



UN-FORUM

National Model United Nations 2018

Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin

Representing the Principality of Liechtenstein

Winter Semester 2017/2018

Freie Universität  Berlin

In 1866, Liechtenstein's last military engagement sent 80 men to war.

81 returned, as they had made a friend.

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National Model United Nations

2018

*Report of Participation of Freie Universität Berlin
representing the Principality of Liechtenstein
Winter Semester 2017/18*

Edited by

Lea Eichhorn, Isabel Fauth, Vinzenz Hämmerle, Clara Nicola, Eduardo Rivera
Velasco, Inès Schroeder and Friederike Vierck

On behalf of the Berlin-Brandenburg Branch of the
United Nations Association of Germany

National Model United Nations 2018

The Delegation of Liechtenstein



Back row (from left to right):

John Gubernath, Yoo Yung Lee, Isabel Fauth, Khaled Nawabi, Lea Eichhorn, Jenny Ning, Theresa Dümchen, Inès Schroeder, Maria Aygün, Friederike Vierck, Eduardo Rivera Velasco

Front row (from left to right):

Clara Nicola, Annika Blümel, Mahima Rai, Piotr Paweł Larysz, Aleksandra Petković

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Foreword by the Head Delegates

“In 1866 Liechtenstein’s last military engagement sent 80 men to war. 81 returned, as they had made a friend.”

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

We now have the honor to present to you a story of our journey to the United Nations. It all began last October, and for some of us the first meeting might have felt a little bit like an experiment. Take fourteen students from different academic fields, give them a country they have never dealt with before, and throw them in the middle of diplomatic negotiations in one of the biggest cities in the world. May we present: The Freie Universität Delegation 2018 to the National Model United Nations conference in New York.

With journey, we mean two things. Of course, we mean the very journey, which almost felt like a class trip back in school, when we packed our suitcases and boarded a plane which would bring us to the place of our hopes and dreams. But first and foremost, we mean the journey that we had been on throughout the whole semester, and the journey that each of us went on, personally.

It all started last fall. We all had different motivations to apply for NMUN. Some of us had wanted to participate in this project for a long time, others just learned about the opportunity on the very last day before the application deadline. Some of us had studied international politics and law before, some had not touched that subject in university ever before. Some of us had been to the United States many times before, for others, it would be the first time to fly to another continent on an airplane.

This project was a truly unique experience for all of us. Many of us were in our last semesters before graduation so it was their last chance to participate in that project. Others came from academic areas that do not really touch on the subject of international politics, so also for them, this seminar was a rare opportunity to learn about the UN cosmos.

But there were also many aspects that we had in common. None of us knew much about Liechtenstein. We had all gone through the application process, had handed in statements and answered questions in an interview. And, most importantly, we were all excited to learn a ton about the UN and to finally go to New York and act like real diplomats.

As the careful reader will notice while enjoying this little documentation, our seminars were supposed to provide training in many ways. We learned how to present ourselves and our inspiring ideas in speeches by giving presentations about culture and religion in Liechtenstein, or by reciting songs by Queen and Pink Floyd. These were the sessions that were the most active and fun, but of course, we also had classes like common seminars, our faculty advisors teaching us about the complex structure of the UN and everything we needed to know about international security, Human Rights or the Sustainable Development Goals. At times, our project also became very practical: From baking cake for fundraising events to designing and printing visiting cards for the conference, many of us could contribute the skills connected to their very hobbies, in order to make our work successful.



Through organizing these things, we experienced the highs and lows of every group project. At times it was indeed a struggle to find a compromise between so many different characters and to share tasks and responsibilities. Nevertheless, we also experienced true, inspiring and catching team spirit which was so motivating that it led some of us to spend days and nights working on their position papers. Whatever the predominant impression for every single member might have been – it is sure that we would agree that we have grown with this challenge.

Yes, this journey was not always easy. We had to manage complying with all the deadlines and organizing our research in accordance with the regular work we had to do for university. We had to organize fundraising and equipment and therefore had to divide the work and rely on each other. We had to create Position Papers and prepare for the Conference in small groups with people we had to get to know first, some of them studying something completely different and being used to very different approaches to academic work.

The true highpoint of the project was certainly the trip to New York. The overwhelming lights at Times Square and the pulse of the city that never sleeps made our deepest dreams come true. The UN-Study Tour and several briefings gave us a glimpse of the daily bread in the life of a diplomat.

Throughout this process, we all learned from each other. We learned patience and how to motivate each other; we learned how to combine a precise style of writing with catchy phrases, we learned to accept each other's quirks and to pull oneself together even though we were tired and stressed. We learned about political theory and the international legal framework that has been created by the international community. Some of the older ones had never been to a Model United Nations conference before, and some of the younger ones were far more experienced and could teach the others about what to expect.

Clara Amelie Nicola and Piotr Paweł Larysz



Sponsors of the FU Berlin Delegation at the National Model United Nations 2018

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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 programmes are 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* programme has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programmes 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. Freie Universität Berlin organizes, together with different cooperation partners like the *Federal Foreign Office*, various *Model United Nations* conferences throughout the year in Berlin.

The *National Model United Nations* today is the largest simulation of the *United Nations* in the world. Each year more than 5,000 students from North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for five days at the Hilton Hotel or the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, New York, and the *United Nations Headquarters*. The *National Model United Nations* is sponsored by the *National Collegiate Conference Association*, a non-profit organisation, which works closely with the United Nations and was granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council in 1995. The Board of Directors co-ordinates 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, failures are immediately realized, as well as – most importantly – success.

At the end of the conference, 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. The passing resolutions are forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke



Our Faculty Advisors Gandhi Vela and Peggy Wittke

2. The FU Berlin NMUN 2018 Delegation

Khaled-Walid Nawabi

General Assembly, 1st Committee

My age is... 22

I was born in... Berlin Spandau, Germany

I am studying... Law, 7th semester



I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I believed working in an interdisciplinary group would be a nice experience, besides the whole prospect of having a taste of international diplomacy.

I wanted to be in this committee because... I was convinced that it strongly correlates with my field of study and this year's topics seemed very interesting.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... During the final moments before the voting procedure in GA1, I noticed a particular clause in one draft resolution which would be contradictory to the interests of European countries, that was undetected yet, moments before the voting commenced I was able to rally the European representatives and said draft resolution was not accepted in the end.

The greatest challenge was... The interactions with the ASEAN-Group with whom we were working on a working paper were challenging because they were reclusive, while also overseeing a rather big merger at the same time.

Khaled is what they call one-of-a-kind. A razor sharp mind and memory. Our delegation had an extra kick to it because of Khaled. He is a high-flier and is definitely going places! Looking forward to a day where I open a newspaper and read of his work.

You are so kind, genuine and nice and a real gentleman in every kind! It has been a pleasure working with you and having so much fun in New York.

Khaled is a polite and caring person with a strong self – confidence. He knows his viewpoints and explains them in a straight and convincing manner. These characteristics make him an impressive partner in negotiations as well as a reliable and wonderful friend on a thrilling journey through the most famous city in the world.

Khaled has an incredible talent of expressing himself in a clear and well-chosen way. He is always very polite and attentive which makes him a great person to talk to. His unique humour makes him a great company.

Eduardo Rafael Rivera Velasco

General Assembly, 1st Committee



- My age is...** Officially I am 21, but when I shave people think I'm 19, and when I don't, then they think I am 24. So, it really depends on how I am feeling that morning.
- I was born in...** Guayaquil, the second largest city in Ecuador, a beautiful country located in South America.
- I am studying...** Political Sciences in Bachelor. I am in my third semester at the Otto-Suhr-Institute.
- I have applied for NMUN 18 because...** I learned about NMUN 2018 from doing an MUN seminar in the summer of 2017, whereby at the end Dr. Wittke graciously asked us to consider applying. I applied, because I was very curious about personally seeing the United Nations up close, partly as I thought that the briefings that are organized yearly by our university seemed like a great opportunity to get a feeling of what it was like to actually work there.
- I wanted to be in this committee because...** I wanted to be in this committee because security is one my favorite fields of political science, and I've written quite a bit on this area during my time at the OSI.
- The best thing about NMUN 18 was...** It is honestly hard to choose one particular moment, but one of my favorite memories from the whole experience was walking through Manhattan with Friederike and Aleksandra (two other delegates from our university), when I reminded them that neither of them thought they would be able to come and pointing out how I relentlessly pushed them to get through the application process.
- The greatest challenge was...** I found it honestly frustrating how much quite a few people during the conference did not seem very interested in discussing the topics at hand but were rather focused on getting everyone's contact information and making as many pointless motions or arguments as possible in order to get a good grade.

Whether at the United Nations headquarters, at the MoMa or at Brooklyn drag shows, there is no one I would have rather spent my time in New York City with.

Vinzenz Hämmerle

General Assembly, 1st Committee



My age is...	22
I was born in...	Austria
I am studying...	Law in my second year
I have applied for NMUN 18 because...	I wanted to do something at my university besides studying and going to lectures. It sounded like I could learn a lot about something that wasn't too closely related to my other courses. Having a broad vision is always good.
I wanted to be in this committee because...	Terrorism and weapons are more present nowadays than they have been for a long time, so of course you want to see if you can succeed in delivering solutions in this regard.
The best thing about NMUN 18 was...	Reading a lot about Liechtenstein and having intense policy discussions with everyone.
The greatest challenge was...	Finishing our Position Paper on time with a lot of last minute changes!

Vinzenz is a friendly and reliable person who, at the same time, can appreciate a good joke and who brings along a good portion of wit and sarcasm.

Vinzenz was the only real representative of Liechtenstein. At least he has already been there and could understand the Liechtensteinian dialect!

Inès Schroeder

General Assembly, 2nd Committee



My age is... 23

I was born in... Wiesbaden, Germany

I am studying... Law, 4th semester

I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I wanted to leave my “legal bubble” and was curious about some fresh input from people with different perspectives. I also left secondary school being very critical about the UN and wanted to give it another chance, experiencing it in the most authentic way you can as someone who’s just standing on the sidelines.

I wanted to be in this committee because... Volunteer projects in developing countries after school left me, as anyone else, with the question: How can it be so difficult to just do something good? I wanted to explore the chances and challenges of sustainable development work once more and was particularly curious how sustainable tourism can have an impact on poverty eradication.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... Actually being able to commit to a real project and escaping normal exam-routine for a bit. Also, I’ve build lasting ties to my fellow delegates as well as interesting heads from all over the globe.

The greatest challenge was... Group dynamics with 18 entirely different and self-confident folks can occasionally be a bit challenging...

Candid, down-to-earth, resilient: these are the adjectives that come to mind when I think about Ines. A truly hardworking woman, who takes her responsibilities seriously and shows commitment to her work and to our team. As someone who is reflective and who stands firmly by her convictions, talking to Ines is both refreshing – in her honesty and directness – and enriching.

Inés is one of the most hard working persons I know. She is a strong women with style and confidence. I have no doubt to see her making her way to the top and truly enjoyed spending time with her.

Inès is going her own way, and this way has taken her to many interesting places – luckily, one of these places was NMUN 2018. Always on time, always prepared, she brought along the very reliability that is needed for this project. An ambitious, intelligent, elegant and lovely person!

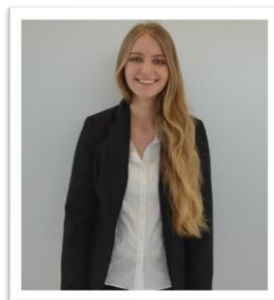
Friederike Marie Vierck

General Assembly, 2nd Committee

My age is... 19

I was born in... Kiel, Germany

I am studying... Political Science, 3rd semester



I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I had already participated in Model United Nations before, also in very inspiring seminars with Mrs. Wittke at the Freie Universität, which encouraged me to participate in NMUN to practice my diplomatic skills. Also, I could not imagine a better place to participate in Model United Nations than right by the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

I wanted to be in this committee because... I was generally interested in the topic of sustainable development, a common theme in GA2, and personally deeply care about the third topic for NMUN 2018, which was poverty eradication.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... The study tour at the headquarters and the passionate briefings by UN diplomats, but also the free time spent in New York City with people I care about.

The greatest challenge was... Finding a voice for Liechtenstein in a large GA committee like GA2 while discussing the topic of urbanization, as the capital of Liechtenstein, Vaduz, only has about 5500 inhabitants...

I will always respect Friederike's patience and deescalating skills. Learn from that woman.

I can't imagine thinking of New York City without thinking of her.

Piotr Pawel Larysz

General Assembly, 3rd Committee



My age is... 21 (03.07.1996)
I was born in... Region of Silesia in Poland
I am studying... Economics, 4th semester

I have applied for NMUN 18 because...

I have dreamed of participating in NMUN, ever since I applied for my University. It was one of the main reasons, why I chose to study at Freie Universitaet Berlin. The uniqueness of the whole project is that it brings together students from all faculties and fields of studies. This interdisciplinary environment gave me an opportunity to use my economic background in order to find reasonable solutions for global problems. My life goal is to use my knowledge and abilities to help people around the world, as I perceive the difficulties of our time as a challenge, rather than a threat. The United Nations are therefore the perfect platform to discuss those issues and NMUN itself gives every participant the opportunity to fully understand the working-processes of this complex institution.

I wanted to be in this committee because...

I chose Third Committee because of the important issues discussed during the conference. I am involved in many projects related to ecumenism and faith, which is why I perceive religious intolerance and discrimination as a major threat to peace. As a scholar of the Cusanuswerk, I feel a strong moral obligation to fight for human rights and the equal treatment of all peoples. Moreover, as a member of the Silesian minority in Poland, I fully understand the particularities of cultural discrimination. Thanks to the extensive research and fruitful debates during NMUN 18, I understood what the international community does to solve the problem of the Peoples Right to Self-Determination, which is at the very heart of those problems.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was...

The project was one of the most interesting undertakings I have participated in so far. The highlight was assuredly the UN-Study-Tour. It was a true privilege to meet the people working at the UN Headquarters and experience their passion.

It made me realize, that a single human being has the power to change the world and that my daily endeavor, however small it may appear to be, may have a big impact on our world

The greatest challenge was...

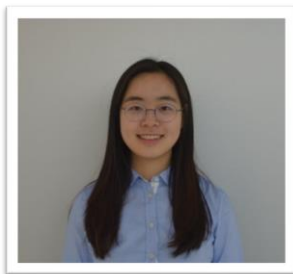
The greatest challenge was to fully understand the role of a diplomat. The complexity of defending the position of a particular country and upholding even the simplest interpersonal relations was an enormous struggle. However, thanks to this experience, I had the opportunity to acknowledge the struggles of reaching a consensus within the international community, especially on controversial issues.

Moments spent with Pi will never be forgotten. He is a unique, passionate and fabulous person and a reliable friend. His optimistic view of the world and courage to attempt to change it make working with him a wonderful experience.

Yoo Yung LeeGeneral Assembly, 3rd Committee

My age is... 20

I was born in... Pohang, South Korea



I am studying... English philology and philosophy as a Bachelor student, currently in my 3rd semester

I have applied for NMUN 18 because... It is a project that inspires me. I first heard about the MUN when I was 16 and had been eager to participate ever since. MUN is a cross-disciplinary platform that strives to unite and empower young people and encourages them to work together on some of the world's most pressing and challenging problems. The MUN of the Freie Universität Berlin, in particular, offers a special course throughout the semester to help us gain a deeper knowledge on the UN and on international affairs, practice giving speeches and train negotiation skills, as well as bring the delegation together to be a team. I am grateful and honoured to have been a part of the FU NMUN 18!

I wanted to be in this committee because... In view of the racism, religious intolerance, stigmatization of minorities, and human rights abuses we witness around the world, I was keen on being part of the Third Committee, which deals with "social, humanitarian and cultural issues", to explore the UN policies in place that seek to counter these alarming trends and to work on further potential solutions.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... Getting a glimpse of the work of UN during the study tour in New York.

The greatest challenge was... The sheer amount of work and long hours that are involved in negotiating and drafting the resolution... and sleep deprivation!

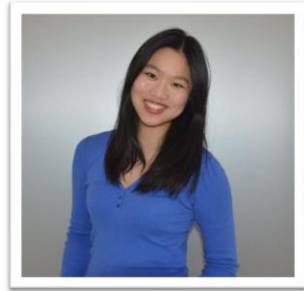
There is a unanimous agreement in the delegation that Yoo Yung has amazing researching skills and a vast amount of knowledge.

Always heartfully kind, open minded and respectful. A real gem of this delegation.

Someone quite diligent and competent in her studies, with whom you can have a great and substantial talks while walking through a park.

Still waters run deep is a saying that was probably written for Yoo Yung explicitly. Even though she seems to be very quiet and restrained in the first place, one quickly becomes surprised by her knowledge and the wise advice that she gives. Yoo is a very understanding and caring person who is always there for you when you need her.

Just ask Yoo Yung how many languages she speaks and you will get a glimpse of how talented this woman is. You will also notice that she is just as humble, and in stressful and chaotic negotiations, as well as for relaxed pub nights, it is always a pleasure to have her around you.

Jenny NingGeneral Assembly, 5th Committee**My age is...**

21

I was born in...

Luxembourg

I am studying...

Political science, 3rd semester

I have applied for NMUN 18 because...

I always wished to be part of a larger group/delegation working towards a same goal. I think that team spirit gives me the purpose and motivation to strive for more.

I wanted to be in this committee because...

This committee didn't figure in my choices, however, I learned throughout my research to appreciate its importance. I discovered that although issues dealing with the internal UN system may seem dry, it is vital to have an effective and accountable UN in order to help the world efficiently.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was...

Surprisingly not the end result itself. To me, the journey was the greatest reward.

The greatest challenge was...

To stay motivated and engaged despite your first failures at the conference.

Jenny is the most uplifting and engaging personality I know. She never gets tired of socialising and will know everyone in the committee before the conference even starts. She is someone you can trust and depend on. It has been fun and a pleasure to work with you!

Jenny is an open minded and hard - working student, which made her an indispensable part of our group. Always a smile on her face, you instantly feel better after talking to her, even though have just went through a whole day of position paper editing!

A. – Theresa Dümchen

General Assembly, 5th Committee



My age is...	19
I was born in...	Berlin
I am studying...	Political Science, 3rd semester
I have applied for NMUN 18 because...	I've done MUNs since my first year of high school. It is more than a simple conference for me, it is an event that brings politically interested students from all around the globe together; it's always an incredibly inspiring event.
I wanted to be in this committee because...	This committee was not on my list of preferences. In fact, it was the only committee that I didn't want to be in, so when I was assigned to it I was disappointed at first. But then it still turned out to be interesting. It was challenging and I learned a lot.
The best thing about NMUN 18 was...	The best thing about MUN 18 is the people you meet. Writing a resolution, giving speeches are just formalities. I've met many interesting people from around the globe. Exchanging views, discussing politics and making friends is why I love MUN.
The greatest challenge was...	Getting your voice heard can be challenging when you have such a low voice as I have. Acoustically as well as being dominant. Many students get grades for NMUN and are very competitive. You have to adapt to that.

If there is anyone who is destined to be a diplomat, that would be Theresa. She has a unique compassion for others, the calmness and resilience when facing challenges and the wisdom to share her knowledge and experience to change the world for better.

Maria Aygün

The Commission on the Status of Women



My age is... 21

I was born in... Hamburg, Germany

I am studying... Law, 2nd year

I have applied for NMUN 18 because...

... of multiple reasons. A bit of a variety to all my law classes. Having a class with students from different faculties and backgrounds. Challenging myself to not only speak colloquial English, but to also adopt diplomatic English in my vocabulary and last but not least, having an insight of the diplomatic work and studying a country so well, that I can represent its interests in front of other delegates.

I wanted to be in this committee because...

In my view, people in my and other fields surrounding governance seem more focused on issues that tend to focus more on how to prevent human suffering or on security, but often simultaneously inflict harm upon other innocent people, while I was interested in doing something that could manifestly improve human lives, such as through the empowerment of women, that does not harm any human.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was...

Having an impact as Liechtenstein. Other delegations honoring our work by mentioning us in their speeches. Getting our draft resolution accepted by acclamation.

The greatest challenge was...

It was sometimes quite difficult to do several things simultaneously. Listening to speeches, writing an own speech without using electronic devices, sending messages to other delegations and so on.

Maybe it was her unique singing voice in the mornings, maybe it was her unhealthy diet, maybe it was her lack of boundaries -there was just something about Maria that instantly won me over; Waking up to Marias singing is an experience I don't think I'll ever get to have again.

Aleksandra Petković

The Commission on the Status of Women



My age is...	21
I was born in...	Germany
I am studying...	Political Science, 3 rd semester
I have applied for NMUN 18 because...	<p>a) of my great experience with the previous MUN/R2P seminar which raised my interest in foreign diplomacy</p> <p>b) the appealing thought of excessively eating unhealthy food and</p> <p>c) the chance to participate in the NY/UN version of the Hunger Games.</p>
I wanted to be in this committee because...	.. it tackles the most pressing issues of our time with respect to gender equality and women's advancement, issues which have been traditionally underestimated.
The best thing about NMUN 18 was...	... getting to share this experience with my fellow delegates, understanding that you can actually get work done with good proposals and, obviously, the food.
The greatest challenge was...	multitasking (writing speeches, negotiating, drafting resolutions) under sleep deprivation and dealing with my roommates in a peaceful manner.

Falling asleep in the hotel room to the sound of Aleks typing speeches about women's empowerment on her laptop was truly inspiring.

Lea Eichhorn

The Commission on the Status of Women



My age is... 24

I was born in... Germany

I am studying... Political Science, Master's Degree

I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I'm fascinated by the field of International Relations: How is state behavior coordinated in a sphere where there's no natural authority? The United Nations shape the international system in a unique way. Seeing how they work is such a treat for a student of political science.

I wanted to be in this committee because... ...even though there is an international consensus about the equality of sexes, there still is a lack of de facto equality. Women still suffer more from violent conflicts, they are often dependent on male figures and are prevented from full and equal political participation. CSW tackles all these challenges and I wanted to understand why there is such a big difference between written consensus and actual progress.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... The briefing by the EU Delegation to the United Nations. I learned a lot about political dynamics in EU negotiations and why some consensus are so difficult to reach.

The greatest challenge was... The most stressful time was when the Position Paper deadline approached. Every word had to be so carefully chosen. It was difficult to always use the right nuances of language to express exactly what Liechtenstein would have said.

Lea has brought a lot of knowledge and commitment with her. As a student of political sciences, she already was an expert in international politics before we started our seminars, and as a future top journalist, writing and editing position papers was an easy task for her. Always honest, polite, and focused on the goal, she made our discussions richer and our work more productive!

Lea is extremely competent and passionate, especially about her topic: women's rights. We as a group could always rely on her professionalism and punctuality. Through her unique way of giving speeches she was able to capture each and everyone of us. Lea was a real enrichment for the whole group.

Annika Blümel

UN Environment Assembly



My age is... 22

I was born in... Berlin, Germany

I am studying... Law, 4th year

I have applied for NMUN 18 because...

During my third year in Law School, I spend a year abroad in London, United Kingdom, where I studied International Law and Human Rights. There, I first participated at a tiny Model United Nations Security Council Session as part of my United Nations Module coursework with fellow students. It was super interesting and so much fun to really dive into a country's position, especially after learning so much already of the UN's work. Once back in Berlin, I had a voluntary two-month internship at the Federal Foreign Affairs Office, where I made in-depth contact with real world diplomats and which really furthered my interest in international relations. When university classes started again, I coincidentally saw the announcement for NMUN 2018 online and applied right away. It was the best decision I could have made!

I wanted to be in this committee because...

UNEA was not my first choice, however I am super happy that I got to have the chance to be in this special Committee. Climate Change is really an universal topic that concerns us all. Being a student and being able to write resolutions at NMUN, you really get the feeling to actually have impact on the future.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was...

Apart from having the honor to participate at NMUN as a delegate, I really enjoyed the Study Tour with briefings by UN diplomats at UN Headquarters. Also, sitting in the General Assembly is something I will never forget.

The greatest challenge was...

Merging with other working papers and negotiating with fellow students, who were not really open to one other's opinions, was sometimes a little bit frustrating and exhausting.

A very independent person and charming companion with an aptitude for very witty comments, while also having a good team spirit. Best NYC Tourguide.

Whenever the discussion gets out of hand, Annika is able to bring us all back to the common thread. She never loses track which makes her, next to a wonderful person to work with, the perfect tour guide for a city as big as New York City. Spending time with her is a lot of fun – and you can be sure that you will always discover new things.

A woman with style. Not only regarding her polite behavior towards others, her eloquent way of talking or her elegant way to dress. Annika always truly remains herself and contributed more to this group and this journey than we might know. Indispensable as a friend, indispensable for future efforts to save the world.

John Gubernath

UN Environment Assembly

**My age is...**

21

I was born in...

Berlin

I am studying...Psychology, 5th semester**I have applied for NMUN 18 because...**

NMUN seemed like a good opportunity for me to work together with students from a variety of fields, learn about their perspectives and how they approach certain tasks. Furthermore, I saw it as a great way to extend my interest in world politics and meet international students.

I wanted to be in this committee because...

I saw a chance to put a focus on the social/psychological elements in my committee's topics.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was...

...listening to the inspiring speakers at the UN Study Tour. And of course working together with my incredibly competent committee partner.

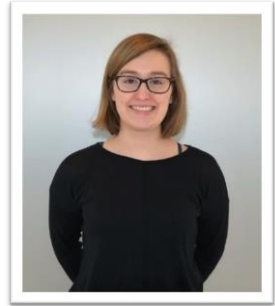
The greatest challenge was...

...the first two days at the conference. Establishing contacts with so many delegates while, as a first-timer, having to figure out the processes was pretty exhausting, but also a lot of fun at the same time.

John is a very interesting and interested person, which is why conversations with him are never shallow or boring. He is dedicated and open minded. We are happy to have got to know you and worked with you during NMUN!

Clara Amelie Nicola

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



My age is... 23

I was born in... Dortmund, Germany

I am studying... Law, 7th semester

I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I have applied for MUN because this is my last semester of attending lectures at university, so I see this as a last opportunity to participate in such a unique university project. In my year abroad I had many classes focusing on international law and institutions like the UN, so I wanted to find out what it is actually like to be a part of this field of work.

I wanted to be in this committee because... I am interested in the area of international security and the issue of disarmament is a very current and urgent one. It is one of the most sensitive topic so it is even more thrilling to participate in negotiations dealing with the eradication of chemical weapons.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... The people I got to know, the knowledge I gained, the impressive places we visited.

The greatest challenge was... Putting all your ideas into action after a whole semester of thorough preparation in only a few days; long hours of negotiations with difficult partners.

Not only was she an excellent head delegate but also hilarious and humble. Our PPs probably would have looked very different if not for Clara's passionate moderation during those peer review sessions. A quirky, intelligent and wonderful human being!

You have been the heart, soul and mind of our NMUN delegation. Without you, many things would not have worked out the way they perfectly did in the end.

Someone who is greatly cherished by the delegation due to her possessing a great team spirit combined with a strong sense of responsibility and topped with a radiating personality.

Clara took her position of a head delegate very seriously. She made an effort during this whole preparation time to include everyone by organizing group activities outside our weekly preparation classes. She always listened to our concerns and found a solution to every problem that came up. I was very happy to work together with Clara since she is a person who is eager to work for the things she truly cares for. You know that you can always rely on her – be it as a colleague or as a friend.

Isabel Fauth

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

My age is... 25

I was born in... Kassel, Germany

I am studying... Law in my 7th semester.



I have applied for NMUN 18 because... I did not only want to read about diplomacy anymore but live it! I have read a lot about international organisations and especially the UN during classes but always asked myself how exactly all this theory works in practice. Then I learned that FU Berlin is offering a simulation called NMUN, where students prepare one semester studying the UN and the country they are going to represent. NMUN provides the unique opportunity to actually go to the UN headquarters and to shape global politics as part of a delegation.

I wanted to be in this committee because... Focusing on Public International Law during my studies, my main point of interest became International Humanitarian Law. One of its principles is to prevent unnecessary suffering. The use of Chemical Weapons causes such suffering – consequently, they are prohibited under International Law. Unfortunately, those weapons are still used, not only during armed conflicts. I was interested in the role of Liechtenstein in the OPCW, since the state was rather spared by armed conflicts in the past.

The best thing about NMUN 18 was... The amazing experience of actually being a diplomat. The chance to work together with so many different personalities from all over the world who all try to represent their country as good as possible. And of course: The chance to go to the United Nations Headquarters to see the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC etc.

The greatest challenge was... Reaching a compromise with so many other states was a huge challenge also considering the limited time we had to draft resolutions. Finally, we could understand why often no compromise can be found – sometimes it is only one tiny word that can make a difference and decide over the success or failure of a resolution.

She is an ideal teammate because a) it is fun to be around her and b) you also get your work done excellently. A very rare combination to find in a team!

Hard working and focused on the points necessary, it is so nice and easy to work, spend time and laugh with you!

Someone who radiates confidence is highly competent and has a very cool demeanour, coupled with a very caring nature.

Isabel is a very hard working and motivated student, which makes her one of the most reliable persons I know. She has ambitious goals and the day she will start taking care of international humanitarian law will be a lucky one for this planet.

Mahima Rai

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



My age is...	25
I was born in...	Darjeeling, India
I am studying...	Educational Sciences and Psychology
I have applied for NMUN 18 because...	The last two letters of the acronym “NMUN” is definitely eye-catching. I applied because I wanted a crash course in diplomacy and learn how the UN works behind-the-scenes. Also, there is New York City :)
I wanted to be in this committee because...	As a student of Educational Sciences and Psychology, one does not get confronted with issues regarding chemical weapons on a daily basis. I wanted to learn about something novel and Weapons of Mass Destruction is a topic of great interest for me. Hence, OPCW.
The best thing about NMUN 18 was...	Apart from the fact that you cross the atlantic to visit the city that never sleeps and that it is genuinely a great learning experience. I feel NMUN helped me to understand the international community a bit better. There is still a lot to learn but this platform is a good start if one wants to be a global citizen.
The greatest challenge was...	NMUN is a tough course if one takes it parallely with other classes. It kept me on tippy toes. There was always something more to research about! I would wake up to the latest news and fall asleep listening to the radio at night. I became a little watchdog of OPCW and Rule Of Law during NMUN :) During this time, I learned a lot about world history, current events, international law and critical thinking. All of this was fantastic but also exhausting. Learning how to manage my time was the biggest challenge for me.

A fierce person in many ways. Highly respected by her peers due to her wisdom, unwavering beliefs and honesty. There is something about her, which makes one lose his guard around her.

Mahima is the best thing that could have happened to our committee. The horrifying prospect of working together with even two law students did not scare her away, to the contrary: Curious, warm hearted, hard - working and intelligent as she is, she contributed a lot to a productive working environment by asking the right questions at the right time, treating serious topics with due respect but also always being up for laughing about the silliest jokes. You have truly been the heart and soul of our delegation, and we would have missed your honesty and your empathy.

Mahima is the heart and soul of our delegation. With her strong sensitivity she is able to make everyone feel at ease and more relaxed whenever she is around. Her striving for harmony among the whole delegation made her an indispensable component of our group. She has the unique ability to be incredibly happy for other people as she empathizes with every human being around her. I am very glad that we had her at our side during the NMUN conference!

3. The Principality of Liechtenstein – An Introduction



Our logo

3.1 History

Liechtenstein - 584 years of unchanged borders

It is remarkable about the Principality of Liechtenstein: Today it holds the same borders that were established in 1434 when the County of Vaduz and the Lordship of Schellenberg were united.

The first settlements on the territory of today's Liechtenstein can be traced back until 500 BC. In Roman Age, this part of the region belonged to the Roman province Raetia, which was established in 15 BC. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in the 5th century. Liechtenstein later on became a part of the Frankish Empire. In the following years, due to an increasing number of Alemanni conquering the territory, the dominating language in the region changed from Romansch to German.

In the early modern era, the country got heavily afflicted by the Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648) even though neither the reigns of the County of Vaduz nor the Lordship of Schellenberg were involved in the war. During this time, the population suffered heavily from the plague and several witch-hunts.

Formation of today's Liechtenstein

1712 marks the date of the formation of today's Principality of Liechtenstein, when Vaduz and Schellenberg were sold to the Prince of Liechtenstein, who originally has

been located in Austria. This is the beginning of a close relationship to Liechtenstein's direct neighbour to the East.

The small state of Liechtenstein, located in between of two influential European players, Switzerland and Austria, was heavily influenced by the political turmoils and changes of the long 19th century. It was under French reign when it entered Napoleon's Confederation of the Rhine and later on joined the German Confederation. This led to the formation of Liechtenstein's first constitution in 1818, which was merely a hollow substitute to the monarchy's absolutism. In the course of the March Revolution and the following years, Liechtenstein promulgated a new constitution and established a dualistic system in the legislative field but let the Prince remain the sole owner of state power. From then on, elections of the diet were held every six years. The diet was given participation rights concerning legislation and fiscal measures.

When the German Confederation ended in 1868, Liechtenstein declared its permanent neutrality. Even though Liechtenstein remained from taking any sides during World War I, it had negative impacts on the country's wealth. Many Liechtensteiner depended on employment in the neighbouring states, the war caused poverty and unemployment. Finally, World War I ended and all over Europe, political parties appeared, and people claimed their right to vote. Liechtenstein's men were given their suffrage in 1918.



World War II

Throughout its history, due to its size, Liechtenstein constantly had to struggle for its sovereignty. So when the League of Nations was formed, it sought to become an equal member, being recognized as a state on the international stage. Its request was declined. Due to its size, Liechtenstein had assigned some of its state tasks to Austria, such as diplomatic representation in several countries and services in the postal sector.

The struggle for international recognition continued during World War II. Liechtenstein again stayed neutral and didn't participate in any acts of war, but feared German annexation, especially after the „Anschluss“ of its neighbouring state Austria. Nazi ideology didn't stop at borders. Even in Liechtenstein, several sympathizers attempted a state coup in 1939 but didn't succeed. The war caused, again, poverty and unemployment. This led to the rationing of food and an increase in agricultural productions. The European economic situation changed dramatically, and Liechtenstein was able to develop new industries and change from a foremost agricultural to a services-based industry. Before the Second World War, it had joined a currency treaty with Switzerland, that had influenced its economic circumstances positively. After the End of World War II, it prospered furthermore and gained a high reputation on the international stage.

Liechtenstein in recent history

In 1950, it became a member of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, one of many active memberships in the international community of states. In 1975, it joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and later on became a member of the Council of Europe, even though it never joined today's European Union. Liechtenstein actively engaged in international human rights debates and strongly promoted international jurisdiction, becoming a member of the United Nations in 1990. In the 1990ies, the country itself had to struggle with immense international criticism of the regulation and supervision of its financial services. Since then, it has passed several laws, establishing a strict zero-tolerance policy against financial crimes. In 2009, the OECD removed Liechtenstein from its “grey list” and recognizes its new jurisdiction, such as international cooperation standards regarding tax matters.

3.2 Society and Culture

Liechtenstein's culture was very much influenced by Austrian and Swiss traditions, however, it has also developed some amiable particularities.

First of all it must be said that religion plays a strong role in Liechtenstein's society. Most people are Roman Catholic and Christian holidays are celebrated, yet some pagan culture survived e.g. the Funkensonntag (Bonfire Sunday) celebration, in which a straw puppet resembling a witch is burned to dispel evil spirits. Food, clothing and music are very similar to the surrounding alpine nations. In the past years, the capital Vaduz has become a center of art and culture, sporting some impressive buildings of modern architecture and several museums with old treasures. The people of Liechtenstein are a proud small nation and they cherish their royal family that also is a patron of art and culture in the country. Folklore says that once a man found a stone shining light in his field. As he wanted to donate this stone to his King, the King gave him the title of a “Fürst” (count) and called him Liechtenstein. He later on founded the Principality of Liechtenstein. Thus, the country is named until today the Principality of Liechtenstein. The people of Liechtenstein speak a German dialect that loosely resembles Swiss

German. It is common to speak to each other colloquially and seldom use formal address, with the Fürst as the only exception to this rule.

Two of the most popular tourist attractions derive from the domestic farm work and the heritage of farming in Liechtenstein, which used to be the main source of employment. The donkey festival is wildly popular as well as the cattle drives in which pigs and other animals are presented in the cities. We, the Delegation of Liechtenstein at the National Model United Nations Conference of 2018 also adopted the donkey as our mascot and took a stuffed animal to New York to honor this tradition.



3.3 Political System

The Principality of Liechtenstein is a constitutional monarchy with a unitary parliament, based on a constitution from 1921, in its novel version from 2003.

Monarchy and the Prince

The Prince Hans-Adam II. and the Acting Prince Alois, who oversees all the daily duties of the Prince, play a significant role in the political system of Liechtenstein. The Prince is, same as in other monarchies in Europe the formal Head of State. But unlike other European monarchies, his power is not limited to a – mostly – representative role, even

though the people of Liechtenstein identify themselves very much with the Prince and the Princely House.

The Prince has competencies in and influence on the legislative and executive branch. Starting with the most far reaching competence, he has the power to veto any law to “protect overbearing interests of the state”. The effect is that he’s involved in the legislative process early on and has a de-facto saying in how a specific law should look like, in order for him not to veto it. This influence is not used on a day to day basis, though. Furthermore, the parliament and government can be dissolved by the Prince. He does not have the right per se to bring initiatives into the parliament, except for initiatives to amend the constitution. In reality, the government would do that on his behalf.

The Prince has legal and political immunity. Political immunity comes from the fact that the head of government has to co-sign every piece of legislation the Prince puts out and takes responsibility for what happens because of those legislative acts.

Since the constitutional reform in 2003, people can, through a popular vote, pass a censure motion against the Prince on to the members of the Princely House who can then decide internally if they want to impeach him.

Government

The government is also in Liechtenstein the highest executive organ. The head of government is elected by the parliament and appointed by the Prince. He swears an oath to the Prince and the other four members of the cabinet swear on to the head of government, so there is a difference in power between them. The governments competencies are the same as in most other countries. They include administration, proposing laws to the parliament and executing them. The head of government can also be assigned tasks by the Prince. Current members include Adrian Hasler (Head of Government) and Aurelia Frick (Foreign Affairs, Judicial).

Parliament

The parliament is elected by the people of Liechtenstein in order to represent them. It consists of 25 members, whose tasks include the initiation and adoption of laws, and nominating and overseeing the government. The members are voted for in a majority election and the body has an electoral threshold of an unusually high 8% of the total vote. Despite this threshold, there are now four parties in the parliament:

- 9 delegates for the Fortschrittliche Bürgerpartei in Liechtenstein (FBP), Christian conservative, in a coalition with the (VU)
- 8 delegates for the Vaterländische Union (VU), slightly more centered than FBP
- 5 delegates for Die Unabhängigen (du), Right-wing populists
- 3 delegates for the Freie Liste (FL), in the tradition of European green parties

Direct Democracy

Liechtenstein has strong direct-democratic elements in their constitution. People can call the parliament to issue a referendum on a law or constitutional amendment. Through a referendum, people can dissolve the parliament and since 2003 pass a censure motion against the Prince.



3.4 Economy

The Principality of Liechtenstein is a wealthy nation state that lies at the heart of Europe and boasts a strong specialized economy. Nestled between Switzerland and Austria, this beautiful nation has managed to achieve a gross domestic product (GDP) of over 5 billion Euro, despite a population of just under 40,000. Despite a slow population growth rate of 0.7%, the citizens of Liechtenstein live prosperous long lives, as the life expectancy of the country is around 82 years old. Possessing a booming labor market, the unemployment rate in Liechtenstein is around 2,1%, meaning less than 500 people in the country are without work. Due to its location and versatility, Liechtenstein has attracted a considerable number of foreign workers, with Liechtensteiners only representing around 31% of the employed population. Similarly, over half of the workers in the country commute to it, mostly from the neighboring Switzerland and Austria.

Over the course of the twentieth century Liechtenstein transformed from an agricultural based economy towards one specialized in industrial production. This can be seen in how agriculture represents less than 10% of the economy, while goods production is over

40%. Around a fifth of the country is used for agricultural purposes and an important actor here is the dairy industry, particularly the production of milk. Meanwhile, the goods sector employs a large swath of the population at slightly under 40% and focuses on highly specialized goods such as for mechanical engineering and electrical machinery. Due to a small domestic market, goods production is heavily export-oriented. Interestingly, the nation's renowned financial sector only covers around 25% of the economy, while other services round out at slightly under 30% of the gross value added to the economy. Liechtenstein is in a unique position in comparison to its neighbors, in how large the non-service part of the economy is as well as the high density of companies inside the state, particularly medium size ones.

The finance and banking sector employs $\frac{1}{4}$ of the workforce of and contributes 30% to the GDP. Prince Franz Josef II introduced legislature regarding low tax rates and corporate law in the 1930s, paving the way for Liechtenstein to become one of the world's most attractive financial locations. The country has been considered a tax haven for a long period of time and received a credit rating of AAA by rating agency Standard & Poor's in 2017. Trusts, foundations and banks are most relevant to its financial sector. Trusts used to be exempt from taxation and could be set up anonymously, which also applied to foreign beneficiaries. In 2015, the number of high-profit trust companies was as high as 378. In regard to foundations, especially private foundations are of significance. There are about 100.000 private foundations in Liechtenstein and among them, a large number of family foundations. They are set up by founders, mainly used for wealth management and benefit family members (beneficiaries). Family foundations could easily be set up and shut down. Such foundations used to attract national and foreign investors because of their low tax rates. Additionally, banks further promote the country's prominent image as a financial save haven. Liechtenstein's largest bank, the LGT Group is fully owned by the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. Banks highly profited from the long lasting bank secrecy, until its recent elimination. This led to a lack of transparency and fostered money laundering practices, ultimately resulting in Liechtenstein's appearance on the OECD's greylist until 2009. After the infamous tax affair of 2008 in which a former employee of the LGT Group disclosed client information to the German Federal Intelligence Service, authorities discovered numerous cases of tax evasion, illegal bank malpractice and money laundering. Since then, Liechtenstein has signed a declaration in 2009 with commitments to global OECD standards of transparency and informational exchange as well as several bilateral Tax Information Exchange Agreements. It further pursues a zero-tolerance policy and has laws in place combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Foreign trade is of major importance to Liechtenstein's economy and participation in international agreements offers the country access to vital world markets. Most importantly, Liechtenstein has been a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) since 1995 and its companies benefit from this membership through the free movement of people, goods, services and capital within the European Single Market. Furthermore,

since 1991 Liechtenstein has been a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), a regional trade organization and free trade area consisting of Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. In 2011, Liechtenstein also joined the Schengen area, which allows Liechtensteiners passport-free travel across 26 European countries.

Liechtenstein maintains a very close relationship with its neighboring state Switzerland. The two countries share the Swiss franc as a currency, as well as a common custom area, which has been deemed the foundation for Liechtenstein's economic boom. The Customs Treaty enables the free movement of goods as well as completely open borders between the neighbors. In addition, this means that bilateral free trade agreements between Switzerland and other countries also apply to Liechtenstein. However, Liechtenstein may also itself become part of an international agreement or a member of an international organization independently of Switzerland. Lastly, the treaty lays the foundation for further cooperation between the two countries in areas such as social welfare, professional training, tax questions, and police cooperation.

Due to Liechtenstein's uniquely small size, the export and import of goods is key to its economy. The country actually exports far more goods than it imports, seeing as in 2015 Liechtenstein exported \$3.2 billion in goods and services, while it imported only \$2 billion (excluding trade with Switzerland). The countries' closest trading partner next to Switzerland is the European Union. While it imports a large variety of products from all over the world, Liechtenstein exports incredibly specialized products such as machinery and electronics, as well as dental and optical products.

Over the last decades, Liechtenstein's economy has continued to grow more specialized as well as more globalized, making the small country a unique and therefore crucial part of the world trading system.

3.5 Foreign Policy

3.5.1 International Relations

As a small country within Europe, Liechtenstein maintains a close relationship with its neighbors Austria and Switzerland.

Liechtenstein and Austria entertain historically friendly relations. Both were part of a customs union back in 1852, but Liechtenstein ended this union after WWI. Nevertheless, the countries share more than 40 treaties and bilateral agreements in various fields. Austria remains a major partner in the fields of trade, industry and finance. Moreover, around 8.000 workers from Austria travel to Liechtenstein to work on a daily basis. Additionally, Austria supports Liechtenstein's decisions within the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen area.

Since 1919, Switzerland became Liechtenstein's closest ally by safeguarding Liechtenstein's interests abroad. The two countries signed several treaties, the most important being the Customs Treaty in 1920, which ensures that all Swiss customs laws as well as all Swiss trade and customs treaties with third states apply to Liechtenstein.

The Currency Treaty in 1980 led to Liechtenstein's adoption of the Swiss franc. The two countries share the same interests and values in many areas and cooperate closely in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) or the International Criminal Court. At the end of 2016, 3.600 Swiss citizens were living in Liechtenstein, representing 10% of the population.

Germany is Liechtenstein's largest trading and economic partner with Liechtenstein's imports from Germany reaching 36% of its total imports. Both countries share a common culture, language and history. Co-operation is particularly close at the UN and other international organizations.

Finally, the USA is Liechtenstein's second largest trading partner after Germany. Liechtenstein and the US entertain a strong partnership in fighting against terrorist financing, money laundering, white-collar crimes, tax fraud and evasion.



3.5.2 European Union

Liechtenstein is not a member of the European Union. However, the Principality is involved in the economy of the EU and maintains important relations with several European countries.

Since 1991, Liechtenstein is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which was set up in 1960. Within EFTA, Liechtenstein, Switzerland (with whom Liechtenstein also shares a customs union), Island and Norway promote free trade and

economic integration. In contrast to the EU, the EFTA is not a customs union: This enables the individual Member States to set their own customs tariffs. The EFTA states use this association to negotiate free trade agreements with third countries outside the EU. This is one of the central elements of Liechtenstein's foreign policy: access to foreign markets free of discrimination.

In 1992, Liechtenstein signed an agreement in order to join the European Economic Area (EEA). The purpose of this agreement was to open the EU internal market to EFTA states with all rights and obligations. The advantage of being in the EEA includes the dialogue with EU representatives, discussing important matters of foreign policy and the possibility of associating with EU statements. Liechtenstein uses these advantages and often follows the statements of the EU regarding foreign policy goals. The secure and non-discriminatory access to the EU internal market is of fundamental importance to the Principality. While contributing 0,77% to the EEA budget, Liechtenstein focuses on the decrease of economic and social inequalities within the poorer Member States of the EU.



In order to fight tax avoidance more efficiently, Liechtenstein and the EU signed an agreement on the automatic exchange on information on tax matters in 2015. The identification of tax evaders and deterrence of future ones shall be facilitated with this agreement. EU Member States will automatically receive data about their citizens with a bank account in Liechtenstein.

Since 2011, Liechtenstein is also a member of the Schengen Group and acceded to the Dublin Agreement. Regarding Schengen/Dublin related issues, Liechtenstein has direct access to the European Council and relevant working groups on respective topics. Furthermore, Liechtenstein has access to various databases, e.g. regarding criminal justice or asylum requests. It is not a Member State of EUROPOL but connected to it through an operational agreement.

4. The Preparation Process in Berlin



4.1 Prof. George Andreopoulos - The Security Council's Evolving Engagement with Human Rights (Human Rights under Pressure)

November 2017

To get some input on the work of the UN outside of our seminar, some of us went to a guest lecture given by Prof. George Andreopoulos in November. Prof. Andreopoulos is a Professor of Political Science and has held various positions at universities, teaching Human Rights and other related subjects. Currently, he is teaching at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York.

His guest lecture was organized in the frame of the **Human Rights Under Pressure – Ethics, Law and Politics** program. This program was developed in a cooperation between Freie Universität Berlin and The Hebrew University Jerusalem, starting its first period in 2014. It is an interdisciplinary doctoral and post-doctoral study program focusing on current challenges to Human Rights. As these have been identified crises and emergencies, globalization and issues of diversity, which are being called the very “pressures on human rights”.

Prof. Andreopoulos talked about the Security Council's growing involvement with human rights. He started off by approaching the topic from a historical perspective. Being responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, the Security Council was, during its early years, reluctant to engage with human rights issues. One of the main factors that limited its mandate already back then is the principle of non-intervention into the internal affairs of a state. After the Cold War, the Security Council issued more and more resolutions.

Today, there is a different understanding of the Security Council; for example the United States express the view that Human Rights are always connected to peace and security. Pressure on the one always means a threat to the other. Countries like China, Russia, Egypt, or Kazakhstan do not share that view. This leads to a different understanding of when and how the Security Council may and must act. Furthermore, there is no very specific legal framework or guideline which could answer this question.

The UN Charter does not explicitly name protection of Human Rights as a responsibility of the Security Council; according to Art. 39, the Security Council only *determines* the breach of peace. Therefore, there can only be accountability (in theory) when the act someone is supposed to be held accountable for can be connected to an interstate breach of peace. Genocide might be an exception to that rule, since according to Art. 8 of the Genocide Charter, Genocide is a crime in peace and in war and any state can take action and call upon the UN to respond with measures provided for in the UN Charter.

Art. 8 Genocide Charter:

Any Contracting Party may call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Art. 3.

Coming back to the historical perspective, Prof. Andreopoulos referred to some voices which are convinced that after the Cold War, there was a “New World Order”. This point of view was also shared by former President Bush. Maybe not the world order, but definitely the areas and politics of conflict had changed. Very shortly after the beginning of this “New World Order”, Resolution 688 was issued, addressing humanitarian missions in Iraq. It was not officially adopted under Chapter VII, but, according to Prof. Andreopoulos, the language that was used sounded very much like typical Chapter VII language. The right to self-determination was not mentioned in it, even though the resolution referred extensively to the suffering of the Iraqi people. According to Prof. Andreopoulos, this is not surprising: Even when Human Rights concerns are expressed in resolutions, they are always influenced by geopolitical considerations. Thus, the Security Council will be very careful not to make a statement about peoples’ rights when drafting a resolution.

After the Gulf War, the US and UN feared a strengthening of Iran caused by a destabilization of Iraq. What they needed, so Prof. Andreopoulos, was a weakened

Saddam, but not a dismantled Iraq. But what can be done by the Security Council to actually provide justice, despite the politics of power on the international stage? According to Art. 34, a commission of inquiry can be established, which might lead to the establishment of an accountability mechanism like the ICTY or the ICTR. Other examples are the hybrid tribunals of East Timor and Kosovo.

Article 34 UN Charter

The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Prof. Andreopoulos expressed his view that from a Human Rights perspective, it is quite a problematic assertion that indiscriminate sanctions are less intrusive. **He used the example of coffee making: Indiscriminate sanctions work like espresso, which means, you put fire at the bottom and hope that the pressure will rise to the point that the top will change.** Basically, you expect people who are not responsible for state crimes to suffer in order to put pressure on their government. They suffer when they stay in their home country and deal with the consequences of an embargo, or they suffer when they try to overthrow the government. However, eventually, there was a shift in the international sanctions regime from general to targeted sanctions.

One of the most current and urgent questions in Human Rights Law is undoubtedly: How far can you go fighting terrorism? It is not a secret that some states fight for Human Rights and violate them at the same time. This has been done actively, for example through certain capture and killing policies, or passively, by simply ignoring ongoing Human Rights violations. The international community, the UN, still need to find an answer to that. And there have indeed been efforts to focus more on the protection of Human Rights in the fight against terrorists and other international criminals. In 2006, the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy was adopted, including its forth pillar: Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law. Furthermore, the initiative “Human Rights Upfront” was established in 2013 to strengthen the protection of Human Rights (The “Human Rights Up Front Action Plan“ was approved by the Secretary-General in July 2013.) Another criticism concerning the Security Council, and for many the very reason for its inability to take action in the face of some grave human rights violations, is the veto power of its five permanent members. According to Prof. Andreopoulos: **“A veto is not a privilege, but rather a responsibility, to be used with a moral responsibility. There is not a responsibility to react, but rather to prevent.”** When asked about good solutions to the “veto dilemma” Prof. Andreopoulos mentioned the mechanisms of “naming and shaming” and “peer accountability”.

After his lecture, Prof. Andreopoulos was open for questions. The questions touched on several aspects of Human Rights, for example respect for Human Rights as an important soft power. He raised the point that it might already be a little success that

almost no one admits to be a Human Rights violator. Through written and unwritten international Human Rights law, several practices and policies have simply become unjustifiable.

Some students also asked more specific things, for example about the human rights narrative in the justification for the Iraq war. When the intervention in Iraq was decided, humanitarian aspects were only added later to the reasoning, when the actual justification, Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction, turned out to be *lacking merits*. A legal argument was made by the US before the Iraq intervention in 1990; they argued that the former Iraq resolution had not been enforced properly and therefore, still could be and had to be enforced.

Impressions (Isabel Fauth):

The talk of Mr. Andreopoulos blended in well with our lecture "Model UN" by Peggy Wittke where we discussed the shifting focus of the Security Council regarding human rights. It was very pleasant to listen to Prof. Andreopoulos. He is very passionate about the Security Council- one could hear that right away. This was visible at that latest, when he called a resolution of the Security Council a "beauty". Being rather critical about which actions the Security Council may actually take and where the limits are, Mr. Andreopoulos left us with a lot to reflect about.





4.2 Christmas Party

December 2017

After the first weeks together with a lot of getting to know each other, getting to know Liechtenstein, preparing for our committees, fundraising and meeting deadlines we could not believe that the first part of our session ended so quickly.

It was almost Christmas!

For our Christmas Party we agreed on bringing different dishes and the leftovers from our baking sale. Gandhi promised to make us his very special roast beef with flambé sauce (which was incredibly delicious!) and in the end, we had a variety of bread, guacamole, Chinese noodle salads, filled pastries and sweets. The lovely Christmas dinner was accompanied by beautiful Christmas lights, stars and even a little tree, all brought by one of our decoration-loving Delegates.

After enjoying a very relaxing conversation and wonderful food we proceeded to our Secret Santa session. We loved the idea of exchanging gifts at the Christmas Party since this was also a good opportunity to think about a nice item for the person which was allocated to us. Secret Santa seemed to be a perfect idea since we did not want to not make everyone buy a new thing but rather recycle old things we did not like anymore and make someone else happy with it. In the end everyone was pleased with his or her present and it was lots of fun.

But then, eventually, we had to proceed to the serious part of the Christmas session: the election of the Head Delegates. Before nominating and electing the actual Head Delegates we decided to make a procedural vote. The concern was raised that while having 10 female and only 4 male Delegates, it might be unfair to have a female and a

male head delegate. The majority of the Delegates decided in favour of the option of having two Head Delegates of the same sex.

However, the procedural vote was not really needed – our two Head Delegates turned out to be Piotr (Pi) and Clara, two Delegates that stood out for their outstanding engagement with regard to class participation, fresh ideas and creative fundraising activities.

After a few already exhausting weeks, our Christmas Party was a very welcoming and fun event which brought us all a little closer together before we left for our well-deserved Christmas break.



4.3 Emergency Session of the Security Council: The Situation in the Northern Syrian Arab Republic

February 2018

At the end of January 2018, we, the participants of the FU Delegation to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) 2018, received an e-mail from our Faculty Advisor Peggy Wittke aka the President of the Security Council.

Upon request made by the Representative of France, she called the Delegates for an Emergency Session on the situation in the Northern Syrian Arab Republic to one of the seminar rooms at Freie Universität Berlin for the beginning of February.

Of course, this was not a real Emergency Session. The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the participants of the FU-Delegation with the NMUN rules. Nevertheless, we



were excited about this intense meeting where we were able to try out the rules of procedure as real diplomats.

The week before, each Delegate received the name of a Member State of the current Security Council which he or she had to represent during the meeting. This was a new challenge: Again, we needed to represent a completely new country in this session. Even though we were told to prepare nothing it was hard to comply. How were we supposed to apply the rules of procedure and to vote accordingly if we were not familiar with our country's position?

The Emergency Session started with an introduction to the rules of procedure by our faculty advisors. We received useful tips how to use the rules of procedure in order to steer the meetings at the NMUN conference in a helpful direction. We learned that our seating position in the conference and simple courtesies could actually make a huge difference rather than the content of the topics we talk about.

After the theoretical introduction to the NMUN rules, we were able to actually get our hands dirty in trying them out. We went through a roll call, held speeches regarding the situation in the Northern Syrian Arab Republic, suspended the meeting and had several times informal caucuses where we drafted resolutions.

After a well-deserved pizza lunch break, we had a second round of speeches and negotiations.

In the end, we handed in two draft resolutions to the dais (our faculty advisors). The first draft resolution was sponsored by The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kuwait, France, USA, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Poland. It was adopted with 12 votes in favour, one against and two abstentions and became resolution S/2018/2.

The second draft resolution was sponsored by Russian Federation, China, Bolivia and Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, it failed with eight votes in favour, three against and four abstentions.

In the end, many of the representatives were able to stay in character whereas a few faced difficulties. Admittedly, it became very tempting to negotiate in one's own capacity instead of truly represent the country we got allocated.



During this exhausting day of trying out NMUN rules of procedure we noticed that it was really difficult to hold one's temper and stay in character. We often faced misunderstandings and miscommunications which made the negotiation process very hard. We learned that the job of a diplomat may be very frustrating since one often spends hours in negotiating a compromise which then fails to be adopted due to votes against or even abstentions.

All in all, the Emergency Session of the Security Council was a useful and rewarding exercise which trained us in understanding and using the rules of procedure at NMUN 2018 as Delegates from FU Berlin representing the Principality of Liechtenstein.

4.4 Briefing by the Embassy of Liechtenstein in Germany

March 2018

Around two weeks before most of us left for New York, Dr. Katrin Bastian visited our seminar. She is a long-time employee at the Embassy of Liechtenstein in Berlin and spoke in the name of H.E. Ambassador Isabel Frommelt-Gottschald.



After a quick introduction of everyone in the room, the briefing started with a quick overview of Liechtenstein's history. Starting from the birth of the Principality of Liechtenstein in 1719 (almost 300 years ago), to Liechtenstein abolishing its military forces in 1868, to when the Princely Family got driven out of Bohemia and Moravia (today's Czech Republic) after the Second World War, the current Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II. and his father initiated the integration of Liechtenstein into European and international multilateral structures (International Court of Justice, OSCE, Council of Europe, UN, EFTA, WTO, EEA e.g.) in the latter half of the 20th century.

She then talked about Liechtenstein's political system (a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis) and how political parties "get a say" in such a system. While the two big parties are quite similar, there is a "green" party and a nationally focused populist party.

While talking about Liechtenstein's economy, Mrs. Bastian mentioned what is surprising to many abroad. Liechtenstein's relative export numbers are actually higher than Germany's, as well as the higher share of the industrial sector of the whole economy. To the Delegation it seemed like the country would always put a lot of work into not only

being seen as a financial hub, but also as a place where machines and daily good are being manufactured and produced.

Following this, a few examples of the country's international engagements were presented with a few comments:

- ICC: Mrs. Bastian noted that Liechtenstein has been strongly engaged for years to strengthen the International Criminal Court. Of course, Liechtenstein could not do much on its own, but it was a topic where the country has shown that small countries can do a lot and that the "important" players do listen. The principle of one state – one vote helps small countries being heard.

- Syria Mechanism: It is now more important than ever before to give the IIM a solid mandate to assist in investigating and prosecuting possible war crimes in the conflict region. Possible destruction of evidence or non-neutral collection of evidence would greatly hurt a possible post-conflict prosecution.

- The Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD): The Institute, connected to the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, conducts an excellent research program and expresses Liechtenstein's role as a mediator and neutral entity in international conflicts. It has been used in the past as a platform to get conflict parties back to the negotiating table and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

- An engagement that came as a surprise to all of us was the country's engagement for a unique language learning technique called "New Learning". Using this method, the country has initiated a project called "Liechtenstein Languages". It is designed to teach German to refugees and migrants. Since 2015, more than 300 volunteers have been trained as teachers, and more than 10'000 refugees and migrants have been introduced to the German language. Language is seen as the key-part of integration.

After this, we had the opportunity to ask questions and have an open discussion with Mrs. Bastian. Talking about her own work in the Embassy and the relations between Liechtenstein and Germany we of course also discussed the image of Liechtenstein as a tax-haven and how the Embassy and the Government is working towards getting rid of this image. Since 2009, the government has implemented a strategy towards full co-operation and transparency in international tax regimes. Liechtenstein is one of the "early adopters" in the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) in tax matters, initiated by the OECD. The implementation of international standards has improved the world's view of Liechtenstein significantly.

Why Liechtenstein hasn't joined the EU has not only practical reasons. Of course, limited resources to deal with bureaucracy and the lack of financial benefits (as the

country is a member of the European Economic Area anyway - and thereby of the EU's internal market) are valid reasons itself. But also the uniqueness of Liechtenstein and how the people always saw themselves as an independent state since the days of being part of the Holy Roman Empire play into the reasoning.

Her visit was special because it was a unique opportunity to be able to talk to someone about the hundred things we had read about Liechtenstein. It was great to get an insight into what the people of Liechtenstein are like, and how the Government actually manages to do so many things with little resources.

4.5 Visit of Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Vergau – 10 years a German Diplomat at the United Nations in New York City

March 2018



When Prof. Dr. Vergau entered the room on a cold winter's day we could see that not only we were excited to meet him, a former diplomat, but he was delighted to meet us as well– the future diplomats.

We started with an introduction round where everyone of us explained in which committee we would sit during the conference. Prof. Dr. Vergau listened carefully and then started to talk about his time as a diplomat. He said that he had studied law and did not intend to become a diplomat in the first place but that it rather happened unplanned.

He started working for the Federal Foreign Office in Germany in 1964, at the time still in Bonn, the former seat of government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Surprisingly, without any experience as a diplomat, Prof. Dr. Vergau was sent right away to the Conference of the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva where he was told to prevent the German Democratic Republic (GDR) from acquiring an international code, since the Federal Republic of Germany did not recognize the GDR as a state.

He told us many stories about how he was involved in the development of an International Convention against the taking of hostages in 1976, how he negotiated the independence of Namibia over years within the Western Contact Group and how he helped mediating between Iraq and Iran after the war in 1988 through “proximity talks”. Throughout his talk, he gave us a very lively insight into his former life as a diplomat, telling us how he once came late to a meeting of the Security Council which could not start without him. How he did not receive a promotion when he hoped for it since he had insulted the former German chancellor Helmut Kohl. And how difficult a negotiation can become when one is not familiar with cultural particularities of other diplomats.

At the end of his visit, Prof. Dr. Vergau gave us five tips how to be a good diplomat:

1. Express yourselves clearly.
2. Be loyal. Do not start intriguing against your own country.
3. Try to put yourself in the position of other people and cultures.
4. Listen to what others say!
5. Be always calm and serene – no matter how serious the situation may be.



...and then the most exciting part of our journey together started:

NMUN 2018!

5. Our visit to the UN Headquarters in New York City







5.1 Briefing on Financing for Development

“You need to look at history to understand the present.”

After almost two lost decades in development work, the world community started to realize that something needed to change in order to make development work a fully inclusive, effective process. At the Millennium Summit in 2000, it became a broad consensus that pictures like those from the horrendous famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s shall belong to the past. Soon. And forever.

Our speaker, an expert in this field and Economic Affairs Officer at the Financing for Development Office, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, took the time to brief Liechtenstein’s Ambassadors about the chances and challenges of financing sustainable development work, while drawing attention the historical background of these endeavours at first. The Washington Consensus as the first landmark concept in this field during the 1980s provided the international community with a framework for the reform of crisis-wracked developing countries for the first time and got largely promoted by the International Monetary Fund as well as the World Bank. Among others, it encouraged countries to open their national markets to the international trading system in order to prosper from global monetary flows. At the same time, it emphasized the need to develop strong industries within the developing countries in the first place in order to make them competitive with other industrialized countries on an international level.

According to our speaker, the Monterrey Consensus marked the next historic achievement in the evolution of developing finance as it represents the central blueprint

for nearly all of the funding activities and stakeholders within the developing sector. As the main outcome document of the Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey (2002), it emerged as the single governance framework for coordinating goals and strategies in a multilateral setting. In addition, and as a novel event, this document sparked the discussion about concrete economic issues within the UN itself. Furthermore, it re-emphasized the countries mutually agreed goal of giving at least 0.7% of the Gross Domestic Income to Official Development Assistance; a piece of information that was particularly interesting for Liechtenstein's Delegation as we are one of the few countries that has met and exceeded this goal with 0.75 % during previous years.

“It is good to have goals, but you also need to know how to finance them.”

So what are the new challenges the world community has to face since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015? The key to this question is the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015). Beside serving as a general framework for the funding of the SDGs, our speaker drew attention to the special importance of global taxation issues during this conference. As taxes, if effectively mobilized, can be a central factor for sustainable economic growth in developing countries, there was hardly a topic as tricky and controversially discussed by the participating countries. Beside the tendency to create something like a central tax body within the UN, the approaches to tackle this issue remain vague so far and will keep the international community busy during the upcoming conferences on financing for development for sure.

In addition to that, he gave us some information about his background at the UN. Subsequently to the lecture, he dedicated a lot of time to our questions and gave us some important input for our own negotiations a few days later.



5.2 Briefing on the Sustainable Development Goals

With the unanimous adoption of the Agenda 2030 in 2015, the international community took a revolutionary, though ambitious step towards a more sustainable future. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to measure their progress shall make sure that by the year 2030, no human being is restrained in his or her personal development by factors such as extreme poverty, lack of educational facilities or discrimination based on gender, age and ethnicity. As it finally recognizes the interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development, social, economic and environmental, the Agenda 2030 also emphasizes the need to pursue these goals



through a green economy on a global level. As former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stated: “We don’t have a plan B because there is no planet B.”

Sharon Birch-Jeffrey from the UN’s Department of Public Information (DPI) gave us a brief, but valuable overview over this complex issue while investing a lot of time in our own questions. Ms. Birch-Jeffrey became an expert in this field by creating campaigns for the UN around the SDGs for several years. After gaining her college degree in languages, she joined the United Nations straight away and deals with the daily task to raise interest of the general public in the UN, particularly the SDGs, since then. During her lecture, she emphasized another innovation of the Agenda 2030: Total Inclusivity. To pursue the SDGs, everyone needs to be included, governments, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations as well as every individual, especially youngsters. At the same time, the Agenda 2030 does not speak of “developed“ and “developing“ countries anymore. The SDGs apply to all countries equally, with all stakeholders at eye level. Those are at least two major changes that took place in comparison to the Millennium Development Goals (2000), which expired in 2015. Beside her genuine euphoria and optimism for a positive outcome of this world transforming project, Ms. Birch-Jeffrey didn’t hesitate to point out

the challenges that go along with this mission as well. Especially when it comes to measuring the progress, she emphasized how difficult it can be to collect reliable data from all participating countries. In upcoming July, the next High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will take place and the SDG report for 2018 will be launched. Beside all challenges the international community had and will have to face on its path to a more sustainable future, Sharon left us with some good advice: "Don't focus on the negative. Focus on what can be done."



A photograph showing a group of people standing and talking in a conference area. In the foreground, a young woman with glasses and a young man with glasses are engaged in conversation. In the background, other people are visible, and a name tag on a table reads "BAHAMAS". The setting appears to be a busy conference or networking event.

5.3 Briefing on OPCW

Our briefing on the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was held by Ms. Fiona Simpson from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Although she did not work for the OPCW, she turned out to be an absolute expert on chemical weapons and the work of OPCW.



The presentation started with a brief introduction on what a chemical weapon actually is and, of course, about the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which is the heart of OPCW since it is the constitutional document of the organization and guides it in all its work.

We learned that chemical weapons are strictly prohibited anywhere and at any time. Only riot control agents are allowed when they are not used during warfare. However, not all states agree with this regime. Some of them want to classify riot control agents as a chemical weapon as well. The question on what a chemical weapon actually is turned out to be of special interest to the participants of the briefing. Only one week before our study tour, the Skripal incident happened and everyone was keen to know whether the nerve agent used against the former double agent was also classified as a chemical weapon. Ms. Simpson confirmed our assumption, so we realized that chemical weapons may be applied anywhere and not only in Syria, the state to which we mostly connected chemical weapons.

Whenever a state wishes to have an investigation regarding the use of chemical weapons, it may inform the Secretary-General who then may engage in such investigations.

In 2013, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the OPCW went to Syria in order to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons. The joint team took samples and conducted interviews. After the examination of the evidence they reported that sarin, a chemical agent, had been used on the territory. However, the team was not entitled to attribute responsibility to the perpetrators of these attacks. Consequently, the Joint-Investigative-Mechanism, short JIM, a cooperation between the OPCW and the UN was established in order to identify those who deployed chemical weapons in Syria. Amongst others, the JIM concluded that ISIL and the Syrian Government had deployed chemical weapons.

However, the JIM was highly controversial in the Security Council. Therefore, in 2017 its mandate was not renewed. For now, the OPCW continues to issue reports on the alleged use of chemical weapons. The next step is to attribute responsibility.

Being on a fact-finding mission in Syria is quite a challenging task. Not only war is hindering the team from acquiring and preserving evidence. They continuously face the threat of being taken as hostage. Not everyone is in favour of letting a fact-finding team conduct research on the ground. For the team, it is very difficult to negotiate with the many non-state armed groups in the field.

Our expert also talked about the verification regimes, which constitute the classical work of the OPCW. She herself was part of the mission to remove the chemical weapons of the Syrian territory after the state joined the CWC in 2013. She explained that all declared chemical weapons have been removed by now and that there are still two production facilities that need to be destroyed. However, the uncertainty of undeclared chemical weapons or facilities re-mains. Ms. Simpson explained that there is always the tension between a state's sovereignty and the verification measures or fact-finding mission of OPCW: Its sovereignty allows a state to decide which individuals to let into the country and who not, despite its international obligations under the CWC. Therefore, it is difficult to apply verification measures that are a 100% perfect.

People who work as on-the-ground investigators are usually (military) scientists, health and safety workers and munitions experts. But also lawyers, who, according to the expert, constitute an invaluable mission support.

An ongoing challenge for the OPCW today is, amongst others, to convince every state to join and comply with the CWC. In order to get the four remaining states on board which have not ratified the CWC yet, the Secretary-General – who is the depositary of the Convention – may write letters to the states pointing out their international responsibility to join the convention. They are also invited by OPCW to come to the Headquarters and see by themselves what they are getting into when joining the CWC. The implications of the OPCW membership are made as transparent as possible.

While drawing a conclusion of the work of OPCW and UNODA, Ms. Simpson seems to be a little strained by her job. It was visible that she worked very passionately at UNODA but sometimes wished the total outcome of the efforts made by the OPCW and the UN to be more successful. However, she admitted that every small step which is achieved is very re-warding and that each success, as small as it may be, is a huge motivation to keep up working for international peace and security.



5.4 Briefing on Counter-Terrorism

The briefing was given by Mr. Mattias Sundholm. He is working in the Executive Directorate of the CTC (called CTED). The CTC, short for Counter-Terrorism Committee, was created by Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), which has a mandate to monitor Member States' efforts in implementing counter-terrorism measures. In the resolution, the Security Council also set out important counter-terrorism requirements. Remarkably, unlike other resolutions, it was a resolution about a theme, and not a specific geographic area. This shows how international politics in the field of security have changed over the decades and how terrorism, as a global phenomenon, has become one of the greatest threats to peace and security of our times.

To test whether we were awake, Mr. Sundholm opened his briefing by asking one of the probably most difficult, most urgent and most important questions related to the topic: What is terrorism? Some of us tried to give an answer, in broader or narrower terms, also depending on the field of our studies. Eventually, someone said: "There is no universal definition." And indeed – all of our answers were correct, there is no internationally recognized definition of terrorism, but instead there are many different approaches, which, just like our answers, de-pend on the academic area, time and region in which

they were developed. There have indeed been efforts in the past to develop a Comprehensive Convention on International Terror-ism, which could provide more clarification on the issue, but the negotiations are currently deadlocked because no compromise regarding an overall definition can be found.

After this short introduction, we jumped right into a very informative presentation about the UN and terrorism. For the first 40+ years of its existence, the UN had a very limited role in counter-terrorism. One reason might have been that terrorism comes and goes in manifold forms and is often committed by non-state actors. Thus, it is quite different from conflicts between states, like World War II, under whose immediate impression the UN was founded in 1945. Furthermore, under the impression of the Cold War and other conflicts around that time, it was mainly state actors that dominated the discussion about international security. In brief, the reason for the lack of an internationally agreed definition is that one person's 'freedom fighter' is another person's 'terrorist'. Some non-state actors are recognized as heroic rebels in one region and deemed terrorists in another. One can imagine that this makes negotiations in an organization that brings together nearly all countries of the world even more complicated than usual. Even though we do not have a definition of terrorism itself, there are 19 definitions of "acts of terrorism" from the legal instruments that have been developed over time, for example the 1970 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft. And probably, a quote that a judge once spoke, also applies here: "I can't tell you, what pornography is, but I recognize it when I see it."

By the end of the 20th century, the Taliban and Al Qaeda started dominating the news and terrorism and suitable measures for its prevention eventually were in the focus of more and more political debates. The question was, and still remains: How to deal with suspected and convicted terrorists? By Security Council resolution 1267 in 1999, a sanctions committee was established, to deal with the difficult question of imposing sanctions on terrorist organizations and affiliated individuals. The UN has no list of recognized terrorists but of sanctions that have been imposed. This "Consolidated Sanctions List" of the UN lists organizations as well as individuals. The types of sanctions that are contained are e.g. asset freeze, visa ban, weapons and arms trade bans.

It all changed on 11th September 2001, after the attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. The USA received solidarity from all over the world and maybe that was why, not even a day later, for the first time ever, Art. 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty was invoked.

Article 5

"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or

collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.”

The probably most important expression of this passage is “collective self-defense”, which means that an attack against one NATO member will be considered as an attack against all members. In the case of 9/11, this meant that on 2 October 2001, the NATO states agreed on several actions and measures which were supposed to support the USA in the aftermath of these attacks. This package included patrol flights on US territory, intelligence-sharing and, amongst others, also deploying NATO Standing Naval Forces to first the Eastern, and later the whole Mediterranean.

After this introduction, Mr. Sundholm opened the floor for questions.

Regarding his work he told us that the Committee carries out visits to countries to examine their counter-terrorism strategies and has, thus far, undertaken approximately 140 visits to some 100 Member States. Asked about the scope of these examinations, he explained, that “we need laws and prosecutors to pursue the perpetrators, and judges who understand the legislation” that has been established in order to fight terrorism. Thus, the team looks into various areas that are relevant for counter-terrorism – not only politics and law, but also conducts site visits to places like airports. They check the practical and legal framework that has been developed and work towards an exchange of valuable information to further improve the counter-terrorism capabilities that can help prevent terrorist acts and provide justice. After the visit, the team returns to the UN to report and make recommendations. Once endorsed by the CTC, the report is shared with the Committee members and the Government of the visited State. Were there ever countries that refused CTED entry? Actually, the challenge is different: Either the country wants a visit and the CTC/CTED need to prioritize, or the country in question will try to change the timing of the visit.

When asked more specific questions about his work, he told us that in the case of an actual attack it is often better to let a little bit of time pass by before they visit. In the direct after-math, the country is so overwhelmed, and it is hardly possible to get a good perspective of the case.

Are there statistics proving that some counter-terrorism measures like e.g. data surveillance prevent terrorist acts? In other words, is that even possible?

In 2006, the UN Global Terrorism Strategy was developed. It consists of four pillars:

- I. Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism
- II. Preventing and Combatting Terrorism – in other words: Mapping gaps in counter- terrorism capacities in different countries
- III. Building States’ capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations – In other words: Fix the shortcomings that have been detected under pillar II
- IV. Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law

The first pillar in particular was difficult to negotiate, which explains the unusual and careful wording “conducive to the spread of terrorism”. “Root causes” would have sounded like apologies for terrorist acts to some ears; conditions conducive could include poverty, lack of education, or perceived or real injustice. And why do we have pillar IV? We do not want to be on the same (low) level as terrorists. And we do not want to create more terrorists.

About some current and urgent developments in the field of terrorism ...

In 2014, ISIL gained more power and influence. There is now a UNSC resolution explicitly referring to ISIL as a terrorist organization. The group is now officially referred to as Da’esh (or “the terrorist group that refers to itself as the “Islamic State.” ISIL took over Mosul in less than 24 hours. Members of the UN were shocked that this group had so quickly become so powerful. At its peak, ISIL had about 38.000 fighters. Their strategy is different from other terrorist organizations so far: They do not only commit short attacks in places all over the world but also claim a specific territory in the Middle East. Thus, they also act openly and do not hide, like for example Al Qaeda, following an attack. Additionally, ISIS had a huge amount of money at its disposal, which it had acquired through selling oil and gas from territory that they had conquered. They also kidnapped people and pressured governments and individuals, engaged in human trafficking, and taxed people in their self-declared territory. Taxes, territory – they tried to act like a state.

In 2014, the Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council resolution 2178 to address the threat posed by so called foreign terrorist fighters, or FTFs. This resolution focused on stopping FTFs but did not mention the issue of returning FTFs. This particular problem was then dealt with in Security Council resolution 2396, adopted in 2017. When talking about FTFs, one also has to consider the issue of repatriation and dual citizenship. In connection to this, Mr. Sundholm told us about a couple from the Middle East who lived in an EU country and went back to the territory of ISIS to look for their son and when they were there, ISIS forced them (according to their own account) to

work for them as doctors. Explaining their story, he showed us how hard it can be to draft legislation and execute provisions that are on the one hand strong in the field of counter-terrorism but also fair towards innocent civilians.

Concerning the legal aspect of counter-terrorism, he mentioned MLA, mutual legal assistance, which is necessary to provide justice across borders. Law might not be the problem, but implementation; but he could not make a prediction where the development will go. This un-certainty applied also to the question about the law that should and will be applied to cases of terrorists and terrorism suspects.

As a closing remark, Mr. Sundholm added that ISIL, as well as Boko Haram, are afraid of educated women and girls. And this is one of many good reasons to focus on empowering them. This remark brought us back to the Sustainable Development Goals, which cannot be considered in isolation, but which are all connected to each other. Improving education, fighting poverty, providing justice are in the end all important steps to making the world a securer and better place.



5.5 Briefing on the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Our second day at the United Nations continued with an interesting as well as moving briefing on the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Our briefer was Firas Kayal, Senior Policy Advisor at UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also commonly referred to as the United Nations Refugee Agency.

UNHCR was established in 1950, following the Second World War, with the aim of helping primarily European refugees. However, the Refugee Agency soon expanded its work to providing humanitarian assistance to both refugees and displaced persons all around the globe. As aid is provided solely on a humanitarian basis, political considerations do not play a role, or as our briefer put it: “The only side we are on is the side of the people in need”. Generally, UNHCR has the mandate to provide protection and durable solution to refugees. The durable solutions include assisting the refugee in returning to their country of origin once the conditions allow to do so, integrating them into the country offering them asylum or resettling to a third country. The program has been awarded two Nobel Peace Prizes for its exceptional work.

Kayal called the Syrian Refugee Crisis the “crisis of our generation”. With the breakout of civil war in Syria in 2011, the situation has continuously disintegrated to the point that we have not seen such high numbers of refugees and internally displaced person, about 65 million worldwide, since the end of the Second World War. This high number is the result of ongoing conflicts and the fact that the international community has been unable to effectively solve old wars, prevent new disputes from occurring as well as confront new challenges such as climate change and famine.

According to our briefer, while the United Nations is doing respectable work in conflict prevention, as well as providing humanitarian and development assistance through aid and education. On the political front however, there remains challenges as the UN would need the members states to cooperate in solving the world’s conflicts. The solution to crisis is always political and humanitarian work only aims to ease the suffering while in displacement. But why has the United Nations not been able to solve the Syrian Refugee Crisis or at least make a more significant difference in the peace building process? Our Head Delegate Clara answered this question during the briefing, saying the United Nations are, simply put, not a government, but made up of Member States. Kayal added that “if it was up to the UN alone, we would have solved world crises a long time ago.” The United Nations, however, will successes only with the cooperation of its Member States. For example, the Council could not agree so far on bringing the Syria war into an end due to differences of opinions among its members. Furthermore, providing humanitarian aid in Syria is also a challenge in a myriad of other ways. It is harder to transport aid to certain areas, for example those areas that are besieged or controlled by rebel or terrorist groups. Access to those areas sometime is very limited or completely blocked. Also, the security factors play into consideration as many times the UN humanitarian staff are targets themselves. Therefore, it is almost impossible for the United Nations to deliver humanitarian aid to Raqqa, Syria, the capital of ISIS (now defeated at the time of writing), as staff would get kidnapped attempting to deliver humanitarian supplies Another problem emphasized by the briefer was the effects of the refugee crisis on other countries. Kayal expressed that the international community should share the burden of the crisis, not leaving all work to poorer countries, which are

currently absorbing 85% of refugees and the internally displaced. Regarding Europe, the briefer criticized that the continent was not prepared for a refugee crisis to such an extent at its doors. While the existing refugee system in Europe, the Dublin system, may work for a couple of boats, or several thousands of asylum seekers, it was never designed to deal with a million refugees arriving in Europe over a short period of time. This led to Greece and Italy largely handling the crisis on their own, rather than Europe finding a solution as a continent. For this reason, UNHCR suggested to the EU a plan to redistribute refugees around Europe, calculated, among other criteria, based on national finances and ability of countries to receive refugees. However, this plan suffered from significant delays in implementation as some countries merely shut their borders

Finally, what distinguishes UNHCR from other development agencies is simply that UNHCR is an emergency organization that deals with crisis erupting suddenly around the world. UNHCR works with host countries on having their borders open and receiving and protecting refugees. This is not easy sometimes and often puts a huge burden on the receiving countries. This is why UNHCR follows the community-based approach in its work whereby the assistance is provided to refugees but also the communities receiving them as these communities themselves are often poor. While many governments cooperate with UNHCR, some governments do not, leaving employees such as Firas Kayal and thousands of his colleagues at UNHCR going to work every day attempting to convince others that refugees should be protected.



5.6 Briefing on the Responsibility to Protect



"No society is immune from genocide." (Von Bothmer, 2018)

Humanitarian catastrophes and the question of whether to intervene in these or to stay outside of it is often present in the minds of many governmental officials as well as citizens from developed countries, particularly in the United States and the European Union, which has given more and more relevancy to the idea of a *responsibility to protect* over the last fifteen years. This made it a fascinating opportunity to receive a briefing from someone working inside the United Nations on this very topic, and the Delegation of Liechtenstein was honored to receive a wonderful presentation from Fredrik von Bothmer, an official from the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. To a few members of the Delegation, this was particularly interesting as some of them had taken part in a seminar from Dr. Peggy Wittke over the summer of last year that focused on the idea of Responsibility to Protect or R2P. With such a difficult topic to engage with, it was kind of Mr. von Bothmer to bring treats in order to lighten up the mood of the room and he emphasized the important of making the briefing a back and forth between himself and the audience, asking the students questions often in order to create an engaging session.

The briefing began with a quick background on where the responsibility to protect originally came from, and its birth lies in the dark memories of ethnic cleansing throughout the 1990s, when the Yugoslav Wars saw horrible campaigns of prosecution as well as extermination of specific ethnic groups from governmental armed forces and,

when the world stayed motionless as hundreds of thousands of Tutsis were slaughtered in Rwanda. These two events forced the international community to remember the importance of *never again*, leading Kofi Annan to create what would become the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. The principle itself came from the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, where leaders agreed on the importance of preventing a disaster rather than trying to fix the damage that had already been done, especially if it was realistically possible to prevent said humanitarian catastrophes. The responsibility to protect relies on three pillars: the first states that it is the responsibility of the state to protect the people, the second one state that it is the responsibility of the international community to assist the state in doing so, and the third one states that it is the responsibility of the international community to act if a state is manifestly failing to protect its people. This principle developed over time after its inception, but its focus has remained in prioritizing prevention.

Despite having a small staff on hand, this office focuses on trying to prevent some of the most heinous crimes that humanity has seen. They focus on monitoring situations of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and others. They do so both from a distance and on the ground, as explained by Mr. von Bothmer, who had just recently been to the Balkans on a work trip, an area that is referred to as one of “frozen conflict”. The office looks for early warning signs that tend to lead to these types of situations, in order to warn the Secretary-General as well as the Security Council. The office can also issue statements as well as make recommendations. At the same time, it also works with non-governmental organizations, in the hopes of bringing people together in trying to stabilize difficult environments. If need be, the office takes an even more activist role, attempting to mobilize action through resolutions, in order to impose sanctions on countries on the verge of or already committing atrocities, with the possibility of peacekeeping forces on the table. It is also of utmost importance for the office to implement the responsibility to protect in the realm of accountability for prevention, not only legal or political, but also of moral accountability.

The later part of the session focused on looking at the indicators of what can lead to humanitarian catastrophes and the consideration of examples that fitted these. One example brought up was Myanmar, where two indicators had been clear red flags years ago: the deployment of military forces as well as a sudden political change, when Aung San Suu Kyi’s party obtained a governing majority leading to her ascent as leader of the country. Tragically, Myanmar now finds itself engulfed in genocide, as hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have been persecuted at the hands of the governmental armed forces. Another example brought up was Venezuela, which finds itself in a profound economic recession and accelerating humanitarian crisis, as citizens find themselves unable to secure food or basic medicines. In that case a myriad of indicators had been clear, such as a strong military presence in a civilian government, a close election and drastic economic changes.

Finally, the briefing concluded with some personal questions towards Mr. von Bothmer, one of them being quiet prescient after discussing such a difficult topic. He was asked how it felt to work a job that deals with such a grim subject matter, particularly whether it was worth doing the work. Mr. von Bothmer explained that despite having seen things he wishes he had not in his line of work, the job was rewarding in the end, because he felt, that he was making the world a better place, even if this took a toll on his life.



5.7 Briefing on the Role of the Secretary-General

Our final day at United Nations Headquarters began with a briefing on the new Secretary-General Guterres and his reform proposals, provided by Mr. Werner Schmidt of the United Nations Department of Management (DM).

Werner Schmidt has worked at the United Nations for eleven years, mainly in communications in DM. Although he has a background working for the German Government and considers himself a “proud bureaucrat”, he also acquired his university degree at the Otto-Suhr-Institute (OSI) for political science of the Freie Universität. During the briefing, especially the political science students picked up on the notions of criticism and general skepticism towards politics Schmidt provided that the OSI is so well known for.

When António Guterres was running in the election for Secretary-General he presented himself as a reformer, someone who would shake things up at the United Nations. UN bureaucracy is often criticized as being too complicated, with too many people in charge of similar tasks but poor communication between offices. Schmidt described the situation as each department working in their own silo. Therefore, after Guterres was elected as Secretary-General, he presented reform proposals for the United Nations, aiming to

reform the three pillars of the peace and security architecture, the development system, and management. These reforms are largely supported by Member States, with some, however, voicing concerns... Finally, the proposals will be decided upon in the General Assembly, which has already passed resolutions regarding some reform goals. Management reforms, on which Schmidt focused, entails four proposals, aiming to simplify the, as Schmidt called it, byzantine structures of UN administration.

Firstly, the complicated budget process needs to be simplified, to give the Secretary-General more flexibility to react to political developments and challenges. The General Assembly has already approved switching from biannual to annual budgets. As for the size of the UN's budget, Schmidt highlighted that "we have 11 billion dollars to keep the planet in order, the city of New York has 90 billion. We probably have less than the New York City police, which does not have 90 000 soldiers in peacekeeping missions."

Secondly, Guterres is asking for field mission managers to have more capacity to act when it comes to making decisions on their own. Although nowadays more employees work in field missions than at Headquarters, the UN still acts in a centralistic fashion, requiring mission managers to ask for permission for many mundane actions. While giving more powers to managers carries its own risks, strengthening the accountability and information system can alleviate some of that burden. Concretely, having to ask for permission from superiors for every question of budget or personnel leads to lengthy processes, for example if someone at Headquarters is currently on leave, which can lead to a general sense of frustration with bureaucracy, causing staff to simply give up on ideas if they feel processes would take too long regardless.

The third reform proposal is concerned with gender parity in the United Nations. Schmidt points out that this is a topic that while much discussed, is still far from being reached, adding that it is time we set fixed goals for ourselves and reached them. The number of women in field missions is disturbingly low, with an involvement of 5% in a mission considered to be high. Regarding the number of women in higher civil service at the UN, this is steadily increasing, now to almost 50%, and with that inequality is slowly shifting as well.

Lastly, the fourth proposal concerns transparency and how the United Nations react in the case of misbehavior of employees, for example in peacekeeping missions. Currently it seems that enforcement is very low, and conflicts are often solved internally rather than publicly. Schmidt admitted that when it comes to accountability, "we still have our homework to do", especially regarding sexual exploitation and abuse cases, as the UN does not have disciplinary jurisdiction over peacekeepers but is instead reliant on the power and processes of the troop contributing countries.

The briefer was also asked questions regarding the highly controversial reforms of the United Nations Security Council, which is often criticized as representing the world order of decades ago rather than today. Schmidt said that he does not see any changes when it comes to permanent members of the Security Council in the near future, although it is important to discuss. On this topic, he jokingly sharing an anecdote of a former German ambassador to the UN who said: "Before I leave, Germany will be in the

Security Council”, but who is now retired, with Germany still far from having gained a permanent seat. Regarding a reform of the veto power, the problem pointed out by Schmidt is that all permanent five countries need to be onboard for a reform, which they simply are not, neither for giving up their veto power nor for allowing further countries to have such powers. In this way, reform still seems rather far away in the eyes of the expert.

At the end of the briefing, Schmidt jokingly told us to greet the OSI from him once back in Berlin and added that he hoped he did not take all our illusions away with his excursion into the United Nations bureaucracy.



5.8 Briefing on Liechtenstein

On the last day of our Study Tour at the UN Headquarters, we received a briefing by Markus Mayr who works in the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York City.

The DPA observes the overall situations of individual Member States of the UN in order to detect possible crises before they appear. Markus Mayr is responsible for overseeing the situation in Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and Liechtenstein which, of course, made him an indispensable component of our Study Tour. He was able to give us an insight into the role that a small state like Liechtenstein could play on the stage called United Nations.

Mr. Mayr pointed out that smaller states usually have limited resources but still broad varieties to interact on the international level at the UN. This gives them the possibility to engage in areas where they are particularly interested in or have the relevant expertise.

Those “core are-as” of a Member State may play a role that by far outweighs the resources of that state. Liechtenstein’s exemplary engagement in developing a Code of Conduct is an example of the Principality’s strong voice even though it only has few resources to contribute to the UN compared to other states. The Security Council’s (SC) Code of Conduct intends to prevent all SC members from voting against or vetoing resolutions which are created to end mass atrocities.

Liechtenstein has created political weight due to the 114 states that joined the Code of Conduct, including nine members of the SC of which two are permanent members.

Furthermore, small states often serve as “mediators of interest”. They tend to assume roles within the UN system which allows them to talk to different groups. According to Mr. Mayr, it is the combination of the personnel and the country which makes the difference. Often, it depends on the individual if a compromise is reached and not on the country’s opinion. Mr. Mayr summarized the role of small states and thus also of Liechtenstein as the following: they pick certain topics, they exploit weaknesses and they advance initiatives.

At the end of the briefing, Mr. Mayr talked about working at the UN in general. In order to pursue a career within the UN, he gave us one advice: “Learn as many languages as you can – and – do not only stay in New York but rather go on field missions; that’s where you learn the most.” The expert concluded the briefing with a very honest statement: “The responsibility at the UN is overwhelming and while working here, you sometimes face pressure and family shortcomings. But on the other hand, everyone here has a deep commitment to the work of the UN and this is very rewarding.” With an equally deep commitment to the work and principles of the UN, we left our final briefing excited to become a real diplomat – at least for the upcoming days.



5.9 The visit to the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN



The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations is located on Third Avenue, not far away from the UN itself. The Mission is a bit like the country – small but well organized and very welcoming. Soon after we had been received and seated in the conference room, a staff member appeared to provide us with cookies that smelled so good that they were probably self-made. But what we were actually there for: Mr. Georg Sparber, Deputy Permanent Representative, and Ms. Myriam Oehri, Second Secretary, gave us a short overview over Liechtenstein in general (facts and figures) and then gave the stage to us.

For the rest of the time, we used this unique opportunity to ask in detail about Liechtenstein's policy on the various issues that we had researched over the past semester. It was very rewarding to see that basically all of our conclusions were correct and even our new proposals were all rooted in Liechtenstein's underlying policies. One topic of our discussion was the small size of the state. As we had also learned earlier in our seminar, the small nature of Liechtenstein is one of its major characteristics. On the one hand, it can be a disadvantage, of course – representatives of other states might not know where it is located or that it even exists. Therefore, they might not take us seriously as negotiation partners in the conference. Furthermore, Liechtenstein does not have a strong presence in all committees, but rather in a few, carefully selected ones, because it has only limited resources. On the other hand, as Mr. Sparber and Ms. Oehri also

confirmed, it brings us into the lucky position to be flexible: We are not stuck with one side or the other, but we can support ideas whenever we consider them to be in our interest. Moreover, as Liechtenstein does not belong to a political or security alliance or group, it can function as a mediator between different sides because no one is likely to accuse us of doing it for our own gain. And eventually, we do not face prejudices when arguing for a specific cause because, due to our size, we are probably never one of the main stakeholders in an issue, this makes us credible.

As we knew, one of the few selected issues that Liechtenstein is particularly engaged in, is accountability. This is why our representatives in the Organisation on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had developed a proposal to strengthen the cooperation between the OPCW and the International Criminal Court to preserve collected evidence from locations of chemical attacks for possible future proceedings. It was very helpful to get feedback on this idea: Maybe Liechtenstein would not make this very proposal because similar types of cooperation already exist – but it would definitely be on Liechtenstein's agenda to push for more accountability in the field of chemical weapons, since it had also been very engaged in the development of an Investigative Mechanism for Syria. In December 2016, Liechtenstein introduced an initiative to the General Assembly with the aim to provide more justice to victims of war crimes in Syria. It was adopted with Resolution 71/248. The mandate of this Mechanism consists of a two-step-process: Collecting, preserving and analyzing evidence and then using it to prepare files for possible future proceedings against the perpetrators. This evidence, collected and preserved in accordance with international criminal law standards, can be used in any court or tribunal that respects international human rights law and provides safeguards like the right to a fair trial. The adoption of this Mechanism marks a great success for Liechtenstein and showed us, that even the smallest players can play a vital role on the large stage of international security politics.

Another initiative that Liechtenstein strongly supports is the adoption of the Code of Conduct for the Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. It was developed in the framework of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group and is supposed to guide especially the permanent members of the Security Council in the use of their veto. This proposal tackles a very urgent issue, since the use of the veto has blocked several Security Council Resolutions dealing with escalating conflicts and imminent mass atrocities. It is one of the most criticized aspects of the system of the UN and one of the reasons why it is often described as ineffective. Liechtenstein's advantage in this regard is that it could credibly argue for a code of conduct and implement its own commitment as an example for the international community as a whole.

Much valuable input received also the representatives in the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW); our hosts were particularly interested in their work because empowerment of girls and women all over the world is another of Liechtenstein's top

priorities. Whether in the field of migration, armed conflict or economy: Liechtenstein has given many important and inspiring statements and supports a variety of initiatives aiming at improving women's positions in society.

It was a very nice and motivating visit and after the meeting we felt indeed perfectly prepared for the upcoming negotiations.



6. Liechtenstein at the NMUN 2018, 18 to 22 March





6.1 Liechtenstein at the General Assembly First Committee represented by Khaled Nawabi and Eduardo Rivera Velasco



The Delegation of Liechtenstein performed an admirable role in the General Assembly First Committee by working as an efficient negotiator that worked with countries far and wide helping bridge geopolitical chasms. The General Assembly First Committee is one

of the most important committees of the United Nations, a place where all Member States gather together to discuss matters of peace and security, in the hopes of creating a peaceful world through the art of diplomacy.

The structure of the conference was rather simple, after the first day of introductions and setting the agenda, each day would develop in the same way. Things would begin with rollcall, then a mixture of formal session, where some Delegations sought out to be on the speakers' list and informal session, where Delegations would engage in intense substantial negotiations. Despite how different the positions of many countries traditionally are in this committee, there was a surprising amount of logrolling allowing many Delegations to get enough sponsors and signatories into their working papers.

The agenda-setting of the committee reached a desirable outcome for Liechtenstein since improving measures on counterterrorism was prioritized. We also gave our first speech on this occasion in which we emphasized the crucial importance of counterterrorism-efforts. The remaining topics of cybersecurity and illicit arms trade were partly also addressed in the work of some Delegations. Liechtenstein had three main objectives with regards to counterterrorism: a general convention on the matter, stronger enforcement of laws to suppress financial terrorism, and the respect for the rule of law. Liechtenstein managed to exercise strong influence in a variety of coalitions that sprung up during the conference, managing to work with actors as varied as the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and nation states such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

There was one particular moment worth mentioning, which occurred shortly before the first assembly commenced with the voting, during that time many Delegations were still reading through various draft resolutions to determine their voting behavior. One draft resolution which was originally sponsored by countries such as Hungary, Vietnam, Cambodia and etc. featured an extensive but yet unnoticed perambulatory clause in which a rather essential part of the Budapest Convention, drafted by the European Council, was denounced. As soon as we noticed it as the only ones, we were able to rally most of the European Delegations behind us mere seconds before the voting procedure, which resulted in the rejection of the mentioned draft resolution. In the end, Liechtenstein managed to be an integral part of some of the resolutions that passed the full committee at the closing of the conference, when remarkably almost all of the resolutions put to a vote managed to secure a majority.

6.2 Liechtenstein at the General Assembly Second Committee

represented by Inès Schroeder und Friederike Vierck

Committee Short Overview

The Second Committee (GA2) is one of the six main committees under the United Nations General Assembly. Therefore, the Committee consists of all UN Member States

as well as Observer States. As is common practice in the United Nations, each Member State has one vote. During meetings, Member States will debate agenda items, write reports and draft resolutions to then be approved by the General Assembly, which also provides the Committee with its agenda prior to meetings. Furthermore, GA2 also advises Member States on reaching development goals and implementing United Nations norms and standards. To achieve its objectives, the Second Committee works closely with the Economic and Social Council, UN specialized agencies such as the World Bank Group and the United Nations World Tourism Organization as well as related organizations such as the World Trade Organization.



As mandated in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter, the Second Committee is concerned with economic and financial issues relating to global economic growth and development. During its current session, which started in 2017, the Committee is working on macroeconomic policy questions such as international trade and finances, financing for development, sustainable development, specifically the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, urbanization and human settlements, as well as poverty eradication. In addition, the Committee also deals with special issues such as Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries. In this regard, the Committee plays a crucial role when it comes to the maintenance of international financial stability and the development of new strategies for sustainable growth.

Committee Report

The three topics on the agenda before the Second Committee were:

1. Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action
2. The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development
3. Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Eradication

The meeting of the Second Committee began on Sunday night with the agenda setting. Although we argued passionately to discuss the first two topics at the beginning, as they are of special importance to Liechtenstein, the agenda was ultimately set to be 2, 3, 1. Therefore, we were faced with the challenge of discussing the impact of urbanization representing a small country with a capital of only about 5.500 inhabitants. However, we were determined to make a difference especially by emphasizing Liechtenstein's expertise on financing for development and sustainable cities.

At the beginning of negotiations, we approached close partners such as Switzerland and Germany to encourage them to form a working group concerned with financing methods. Right away, we found a lot of common ground and decided for both members of our Delegation to join the same working group. During the conference, we worked with many Delegations that we had expected to work with prior to attending the conference such as Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and Poland but also more surprising ones such as the Russian Federation and Uganda.

While working on the working paper, we pursued several of Liechtenstein's priorities such as reducing aid dependency, evening out inequalities through efficient financing strategies as it is laid out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2016) and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2016) to make urbanization a fully inclusive process. Furthermore, we argued strongly against exploitation, especially of women, in urban labor markets. We also encouraged legal frameworks and transparency through monitoring mechanisms and suggested hosting further multilateral expert meetings, such as the Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum held in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, in 2016 in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Smart Cities multi-stakeholders program.

Each day, we sat in the front row of the conference room, trying to get our Delegation on the speaker's list as over 100 Delegates raised their placards with their country names on them high in the air, desperately trying to get their names on the list. Although it was difficult, we did manage to get on the speaker's list multiple times and each member of our Delegation gave one speech during the conference, laying out Liechtenstein's proposals and encouraging others to work with us on the issues we care about most.

After intense discussions in our working group and hours spent in unmoderated caucus revising clauses, we finally turned in the first version of our working paper to the Dais. Our working group received positive feedback and we spent the rest of the time specifying and editing clauses. As our topic was very specific, we decided not to merge with any other working groups. However, we had discussions with other Delegates and

ended up becoming signatories on several papers concerned with a myriad of topics such as infrastructure, environmental protection and urban farming.

Finally, we submitted our working paper to the Dais one last time, when it was accepted to become a draft resolution. The final version included clauses by Liechtenstein regarding our previously mentioned priorities, going so far as to specifically mention Liechtenstein as a host for another Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum, which was a huge success for us.

On the last day of negotiations, the Committee finally moved into voting procedure on the draft resolutions, with a variety of drafts on the table dealing with a multitude of different topics, as is common in the Second Committee. Because our draft resolution was the last to be voted on, we were a little nervous to see if it would pass but were determined not to see all our hard work go to waste. However, all the worrying turned out to have been for nothing: At the end all draft resolutions were passed by the Committee. With that, at the end of the conference, we were proud to have contributed Liechtenstein's ideas to the debate and satisfied with the immensely hard work put in by the fellow Delegates in our working group as well as the resolution we passed.



Below you can find some resolution parts that we worked on in the Second Committee:

Code: GA2/1/9

Topic: The Role of Urbanization in Sustainable Development

6. Calls upon Member States to focus on domestic resource mobilization and reduce dependence on foreign aid, by:

a. Scaling up the efforts for tax administration of both taxed revenues and non-taxed revenues, particularly targeting the improvement of transparency in the informal sector and monitoring the capital flight situation, in order to optimize domestic resource mobilization;

b. Changing structures on the urban labor market and fostering the integration of marginalized groups, such as women and displaced persons;

10. Encourages further multilateral expert meetings for knowledge sharing regarding financing smart, sustainable cities, by taking the following steps:

a. Proposing Liechtenstein as a conference host for another Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Forum, in 147 cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe;

b. Implementing the Vaduz Declaration (2016) with its ten points for action towards financing smart sustainable cities;

c. Holding the forum on a yearly basis due to rapid technological innovation;

d. Prioritizing areas for investments in smart cities, especially technological devices that help to provide services to citizens, such as smart transit systems, and environmental sustainability

6.3 Liechtenstein at the General Assembly Third Committee

represented by Piotr Pawel Larysz and Yoo Yung Lee

Committee Short Overview

The Third Committee (GA3) is one of the main committees of the General Assembly and works on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, with a special focus on international human rights. Its competences are outlined in Articles 10 to 17 of the Charter of the United Nations. The GA3 is not an executive organ, as it can only provide non-binding recommendations, consider reports, convoke conferences, and bring countries together to collectively address pressing human rights issues in order to find pragmatic solutions. The working direction of the Third Committee rests upon the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the GA3 is deeply committed to achieve their implementation and make progress on a vast number of human rights issues, such as the protection and promotion of rights for children, the empowerment of indigenous peoples and women, and the elimination of discrimination in all its forms, inter alia.

Committee Report

The topics before us at the General Assembly were:

1. Right of Peoples to Self-Determination
2. Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance
3. Equitable Access to Education

As a small, double-landlocked state, the right to self-determination is of utmost importance for Liechtenstein and thus from the very beginning, constituted the top priority in our agenda. Not only has Liechtenstein been highly active in this area since it joined the United Nations in 1990, it has also initiated a global campaign that aimed to redefine self-determination and to elucidate what it entails.

Despite our efforts to convince other countries of the urgency of the issue of self-determination, however, the vast majority of the Delegations pushed to deliberate the topic of 'Equitable Access to Education' first. Thus, once the agenda was set - with the order of the topics being 3,2 and 1 - we were not fully satisfied with the outcome. Nevertheless, we took the situation as an opportunity to push our ideas with regards to ensuring the right to education for all and to act as a mediator between the parties concerned.

After hearing several speeches, the committee moved into a suspension of the meeting. The Delegations formed several working groups to create a comprehensive working paper. Liechtenstein united its efforts with numerous European countries, in particular with Finland, Denmark and Sweden. In order to coordinate the work within the group efficiently the Delegates spread into four focus groups that tackled the following issues: innovative education, education for refugees, gender equality and ways of providing access to education for vulnerable groups. After several brainstorming sessions and tiring negotiations, the preliminary working paper was successfully finalized and handed over to the Chair.

On the second day, after waiting for so long, we finally held a speech, encouraging other countries to work with us and stressing on the essential issues that have to be addressed



in the near future to reach our target on education, as follows:

“Honorable Chair, fellow Delegates

First of all, Liechtenstein would like to commend Member States for showing their commitment to promoting education and for the steps already taken on the national level through appropriate legislation. In our discussions and negotiations, Liechtenstein has heard many good practices in our ongoing efforts to advance this right. However, despite the development and progress in single Member States, we need to accelerate the international and multilateral efforts to ensure equitable access to education as a basic human right.

Thus, Liechtenstein would like to encourage Member States to strengthen their commitment to implement the SDGs through the financial support of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to mobilize all partners all partners to achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, Liechtenstein believes it is of utmost importance to address the root causes that prevent all children from getting their education. Armed conflict is the key driver of forced displacement. There are more than 65 million displaced people and refugees worldwide. Over half are under 18. Thus, we invite all countries who have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

It is crucial to address the factors that constitute a hindrance to the right to education and transform such disabling environments into enabling ones. Education is an indispensable strategy to achieve a sustainable world, curb inequality, combat intolerance as well as promote understanding and respect amongst people. Liechtenstein is deeply committed to continuing on cooperation and investments in bodies working towards our common goal.”

Following this speech, we stayed true to our word, and kept giving our very best in the remaining time during the unmoderated caucuses and sent out numerous personal notes to other countries, asking for their cooperation and suggesting points to include in the final resolution. We made sure to let other countries know that we, Liechtenstein, may be a small country, but that we are strong. We are full of ideas, and we are a mediator.

On the third and final day, it was already time for the voting procedure. Thirteen draft resolutions were on the list. None of them passed by acclamation, that is, by a unanimous vote. Nonetheless, each and every resolution passed and was followed by a round of applause which reflected our relief and contentment, after the hard and intense, but fulfilling, work.

6.4 Liechtenstein at the General Assembly Fifth Committee

represented by Theresa Dümchen and Jenny Ning

Committee Short Overview

The General Assembly Fifth Committee mainly deals with administrative and budgetary issues of the UN. It holds a magnificent amount of power by deciding on the funding of peace keeping operations and therefore aims at passing all its resolutions by consensus. It was the first time that NMUN simulated this committee, which sometimes led to some confusion about its mandate and what that meant for our resolutions, but it also enabled us to meet experienced Delegates and to have interesting debates.

The topics that were proposed to us were:

1. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System
2. Strengthening Compliance and Accountability in Field Missions with Special Regard to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Cases
3. Consideration of the Secretary-General's Reform Proposals

We favored the third topic as Liechtenstein is involved in the UNs reform process by drafting the Code of Conduct, also we had attended an event in which former German Minister of Environment Klaus Töpfer elaborated on the Reform Proposals and we were thus especially motivated and best informed about this topic.

Committee Report

When we came to the first event at NMUN, the rules training, we discovered however, that most Delegates from our committee we encountered did not prioritize this topic. We did our best to convince



them in the following agenda setting session and achieved to change some Delegations' minds. Unfortunately, that was not enough, and the agenda was set for the second topic. The debate began immediately after that and Delegations held speeches voicing their opinions. Of course, Liechtenstein immediately raised its placard but did not get to speak, which left us all in all rather disappointed with the first day. The informal debate kicked off by Delegations having already formed alliances by note passing and we decided to split up to explore what fractions had formed but we soon agreed that none of them seemed to hold the potential to implement our ideas and we would try to create our own working group tomorrow.

After our first day's frustration of not having the opportunity to speak nor our preferred agenda setting, we were determined to do better on the remaining days.

And fortunately, it did go better.

As the topic on the agenda was 'Strengthening Compliance and Accountability in Field Missions with Special Regard to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Cases', we brainstormed about Liechtenstein's priorities and possible positions in this specific field. On the second day, we decided to put forward Liechtenstein's support for the empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations. Having learned that diplomatic note-passing is a powerful tool, we rallied as many countries as possible right at the beginning of the session through note-passing. During the informal sessions, the Delegations began forming different working groups. We became the 'Women group', with one of us actively working to draft the resolution and the other one trying to persuade other Delegations to join us. Our group became bigger with time, as every country contributes its own ideas. More importantly, Liechtenstein's main priorities were successfully included such as the 'Women, Peace and Security Agenda', increasing women's involvement in peacekeeping operations, enhancing women's education, etc. Our partners were very diverse, ranging from small states such as Fiji, Monaco, Samoa and San Marino to larger countries like Latvia, Norway and Finland. Since we discovered that another working group, focusing on accountability, also included some women issues, we decided to merge our two draft resolutions into one. Consequently, the final resolution even contained accountability issues, such as holding perpetrators accountable through international law, which is a main priority for Liechtenstein.

Speech held on the topic of sexual exploitation and abuse at Peacekeeping Operations.

Dear Delegates,

in the past few months we were witnesses of the rise of an incredible movement; the "MeToo" movement. To quote the most famous speech from this movement by Oprah Winfrey:

"For too long women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men."

However, the victims we are talking about are not Hollywood stars. They are women and children suffering from war. We have to give them a voice. We have to listen to them and empower them to speak out.

That is why Liechtenstein welcomes every Member State joining us in writing a resolution on the empowerment of women. Because in the end “we are as strong as we are united and as weak as we are divided”. (Albus Dumbledore)

Of course, beyond working on resolutions, we finally got the opportunity to do three speeches during the whole conference and received many warm wishes from other Delegations.

Lastly, after long hours of hard work, we succeeded in passing our resolution by acclamation. Our committee passed five resolutions in total, with four by acclamation. It is quite surprising to see that the positions of all the countries were mostly similar on this specific topic. Our Delegation also received ‘Outstanding Position Paper Awards’.

To sum up, although the beginning of our conference did not happen the way we had wished for, we learned to be patient and appreciated the progress and success we achieved in the end all the more.

6.5 Liechtenstein at the United Nations Environment Assembly

represented by Annika Blümel and John Gubernath

Committee Short Overview

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Created in 2013 in order to effectively provide political guidance for States and regional organizations, it is the United Nations’ main program and fund for ensuring international, regional and local coordination for environmental issues. With its universal membership of all 193 United Nations Member States and full involvement of civil societies and inter-governmental organizations, UNEA aims to provide the platform to realize environmental protection as set out under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increase accountability and responsiveness of Member States. As a relatively young body, UNEA has met only three times but thus set strong focal points on UNEP’s responsibility to further move towards realizing environmental protection as set out in the 2030 Agenda as well as overall awareness of climate change and actions.

Committee Report

After comprehensive preparations, briefings and research in Berlin, we were eagerly anticipating our Delegation’s departure to New York.

As it has been the first NMUN Conference for both of us, we were thrilled not only to enjoy the excitement of such a big conference but also to have the opportunity to attend briefings at UN Headquarters regarding the Sustainable Development Goals during our Study Tour. It really complemented our knowledge regarding UNEA's main agendas and furthered our knowledge and strategy for the upcoming conference.

Liechtenstein, as a small country right in the heart of Europe, is deeply affected by climate change and pollution stemming from its neighbouring countries. It regards environmental protection and sustainability as fundamental pillars of peace and development and strongly advocates for mutual and effective cooperation between Member States as well as inclusion of all parts of society. Acknowledging the given limited time of NMUN in mind, we both pushed energetically for an agenda, which would suit us the most in later discussions. Thus, after firmly advocating Liechtenstein's focus on human rights and their extensive financial support opportunities during the lengthy and very hard discussions on the first evening, we were very pleased when the Assembly agreed upon the following agenda:

1. Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development
2. The Impact of Pollution on Marine Life
3. Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems in Urban Areas

On the following morning, we decided to “divide and conquer” because debates during the agenda setting session have shown that possible working groups' focal points and issues vary immensely due to the very broad scope of the first topic. As Liechtenstein is not a member of the European Union, both of us found ourselves fortunate enough to



work with very different partners in various working groups, of whom some merged together in the end.

One of these working groups, mainly driven by Liechtenstein, Iran, Sweden and Poland, focused on employment and decent work for young people in order to effectively empower them in regards towards sustainable development and a green future. Liechtenstein's second working group consisted in the end of 28 countries, many of which were developing countries. This paper included issues like the creation and support of information and communication networks, financial support for developing regions, providing development opportunities for the green economy sector, involving youth in decision-making processes, and creating partnerships between youth and local environmental NGOs, such as the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein.

Also, after a very long wait on the speaker's list, we finally held our first speech on the second day:

Honourable Chair, fellow Delegates,

Liechtenstein highly welcomes the close cooperation between States over the last two days and strongly believes in a fruitful outcome. We are all aware that the youth of today will be the future of tomorrow.

However, young people are still facing challenges in enjoying simple legal participation rights. Thus, Liechtenstein strongly emphasizes the need for an effective legal framework on local, regional and international level. Without the rule of law, youth empowerment cannot be achieved. Furthermore, financial funds need to be channelled in order to establish equality among all states. Liechtenstein especially highlights the possibilities of micro financing schemes, as they allow comprehensive support for developing countries and regions.

We see an inevitable responsibility for the developed countries to leave no one behind. Only with overall effort we, the international community, will be able to achieve long lasting, sustainable change by empowering young people. Whether our focus lies on education, employment, engagement on local level, digitalisation or financing, we need to collaborate, bridge gaps, to make this world, our world, a better place.

For us and generations to come. Thank you.

It was very well received by our fellow Member States and shortly afterwards we submitted our two respective working papers to the Dias. Liechtenstein's priority topics such as employment, financing schemes and global cooperation for youth empowerment were thoroughly included in the papers. The most stressful and hectic part of the whole conference was probably the merging process of most of the working papers, but in the

end, we were both very pleased with the general outcome. The Chair approved all our sponsored Working Papers as Draft Resolutions, so on the last day we promoted our proposals a final time and got acquainted with the Assembly's other Draft Resolutions.

At last voting procedure began in the final hour of the conference. Overall UNEA adopted seven resolutions on various topics, two of which received unanimous support. We were really proud since many of them contained Liechtenstein's top priorities on sustainable development. Furthermore, the Assembly received both of our sponsored draft resolutions very well. The first one focusing on employment for youth empowerment was adopted by acclamation as Resolution UNEA/1/2 and the other one, Resolution UNEA/1/5, with a very strong majority.

Clearly exhausted but also satisfied by this outcome, we can now look back on this intense time with great joy. Participating at NMUN and especially working in UNEA gave us many learning opportunities and life experience, which we do not want to miss.



Below are some parts of the resolution that we worked on the hardest:

Code: UNEA/1/4

Topic: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development

5. Encourages all Member States to support the implementation of sustainable education in developing countries by:

- a. Voluntary funding through the establishment of a Sustainable Education Fund;
 - b. Implores the international community to engage in micro-financing schemes to support accessibility of education in developing countries, especially in rural areas:
 - i. Suggesting self-imposed accountability mechanisms for developed countries according to their unique capacities;
 - ii. Creating incentives targeted towards poorer rural families, where young people represent a great manual labor force and source of income, in order to enable them to devote themselves in sustainable development and then follow environmental-related trainings and courses;
 - c. Promoting the use of renewable energy, such as solar panels, to decrease spending on non-renewable resources in order to increase funds for education;
 - d. Calling on Member States to further increase their national expenditure on sustainable education to at least a one-digit percentage of national GDP with regards to UNESCO's recommendation;
8. Underlines the importance of the conclusions in 2030 Agenda to implement regional programs and policies to increase youth involvement and awareness in the progression of the SDGs globally by:
- a. Creating opportunities for youth to receive vocational training and youth entrepreneurship to assist in the entry into SDG-based policy-making, much like the “El Programa DeVoluntarios Constru Futuros” in Venezuela:
 - i. Specifically targeting youth which are in precarious situations, and providing them with safer and more productive opportunities to increase their contribution to the overall economy of their communities;
 - ii. Sponsorships and partnerships abroad that allow for youth from developing countries to be involved with the policy-making process both domestically and internationally;
 - b. Working collaboratively with policy-makers to create agendas and programs that promote environmental protection by:
 - i. Creating avenues for youth to participate in local, national, and international organizations and bodies through partnerships between youth and local environmental NGOs, such as the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, centered around the reduction of pollution in both rural and urban areas;
 - ii. Involving youth in local governance by incorporating equal capabilities that would reflect the interest of specific communities;

9. Promotes all willing Member States to further involve youth in decision-making processes and to increase the dialogue at all levels of governance as reiterated in the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (2014) by:

- a. Considering various forms of youth engagement through programs such as the Finnish Agenda 2030 Youth Group and UNDP's Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace (Youth- GPS 2016-2020), which aim to support youth participation in the national planning and implementation of the SDGs;
- b. Endorsing the concept of implementing youth associations in Member States, such as the Youth Parliaments in Member States, National Model UN, and UN Youth Delegate Program, which enable youth representatives to share and collaborate on pressing international and local issues such as climate change and sustainability;
- c. Creating opportunities for youth involvement in sustainable development through fostering networking capabilities between regional communities, especially communities with large disparities in socio-economics and infrastructure.

6.6 Liechtenstein at the Commission on the Status of Women

represented by Maria Aygün and Aleksandra Petković

Committee Short Overview

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main intergovernmental policy making body within the United Nations (UN) for women's empowerment, the promotion of women's rights and gender equality. It is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and annually reports to it. Established in 1946, the Commission aims at achieving gender equality, women's empowerment and mainstreaming a gender perspective within all goals of the UN. It does not limit participation to states only but further allows NGOs to participate in the sessions of the CSW. Its Assembly consists of Delegates from 45 Member States elected by the ECOSOC for a four-year term on the basis of equitable geographic distribution.

Committee Report

After half a year of thorough preparation in Berlin, followed by adventures in Brooklyn, an extensive study tour at UN Headquarters and additional briefings from the Delegation of the EU to the UN as well as the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein, we were more than eager to enter our first formal session of the CSW. The purpose of the first meeting was to set the agenda for the following days. After our first encounters with the respective Delegations, there was no doubt about the popularity and prevalence of the first topic. The following topics were arguably discussed with more controversy. After the voting procedure the agenda was set as follows:

1. Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

2. Empowering Women and Youth in Rural Contexts
3. Combating Violence against Women Migrant Workers



On the next day, we started discussing the chosen topic in formal caucus where we first got to thematically engage with our fellow Delegates. Right at the beginning of the debate, we were given the chance to be the third speaker in the committee. Holding a speech at the very start of the session seemed nerve-wrecking at first, yet we remembered the inspiring and exceptional spirit of the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein, Dr. Aurelia Frick, which made us forget about any previous doubts. After all, we had the chance to set the tone with our speech and make a lasting impression.

Honorable Chair, fellow Delegates,

Liechtenstein is greatly concerned about the lack of female and youth representation in governments. There is a strong and urgent need for comprehensive strategies and policies to help women and youth engage in politics. In many people's perception, unfortunately, a politician is still traditionally male and certainly not young. Young girls' educational and socio-economic background still significantly influences whether or not they find their way into politics. Because of that, it is essential to raise awareness and actively encourage young people to get involved and to participate — for this reason, role models are of great importance. Consequently, we are very proud to have a female Foreign Minister, Dr. Aurelia Frick, who continuously promotes women's rights and gender equality.

After having finished speaking, several Member States sent us affirming notes, asking for cooperation or approaching us verbally. We then started forming new alliances with Members such as the Republic of Korea or the United Kingdom. Simultaneously, we observed the forming bloc of mostly Asian Member States with the addition of other fragmented, partially European countries, who clearly did not represent their respective countries' positions. The fact that several European and 'Western' countries were not following their government's line of international policy made cooperation challenging and irritating, to a certain degree.

In pursuing our strategy, we tried to emphasize Liechtenstein's rather neutral position in negotiations and debate. It was important to us that the fellow Member States interpreted Liechtenstein as a diplomatic mediator, continuously building bridges and constantly open to cooperation. We focused on the issues at hand and were accessible to anyone who shared our positions.

Liechtenstein is a strong promoter of women's rights and gender equality, internationally and within the UN, even though women in government tend to be severely underrepresented in the country itself. Liechtenstein strongly promoted the election of a female candidate for Secretary-General in 2016 and continues to encourage increased female representation in the Secretariat. It was our biggest priority to translate and initiate our policy ideas into a resolution that would find broad support within the committee. Strategically, we therefore divided up: One of us directly introduced the first potential allies to the specific issues that were not only of interest to us but to other Member States as well. The other one would find more supporters of said policy ideas, so that a working paper could be drafted as soon as possible, all while keeping track on other Delegations' working papers. It was a collaborative team act that enabled our progress and the maintenance of good communication.

The main struggle of working in a small committee is multitasking. It is comparatively easy to join the speakers' list, meaning that speeches have to be written down and prepared very quickly. Because of the small number of Delegations, there is also the possibility of engaging in dialogue with numerous Delegations which can be very overwhelming at times. Of course, the resolution had to be drafted and accordingly phrased, too. We therefore had to focus on our priorities and restrict ourselves. Through some tough exchanges, long-lasting negotiations and very few hours of sleep, we were able to contribute extensively: The establishment of a legal framework preventing gender-based discrimination and sexual violence as well as other monitoring and accountability mechanisms, further capacity building and staff training and the support of local and domestic initiatives introducing women to governmental work were some of our own suggestions written down in the final draft resolutions. Our strongest supporters and fellow co-sponsors were the Kingdom of Spain, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Canada and the Republic of Malawi amongst others.

In the end, the CSW passed six resolutions, two of which we sponsored and contributed to. The one resolution which was initially introduced by Liechtenstein and took up most

of our working time, happened to be the only resolution passed by acclamation. Furthermore, our Delegation received the ‘Outstanding Position Paper Award’, which is given by NMUN in recognition of the Delegation’s preparation in form of Position Paper writing prior to the conference. Our experience in the CSW has been very particular and enriching, mostly because of the collaborative process, the exchange with other Delegations and our ability to contribute, even as representatives of a fairly small country. We were able to introduce Liechtenstein and its positions to numerous Delegations and receive a strong and affirming response in return. Despite our initial struggle, we consider the outcome of the conference to be rewarding and satisfying.



6.7 Liechtenstein at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Represented by Isabel Fauth and Clara Nicola

Committee Short Overview

The Organisation on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an independent international organization which works closely with the UN. The working relationship is regulated by the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW.

The main task of the OPCW is to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their De-

struction (Chemical Weapons Convention) and to promote and achieve a world without chemical weapons. Still, the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes is acknowledged and supported. OPCW enjoys almost universal membership; only three UN members (DPRK, South Sudan and Egypt) are not members of OPCW.

Committee Report

Isabel Fauth and Clara Nicola represented the FU Berlin NMUN Delegation 2018 in this committee. Mahima Rai did not participate in the conference itself but she was the third, and very important, member of the group without whom the work could not have been done the way it was. The preparation was just like in the other committees: Reading the background guide, researching current issues and getting familiar with the mandate and structure of this organization. Since

Liechtenstein is a very small country, it decided to concentrate its scarce resources and focus on

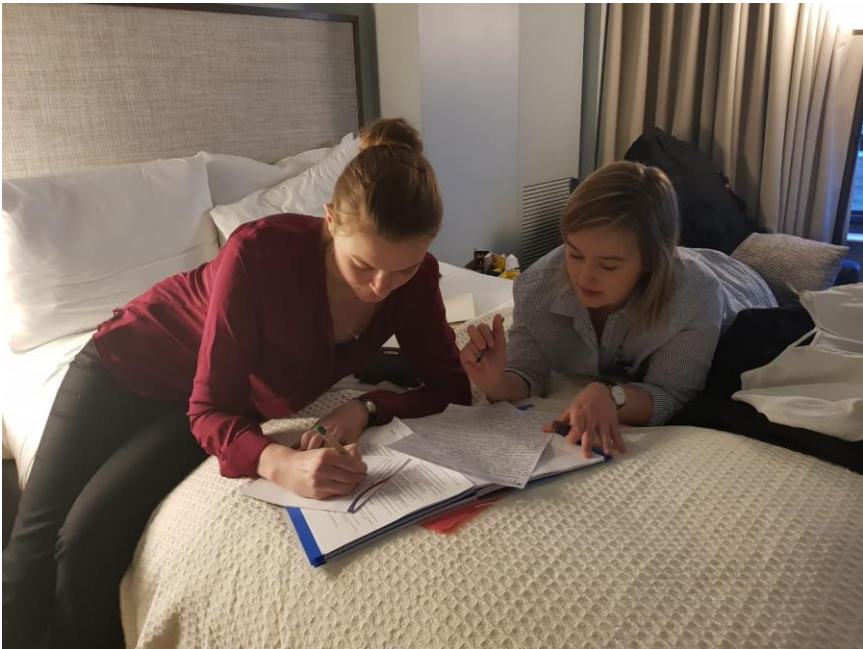
certain areas of foreign policy. Liechtenstein has been very engaged with the topic of accountability. Thus, we decided to focus on this engagement during the conference.

Therefore, we had to apply even more scrutiny when researching for the conference and our position papers, because we had to read between the lines of statements made on other topics and draw conclusions from the policy that Liechtenstein pursues in other cases. This strategy was quite successful, and we got a good idea of which ideas Liechtenstein would represent in an OPCW meeting. We went through three stages of draft papers together and with each draft that we handed in to our mentor Gandhi Vela, the picture of what we would have to deal with and the conference became clearer. First, we worked by ourselves but together since each of us picked one of the three topics that would be discussed at the conference and prepared one part of the paper. Then, we put it together online and commented on the others' parts.



We also met a few times at university, on weekdays and weekends, and discussed the whole paper. To be clear – we did not discuss it, but we looked at every “the” and “that”, every comma and every full stop. We googled the true meaning of several words and in the end, we had created a little masterpiece that wore the handwriting of all three of us. We negotiated and found the best possible outcome – just like true diplomats.

Time flew by and soon we found ourselves in the Sheraton Hotel in New York, ready to begin with OPCWs first meeting. We started right away on Sunday 7 pm, to set the agenda for the following conference days. We heard a first round of speeches and even gave one ourselves – first, we did not intend to give a speech on the first day since the agenda setting was not of critical importance for us. We had prepared a proposal that would go with any of the three topics thus the topics were of equal importance to us. But then we thought we could as well use any opportunity to speak and make the other countries remember our name – which was of vital importance for us as a whole who represented Liechtenstein, because we feared that the other Delegations might not even know that Liechtenstein participates or even exists.



So we used the break before the agenda setting meeting and sat down and wrote a speech, addressing the importance of all three topics shortly and then referring to our proposal, to make people aware of our background knowledge and good ideas. We really did not expect to be speaking that day, but we managed to put our name on the speakers' list and were so lucky to actually get on stage! In the middle of the agenda setting meeting,

which was a bit overwhelming with all the new procedural motions brought forward by experienced NMUN participants and negotiations with about 60 students running through the room, right in the middle of the cold water we were thrown in, we gave our first speech, and it felt great. In this moment, we were Liechtenstein and the thing that was most important to us was promoting better accountability mechanisms in the field of chemical weapons.

It felt good to promote our ideas and remind some of our fellow Delegates that Liechtenstein does exist and that it can be an important partner in resolution drafting. The meeting continued with many more speeches, all different in content and style. To discuss our agenda priorities informally, we had several breaks with informal sessions in which we tried to get a good impression of the other participants' priorities. Our main proposal, which we wanted to include in a resolution, was to achieve a closer cooperation between the International Criminal Court and OPCW to preserve evidence for future proceedings against suspected perpetrators. This proposal was not immediately related to either of the three topics but connected to all of them; it is important to hold those accountable who use chemical weapons, in order to realize full eradication of these; it is necessary to provide accountability in order to provide victims with justice and a claim for reparation; finally, it is more than ever important to hold those accountable who seek to acquire chemical weapons in order to further their terrorist goals. Thus, we were open to discussions and engaged openly with all the other representatives when they explained which order they preferred. But when asked, we supported the order as it was given: 123. It was interesting to see that especially poorer countries favored the topic "Humanitarian Assistance to Victims of Chemical Weapons" while richer countries focused on the other two topics. Eventually, after many debates and more speeches, we agreed to discuss the topics in the order: 1. The Complete Eradication of Chemical Weapons 2. The Role of OPCW in Counter – Terrorism Efforts 3. Providing Protection and Assistance to Victims of Chemical Weapons. That was fine for us.

On the next day, right after the opening ceremony, we went back into session and started to debate the first topic: "The Complete Eradication of Chemical Weapons". The next step would be to find groups of like-minded countries with which we could draft a resolution – or a working paper, how we call the very first stage of the drafting process. Isabel found herself with quite a large group of countries, mainly smaller ones just like us.

It was maybe a little surprising to find Liechtenstein among a working group composed of Delegates from the Marshall Islands, Bahamas, Barbados, Tonga, Fiji and many more small (island) states. But it turned out that states which seem to be very different at the first side can actually have a common ground when it comes to certain international policies.

Liechtenstein has very limited resources, especially on the administrative side, which makes Switzerland an indispensable partner for Liechtenstein regarding border and trade

controls. This also applies to the trade with dual-use chemicals, i.e. those that can easily be transformed to chemical weapons and threaten our common goal of a chemical weapons free world. Thus, together with other small states that face similar administrative difficulties regarding trade and border controls, Liechtenstein worked on the establishment of regional monitoring centers overseen by the OPCW. The mandate of those regional monitoring centers is to assist Member States on the regional level with trade control of dual-use chemicals and training of border officials. With this initiative, Liechtenstein was able to transfer the well-working partnership with Switzerland on the regional level to the international level and provide smaller states with a way of sharing their efforts in regional monitoring centers in order to control dual-use chemicals in an efficient way.

Clara came together with a rather small group comprising Peru, Australia, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. This was quite a new coalition but we all had something in mind about accountability that we wanted to bring on a paper. In the following informal sessions between the formal sessions in which we heard more speeches, we discussed possible perambulatory and operative clauses that would on the one hand express our motivation to provide justice for war crimes but also be inclusive so that other states would be willing to join and eventually approve our draft resolution.

In the end we had created a working paper which proposed to support those countries who are willing but unable to comply with some of the CWC's obligations, by strengthening partnerships with other countries and encouraging the sharing of best practices. At the same time, we wanted to recommend to the Security Council to negotiate a new Investigative Mechanism for Syria, since the JIM's mandate had not been continued due to a veto by Russia. We knew that apart from making recommendations, we could not do much since any other action would have been outside of OPCW's mandate. But still, we wanted to include this issue since it was one of the most urgent and most current ones in the field of chemical weapons.

After we had handed in the working paper to the chairs of the committee, all we had to do was to wait. Of course, we also used the following informal sessions to socialize and to find out about some of the other groups' drafts, but we wanted to wait for the chairs' feedback before we jumped into any changes or new initiatives. It took a little time until we finally got our feedback and one of the main criticisms was that we probably should focus more on OPCW's mandate. That was true, so we discussed our strategy and came to the conclusion that it would be better to join another resolution that included more ideas than just accountability and bring in our ideas in one or two subclauses. Thus, we merged with the EU bloc, a huge group of European countries that had developed a very long draft resolution on various topics, and also accountability which was of particular importance to Finland. The EU group was very open to our proposals and we could bring in our ideas for perambulatory and operative clauses, in which we regretted that the JIM could not be continued and kindly invited the Security Council to consider new

negotiations. Now accountability was not the main theme anymore, but it was in the resolution and therefore, we achieved our goals.

In the end, we had influenced the creation of two resolutions and had the chance to practice our skills in researching, negotiation and also leadership. It was not always easy, but even the tough and exhausting moments were just as educating as all the rewarding and successful ones. We have grown with this challenge and we are convinced that we have mastered it with success.





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Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN	Clara Nicola

The Delegation Online

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Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in the National Model United Nations conferences 1995-2018

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", "Honorable Mention"

The Kingdom of Morocco (2007), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", Award "Honorable Mention"

Japan (2008), "Outstanding Position Paper Award"

Australia (2009)

The Kingdom of Spain (2010), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", Award "Honorable Mention"

The Republic of Turkey (2011), Award "Honorable Mention", "Best Delegate in the Committee Award" - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Republic of Iraq (2012), Two "Outstanding Position Paper Awards"

Greenpeace (NMUN Latin America, 2013), "Distinguished Delegation Award"

Montenegro (2014), Award "Honorable Mention", Two "Outstanding Position Paper Awards"

Israel (2015), "Honorable Mention", Two "Outstanding Position Paper Awards"

The Republic of Malta (2017), "Distinguished Delegation", Six "Outstanding Position Paper" Awards

The Principality of Liechtenstein (2018), "Distinguished Delegation", Three "Outstanding Position Paper" Awards

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The NMUN 2018 Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin is grateful for these awards as they honor our preparation for and our work at the Conference and conclude a wonderful and delighting experience.



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