

National Model United Nations

University of St. Gallen
Delegation 2011



Documentation

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Contact:

Address: University of St.Gallen
Dufourstrasse 45
9000 St. Gallen

Phone: 0041 76 706 1148

Email: mail@nmun.ch

Participants:

Jonas Blanck
Alexander Fey
Michael Fischer
Benedict Freely
Annegret Funke
Philipp Hirt
Felix Karstens
Adrian Kronauer
Christopher Kurzhals
Katharina Michel
Céline Olesen
Ursina Schaede
Carl von Schweinitz
Alexander Szymanski

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“The National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York provides students with a unique opportunity to accumulate skills in conducting diplomatic negotiations and public speaking, which could not otherwise be gained from day to day university life.”

Such was the purpose of this year’s NMUN class at the University of St Gallen. Thanks to your generous contribution, we have been enabled to experience this exceptional conference, eventually acquiring the skills highlighted beforehand. After having returned from an outstanding experience it is not exaggerated to say: Thank you very much, each and every cent of your donations has been worth it!

Moreover, your contribution allowed us to develop ourselves, a value we might not have had actively in mind before, but a value we very much appreciate now back home. Whether it has been by speaking up in front of hundreds of people, negotiating with adversaries in a diplomatic conduct, all of us felt privileged to attend this event. Thus, it has been a validation of our delegation’s effort to be awarded twice: Exceptional Position Paper Award and Honorable Delegation Award.

We heartily thank you for your contributions!

Introduction



Alexander Szymanski
Head Delegate and Delegate
in the WIPO Committee.

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This year a delegation from the University of St. Gallen once again participated at the NMUN Conference in New York. Involvement in this course allows students to accumulate experiences, which firstly, would not otherwise be learnt by reading textbooks and secondly, complement their degrees excellently. This is not only a result of the fact that a substantial proportion of the preparation is executed independently; but also because the students learn about the UN, as well as an unknown country; and are able to hone their skills in working alone. Consequently, not only do the students acquire know-how, but they also improve their organizational and social skills. The university aims to develop students who use their talents and ability to work, not solely for their personal benefit, but also with social responsibility. Through their involvement in the NMUN project and their confrontation with current topics, the students demonstrate that they are willing to think beyond the horizons of student life. We hence welcome this involvement and consider it to be worthy of not only ideational, but also financial support. Thanks to your philanthropy this year's delegation was enabled to deliver an outstanding performance and honor our university - once again - with two awards ("Honorable Delegation" and "Best Position Paper"). Taking into account the numerous skills earned during the course we highly appreciate your willingness to cooperate with the University of St Gallen and thus support some of our outstanding students.

Welcome



Prof. Dirk Lehmkuhl
Director of the Major of
International Affairs at the
University of St. Gallen



Prof. Dr. Thomas Bieger
President of the University
of St. Gallen.

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Course Work

Having successfully completed the assessment process for the NMUN Delegation 2011 in July, we, 14 highly motivated students, looked forward to our first class in September. The agenda consisted of several hours of general introduction to the United Nations and current “hot spots” of world politics, such as Israel or Haiti. After short presentations of his or her topic, each student lead a open discussion about the impacts of the issue for the UN and other major players in world politics. With this comprehensive overview about major threats and chances for the world we entered the next stage of our course.

Besides the normal class we had to decide on our preferences of countries we wanted to represent. The NMUN organizers in New York honored us with the option to represent the Republic of the Sudan – one of the most instable countries in Africa with deadly conflicts and several UN Missions on its territory.

During the following weeks every student worked on the topics set on the agenda of his or her committee and presented the history and structure of the committee which he or she would be working in. As a result, every student had gained an overview about the discussions and positions of Sudan in the other committees after the first semester. In February we finished the work on our position papers and felt well prepared to enter the practical sphere of our NMUN course.



Felix Karstens

Delegate in the 1st Committee of the General Assembly

The Preparation Course



Visiting the Sudanese Embassy in Geneva

In March 2011 we went to Geneva to get in touch with the real diplomats' world. Having crossed Switzerland by train we were warmly welcomed by the third ambassador and the consul of the Sudanese mission to the UN. Prepared to meet some reserved defenders of an authoritarian regime, everybody seemed to be impressed by the openness and the positive attitude of the representatives regarding the Arabellion in their northern neighbor states. Even if discussion focused on the arrest warrant of Omar Al-Bashir released by the ICC or the crimes against humanity in Darfur region the two men never stopped to keep their calm and friendly tone. Being aware of the unutterable suffering in Darfur, we stated that they must be excellent diplomats.

After our first glance into a state embassy we walked up the hill to the Palais des Nations where we took part in a guided tour. Many of us believed themselves to be more in a museum than within a building for important multilateral negotiations, since nearly every member state tried to show his greatness by donating valuable gifts to the UN. Having visited the conference room where the cease-fire between Georgia and Russia was negotiated in 2008, we began to realize the significance of the building complex for world politics.

Lunch in the UN cafeteria strengthened us to successfully attend the last official discussion with diplomats at the Swiss mission to the UN. The question and answer session about human rights and neutrality was followed by a breath-taking event. Having left the Swiss mission building we witnessed the arrival of Shimon Peres, who came to talk with Calmy-Rey. We were astonished by the enormous security measures applied in one of the most peaceful countries in the world. After a long day we did what is the best thing to do in Geneva besides debating with diplomats, we went to the Lac Lemon, bought a beer or wine and debated the interesting results of our trip.

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Eight-thirty in the morning – it was time to start the day with a bang, and try to convince every other delegate in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, that the policies we were trying to push in our working papers were the only ideal solution to combating the world drug trade.

It was my turn on the speakers list, and I knew I would be the first that day to take the microphone and have 90 seconds to try and argue Sudan’s case – something made even harder by the fact that Sudan does not have all that many allies in the United Nations.

However, this is the least of the challenges encountered throughout the day. Immense amounts of leadership, organisation, and diplomacy are required to write and negotiate a resolution, a process that demands the approval of a working paper first by the dias, then the committee, and finally by the entire General Assembly. The difficulty is trying to incorporate everybody’s requirements in the working paper, whilst nevertheless trying to push the policies important to Sudan in as many working groups as possible.

Work continues long after the formal sessions have been adjourned – either on working papers, speeches; or visiting the United Nations headquarters, and missions to the UN.

However, the efforts and hard work paid off, resulting in awards for outstanding position papers, which were submitted before the conference, as well as a honourable mention for our delegation. Most importantly, however, we managed to pass the resolutions we had sponsored, and departed, satisfied with the knowledge that we had experienced something, that would not have been possible in any other standard university course.



Benedict Freely

Delegate in the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly

A Day in the Life of an NMUN Delegate

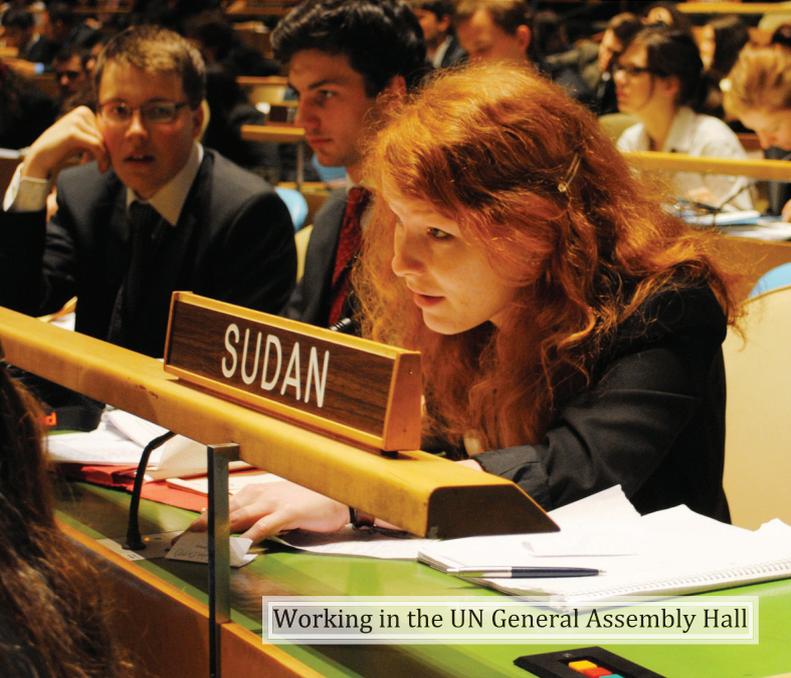
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At the Sudanese Embassy in Geneva

Impressions



Working in the UN General Assembly Hall



Listening to Speeches



Giving a Speech



At the UN General Assembly Hall



Voting on NMUN-Resolutions



Short Consulting-Break