisovsky's opinion, during the past few years, no Member State had been lacking the political will to fight terrorism according to the existing resolutions. However, in many cases, there was a lack of capacity to succeed over the well-equipped terrorist networks.

Lena Marie Boers, Dominik Duell

5.2. Visit to the Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations



Upon our arrival at the office of the *European Commission*, we were welcomed by Information Officer Ms. **Sarah Curran** and Mr. **Dominic Porter**, First Secretary of Social and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Porter started by giving us an overview on the history of the *European Commission* in New York and its role in the fields of development and UN reform.

Compared to the UN, the *European Union* (EU) was about 10 years younger and originally focused on economic integration, he explained. The EU office in New York had been established in the mid-seventies and for the first 20 years of its existence, it had mainly functioned as an information office for business and academia,

explaining to them what the EU actually is. With the *Maastricht Treaty* and the *Common Foreign and Security Policy* in the mid-1990's, its function changed in an attempt to build a common European position and to promote European values in international relations such as protection of the environment, poverty reduction, Human Rights and international cooperation through effective multilateralism.

Questioned whether the office was independent, Mr. Porter answered that the office staff had the possibility to remind the different delegations of the positions of their home countries within the *European Union*, and to place emphasis on issues like the environment. Nevertheless, it depended on the leadership of the office. There are around 1000 meetings by representatives of the EU Member States per year; including a daily session every morning from 8 to 10 o'clock at the offices of the EU delegation. The main function of the office of the *European Commission* is to assist in finding an agreement or common position on statements and resolutions, and to provide facilities. The work is lead by a troika of the present and incoming *EU Presidency* together with a representative of the *Council Secretariat*.

The understanding that solutions required cooperation was an insight gained from the experience of EU integration and this understanding therefore made the EU and the UN "*natural partners*". Mr. Porter explained that the EU was a key player at the UN since it had been enlarged to 25 countries in 2004. Together with seven aligned countries, the EU has more than 1/8 of all votes in the *General Assembly*. Furthermore, with 1/3 of the votes in the *Security Council*, the EU has a rather comfortable position, though the European permanent members are merely obliged to listen to and inform other EU Member States about their work in the *Security Council*.

The concept of effective multilateralism, which had been developed in 2003, meant that the EU and the UN had a strategic partnership on development issues, engaging 7-8 UN agencies in dialogue between the *European Commission*, the UN and the country receiving aid. The EU was the biggest donor, contributing 38-40 % to the budget for Peacekeeping and refugee programs, and in the field of development, the *European Commission* was the 5th largest donor after the US, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Turning to the subject of development, Mr. Porter stated that trade and investment, as a major engine for growth, were better than handing out funds. He further explained that the EU represented 16% of global trade based on import and export coupled with the most open markets and, most importantly, free tariff and quota access for the *Least Developed Countries*.

Then, he focused on the field of UN Reform. He described that when he had arrived at UN Headquarters in August 2003, he had the impression that the UN was a very quiet place - until he had found out it was the day the UN compound in Baghdad had been bombed, and the UN found itself at an impasse. Later, Secretary-General Kofi Annan held his "Fork in the Road" speech, which could be seen as a prelude to the *High Level Panel* in 2004. Its report from December 2004 served as a basis for the *World Summit* in September 2005 focusing on UN reform. Our speaker described that the UN had been impaired by a lack of coordination between its 40 programs, funds, and agencies, which

hinder the focus on the three main aims of the UN, namely development, humanitarian and environmental issues. Mr. Porter pointed to recent successes such as the new *Peacebuilding Commission* to bridge the gap between Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in order to prevent post-war crises from turning into new conflicts. The EU was eager to play a key role in the Commission since it had always been an important player in this field. According to Mr. Porter's view, the replacement of the *Commission on Human Rights* with the new *Human Rights Council* had made it less of a Roman circus picking on one country, and established the principle of peer review. On the issue of a common seat for the EU in the *Security Council*, there was no common position due to a lack of interest from the Member States while the *European Commission* treated it as a non-issue to prevent the dissent from affecting other issues.

Going on to an issue that was of particular interest to us as representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Porter spoke about the relations between Europe and the Arab world and possible gaps in understanding. Mr. Porter saw the United Arab Emirates as a quite interesting country with the possible role as a broker between the Islamic world and the West. At the end of our briefing, we thanked Mr. Porter for the vivid insights into the European policy at the United Nations.

Finn Nielsen

5.3. Visit to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

As the *German Mission's* website states: "*The task of the Mission is to represent Germany at the United Nations.*" As such, the *German Mission* is located at a very representative location on 1st Avenue and 49th Street, right across from the United Nations Headquarters. Our host at the Mission, Ms. **Katja Wiesbrock**, First Secretary at the Mission and working at the Permanent Representative's office, shed some light on what the rather diplomatic term "representation" had actually implied over the last three years – a period during which the Iraq war and UN reform had divided key players at the UN.



Her opening statement, of course, focused on the most recent debate on UN reform, for which Germany had lobbied along a lot of dimensions with the goal of becoming a permanent member of the *Security Council*. Rehearsing some of the well-known diplomatic phrases usually mentioned in the debate over UN-reform (“*the UN Security Council represents international power relations of 1945...*”), Ms. Wiesbrock very quickly approached the more sensitive topics such as the lack of political will for a comprehensive reform of the *Security Council*. A critical question was raised whether the German decision to join efforts with Japan, India, and Brazil to enter the Council as a group had turned out to be more of a hindrance rather than a strategic alliance. Ms. Wiesbrock agreed that, indeed, every member to the so-called G4 had met fierce opposition to their claim for permanent membership. However, according to the German view, the long-term prospects were not as dim as they might appear today and a legitimate case could be made for all four countries.

Speaking on the need for a new Human Rights organ within the United Nations, it had become evident to all observers that the old *Commission on Human Rights* had become rather ineffective with its membership including persistent violators of Human Rights. Outlining the main features of the new *Human Rights Council* such as the improved election procedures for members to the body as well as its reduced size, Ms. Wiesbrock also discussed the main concern that the press and also some student delegation members had raised to her, namely the lack of US support for the Council. She explained that a large number of countries with a respectable Human Rights record (one of which is Germany) had expressed clear intentions to run for membership to the Council, firstly, to give their support and ensure the proper functioning and, secondly, to enhance their own moral standing. Returning to diplomatic tone, Ms. Wiesbrock concluded that it was too early to make definite statements and that the Council had to be observed in its functioning. As a personal observation, the First Secretary added that “*the United Nations is pretty much about discussions as such*” with this process having a value in itself and that one should not pass judgments only about results.

That being said, the discussion turned to the imminent second topic at the United Nations in the last years that had excited public debate – the division over Iraq and the future of the UN after the *éclat*. Here, Ms. Wiesbrock told the story of her personal experience at the time in New York, where diplomats from all 191 countries interacted on many occasions and at many events – inside and outside the UN. From her experience, the current political divisions between some European countries (most prominently, France and Germany) and the United States translated into different perceptions between diplomats on the need to go to war as well. That assessment, Ms. Wiesbrock continued, derived from a different assessment of the impact of 9/11 between the countries. As a private footnote, Ms. Wiesbrock added that her personal, heated discussion over the issue of Iraq with an American diplomat had led them to set the issue aside to discuss personal matters. As the two are married since 2005, the outlook on transatlantic relations now seems to be better than ever - at least for some diplomats at the *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations*.

Gundbert Scherf

5.4. Visit to the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

On Wednesday, April 5, our delegation visited the *Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations*. We were warmly welcomed by the staff members of the mission, who also generously supplied us with drinks and cookies. Our briefing was held by Mr. **Muhammad al-Otaiba**, Deputy Ambassador of the UAE to the United Nations, who briefly introduced himself and welcomed us once again. Since the agenda in the committees of the NMUN conference had been set the previous night, all members of our delegation were particularly interested in the position of the Emirates regarding “their” specific topic. Mr. al-Otaiba was interested to find out which committees would be simulated at the NMUN conference and allowed us to ask a round of detailed questions regarding the respective committee topics.



Asked about the Emirates' efforts regarding sustainable development in Africa, the Ambassador explained that the UAE was working closely together with its partners from the GCC, the *Arab League*, and the *Group of 77*, to open the markets of the developed world for products from developing countries. This would particularly benefit the agricultural sector in Africa. The

Deputy Ambassador also mentioned that the UAE spent around 3 % of its GDP on development aid, a fact that was often unnoticed since most of the aid was spent in bilateral aid programs rather than being donated to UN agencies and programs.

After a question regarding the integration of developing countries into the global economy, the NMUN topic for the GA *Second committee*, Mr. al-Otaiba again stressed the importance of “*fair competition*” between businesses in the developing and the developed world, which could only be achieved through the opening of the US and EU markets. Aside from its work in the *Group of 77* to foster South-South cooperation, the UAE is also making progress on the subregional level with the successful integration of economies in the *Gulf Cooperation Council*.

When asked about the strategy of the UAE in trade negotiations, Mr. al-Otaiba explained that the UAE would highlight the good record of the Emirates and its economic success over the last years but would also actively call for change and further opening of markets with the goal of a world economy open to all countries. Despite the fact that the UAE economy was not centered on agriculture, this topic would be the priority in WTO meetings to support the developing countries of the G77. The Deputy Ambassador stressed the fact that in an open economy, the choice should be left to the consumer.

Regarding the issue of *Regulating Conventional Arms*, to be discussed in the *First Committee* of the *General Assembly*, Mr. al-Otaiba outlined the UAE's commitment to stop the illicit trade of weapons and its support of regulation on all levels to guarantee regional stability. In the Emirates, it was almost impossible to own a gun due to strict regulations limiting private ownership. Asked about the UAE's position on the topic from the *GA Third Committee, Crime Prevention in Developing States*, and its importance in the fight against terrorism, Mr. al-Otaiba emphasized that the UAE had been a close partner of the US and the EU in the global fight against terrorism even before 9/11. The Emirates had a solid legal framework for crime prevention and were working together with their partners to set standards on the international level.

In response to a question about the role of NGOs in the UAE, the Ambassador explained that the UAE did not object to the work of NGOs in general, but was opposed to those organizations which tried to interfere in national affairs and had a hidden agenda. NGOs with the express support of the UAE government were the *Red Crescent Society* and the *UAE Women's Federation*.

Even though the status of women in the society of the Emirates has greatly improved and could be considered a regional role model, Mr. al-Otaiba pointed out that the UAE government did not preach and try to force its culture onto other countries, but rather supported the progress and change in the region on this issue, even though this might be a longer process in which some countries needed more time than others.

After having answered a great number of questions covering all kinds of topics in the UAE's foreign policy, the Deputy Ambassador gave us the opportunity for a brief photo with the portraits of the great UAE leaders, and kindly provided us with some DVDs and books about the Emirates. The visit to the *UAE mission* was certainly a highlight of our week and gave us further insight and knowledge to begin the discussions at the NMUN conference.

Tim Nover



6. The United Arab Emirates at the NMUN 2006 Conference





6.1. Reaching the Summit

After our days at the UN Headquarters and the visits to the missions of Germany and the UAE, we already felt comfortable as “junior diplomats” and were ready to take on the next challenge: the NMUN conference. The next five days would show how well prepared we were individually and as a delegation to succeed in our committees. Had the long hours of studying natural disasters, the details of world trade or the facts about Gender Mainstreaming been effective? And how would we be able to use all the trivia we had learned about the UAE and its 40 million palm trees?

NMUN was a unique experience for every one of us: until now, we were able to deal with every problem as a team, but in the NMUN committees, we were on our own. Teams of two, and some single delegates headed into the committee rooms in the *Marriott Marquis* to start the conference. After briefly being puzzled by the extravagant carpet and the lack of tables, we immediately set to work and tried to convince our fellow delegates of the UAE’s position. Some battles were lost, some motions failed, but we always kept on negotiating.

At the end of every day, we crammed ourselves into the Head Delegates’ room for our delegation meeting: the one and only place where we could tell our tales from the different committees and blow off some steam about other delegations. The nights were short and the days were long, but the early morning coffee and the late night pizza and salad kept us going and going, never willing to give up early on an important resolution.

Despite our exhaustion at the end of the week, we got some fresh energy after a brilliant strategic move by Irene and Peggy gave us the chance to be the first delegation to enter the General Assembly Hall, meaning we could officially claim the real seats of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates – other delegations were not so lucky with the “first come, first serve” principle. After we were announced as the winner of the Honorable Mention Award, we of course maintained diplomatic decorum (and only quietly let out a cheer or sigh of relief), while most of the American delegations would celebrate their awards as if they had just won the Superbowl.

The week that we had worked for so hard turned out to be an experience impossible to forget and impossible to repeat. We learned about international diplomacy, communication and cooperation with other delegates, and of course about ourselves: the delegation of the United Arab Emirates.

Tim Nover

6.2. The United Arab Emirates at the General Assembly Plenary

Represented by Jule Jürgens and Maarit Vuorimäki

Entering the enormous ballroom of the *Marriott Marquis Hotel* where our Committee was located, we were honestly impressed by the number of students participating. As during NMUN 2006, each of the 191 Member States of the United Nations and several Non-Governmental Organizations were represented in the *General Assembly Plenary* (GA), this body was with more than four hundred students one of the largest committees simulated during NMUN. The *General Assembly* is the place where discussions on a wide range of topics concerning the whole international community are held. In this body all states have an equal status in accordance with the rule “one state-one vote”.

After a few seconds of amazement at the entrance of the GA, we went through the crowd of people looking for free seats. We ended up sitting in one of the first rows of the Plenary and although we still were a bit nervous, we felt very well prepared and looked forward to start the negotiations. It happened sooner than we thought as the delegations sitting next to us were Egypt and Syria, both our “Muslim brother countries”, and so we started to discuss the topics. Shortly after that, the session was officially opened by the Chair. Our first duty was to set the agenda for our Committee. After long discussions in the Plenary and several informal caucuses the agenda was set as follows: (1) *Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa*, (2) *Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions*, and (3) *The Use of Economic Sanctions for Economic and Political Compulsion*.

During our preparation for the conference we had discussed the position of the United Arab Emirates on the different agenda topics very carefully. Being representatives of the UAE, the third topic of our Committee, economic sanctions, would have been of utmost

importance to us, due to the situation in Iraq and Iran. Nevertheless, most of the delegates stressed the importance of the *Millennium Declaration* of 2000 and its goals which are to be reached until 2015. This had an enormous impact on the agenda setting process.



Our work in the GA was divided into formal and informal sessions. In formal sessions we sat in our seats in the plenary, giving speeches according to the speakers' list. The opposite of this were the informal

negotiations called caucus. The dynamics and the behavior of other delegates in these informal caucuses was rather a surprise for us, even if we were well prepared for it. Several delegates were standing on their chairs screaming to get their allies' attention. Some had even brought big banners with them. For a few minutes, the whole Plenary was

to end up in chaos which unfortunately did not fully meet our impression of „diplomatic“ behavior. To be able to work in a more organized and effective way, we made our first attempts to gather all the states of the *Gulf Cooperation Council*. The aim was to find a common position concerning the first topic, „*Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Peace in Africa*“. We, as a Gulf country, wanted to focus especially on the financing of sustainable development, as we were of the opinion that sustainable development and its stabilizing effects would be the main key to durable peace on the continent. It was in our interest to develop a stable system to finance development in Africa. As an orientation we wanted to use the ideas of the *International Conference on Financing for Development* in Monterrey in 2002. An important point was that this system was to be partly financed also by industrial countries.

Our initiative to organize a meeting of all the countries of the *Arab League* on the second day became a success and was a good basis for the following negotiations. Many Muslim countries like Iran, Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen became important partners for us and supported our goals. At the same time we had the possibility to cooperate with other states of the G-77. Especially our cooperation with China was very strong and fruitful. In the end, we wrote a draft resolution on the financing of sustainable development in Africa and introduced it together with China.

During those two days of negotiations, a huge amount of draft resolutions was written by different coalitions. Finally, there were about 40 of them circulating and being discussed. Our main task was to contact as many delegations as possible to promote our own draft resolution and get more support for it. This was also done by holding a speech in the front of the plenary.

On Thursday, the third day of the simulation, the committee sessions were interrupted by the visit of a guest speaker who had a lot of knowledge about the UN but also concerning the specific committee or topic. The guest speaker would provide us with a detailed view of the work of our own committee and his practical experience. In the GA the guest speaker was a former president of the GA, **Dr. Jean Gazarian**. He walked to the podium through the whole committee followed by long-lasting applause. He had worked in the directorate of the GA for a couple of decades and was able to amuse us with little anecdotes and stories. Due to the fact that we had just been simulating the GA for several hours we were able to better understand his stories, including all the difficulties facing the international community but also the funny details of the GA's work.

After two days of negotiations, we were supposed to vote upon our draft resolutions on the fourth day of the simulation. The chair had received 18 draft resolutions in total which were all accepted by the GA with clear majority. One of them was our draft. This high number of accepted resolutions can be explained by the fact that the negotiations in the GA were consensus-oriented and that critical points were be discussed already during informal caucus. Furthermore, the resolutions accepted by the GA are not binding for the Member States, meaning that they are recommendations which shall be understood as political and moral pressure.

On the very last day of the conference the GA got together once again in a very exciting atmosphere at the United Nations Headquarters. Our last duty in this simulation was to

vote upon the draft resolutions passed by the committees of the *General Assembly*. The fact that this session took place in the Headquarters of the UN made it very special.

During the conference we realized the importance and value of our good preparation. This wonderful idea to let students try out and improve their skills as diplomats works best when all participants are well informed and able to act in character. We learned more about different negotiations techniques and diplomatic behavior than how a real conference of the UN really works. Nevertheless we will not forget this valuable experience, all the challenges we faced in our committee and all the situations we managed together.

6.3. The United Arab Emirates in the General Assembly First Committee

Represented by Tânia Nunes

The *First Committee* is one of the six main committees of the *General Assembly*. The committee works on recommendations in the field of disarmament and then hands over the proposals to the *General Assembly* for them to be adopted and thereby be put into effect.

The *First Committee* was one of the few committees simulated during NMUN 2006 in which all 191 Member States were represented. It was a challenge to work in such a committee, as the large number of delegates and their partly opposed priorities and interests made dialogue and negotiations harder, but also more demanding and interesting.

At this year's NMUN Conference the following provisional agenda had been proposed: (1) *Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East*, (2) *Non-state actors and Weapons of Mass Destruction* and (3) *Regulating Conventional Arms*. At the beginning of the session, the setting of the agenda was discussed. The interests of the United Arab Emirates were well served with the provisional order of the agenda, since the first topic dealt with an issue that is a threat to humanity and particularly pressing in the Middle East region. However, after the first informal meeting, it became clear that all delegations had already clear positions on which topic should be the first to be discussed, leaving no room to negotiate on the priority of the topics.



The regional groups, which had gathered with the help of placards and shouting, naturally worked together from the beginning. For that reason, and contrary to the predictions, a quick agreement on the agenda was reached and the committee then began the substantial discussion on the first agenda topic: *Regulating Conventional Arms*.

Right from the beginning, the UAE developed a close cooperation with other Arab countries due to our common history and similar regional interests. Other countries, such as China, Australia, Russia, and Iran were also part of the group. Together, we spent days

working on a draft resolution, rewriting paragraphs, and rethinking every word and every comma in order to make sure that not only our interests would be made clear but that the draft would be approved by the whole body.

It is the goal of the United Arab Emirates' foreign policy to act as a bridge between the Western and the Arab world by maintaining good relations with both sides. Therefore, during the informal negotiations, the UAE worked closely not only with the so-called Arab group but also with European countries and African Muslim countries. The strategy was to approach all the other working groups and try to put forward the important parts of our position. In general, all countries quickly showed their willingness to cooperate. Therefore, the negotiations and discussions were interesting and fruitful. The UAE was definitely a bridge in this conference, serving as a platform to promote dialogue and concessions and thereby successfully achieving common goals.

The four days of the conference were intensive and exhausting, but after hours of rewriting our draft resolution with several steps back and forward and long discussions on how to merge the different drafts from the working groups, we ended up with 12 draft resolutions to vote upon. On the last day of the conference, the body approved 10 resolutions, including the drafts supported by the United Arab Emirates. Although the UAE's policy was represented in most of the approved drafts, more merging should have taken place in order to improve the substantive outcome of the conference. Nevertheless, in the end, after all the tensions and pressure that the delegates had experienced during the four days of intense debate, the comments were overall positive. Being part of the United Nations for four days was certainly an unforgettable experience. Especially in such a big committee as the GA 1st, one realizes the practical limitations of trying to coordinate 191 different opinions – opinions that were given voice by people of different backgrounds, with different knowledge, different goals and different approaches to the conference. We understood the importance of a universal forum that brings together representatives from all the big and small countries of the world by giving countries and problems a face. Furthermore, we realized the importance and efficiency of working in regional groups, and that putting forward a country's position often depends more on the character of the delegate than on the importance of the country itself. And last but not least, one has a better understanding of the problems and dynamics of the "real" United Nations, and what could be improved. That is definitely an important step in educating the world's next generation.

6.4. The United Arab Emirates in the General Assembly Second Committee

Represented by Maxime Alimi

Representing a country within the *Second Committee of the General Assembly* (GA 2nd) was a quite difficult task because of the size of the body: all 191 Member States are represented, all with different positions, interests and expectations, which make cooperation and negotiations particularly complicated. During NMUN 2006, some Intergovernmental Organizations were also represented, such as Development Banks or Regional Organizations. The GA 2nd is one of six Main Committees established by the *General Assembly* to deal with a specific subfield of its wide range of activities. As the

Economic and Financial Committee, it discusses topics generally touching international trade, development and financial integration. Working as a consensus-oriented committee, the GA 2nd writes suggestions in form of draft resolutions which are then submitted to the *General Assembly* and eventually voted upon. As our guest speaker put it with humor, the GA 2nd is known for one particularity: it is the longest and toughest one.

For the *NMUN 2006 Conference*, three topics had been chosen to be discussed on the agenda:

- *Combating Illicit Fund Transfers*
- *The Integration of the Markets of Developing Countries into the Global Economy*
- *Macroeconomic Policy Issues and International Trade and Development*

For *Freie Universität Berlin* representing the United Arab Emirates, the task in this committee was particularly open, since the Emirates' positions on the multilateral level are really flexible. This had been once more confirmed some days earlier when we visited the *UAE's Permanent Mission to the United Nations*. It seemed that the UAE could easily go for consensus, as was requested by the spirit of the committee and reaffirmed by the Chair at the beginning of the conference. Since the crucial issues for the UAE are addressed bilaterally or regionally, our strategy at the UN was primarily to bridge the gap between our regional partners from the Arab world and the Western countries.

The first day, dedicated to the setting of the agenda, was the occasion of first contacts to our natural allies: the *Gulf Cooperation Council* (GCC) Members, but also Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Northern African countries, such as Algeria and Morocco. We easily came to a common position for the agenda: topic 1 should definitely come last, whereas topics 2 and 3 were very similar and should come first and second. We agreed to vote as a block for 2/3/1. In the whole Committee, a consensus was achieved to have topic 2 discussed first, but negotiations were harsh to set the agenda as 2/3/1 or 2/1/3.



Eventually, pushed by the United States and the European block, but quite surprisingly supported by the African block, the following was adopted:

- *The Integration of the Markets of Developing Countries into the Global Economy*

- *Combating Illicit Fund Transfers*
- *Macroeconomic Policy Issues and International Trade and Development*

Since usually only the first topic is discussed at NMUN, this solution was acceptable for the UAE.

The following day, the Committee really started its work; and regional cooperation emerged very spontaneously. Fortunately, as a relatively small group, the Arab countries started to work efficiently, while larger groups like the African or Asian states were more difficult to coordinate. We decided to form several working groups on different aspects of the economic integration of developing countries: education and technology, free trade, finance, development aid. As one of our top priorities, the UAE came to work on development, pushing for more and better aid from the donor community and putting forward the intense commitment of our country on this matter. Interestingly, all regional groups worked more or less on the same model, writing all very comprehensive working papers, of which most remained quite general and consensual. Eager to write substantial papers covering a wide range of aspects, the different blocks have had rather few contacts to each other that day. However, intense negotiations took place within the blocks, and the Arab block was no exception. Willing to mark the specificities of the Arab group in our working paper, the Emirates moved to include two preambulatory clauses on sanctions and occupation targeting Palestine. Despite the resistance of some partners attached to avoid any controversial topic, we finally got our way through. Beside this, the subgroup working on education and technology finally decided to have its own working paper, addressing a very precise initiative to provide US-\$100 computers to children in developing countries. We all agreed to be sponsors of both papers to remain united as a group.

On the third day, most papers on the floor were finalized: about 12 papers had been written, most of them on a strict regional basis. As our guest speaker, Mr. **Mohammed El Farnawany**, working for the *Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations*, came to speak, he explained how strong the *Group of 77 (G77)* was in the *2nd Committee of the General Assembly*. Later on, encouraged by the Chair to try to merge papers, G77 meetings took place to find agreements, especially between Arabs and Africans. Due to the lack of time, we finally decided to maintain both papers but to support each others. After two mergers among Latin American countries and among Western countries, and after corrections of the Chair, who rejected two other papers, we had eight draft resolutions on the floor.

At that time the harder, but most interesting phase began: the negotiations between groups. The UAE easily granted its signatory to two friendly drafts, the European and the African ones. But as expected, our Arab draft resolution rapidly became the most controversial because of the two specific clauses on Palestine. Three points were particularly criticized by the West: According to their view, the notion of “*unilateral sanctions against a developing country*”, “*foreign occupation*” and the “*right to self-determination all over the world*” were to be removed. Despite pressure from the United States and other Western states, we managed to get the support from many G77 Members which brought us in a comfortable position. Since no alternative wording (like for

instance “*external coercion*” instead of “*foreign occupation*”) could reach consensus, we decided to go to vote with the original draft and only minor changes requested by our partners.

The last afternoon was thus dedicated to the voting procedure. Eight draft resolutions were on the floor. The first six passed quite easily, all “*divisions of the question*” being rejected and facing little opposition. Then the Arab draft resolution came as number 7. Since they stood in the preamble, the problematic clauses could not be divided. However, Australia moved to divide more than half of the operative clauses, a strategy to gravely weaken the draft. The UAE went to speak against the motion, which clearly failed. The United States then moved for a roll call which was really the most exciting moment of the conference. Obviously many participants were impressed by the determination of the Western block: more than 80 Members abstained. But sticking to our agreement, most of the Africans and some Eastern Europeans, gave a thin majority in favor of the resolution. How nice!

The last African draft resolution was easily adopted as well. All delegates congratulated their partners, exhausted but happy. I went to the representative of the United States to thank him for the nice roll call he had asked for and the fun time that we had. After several pictures and the last business card exchanges, we decided to reconvene at the Delegates’ Dance...

6.5. The United Arab Emirates in the General Assembly Third Committee

Represented by Lena Marie Boers

The *Third Committee*, one of the six main organs of the *General Assembly*, consists of 191 Member States. It is one of many organs which are responsible for the protection of Human Rights. It addresses social, cultural and humanitarian affairs and discusses, consults and recommends interventions in these areas. Furthermore, it offers help for the realization of Human Rights. It can initiate studies, stipulate recommendations and pass resolutions dealing with social, cultural and humanitarian topics on which the *General Assembly* needs to vote then. Thus, the resolutions decided upon by the *Third Committee* are of high importance for the work of the *General Assembly* and the United Nations, even though they are not legally binding.

The provisional agenda order of this year’s NMUN conference was as follows: Firstly the “*Alternative Approaches for Improving Human Rights*”, followed by “*Crime Prevention in Developing States*” and finally the “*Human Right to Self-Determination*”. The agenda was changed by the delegates after a general vote so that crime prevention in developing states became the first and, because of the lack of time, also the only topic discussed in the committee. This was disappointing for me as a delegate from the United Arab Emirates, because the Palestine question, which was supposed to be discussed under the self-determination topic, was the foremost important issue for me as an Arab delegate.

Prior to the election, I had consulted several delegations together with other Islamic nations to find further votes for this version of the agenda, but sadly we were the only

advocates along with a few exceptions. Consequently, we had to accept this order, which nevertheless was not the worst case scenario.

At first, I consulted other members of the *Gulf Cooperation Council*, my closest partners at the conference. After having discussed our aims and strategies, we decided that it would be better to work on different resolutions, so as to promote the interests of the Gulf countries wherever possible. As we could foresee that our most important topic, the Palestine question, would not be discussed, I held an introductory speech in which I emphasized that a satisfying and long lasting solution of the Middle East conflict was integral to effective crime prevention. I further emphasized that all three topics were interconnected, for effective crime prevention demands a respect for Human Rights and the right of peoples to self-determination. Finally, I asked the delegates to keep in mind while touching the topic of terrorism that terrorism is not an Islamic phenomenon but a form of extremism. Then, together with numerous representatives of the *Organization of Islamic Conference* and the *Arab League*, I started to work on a resolution addressing crime prevention.

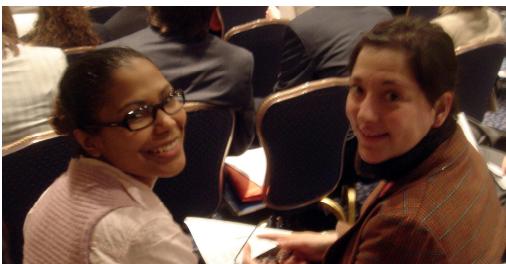
I would like to emphasize the constructive and delightful collaboration with the delegates of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, with whom I worked over lunch and also had negotiations during the nights. During these negotiations, a very encompassing resolution was written which had to survive a *roll call vote* during the voting procedures - this turned out to be a very stressful time for all delegations who worked on the draft resolution.

It remains to say that the work of the *Third Committee of the General Assembly* was a big success, also because the director Jennifer Hathaway, the assistant director and the chair were highly motivated, affable and well-informed. The working climate of the committee was very productive and pleasant and the delegates behaved very diplomatically.

6.6. The United Arab Emirates in the Economic and Social Council

Represented by Constanze Esch and Ana Ribeiro

During the NMUN conference, we represented the United Arab Emirates in one of the main bodies of the United Nations, as defined in Art. 7 of the UN Charter. The *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC) mainly deals with international matters such as economy,



social issues, culture, education, Human Rights, development and other related subjects. The focus is set on social and economic development. The ECOSOC is empowered by the Charter to prepare reports and make recommendations.

The 54 countries which are represented in the ECOSOC are

elected by the *General Assembly* for 3 year terms; every year, 18 new members are voted into office according to Art. 61 UN Charter. Until the end of 2006, the UAE will be a member of the Council. The ECOSOC is the legitimate body deciding upon NGOs to obtain the consultative status within the UN. This meant for us that alongside the 54 states represented in our committee there were delegations from Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and 26 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). As opposed to the real ECOSOC, the IGOs and NGOs at the NMUN Conference had the possibility to take an active role, enabling interesting constellations and collaborations. The current structure of the ECOSOC proved to be to our disadvantage, as Saudi-Arabia and Tunisia were the only other Arab states in the Council.

Being well prepared and highly motivated, the first day was very beneficial for us. The agenda was set in accordance to our diplomatic efforts: (2) – (3) – (1), which meant: (2) *Review of the UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 1996 – 2006*, (3) *Access to Essential Medicine and Health Care* and (1) *Crimes of Sexual Violence as Tools of War and Genocide*. As the experience from other simulations had shown, the limited time of the conference would only allow the discussion of the first topic. Our goal was to debate the topic „*Eradication of Poverty*“. During the first night of conference we were able to meet with a small group of states in informal caucus which proved to be an interesting experience. The diversity of NMUN participants is surely to be compared with that of the UN.

During the next four days, while having slept very little, we were able to contribute to two working papers with various partners. Our main achievement was passing resolution ECOSOC/1/4 with our regional group, the *League of Arab states*, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Pakistan, on the improvement of the micro-credit system, diversifying economies and education. Furthermore, we were active in signing working papers and discussing the many different means to fight poverty.

We were very proud that we could raise a motion for a „*minute of silent prayer and meditation*“, right at the beginning of the session. Even though the chair prohibited us from referring to the ongoing catastrophe in Kenya, the UAE was the first delegation to speak during the conference by drawing attention to droughts as an example of humanitarian catastrophes. Altogether, we were put on the speaker’s list three times until the end of the conference.

An incident occurred one day before the end of the conference, when a guest speaker from the *World Health Organization* (WHO) referred to Taiwan as the 192nd Member State of the WHO. The delegation of *Human Rights Watch*, represented by a university from Beijing, voiced a complaint, which was immediately turned down by the chair. This scene inspired lively discussions after the guest speaker had left.

During voting procedure on the last day of the conference, not being allowed to leave the room, we worked hard to pass 15 resolutions out of 18



which had been drafted during the conference. It is hard to define our focus afterwards, because of the extensive variety of initiatives the UAE had worked on: micro-credits, liberalizing trade regulations, creating new institutions such as the „*Advisory Committee on Microfinance*“, improving control and monitoring of existing bodies, strengthening the commitment of states to reach the agreed 0.7% ODA, declaring another „*Decade for the Eradication of Poverty*“ and various other topics. Regarding the last topic, the UAE was in quite a comfortable negotiation position, as it has already reached this goal and currently spends 3% of its GNP for official development assistance.

On the day of the closing ceremony, we finally moved the ECOSOC from the *Marriott Marquis Hotel* to the real ECOSOC conference room in the United Nations Headquarters, where we were now voting by using the electronic voting system and had the opportunity to see our votes on the huge board above. Due to a scheduling mix-up, we were not able to talk to our subcommittee partners as to our votes concerning the reports passed in the WTO and CSW. It was up to us to read through and decide upon resolutions of committees in which the UAE had not been present in 2006 within an extremely short amount of time – probably a realistic scenario within the UN and international politics.

Right after the voting procedures, an emergency session on bird flu had been organized by the chair. We had to deal with the problem while the rest of the delegation was already busy in organizing our participation in the closing ceremony (Thanks to Tim and Jan for their help and extensive internet research!). Nevertheless, we enjoyed the last hours of intensive discussions. Eight resolutions were passed – two of them had been sponsored by the UAE.

The whole experience during NMUN was very interesting and absolutely exhausting on the physical as well as the emotional level. We learned a lot! Most notable were the nightly get-togethers with our delegation at the „UAE Headquarters“ in room 1203 of the *Marriott Marquis* as they helped us tremendously in reflecting the achievements of the day.

6.7. The United Arab Emirates in the Follow-Up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Represented by Jan Ingo Knuth and Ziting Zhang

The physical force of the Tsunami in December 2004 had been as enormous as the catastrophic impact which it had upon millions of people. Within a few hours, more than 500,000 people had died, millions of families were divided, thousands of houses were destroyed, infrastructure became useless and landscape was changed forever. Many countries were confronted with the consequences of the disaster, even though thousands of kilometers lay between the borders of these states. Despite the tragedy of these horrible facts, the Tsunami, which was one of the most massive natural hazards in modern history, had some positive long-term consequences. History had never before seen such an enormous relief effort by the international community. The urgent need for

early warning systems had never before become so clear and public awareness for comprehensive disaster reduction strategies had never before reached a comparable level.

Widely unknown, the United Nations have been dealing with this issue since the late 1970's. The *International Decade of Disaster Reduction* between 1990 and 2000 had established one fact: natural hazards can hardly be avoided. On the other hand, it became clear that there are a lot of opportunities to influence the impact natural hazards can have: if and how hard societies are affected is a question of proper preparation. Finally, the decade confirmed that only international cooperation and the exchange of knowledge throughout the international community could ensure the efficiency of measures against natural disasters. For this purpose, the *World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)* took place in January 2005.

The WCDR was one of the largest committees simulated at the NMUN 2006 conference: nearly 400 delegates gathered in the Astor Ballroom. Right from the beginning, we were aware of the fact that, due to the size of this committee and the vast topic, a common agreement would be hard to find. The negotiations were further complicated by organizational carelessness: the WCDR was the only large committee without tables. Maybe the organizers of the conference had hoped that 400 delegates sitting really close together would lead them to cooperate closely.

However, the agenda was set in a short time on Tuesday evening. The majority of representatives felt comfortable with the following order of agenda items:

- *The Implementation of Early Warning Systems: Monitoring and Prevention of Natural Disasters*
- *The Yokohama Strategy: the Role of Good Governance in Disaster Reduction*
- *Environmental Extremes and their Potential for Natural Disasters*

The Arab delegates finally found each other and were complemented by delegates from other Muslim states. Similar interests and the same environmental challenges were the key for the agreement on a close cooperation for the upcoming days.

On Wednesday morning, we were surprised that many delegates had gathered even before the session started. By their enthusiasm the delegates got a specific dynamic in which they formed different working groups which focused on specific contents. The typical separation into the UN regional groups suddenly became meaningless – the solidarity of these working groups was fixed by the interest in content only. This approach promised several worthy outcomes and the



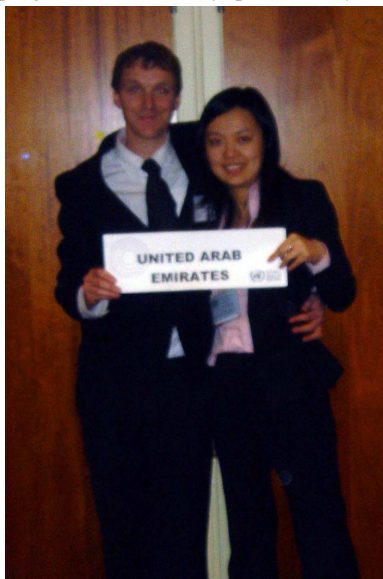
opportunity to work in parallel on important topics like Exchange and Spread of Information, Education of Minorities, Support for Developing Countries, Use of Outer Space Technology, Strengthening of Regional Cooperation and Creation of New Funding Instruments. However, these groups had a weak point: they were not always able to overcome the huge gaps between specific national interests.

As a consequence, the fluctuation of Member States between the groups increased as time went by. It was unclear who represented which position. Unfortunately, a lot of good initiatives were given up, dismissed or became imprecise or too general because they could not be communicated in the heterogeneous working groups.

The Arab-Muslim Group decided to do the majority of the work in their regional group to clearly define the common problems, to offer straight solutions and to continue to speak with one voice. Nevertheless, we decided not to lose contact to some innovative and cooperative working groups. The UAE successfully proposed to work in parallel on the preambular and the operative part of the report. Therefore the delegates from Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, Djibouti, the UAE and some other states could merge both parts into a complete document on late Wednesday.

The paragraphs referring to self-determination and the fact that peace and stability are essential preconditions for the successful implementation of Early Warning Systems were of great importance for all delegates. By stressing the latter point, we could urge the international community for a fast solution of the conflict of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

On Thursday, the Arab group found itself in disturbance: a few members blocked further progress because they permanently called for minor changes within our document.



Hence, we were unable to hand in our draft early in the day. There was another tendency within the whole committee: due to the heterogeneous composition of the other working groups, a lot of drafts were similar and very basic. There was a large number of draft reports, so that many papers had to be merged to reduce their total number from more than 20 down to 14. The Arab-Muslim draft emphasized peace and stability as fundamental preconditions and moreover offered some precise instruments for regional cooperation and the spread of information. In the afternoon the atmosphere was eased by our guest speaker, Ms. **Helga Leifsdottir**, one of the coordinators of "*ReliefWeb.int*", a homepage which is run by the UN's *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*. She gave an interesting insight of the medium that tries to provide timely and reliable information when disaster strikes in order to alleviate

human suffering and to improve the response.

When we got to vote on the reports on Friday there were 14 drafts to decide on. Due to that, we spent more than three hours in voting procedure. It was satisfying to see that our draft was the only one that found a broad consensus. While other papers were adopted with only 30 votes in favor, the Arab-Muslim draft was the only one that was almost adopted by acclamation: the representative of Kazakhstan was so tired that he raised his hand when it came to the question if to vote on it by acclamation – it turned out he was the only one who was against a vote by acclamation, so that his own draft was voted upon.

However, the broad agreement our draft found within the international community was a result of the outstanding work of the Arab-Muslim group, based on its profound knowledge of the subject, clever negotiating tactics, successful lobbying and a united appearance during the entire conference.

6.8. The United Arab Emirates at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting

Represented by Nils Barnickel and Gundbert Scherf

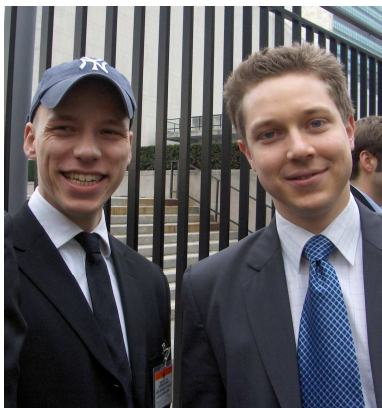
As a multilateral institution, the *World Trade Organization* (WTO) deals with all matters related to the global trading system and its rules. As the WTO brochure describes it: “*The World Trade Organization deals with rules of trade between nations at a global or near-global level.*” As all of the agreements reached at the WTO are a result of complex rounds of negotiations, the WTO is more a negotiation forum than an actor by itself.

The WTO has 149 Member States and 32 observer states. As an organization, the WTO has been in existence since January 1st 1995 as a result of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations but it is also a continuation of the *General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade* (GATT), the trading system established after World War II.

The principles of the trading system evolve around the cornerstones of non-discrimination and free trade. However, the predictability of trade systems and tariffs as well as open competition are also some of the key principles. Most recently, in the context of the *Doha Round*, the emphasis has been on the fifth principle of multilateral trading, namely the contribution to development.

The provisional agenda comprised the following topics:

- *Agriculture Sector Negotiations*
- *Advancing WTO Transparency*
- *Promoting Trade in Service Sectors*



The process of agenda setting in this case, as in so many others, is a crucial exercise which determines the negotiations and consequently the final outcome of the committee's work. Here the number of states are more crucial rather than the respective power of certain states or state groupings. In our case, developing countries, which make up two thirds of the WTO membership, had set their minds on discussing the agricultural sector, which is of great concern and relevance to the developing world. As such, the agricultural sector negotiations turned out to be the first topic quite quickly while the order of the two other subjects was more controversially discussed. Here again the interests of the

countries were largely aligned along the dichotomy of "developed" vs. "developing" countries. In the end, coalition strategies and some convincing were required to push for the issue of transparency to be second while services negotiations were moved to third place. Our preference had been the reverse but our role as the "honest broker" between the two major blocs was not to be jeopardized by an issue that would not be discussed anyhow due to the time constraint.

In the field of "*Agriculture Sector Negotiations*", the ultimate goal of the *Doha Round* is to arrive at an agreement which bridges the two main interests of developing countries providing more market access in return for the developed countries giving them access to their own product markets to sell agricultural products. The effective protection given to farmers in advanced countries is very high due to subsidies, tariffs, and further arrangements which are claimed to hinder the development of agricultural production of developing countries. These distortions are to be eliminated by taking a market-oriented approach.

The negotiations in the WTO were an intense experience, due to the interesting complexities of diplomacy, personality, and the substance of international trade. As such, the negotiations developed a dynamic of their own, initially focusing only on the matter of export subsidies, which by themselves only represent a minor part of all trade-distorting measures, leaving aside the more relevant fields of domestic subsidies and tariffs. With our position taking a rather positive attitude towards trade liberalization, we decided to devote our speaker's time of one minute to make that very crucial point with the goal of moving negotiations to the more pressing matters for all – developing and developed countries alike.

Our speech, which of course did not fall short of advertising the importance the UAE attaches to trade ("*regional trading powerhouse*") and its role as a mediator between the interests of the North and the South, resonated well with other delegates who approached and congratulated us. This, coupled with our leadership in the GCC and the *Arab League*, gave us a key role in leading an initiative with other Southern and G77 countries that approached us to hear more about our stance on trade matters. Aware of this

responsibility we had taken on and the ideational capital we had build up, we decided to draw up an initiative that would be encompassing in content and at the same time agreeable to a large number of developing countries in order to increase our leverage when approaching the key players in the international trade game – the EU and the US.

Our strategy was therefore to gather the support of all Arab and African countries, and then get China and Brazil – the top players in the developing world – to throw in their political weight as well. Our goal was basically to make progress along all major dimensions of agricultural market protection as the title revealed as well (“*progressing towards fair and open agricultural markets*”) and not just on one dimension such as export subsidies. Of course, enlisting the support of other countries created the need to compromise and to incorporate other delegations’ concerns as well. At the same time, we were lobbying actively to assure new parties to our initiative that the document was drafted in a way that would satisfy most least-developed and developing countries’ interests in the short- and long-term. All of our initial efforts, which had focused on consulting with our regional partners on the content and the goals of our submission, were now subordinated to the effort of getting other players to sign on, something that was facilitated by the very active Chinese delegation as well.

Finally, China and the UAE became the main sponsors of the first accepted draft resolution in the WTO committee, which meant that now the lobbying had to proceed such that the first resolution would not get voted down. We were aware that the vote on our resolution (as the first one) would set the stage for the voting on all the other resolutions that would – if accepted – enter into the committee report. If we were to get voted down, “we” now comprising some 80 countries, a spiral of retaliation would ensue, which would result in a rejection of all resolutions – a failure of the entire WTO conference being the inevitable consequence. The European countries were most likely to oppose our resolution and, thus, now had to be our main negotiation partners. The Europeans had largely subordinated themselves to the Swedish delegation, which turned out to be quite informed as well, making for some tough negotiation partners. As we had taken on a leadership role for the G77 we now negotiated for the developing countries’ position to be incorporated in their tariff reduction scheme and agreed that we would give each other mutual support for our respective resolutions. Once more, we learned about the value of uniting some 80 countries in one interest group and bringing that leverage to the negotiation table. The reward of our efforts was that the UAE was featured prominently on top of the resolution 1/1, which by a large majority entered the final report of the WTO committee.

6.9. The United Arab Emirates in the Group of Seventy-Seven

Represented by Dominik Duell and Finn Nielsen

We represented the United Arab Emirates in the *Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (G77)*, which is an intergovernmental organization of 132 developing countries and China. The G77 was established in 1964 in the aftermath of the first session of the *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development* and started its work with 77 member states, hence the name. The main objective of the organization is to strengthen the

position of developing countries in the international political and economical system as well as to promote cooperation among the countries of the South. The method of decision-making is traditionally based on finding consensus which was also stressed many times by the Chair during the meeting.

Additionally, our guest speaker Ms. **Shayna Harris** from *Oxfam America* introduced to us the problems arising in world trade due to asymmetric distribution of power among developing and developed countries. Furthermore, she gave an interesting overview on **Oxfam's** "Make Trade Fair"-campaign and its possible effects on the public and the international trade system.



Adopting the agenda required a tough debate showing that a majority of countries was neither willing to deal with "*The Role of Developing Countries in UN Reform*" nor with "*The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries*". Therefore the topic "*The Debt Crisis: Forgiveness, Restructuring, and Default*" became the first topic on the agenda followed by the Trade Preferential System and UN Reform. The United Arab Emirates chose to argue for the inclusion of UN reform as the first topic with the argument that in order for the developing countries to successfully address issues such as debt relief and the unfair trade relations the UN in general and the *General Assembly* in particular needed to be reformed to better suit developmental issues.

Due to the size of the committee, with about 300 participants, the first step in working substantially was uniting the partners of the UAE. The UAE delegation was successful in immediately bringing together the countries of the *Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)*, namely Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar (Bahrain did not take part in the conference). This coalition worked closely together in preparing a working paper, during voting procedure and in reaching out to other regional groupings. Especially the whole Arab world stood side-by-side due to the never-ending efforts of the UAE delegation.

For two days several regional groups were working on different working papers, bringing in interesting approaches of how to improve the situation of highly indebted countries and avoiding an ongoing circle of debt for all developing countries. For example the idea of micro-credits, which means giving credits on a small scale to fully responsible individuals, made its way into nearly all draft resolutions, except the one sponsored by the GCC. The GCC took a different approach from many of the other working papers by trying to embrace the problem of debt in the knowledge that it has wide effects on so many aspects of economy, society, and politics. The GCC tried to find a comprehensive solution without focusing on specific areas or methods. Before the draft was accepted as a draft resolution, the group of sponsors had to meet several requirements set by the chair

and a long lasting process of merging the Arab proposals with the working papers of the Asian and African groups. At the end this paper was sponsored and signed by more than 60 countries. In order to bring all these ideas in the form of a resolution, strong will and patience was needed. Besides this work, the UAE also signed a more detailed working paper on how to further strengthen the so-called *Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative* introduced by the *International Monetary Fund*. Finally, the body adopted seven of the nine introduced draft resolutions including the one sponsored and the one signed by the UAE by an overwhelming majority. In retrospect it became clear that too many draft resolutions had been adopted resulting in overlapping approaches towards handling debt which were included in the UAE's resolution anyway; many countries had shown an inflationary behavior in signing working papers and voting for draft resolutions.

The delegation of the UAE was highly motivated to take an active role in formal and informal session even though the subject was not affecting the core interests of the country. By holding many outstanding speeches, guiding the GCC, especially in finding places for having lunch, and rising most of the points of order, the UAE got attention in their aim in building a bridge between developing and developed countries. During voting procedure, which was chaotic due to the fact that the Chair had been given other rules of procedure than the body, some Member States including the UAE helped him to deal with the challenge of adopting by acclamation.



To summarize these four days of negotiations in an intercultural setting: it was a great adventure. Most of the delegates were well prepared, showed diplomatic behavior, and worked diligently which lead to learning a lot in content as well as concerning the work of diplomats. By giving more insight in international politics than any lecture can give, this experience will be a treasure for life.

6.10. The United Arab Emirates in the Commission on the Status of Women

Represented by Roxana Popescu and Dania Röpke

“We, the peoples of the United Nations, fully committed to reaffirm the equality between men and women”, gathered in April 2006 for the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. The 45 Member States mandated to sit in the CSW for a period of 4 years met for 4 days in order to discuss the ways in which Women’s Rights would be strengthened de iure in order to achieve equality de facto. As a functional body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CSW aims to fight and eliminate any type of gender-based discrimination by preparing

recommendations and reports on the promotion of Women's Rights in fields such as economy, politics and society which serve as guidelines for UN Member States.

In the 18th century, Olympe de Gouge had already identified the "Paradox of Feminism" which today, more than 200 years later, is of immense importance for the United Nations' work in the field of Women's Rights. De Gouge asked herself if Women's Rights ought to be strengthened by general laws or by special norms focused on women. The second option had led to the establishment of Women's Rights organizations in order to bridge the gap of a missing women policy. The existence of organizations dealing with "general" Human Rights on the other hand had strongly marginalized women. This led to the creation of the new concept of "Gender Mainstreaming" in the 1990's, which suggests that every societal endeavor should be analyzed regarding the different interests and life situations of both men and women since there is no gender neutral reality. Even though the *Economic and Social Council* has been trying to find a definition of Gender Mainstreaming since 1995 and encouraged all countries to apply the concept in practice, the implementation proved to be rather sluggish.

In the spirit of the constant acknowledgement by *United Nations Development Programme* for our progress regarding gender mainstreaming, the United Arab Emirates is committed to offer its experience to other Arab countries, as well as to try to learn and profit from the experience of Western countries which have come closer to reaching the goal of gender equality. During the NMUN Conference, we sought to discuss the crucial definition of "Gender Mainstreaming" by aiming to put the topic "*Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Gender Mainstreaming in the Quest for Equality*" first on the agenda. We were lucky in the end: after a long discussion about the setting of the agenda, we finally succeeded, together with delegations from other countries, to discuss the Gender Mainstreaming topic first, putting the topics "*Engaging Men and Boys in the Quest for Equality*" and "*Empowering Women*" as second and third topics on the agenda. Due to the UAE's cultural background, we would not have been able to contribute as much to the discussion of the last two topics.

After entering formal session and listening to the first speeches, it became obvious that only very few countries had undergone an evaluation of the topic and that most attempts to implement the Gender Mainstreaming strategy had been in vain. During the preparation process for the NMUN Conference, we had always been wondering what the constantly mentioned "conceptual confusion" was referring to, since the concept seemed quite clear to us – but it turned out that certain nations had difficulties in implementing the strategy in their countries due to a wrong idea of the concept.



Motivated by their inaccurate perception of Gender Mainstreaming, some delegates showed a certain activism in trying to strengthen the role of women. Instead of improving already existing mechanisms, new bodies were created from nowhere, which would apparently display their importance and competence merely through their designation as a “council” or “commission”. Our argument that these bodies could not be established due to the lack of financial resources was completely ignored, leaving us quite frustrated.

Luckily, the following morning, heaven sent us an angel. After an invitation from the NMUN staff, we welcomed a guest speaker in our committee, Ms. **Sam Cook** from the Advocacy Office for the *PeaceWomen Project in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*. Coming from a small NGO focused on lobbying for the inclusion of Gender issues into the resolutions of the United Nations, the young woman was very enthusiastic about her work. She explained that her NGO lobbied for the wording of the distinct resolutions being gendered or that the different resolutions paid special attention to women when they were formulated. For us as delegates of the United Arab Emirates, listening to her was not only inspiring, but at the same time turned out to be a success for the whole committee because she explained a lot of technical details many delegates had not been aware of. Due to her speech, it turned out to be a lot easier to continue our work in the Commission.

In the afternoon, after a long informal caucus, we finally returned to formal session. We had been successful in finding some delegates with a lot of expertise, which turned out to be a fruitful cooperation. We started from zero, since resolutions and reports prepared in advance are not accepted at NMUN. So we had gathered input for the improvement of the communication of the gender mainstreaming strategy, which we then included into a draft report after a long day of hard and tiring negotiations. The draft report further contained a paragraph calling for the achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals* until 2015 and asking that every project should apply a gender perspective. Especially due to the efforts to collect enough votes for our document, we had the possibility to apply negotiation techniques that we had learned during our preparation process. In the end, after the close cooperation with mainly other Muslim states, we were able to gain an overwhelming majority of votes for our draft so that our paper was included in the overall report of the Commission on the last day of the conference.

Whether or not we were successful in clearing at least a part of the conceptual confusion concerning the Gender Mainstreaming strategy will be seen in the next session of the Commission in New York when an evaluation of the planned measures is foreseen...

6.11. The United Arab Emirates in the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Represented by Tim Nover

The *Organization of the Islamic Conference* (OIC) is an inter-governmental organization of 57 Muslim countries. Since its founding in 1969, the OIC has established a number of instruments to foster cooperation between Islamic countries while also representing the community of 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide on the international level. The OIC is an

important lobby group within the United Nations system when the topic under discussion is related to Islamic values or Islamic issues.

The provisional agenda of the OIC at the NMUN conference contained the following three items:

- *The Occupation of Muslim Communities by Non-Muslims*
- *The Role of Multi-National Corporations in Building Bridges between the Muslim and non-Muslim World*
- *A Comprehensive Approach towards Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime*

Naturally, it was the goal of our delegation to discuss the most pressing political issue, namely the continued illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories including the holy city of al-Quds (Jerusalem). Since the OIC was founded after an attack on the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem and the struggle for self-determination of the Palestinian people against Israeli oppression is at the very heart of the organization, we believed that it would not be difficult to convince all members of the committee that Topic 1, the *Occupation of Muslim Communities*, should be first on the agenda. Our second priority was the terrorism topic, since the debate around the *Dubai Ports World* merger shortly before the conference had shown that even though Muslim countries had made considerable progress in the fight against terrorism, an anti-Muslim bias persisted in some parts of the Western world.

Even though I had believed that the majority of the committee would share this view and that the agenda would be adopted quickly, things would turn out differently. While there was considerable support by the Arab and some Asian Member States to discuss the question of occupation, most African members of the OIC were in favor of setting Topic 2, the *Role of Multi-National Corporations* (MNCs), on top of the agenda. The prevailing interest seemed to be to attract foreign investment from MNCs to bolster the economy of developing nations in Africa. After some tough negotiations during informal caucus, this opinion prevailed and eventually gained the majority of the committee. Despite my surprise that the Muslim world had decided to put the plight of the Palestinian people behind its own economic development, I was eager to begin the debate on this issue.

On Wednesday, the first day of substantive debate, the committee decided that various parts of the topic needed to be addressed separately. While more foreign direct investment and a more active involvement of MNCs in Muslim countries was desired by all Member States, OIC members had to urge companies to respect their Islamic culture and values. Additionally, the position of Islamic MNCs in the global economy and economic cooperation between Member States should be strengthened.

Due to the complexity of each of these items, the committee formed a number of working groups to discuss concrete measures regarding the political, economic, and social aspects of the topic. Since the United Arab Emirates has an impressive record of attracting foreign investment and MNCs, I decided to work within one of the economic working groups discussing the necessary measures to create a better climate for foreign

investment. Periodically, I consulted with partners from the Arab world to get an update on the work of the other working groups. Due to the very constructive working environment, the proposals quickly took shape and included the creation of an Islamic Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (IsCSID), and the call for internship and training programs from MNCs to include domestic workers in their operations.

However, after some hours of debate, I began to notice that the working groups did not cooperate closely and that formal debate was not spent on explaining detailed proposals, but rather on very general speeches. Hence, the delegate of Turkey and I began to coordinate the various proposals from the different working groups and put them into context. In an extra caucusing session from midnight until 1 am, we discussed our main priorities for the topic and how to effectively address them in the resolutions.



The next morning, I was one of the first speakers to address the committee but unfortunately only able to issue a brief “good morning” statement, since many delegates had not appeared yet and a full speech would not have been heard by the majority of the committee. The large majority of our time on Thursday was spent on refining our resolutions and developing amendments. I formulated an amendment for a resolution to strike out a clause that recommended the establishment of legally binding rules for MNCs to respect the Muslim heritage of their host countries. While the respect of Islamic values is very important to the UAE, it should be left up to Member States to decide whether to make these rules legally binding. Even though most of the sponsors of the resolution agreed with me on this issue, the amendment had to be voted upon and eventually passed by a clear majority.

On Thursday afternoon, Mr. **Ahmad Kamal**, the former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed our committee as a guest speaker. He gave us a very interesting talk on the subject of terrorism, stressing that terrorism is not a new phenomenon but has been around for centuries. Despite the seriousness of the topic, the ambassador showed his particular sense of humor by commenting on the newly established *Human Rights Council* and the election of its members: “*I come from a military dictatorship! Democracy doesn’t work.*” Mr. Kamal’s lecture gave us some very interesting insight into the topic and negotiations at the UN and also managed to relax us from the stress of negotiating for a little bit.

After all working groups had presented their papers and proposals, the atmosphere in the committee suddenly changed dramatically. Until now, the OIC had worked together in a true spirit of cooperation without overly emphasizing national or regional peculiarities. However, when the authors of the working papers had to face serious criticism regarding the merging of some paragraphs, some formulations were fiercely defended and became contentious.

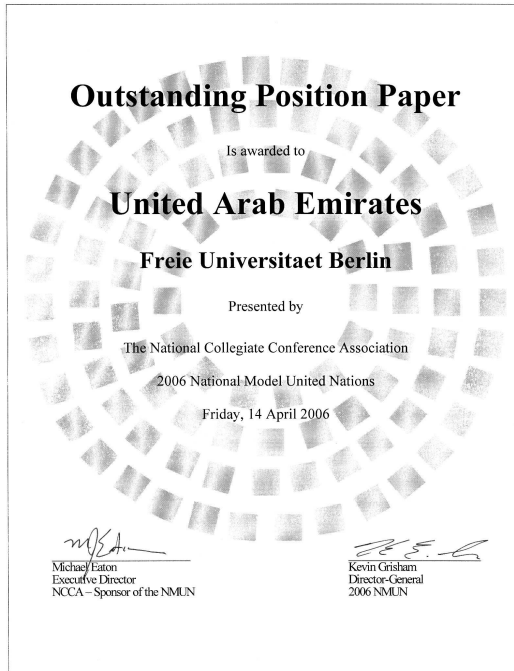
In the end, the necessary 2/3 majority was found for all four resolutions on the floor, including the working paper sponsored by the UAE. One resolution was only passed after I intervened with the Committee Director, who had falsely counted the abstentions as regular votes so that the resolution failed to gain a 2/3 majority. After a brief hint at the respective rule of procedure regarding voting procedure, this problem was solved and the resolution clearly passed. Several delegates later thanked me for "*saving their resolution in the last minute*".

Since there were still about 60 minutes left after voting procedure until the adjournment of the meeting, the OIC moved on to the next topic and briefly discussed ideas to solve the conflict in Palestine. Due to the lack of time, the committee session ended before any working papers could be introduced.

In total, the work of the OIC was very different from the other bodies and committees at NMUN because it was a small committee with only 60 delegations and there was no serious controversy between Member States. At the beginning of the session, all delegations agreed to work together in the spirit of the Islamic *ummah* and to disregard any national animosities. This made the work within the committee a pleasure, even though a bit of controversy sometimes would have made the discussion livelier.



7. “Outstanding Position Paper Award” for the Berlin NMUN 2006 Delegation



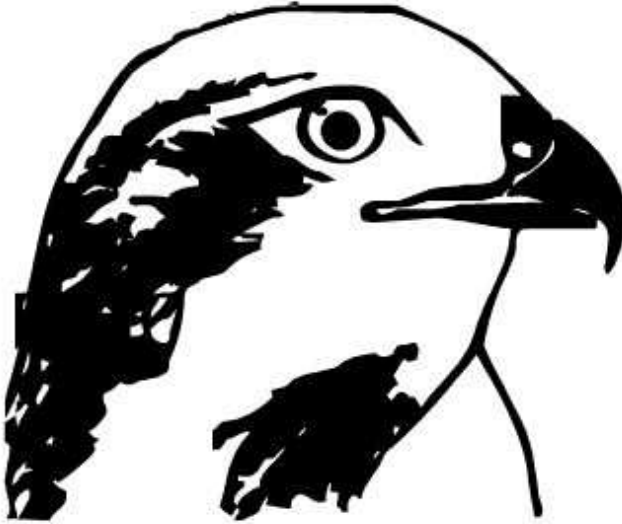
Every year, the NMUN Conference Staff recognizes a small number of delegations for their outstanding work during the conference and presents several awards during the Closing Ceremony. The criteria taken into account for these awards include a credible representation of the assigned country, an active participation in committee sessions, and the proper use of the Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, the NMUN organizers award Position Paper Awards to those delegations who wrote the best Position Papers to reward their outstanding efforts in preparation for the conference.

Even though the main objective of our participation was to learn about the United Nations and diplomatic negotiations in an international setting and not primarily winning an award, we certainly wanted to do the best we could. We had put many hours into the drafting of our Position Papers and spent numerous sessions on practicing diplomatic behavior and the Rules of Procedure. Ultimately, our efforts were rewarded: as the first delegation of *Freie Universität Berlin* to win two awards, our delegation was a proud recipient of one award in each category: an “Outstanding Position Paper Award” and an “Honorable Mention Award” for our performance during the conference.

Tim Nover

8. “Honorable Mention” Awarded to the Berlin NMUN 2006 Delegation





UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

9. Press Releases and Articles

Weinz, Irene; Knuth, Jan Ingo: Diplomat statt Diplomand: FU-Studierende auf dem diplomatischen Parkett der Vereinten Nationen. Published in: Wissenschaftlerinnen-Rundbrief der Freien Universität Berlin, 1/2006, p. 13-17. Available online at: http://web.fu-berlin.de/frauenbeauftragte/pdf/wiss_2006_1.pdf.

On the participation of Freie Universität Berlin at HNMUN 2006:

UN-Planspiel in Boston. Zwölf FU-Studenten beteiligen sich an Projekt der Harvard Universität. In: Berliner Morgenpost vom 6. Februar 2006, S. 11.

Jakob, Xenia; Stein, David, Zöphel, Johannes (ed.): Harvard National Model United Nations 2006, Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin, representing Bangladesh, 13-19 February 2006, New York City and Boston. UN-Forum 3/2006.



Participation of the Freie Universität Berlin in the National Model United Nations Conference 1995 - 2006

Republic of Lithuania (1995)

Syrian Arab Republic (1996)

Kingdom of Norway (1997)

Republic of South Africa (1998), Award "Honorable Mention"

The People's Republic of Bangladesh (1999)

The Republic of Turkey (2000), Award "Honorable Mention"

The Argentine Republic (2001)

The Republic of Poland (2002)

The International Council on Social Welfare (2004)

The Republic of Guatemala (2005), Award "Honorable Mention"

The United Arab Emirates (2006), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", Award "Honorable Mention"

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ISBN: 3-927 192-28-7