

DPSHMUN 2017

DAY TWO NEWSLETTER

Greetings delegates!

With the end of day two, we come to the close of this edition of DPSHMUN. It has been a wonderful journey with lots of diligent work put in, giving rise to the success it was. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Secretariat for their tireless efforts and their faith in me, as a suitable IP Head. I'd also like to congratulate my entire team for pulling off their tasks with utmost dedication and enthusiasm. It has been great working with all of you and I wish you all the best for future conquests! And last but not least, I'd like to thank for all the delegates in attendance who made this MUN the huge success it was. Congratulations to all the winners and I hope that this MUN has been as memorable for all of you as it has been for me.

Aayushmita Bhattacharjee
Head of International Press



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE STEPS TOWARDS SOLVING MYANMAR CRISIS

United Nations General Assembly passes resolution on Myanmar refugee crisis, thus, looking to make reforms and hence, solve the crisis at hand.

The second day of the United Nations General Assembly was one packed with action with the participation of numerous member nations that had not participated earlier. The beginning of the debate was a rather slow one with the committee moving in no particular direction. Member nations spent a majority of the time in the first half of discussion discussing about the problems faced by this minority in depth.

Majority of the progression of the committee took place during un-moderated caucuses where the committee formed alliances and divided itself into two major blocs, namely, the USA-China-Israel bloc and the Ethiopia-Syria-Thailand-Togo bloc, each bloc with a resolution of its own.

These blocs differed in their idea of action to be put forward and heated debate as well as extensive use of politics was displayed in order to decide which resolution was to be put into action. Executive board members such as the Co-Chairs and rapporteur were involved, making sure the committee followed with decorum and diplomacy.

The questions and comments session of the draft resolutions was one of the most heated parts of the day, involving various delegates scrutinising the resolutions and thus, looking to remove all errors. The heavy debating and questioning was followed by formal voting which was ruled in the favour of the Ethiopian bloc.

The resolution of the winning bloc had several key points, some being; urging the country of Myanmar to recognise citizenship of the Rohingya minority and provide equal rights to them, deliver humanitarian aid, place the UN Peace Keeping Force in Myanmar, and encouraging the protection and shelter of these refugees.

Thus, the committee had passed, with a resolution that provides necessary aid to the oppressed minority.

The Chair Vignesh Valliyur expressed his pleasure in seeing the committee move to a conclusion that the committee agrees upon and is delighted to have had the privilege to work some very fine, talented and diplomatic delegates.

The happy Executive Board, happy delegates and happy committee are clear indicators of the success of the committee.

Abhinav Samavedam

Another day of debating passes by. Today was the day for draft resolutions. The debate opened with moderated caucuses on the topics “The problems that the refugees face once they leave the country” and “Solutions for Rohingya crisis”. Today saw the active participation of the delegates of many more countries such as Luxembourg, Sri Lanka, Gambia, Poland, Togo, Syria, Georgia, Central African Republic, Mali, Turkey, Malaysia, Liberia, Ethiopia, Thailand and DRC, just to mention a few. Even though the proceedings were slow, the points made by the delegates were strong, the stance taken by them firm. Many countries declared themselves too economically unstable or too far off from the host countries to actively take part in the protection of Rohingya’s. Many of the delegates even went on to criticize not only Myanmar itself but all its neighboring countries. The UN and other international peace keeping and human rights councils do not seem to be actively helping the situation and turn a blind eye towards the plight of Rohingya’s. The conditions of the Rohingya’s were discussed at length and solutions regarding the same were discussed. Islam phobia and lack of legal protection are two major reasons for the exploitation of the Rohingya’s. Rohingya’s are denied citizenship which is a clear violation of article 15 which states that everyone has a right to nationality. They are also barred from securing a position in the civil or public services which is a violation of article 21 which states that everyone has an equal access to public services. Article 17 which prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of property of Rohingya’s is being snatched away. Article 13 specifies freedom of movement but the Rohingya’s are not allowed to travel within the country. Considering the economic instability of Bangladesh, the government is having a hard time dealing with the refugee crisis. The international community needs to use anti-Muslim sentiment as a benchmark to measure the reforms and put pressure on Myanmar’s rulers, including the threat of sanctions. It must be stressed that Myanmar’s leaders are not exempted from their obligations of upholding fundamental human rights under international laws and are liable to face consequences in the future. The UNHCR must step into the region and help them. Two draft resolutions were presented: Israel-USA-China and the Syria-Russia-Ethiopia resolution. Each draft resolution emphasized on the fact that crisis can only be solved through regional cooperation at an international level. The Syria-Russia-Ethiopia resolution finally was passed with a majority. The day ended with the closing ceremony and the announcement of prizes and titles.

Muskan Gupta

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Environmental changes happen even as world leaders argue about its reality or about how economical it is to combat global warming. This puts one question in my mind, will it be too late by the time nations stop arguing and start taking action?

While day one saw delegates well versed with the policies their countries had adopted, day two saw many different solutions put forward by the nations. The initial part of the session had some discrepancies due to the concerns of nations such as USA who have been funding developing countries for sustainable development. There was some furore regarding USA's departure from the Paris Agreement yet again. These were quickly clarified and delegates moved to offering creative ways to initiate sustainable development. Many suggested carbon tax and geo engineering as solutions to reduce emissions and usage of plastics. The close of the session saw nations come up with at least four resolutions out of which two were voted upon. The resolution that passed involved finer details about how the developed and developing countries were to go about with sustainable development to tackle climate change. The committee was a success as was seen in the resolution that it came up with.

The agenda of the committee was ultimately achieved and it also met the requirements of most world nations. This was quite a feat in itself and could not have been done without the diplomacy and leadership skills shown by delegates along with their eloquence and convincing ways. Wishing all the best to these delegates for their future conquests in forthcoming MUNs!

Ayan Wahi



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION ON REFUGEES

On the second day of the Model United Nations of the UNHCR committee, the session commenced with the delegate of Russia raising a motion for a moderated caucus on the topic, 'Each country's willing contribution in helping refugees'. This seemed to move the committee forward as delegates agreed it was vital to pool in resources and accommodate refugees. Other nations discussed job and education importance.

After the caucus elapsed, another motion by the delegate of Netherlands to enter a moderated caucus on 'Countries' contribution and social security' passed. As Romania spoke, Jordan raised a point of order stating that Mr. Antonio is not the high commissioner but the Secretary General of UNHCR. Iraq decided it would help once its political situation improved. As Chile's delegate spoke of the large accommodation of South America, USA's delegate raised a point of order as they believed the US to have contributed the most, which did not stand as it was simply a belief. Delegates of Jordan and Italy declared it was of no use taking in refugees if they weren't treated well. Belarus and Jordan had a slight disagreement on the number of uneducated Syrian refugees in Jordan. The discussion turned somewhat repetitive as each delegate talked about its own country's contribution, much like the previous discussion.

The committee was granted an unmoderated caucus by the EB in the hope of discussing on how to move on and find solutions, rather than discuss problems and each country's contribution. Later on, a motion to enter into a moderated caucus on 'Solutions for refugee crises' was passed by the Spain and Ghana delegates.

This discussion saw large participation with great solutions. The committee showed that with many heads put together, almost anything can be solved.

Willing contributions made by countries and Solutions for refugee crises:

Like Spain said, "My country has what yours doesn't, your country has what mine doesn't"; countries agreed to pool in resources while Jordan asked for aid from European countries. These refugees who go through a lot of trauma while fleeing their countries can be given counselling and guidance. Sanitation and nourishing food is important for their health. Companies should be encouraged to take in refugees who must not be seen as a liability. Xenophobia and social exclusion should be taken into account. Deepening the concept of humanitarian visas would help refugees cross countries. The main provision necessary is education and employment for this is what would help refugees earn a living to pay their rent and live with dignity. Also, safe zones can be built in areas of conflict.

A press conference took place after the moderated caucus after which an unmoderated caucus helped the delegates decide the communique details. Delegates of US and Senegal had a small disagreement on the President of the United States resulting in Senegal having to write an apology letter to US which added humor to the session.

The authors of the communique then discussed its clauses. Delegates questioned several of the clauses most of which the authors replied to with satisfactory answers. However quite a few points of information were raised after and some delegates seemed unsure. Some amendments failed while some were received with enthusiasm, with additions also being made. The resolution passed and the UNHCR committee was a success.

Varshini Chinta

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Session started with the delegate of India commencing the general speaker's list (GSL). In his GSL, the delegate of the Russian federation gave a presidential speech, which led to Russia, China and USA forming a block. Later on, the Chair gave a crisis, where 120 American soldiers were killed in Lahore and Kabul with the ambassador of United States of America residing in Pakistan. All terrorist organizations denied organizing the attacks. This made Russia, USA and India believe that the attacks were engineered by the Pakistan. But later updates stated that the Taliban and Alkina groups claimed the attacks. A series of events followed, starting with India and France sending military troops to their boards for self defense. This created board tension, leading to Pakistan send their military troops to the Indo-Pak board and gave a statement- "If the Indian troops don't back out, we will attack India in 24 hours." This made Russia, Germany, France and USA send military support to India leading to North Korea extending its help to Pakistan and the supreme North Korean leader saying, "If even one bullet grazes a Pakistan soldier then thousands of American soldiers will be killed." Later the council was updated about North Korea releasing a grade 3 ICB and looking at the statics, it was supposed to collide and destroy all life forms in Hawaii. But thankfully, in the later updates, it was stated that the ICB launched by North Korea missed its coordinates and dropped itself into the international waters, 30km away from the Hawaiian coast. Finally, Pakistan troops backed away and told Indian military force to leave the board too and the United States of America that they should call back all their military forces situated in Pakistan and Afghanistan peacefully. With this the crisis elapsed and the council voted for the crisis.

Working papers and draft resolution:

With the end of the crisis, the delegate of USA raised a motion to discuss the working paper of Russia, USA and China. The questions asked by the other delegates were either mostly unanswered or were answered but in a very vague manner. Moreover, the delegates of Russia, USA and China were very confused throughout the session. After the working paper was discussed, the delegate of India raised a motion to discuss his draft resolution. The committee voted against it but later on when the motion was raised again, it passed by the discretion of the Chair. While the draft resolution was being discussed, the delegate of Germany declared that his country would be withdrawing from the G4. This was a massive shock to the delegates of India, Japan and France. At the end of the discussion the committee voted for the resolution. There were 10 'yes's' from the other delegates and three 'no's' from the Veto powers, the delegates of USA, Russia and China, leading to the committee failing.

Sanjana Nanduri