



UN-FORUM

National Model United Nations 2012

Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin

representing Iraq,

3–7 April 2012, New York

Freie Universität  Berlin

'A peaceful and prosperous future is for Iraqis themselves to create, with the international community lending support to their efforts.'

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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National Model United Nations 2012

*Report of Participation of Freie Universität Berlin
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Edited by
Brittney Becker
Simon Blätgen
Despoina Glarou
Antonia-Ioana Sintu
Peggy Wittke

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

National Model United Nations 2012

The Delegation of Iraq



Back row (from left to right):

Philipp Schulte, Giuliano Montanari, Tim Karolewicz, Oleh Vovk, Nina Redmann, Florian Tille, Robert Erbe, Nikolas Ott, Ilana Nepomnyashchaya

Front row (from left to right):

Peggy Wittke (Faculty Adviser), Leonie Betzwieser, Tatyana Mitkova, Maximilian Harms, Reem Alabali, Ikram Hajji, Antonia-Ioana Sintu, Irina Hardt, Saga Schrenk

Absent:

Despoina Glarou (Faculty Adviser), Brittney Becker, Caroline Clajus, Anastasia Kallidou, Thea Pernack, Jil Winter

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Foreword by the Head Delegates

After a “long and winding road”, after a lot of work that has been done and after exceptional experiences that have been made, we are now in the position to look back on our time in the NMUN program.

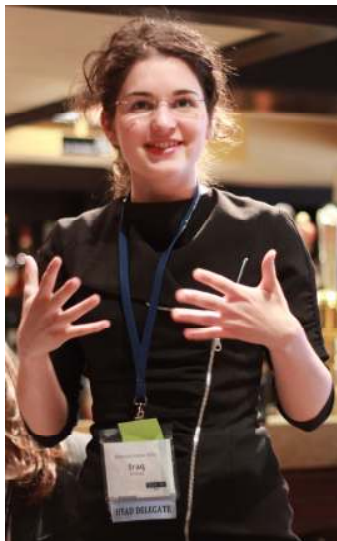
At the beginning of November 2011, 22 delegates and their faculty advisers met in the “Room 4405” for the first official meeting of the NMUN 2012 project group. Having already gone through the application process, we came there with big expectations from a program that would provide us with insights into international relations and politics and with a real-hand experience of the world of diplomacy. Equipped with enthusiasm, motivation and curiosity, dreaming about our future “official delegate”-experience in New York City, thrilled with the opportunity to meet new talented people from different backgrounds among our delegation, we embarked on a program that would develop our personalities in so many different ways.

The preparation process for the NMUN Conference lasted almost 6 months. We had formal meetings two times a week in Room 4405 but also many “informal caucuses” in libraries and cafeterias, where we worked together on presentations, position and strategy papers, task-force activities etc. Of course, we often enjoyed the “informal caucuses” in order to get to know each other and build friendships.

In Room 4405 many things happened throughout those preparation months: we absorbed a wealth of information on the work of the United Nations, international relations, politics and diplomacy and we adopted the identity of our country Iraq, which was truly enriching. Moreover, we trained our soft skills and built self-confidence. With every presentation that we gave, our speeches became clearer and more coherent and our voices stronger.

In Room 4405 there were sometimes also tired faces, who tried to efficiently plan every hour of their time, in order to reconcile exams, work, extra-curricular activities and the NMUN project group. To be honest, it has never been an easy time. But it has neither been a difficult time. Most experiences cannot be measured in pairs of opposites. If we do so, we simplify and reduce in order to be able to tell a story or to create history.

During our preparation time we found our motivation in our common passion for international relations, in the rewarding times when we felt we were developing ourselves, and, of course, in the dream of boarding for New York, waking up in a superb hotel on Times Square, getting a coffee and a Big Bagel in Big Apple, walking down the corridors of the United Nations, talking to real diplomats and meeting many students, soon-to-be diplomats. The list of what we dreamed of could go on and on. Although our expectations were different, New York magnificently answered them all.



Before the Conference, we prepared with great dedication for a project that soon was to become a common goal: to represent Iraq in the worldwide biggest simulation of the United Nations committees. Our Faculty Adviser Ms Glarou always encouraged us to understand “this shared goal”, and to pursue it by speaking out louder, clearer and more confident. *At the Conference*, we surely gained the experience of how it feels to find yourself in exhausting negotiations, in a fight of words and arguments or, to make it



short, in politics. “Make someone have your point” is what our Faculty Adviser Simon Blätgen told us once. *After the NMUN Conference*, quoting our Faculty Adviser Ms Wittke, we “hear differently, feel differently when [we] hear the name of Iraq” because we have “take[n] Iraq in [our] hearts”.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig and to our Faculty Advisers Peggy Wittke, Despoina Glarou, and Simon Blätgen, who were always by our side with a recommendation, advice, a piece of information and taking care of so many organizational and NMUN content-related issues. We would also like to thank our guest speakers and sponsors for supporting our project and our incentives.

We hope that our delegation has felt that we, as futures diplomats, politicians and humans, have the ability to set a new beginning in this world and make a

difference in a bold and passionate way. Dear readers, we hope that by reading this booklet you will feel our enthusiasm and passion and get an insight into what the NMUN project really is: a life-changing experience that a student can enjoy during college years.

Antonia-Ioana Sintu and Tim Karolewicz

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Lagari Bar

Friends & Kunst Bar

Featured Artists at the NMUN 2012 Fundraising Concert: Jil Winter, Cassini, Ilo Rive, Limboski, Scarecrow Conductors, Sara Fay George, and Patrick Alferts

Marco Matthäi, Lufthansa City Center, Berlin

Gesa Heym-Halayqa, Abt. Außenangelegenheiten (PROMOS), Freie Universität Berlin

Simon Wiesenthal Center, New York

Amir Stefan Kusinski-Vovk

1. The Berlin NMUN 2012 Delegation



Reem Alabali was born in 1990 in Moscow and is of Iraqi descent. She studies Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin and is currently in her 5th semester. Growing up in an international environment, she became interested in the field of international relations at a very early age. In her studies she specializes in Middle Eastern studies. In her free time, Reem enjoys travelling and discovering various cultures. Reem joined NMUN for the unique experience and is very fortunate to represent her mother country Iraq.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation together with Ikram Hajji.

Brittney Becker was born in 1990 in Aachen and grew up in both Germany and the United States. After high school, she spent a year working as an au pair in Paris, France. In 2009, she began her studies of Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin and went on to study abroad for a year at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is especially interested in the field of Development Studies, in which she hopes to work after receiving her degree.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the General Assembly First Committee together with Leonie Betzwieser.



Leonie Betzwieser was born in Heidelberg in 1990 and is a third semester law student. Her interest for international relations and politics evolved when she prepared herself for volunteering in a secondary school in Tanzania and grew steadily throughout the year abroad. When she heard of the NMUN program she was curious about this experience and about exploring the working methods of the United Nations. Furthermore she was glad about the chance to speak English, do team work and learn in a more practical way compared to her law studies.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the General Assembly First Committee together with Brittney Becker.

Caroline Clajus was born in Heidelberg in 1990. She studies law at Universität Potsdam in her fifth semester and is very interested in politics and international relations. Participating in Model United Nations at the German School of Athens in 2008 already gave her the opportunity to gain insight into the work of diplomats of the United Nations. She sees NMUN as a great chance to meet other people from all over the world and to have interesting discussions on current political issues as well as to practice negotiation techniques.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty together with Nina Redmann.



Robert Erbe was born and raised in Berlin and currently studies Business Administration at the *Freie Universität* Berlin. Back in school, he actively participated in and contributed to both economic and political projects. Due to his studies his focus later shifted to Economics but still his interests remained broad. His experiences in *New York* where he lived for several months were characteristic for a world where national borders become less restrictive. For him *NMUN* provides a unique platform of knowledge sharing with students from different branches of studies and cultural backgrounds. Especially how the UN has been tackling the tremendous transformations in the *Arab World* and how it has institutionalized the procedures of gaining consensus, as well as the issues of divergent national interests and pluralism, are for him central points of interest.

Ikram Hajji is 23 years old and was born in Colmar, France. She completed her Bachelor of Law and Political Science with International Relations at the French University "Jean Moulin". She is currently studying for a Master in International and European Law at the Freie Universität Berlin as an Erasmus exchange student. Several reasons justify and motivate her participation in the NMUN program. The main one is her real passion for international affairs. Furthermore, she is totally convinced that NMUN is the best opportunity to satisfy her thirst for discovering concretely what diplomacy means. Finally, she considers NMUN as the best way to meet people from all over the world. At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Organization for Islamic Cooperation together with Reem Alabali.





Irina Hardt, born in Russia, is an undergraduate student of Business Administration and Economics at the Freie Universität Berlin. After participating in the "Committing to a New EU- Afghan Partnership Conference" she decided to apply for the NMUN delegation. As for her extracurricular activities she is a member of the Berlin Debating Union and currently engages in the IFAIR initiative, furthermore she enjoys dancing, playing the piano and travelling. Currently improving her French, she speaks German, Russian and English and has a diploma in Latin. She regards the participation in the NMUN as an outstanding opportunity to experience the world of diplomacy first-hand and to participate in a dialogue with students from all around the world.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia together with Tatyana Mitkova.

Maximilian Harms was born in Hamburg in 1990. He is currently studying Political Sciences at the Freie Universität Berlin in his second semester. He is very interested in diplomacy and the questions of how international organizations such as the United Nations can eventually contribute to solving international problems. Within the past couple of years he has made some experiences abroad, including a year in Great Britain and half a year in Kenya. Taking part in the National Model United Nations program of 2012, he is especially looking forward to getting involved in the negotiation process in New York City, as well as to meeting interesting people from various backgrounds.



At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the General Assembly Second Committee together with Philipp Schulte.



Anastasia Kallidou was born in 1984 in Greece and is a law graduate, currently doing a Magister Legum (LL.M) at Potsdam University. She has a strong interest in international and intercultural relations and has actively involved herself in these fields through internships at international organizations like Human Rights Watch in Berlin. She has completed a Masters in Children's Rights and is currently working at a lawyer's office besides her studies. She considers dialogue as a very valuable means to achieving understanding and progress, and is glad to have the opportunity to get through NMUN a theoretical and practical insight into the functions and negotiation processes of the UN

organs. Most important thing in her suitcase to NYC: lot of ink and paper!

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) together with Oleh Vovk.

Tim Karolewicz was born on the 29th of January 1990 in Pinneberg, Germany. After he had graduated from high school in 2009 he spent half a year as a volunteer in Israel, where he worked in a special facility caring for autistic adults. He has been studying Political Science and Sociology for three semesters at the University of Potsdam. His main fields of interest are Political Theory and International Relations. His language abilities include English, German, French and a little bit of Hebrew. He wanted to participate in the NMUN program because he wanted to deepen his understanding of international relations and diplomacy and to gain an alternative perspective on those two things by actively analyzing them.



At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the General Assembly Third Committee together with Florian Tille. He was Head Delegate of the FU Delegation.



Tatyana Mitkova, born in 1992 in Sofia, Bulgaria, started her MUN experience with her high-school debating club back in her home country. After taking part in international conferences in Germany, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy she decided to become part of Berlin's delegation and to have the unique chance of representing Iraq at the world's biggest MUN conference. Being in her second semester with the subject of Law, Tatyana is fascinated by diplomacy, international relations and ways of promoting better understanding between cultures. Therefore, she believes NMUN 2012 will be an opportunity for her to exchange views and negotiate with people from all over the world, being in the shoes of a UN diplomat. In addition to all the above, Tatyana uses her free time for

working at a Bulgarian NGO, mountain hiking and learning new languages.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Economic and Social Committee on Western Asia together with Irina Hardt.

Giuliano Montanari has come a long way to participate in NMUN 2012, a project that somewhat represents the icing on the cake to his studies of Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin. Born with Italian roots in Brazil in 1984 and grown into the multi-cultural fabric of today's Europe, he soon developed a decidedly cosmopolitan view of international affairs. Hence, interest and engagement in the idea of the UN and its activities have become a natural occupation to him. He considers NMUN a brilliant forum; to both enhance personal knowledge of diplomatic strategies and to connect with like-minded people eager to create a common understanding of shared global challenges. Travelling is his second skin and he enjoys the poetic qualities of Japanese Haiku in his free time.



At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the Commission on Sustainable Development with Saga Schrenk.



Ilana Nepomnyashchaya was born in Ukraine and currently studies economy with specialization in “public economics and social economy” in the 6th semester at the Freie Universität Berlin. She has been traveling a lot through ex-USSR countries, living in Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Siberian region and Central and South Russia. She has also studied in Moscow and Lausanne. Following her passion to travel she visited and became acquainted with cultures from the Europe, Asia, Middle East and South America. As a result she is fluent in Russian, German, English, French and currently learning Spanish and Chinese. She considers taking part in NMUN 2012 as a means of trying oneself at diplomacy, acquiring additional skills in mediation through international exchange and looking deeper at the functional

systems of the UN. Additionally, she likes challenges, getting around interesting people and of course New York.

Nikolas Ott was born on the 4th of November 1989 close to Frankfurt am Main. Before he began his bachelor's degree in Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin, he spent a year in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in 2006, and also participated twice in a Chinese exchange program. In 2010/11 Nikolas studied for one year in Santiago de Chile and received a minor degree in Latin American Studies. His academic focus is International Development and Security Studies. Nikolas is currently finishing his degree and also working for the Hertie School of Governance. At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) together with Antonia Ioana Sintu.





Thea Pernack was born in Passau, Germany in 1991 and grew up in Spain, where she lived until she moved back to Germany in 2008 to start her university studies. She is currently in her last year of her studies in Business Administration and Economics at the Freie Universität Berlin. As she has always been very interested in international politics, with a focus on economic aspects, she sees NMUN and taking part in the General Assembly First Committee as an excellent opportunity to gain invaluable expertise in this area. The combination of her business, economics and political knowledge on a professional basis forms an exciting and interesting challenge for her. She is planning on supporting different volunteer programs in Germany and in South East Asia this summer (2012). She is also looking forward to starting her internship at the German embassy in Panama this year before she begins her master's degree in Business and Economics.

Nina Redmann, born in Bremen, graduated with a major in Politics from the University of Liverpool in 2009. She is currently studying International Relations with a focus on international conflicts, security and peace at the FU Berlin, Humboldt-University and the University of Potsdam. She is a student assistant in the Collaborative Research Center 700 at the FU Berlin, a tutor for international students in the International Student Center in Berlin and a fellow of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In August, she will be an intern at the German Embassy in Panamá. With a deep interest in diplomacy and international law, she hopes to improve negotiating and debating skills during the conference and is very much looking forward to working on pressing world issues with international students.



At the 2012 NMUN she represented Iraq in the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty together with Caroline Clajus.



Saga E. Schrenk was born in Cologne, Germany on May 9th, 1985. She holds a double BA in Geography and English Studies and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in the latter. Additionally, she has completed several courses in politics. She could very much imagine working in an international organization such as the United Nations and NMUN is a unique chance for her to gain an insight view into diplomatic work. Altogether, she speaks fluently four languages: Finnish, German, English and French. Additionally, she speaks some Swedish. She loves to travel and feels very lucky to have traveled to a lot of exciting places ever since she was little. Having spent much time in the USA and in France and having also lived in Australia, she feels as a very cosmopolitan person.

At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Commission on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) together with Giuliano Montanari.

Philipp Schulte was born and raised in a small village in the Westphalia province and could not wait to move to a big city and start his studies. After his civilian service, he began studying History and Economics at the University of Potsdam. In the frame of his studies he took the chance to spend one year to study at Sciences Po Paris, where he primarily studied Political Sciences. On top of his studies, Philipp is currently working for the Institute for Contemporary History, Department Berlin in the Foreign Office, where he is dealing with diplomatic files of German foreign policy. Through this exposure, he developed a further interest in international relations. For him NMUN 2012 is the best way to pursue his interest and to achieve a further understanding of how diplomacy works.



At NMUN he represented Iraq in the General Assembly Second Committee together with Maximilian Harms.



Antonia-Ioana Sintu was born in Deva (Romania) in 1991 and moved to Germany in 2010 to study Economics at Freie Universität Berlin. She teaches Romanian and supports the coordination of cultural projects at the Romanian Language School in Berlin. Having participated in activities of EYP Romania and two political seminars in Germany, she discovered her interest for diplomacy and international relations. The NMUN project is a great opportunity for her to gain an insight into the development programs of the UN, a field of work where she would like to be active in the future. At NMUN 2012 she represented Iraq in the Economic

and Social Council together with Nikolas Ott. She was Head Delegate of the FU Delegation.

Florian Tille was born in 1987. After finishing his bachelor's degree at the LMU München, he set the participation in the NMUN delegation as a major project for his master's studies in Berlin. He appreciates the seminars and conference preparation as excellent possibilities to develop further understanding of international politics and to strengthen diplomatic skills. Politics are not just his academic field of study: Florian is a student assistant with *foodwatch*, an international NGO protecting consumer rights in the food industry. At NMUN 2012, he also engaged in social and humanitarian affairs, representing Iraq in the General Assembly Third Assembly. Florian's experiences abroad in the US, Spain and Argentina helped him to apply an international perspective to the issues discussed in New York. At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the General Assembly Third Committee together with Tim Karolewicz.



Oleh Vovk was born and grew up in Ukraine. He currently studies Law in his fifth semester at the Freie Universität Berlin. Before moving to Germany, he graduated from the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" with the Pre-Master Degree in Law. During the course of his studies he was able to acquire extensive knowledge about almost all areas of jurisprudence. During his undergraduate degree he had the possibility to undertake a number of internships, through which he had the chance to negotiate issues facing employment discrimination and unfair dismissal. He also gained valuable experience in this field as a volunteer lawyer in several non-profit-organizations, such as the All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH (People who live with HIV). He believes that NMUN is a great opportunity to advance analytical and problem solving skills in order to fight any kind of discrimination and promote human rights. At NMUN 2012 he represented Iraq in the Commission on the Status of Women with Anastasia Kallidou.

Jil Winter was born in 1987 in Berlin where she grew up and currently studies at Freie Universität Berlin where she is finishing her 7th semester. At an early age she discovered human rights, international relations and culture and inspired by these interests decided to specialize in international law. Through years of voluntary work and several internships in West Africa, Berlin and Paris, she was able to gain extensive experience directly on the field. In her free time, Jil volunteers in art museums and film festivals, enjoys writing, travelling and experiencing different cultures.



2. The Republic of Iraq – An Introduction



Facts

The Republic of Iraq is a country based in Western Asia, spanning 437,072 km² with a small coastline measuring 58 km along the Persian Gulf. Iraq is bordered by six countries: Jordan to the West (on 181 km), Syria to the Northwest (on 605 km), Turkey to the North (on 352 km), Iran to the East (on 1,458 km), Kuwait to the South (on 240 km) as well as Saudi Arabia (on 814 km). The capital city is Baghdad. The major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, flowing from northwest to southeast, provide Iraq with agriculturally capable land and contrast with the desert, mountain and the steep landscape. Iraq was therefore also known as “Mesopotamia” (land between the rivers). The region between the two rivers is often referred to as the cradle of civilization and birthplace of writing, law and the wheel. Iraq has been home to many civilizations and the centre of the indigenous Akkadian, Assyrian, Abbasid, Babylonian and Sumerian empires.

In July 2011 Iraq counted 30.4 Million citizens, which was up from 9.7 million in 1971. Iraq is 39th on the list of the most populated countries in the world.

The ethnic groups are Arab with 75%-80%, Kurdish with 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian, and other with 5%. The languages spoken are Arabic (official), Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Turkoman (a Turkish dialect), Assyrian (Neo-Aramaic) and Armenian.

Officially, Iraq is a Muslim country (97% of which the Shia account for 60%-65% and the Sunni 32%-37%); Christians and other religions are represented with 3%. Since the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime in 2003, recent reporting indicates that 50 % of the Christian population fled to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. There have also been voluntary relocations of many families to northern Iraq.

The Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Iraq in 2011 at 132 of 187. Most of the Iraqi people live in the city (66% of the total population). The population of Baghdad is 5.751 million persons; other big cities are Mosul (1.447 million), Erbil (1.009 million), Basra (923,000) and Sulaymaniyah (836,000).

The official unemployment rate in 2011 was 23 %, but 55% of the whole workforce is either out of work or not working enough. The Consumer Price Inflation is at 5 %.

One in five Iraqis, aged 10 to 49, cannot read or write. Illiteracy among Iraqi women (24%) is more than double that of Iraqi men (11%). Rural populations are more adversely affected by illiteracy (25%) than urban (14%) populations, and within rural areas the literacy divide between men and women is wider. Since 2003, 40 % of the professionals left Iraq. 38% of the population are under the age of 14; 58.9% are between 15 and 64 years old and only 3.1% are older than 65 years. The median age is therefore 20.9 years (in 2011).

One million people remain displaced throughout the country. Hundreds of thousands of them live in dire conditions. Most are unable to return to their areas of origin because of the destruction of their homes, a lack of access to services or the unstable security situation. Some 38,000 refugees and asylum-seekers live in camps, settlements or urban centres.

Up from the age of 18 Iraqi women and men can do voluntary military service. In Iraq there are several military branches: The Counterterrorism Service Forces include the Counterterrorism Command and the Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF); the Ministry of Defense Forces consist of the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Navy and the Iraqi Air Force. 8.6 % of the GDP are spent in the military.

Iraq has 104 airports (with paved runways: 75; with unpaved runways: 29). Paved and unpaved Roadways are in total 44,900 km long, railways 2,272 km and waterways 5,279 km.

Iraq's natural resources are mainly in petroleum, natural gas, phosphates and sulfur. In the amount of Oil reserves, Iraq ranks second in the world behind Saudi Arabia (- Iraq has 143.1 billion barrels of proved oil reserves), but up to 90 % of the country remains unexplored. Iraq has 2,447 km Gas pipelines, 918 km liquid petroleum gas pipelines, 5,104 km oil pipelines and 1,637 km pipelines for refined products.

State principles

After decades of political, economic and social instability, the Republic of Iraq has overcome the devastating effects of the regime of Saddam Hussein and nowadays fosters the principles of democracy, justice and liberty.

Political arbitrariness and excessive claims of (transnational) dominance, resulting in a series of armed conflict with its neighbors such as the Iran-Iraq War and the invasion and annexation of Kuwait, used to be part of the Iraqi national identity during the times of the controlling Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party. It was only recently, in 2003/2004, when the military operation Iraqi Freedom led by American and British troops succeeded in removing the barbarous government of Saddam Hussein from power and the Iraqi Interim Government received sovereignty. The new Government of Iraq was democratically elected in 2005, and the new Iraqi Constitution replaced the Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period. It holds such fundamental principles as:

“Iraq is an independent nation.”

“The system of government is a democratic, federal, representative, parliamentary republic. “

„Islam is the state religion and a basic foundation for the country's laws and no law may contradict the established provisions of Islam.”

“Iraq is a multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-sect country and Arabic and Kurdish are the official languages.”

“The country has a military and security services under the command of the civil authority, and will not interfere in politics, or be used in the transfer of authority. Military officials may not hold office. “

“The constitution is the highest law of the land. No law may be passed that contradicts the constitution. “ (see more: the Iraqi Constitution)

Furthermore, it defines various rights and freedoms, and incorporates laws in diverse subject areas, such as the rule of law, equality before the law, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, as well as freedom of religion, freedom of thought, conscience and belief.

The federal government furthermore was established to be composed of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as numerous independent commissions, considerably resembling the political system of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Reconsidering Iraq's condition in the first year after the withdrawal of all occupying military powers, the country's progressive development in every sector heavily depends on the easing of tensions between political, sectarian, social and economic factions. Nevertheless, the New Iraq represents a free democratic basic order of such fundamental character that it may play a vital role in contributing to achieving peace and security in the Middle East region.

History

During our preparation, the issue of the history of Iraq reappeared several times. In almost all the public documents or statements, we could find a historical argumentation or hint to the past. Both at the meetings in the Iraqi embassies in Berlin and New York (at the United Nations) we heard an introduction to the history full of changes of the region that we now call Iraq.

Indeed, the history of Iraq is not a trivial saga. From ancient times until today, Iraq has always been conquered and governed by many different powers. That is why Iraqis are highly sensitive when it comes to foreign interference. We have to understand the gladness about the American withdrawal against the background of all the past foreign interferences, which are deep-seated in the collect memory of the Iraqi nation.

The Iraqi roots reach back to one of the oldest civilizations we know. Between 9000 B.C. and 3500 B.C., Mesopotamia was the area where people were settling down to start farming and domesticating animals. Furthermore, the first villages and religious monuments were constructed. In 1900 B.C., the Babylon and Assyrian period started, which is well known because of Babylon, being one of the first cities of the world. This period is also present in modern Iraq, as seen in architecture and arts, which often refer back to these times.

In 637, the most influential conquest of posterior Iraq took place. With the Battle of Qadisiyya, Muslims conquered the country that was going to stay Islamic until today. In 1534, the Ottomans conquered Iraq and put an end to a series of Muslim dynasties, which used to govern Iraq. The unloved Ottoman regime was able to remain in power until the end of World War I in 1918. The long Ottoman rule coined the administrative, political and regional structure of Iraq and is therefore - along with the Mesopotamian heritage and the Islam - one of the three identity-creating elements of the past.

After World War I and the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq came under the control of the League of Nations. During the war, the British army already conquered some important cities like Basra. For this reason, the League of Nations authorized the British with the French to administrate the Euphrates-Tigris region. In 1921, these powers established a monarchy, which was still under British influence. Not until 1932, Iraq became formally independent. Nevertheless the monarchy stayed very unpopular because the king was regarded as a king of the western powers and remained without local supporters.

After World War II, the British influence on the Middle East was decreased. In 1958, a coup d'état by the Free Officers Movement, which was related to the Free Officers in Egypt, established a Republic and left the unloved king dead. From 1958 on, we can observe a rising influence of military on politics and a growth of Arab nationalism, which was particularly carried out by the Ba'ath party.

In this environment the Ba'ath party tried several times to rise to power. In 1968, the Ba'ath party finally got the power by another coup d'état. Saddam Hussein, who was in the head circle of Ba'ath party, became president of Iraq in 1979. From then on until 2003, Iraq was the home of one of the most awful dictatorships in the world. Saddam started soon to reshape Iraq into a totalitarian state where he basically controlled everything. On top of that, in 1980, the First Gulf War broke out. The relationship between Iraq and Iran has always been full of tensions. A lot of border disputes and reciprocated interferences in intrastate problems have prevented an uncomplicated neighborhood. After the Islamic Revolution in 1979, in Iran, a religious divisiveness has additionally arisen. Iran seemed to be ostensibly weak for Saddam. So he took the opportunity to resolve all border disputes and annex some important oil fields. But Iran was not that weak and after a series of Iraqi victories, the tide turned in Iran's favor. The Iranian army even arrived on Iraqi territory. In 1988, after almost ten years of war in which the Iraqis even used biological weapons, the war was in a standoff. Therefore, the United Nations (UN) took the chance to negotiate a ceasefire, which was finally accepted by both parties (UN SC Resolution 589).

After the first Gulf War, Iraq faced an immense debt, massive economic problems, and an unemployed and expensive army (4th biggest in the world at this time). Kuwait was one of the biggest creditors to Iraq, along with Saudi Arabia. In addition to that, Iraq has had border disputes and conflicts about the oil production quota. After consultations with the United States, Saddam considered himself capable of conquering Kuwait without risking interference by the international community. But after the Iraqi invasion in Kuwait on the 2nd of August 1991, the international community reacted swiftly through the United Nations Security Council (SC). After several warnings, the SC adopted Resolution 678 (1990), which authorized Operation Desert Storm under the command of the United States of America. Following these operations, Iraq had to withdraw troops from Kuwait

within 48 hours. The allies did not invade Iraq because the Saddam regime seemed to be already weak and about to break down. In the south the Shiites and in the north the Kurdish people revolted. The Saddam regime again was using biological weapons to strike down these uprisings. By these means and because of the attack on Kuwait, Iraq quickly became the “bad guy”, a pariah state in the international community.

The UN tried to break down the Saddam regime by rigorous economic sanctions. From 1991 to 2003, Iraq suffered from high inflation, widespread poverty and malnutrition of its people. But Saddam was able to stay in power and therefore, the Iraqi people suffered the most from the economic sanctions. Because of this experience, in 1996 the UN introduced the Oil-for-Food-Program to ease the effect of the sanctions. But in the end, the life quality of the Iraqi people did not visibly improve. Besides, it turned out that UN officials have been acting corrupt and misappropriated money. After 9/11, Iraq was accused by the USA of supporting Al-Qaida and producing weapons of mass destruction. With the Iraq Liberation Act, a regime change in Iraq became part of official US policy. Even though UN inspectors could not find any weapons, the USA enforced agitations against Iraq.

In March 2003, US and British troops finally invaded Iraq without authorization of the UN. Three months later, George W. Bush declared the mission as accomplished. In December of that year, Saddam Hussein was captured. Iraq was liberated. But the Iraqis still felt occupied. It took until the end of 2011 to make it possible for US troops to leave the country.

Political System

On the 15th of October 2005, at the end of a long drafting process, Iraq approved its new constitution in a referendum. Article 1 of the Constitution states: „The Republic of Iraq is a single federal, independent and fully sovereign state in which the system of government is republican, representative, parliamentary, and democratic, and this Constitution is a guarantor of the unity of Iraq.“

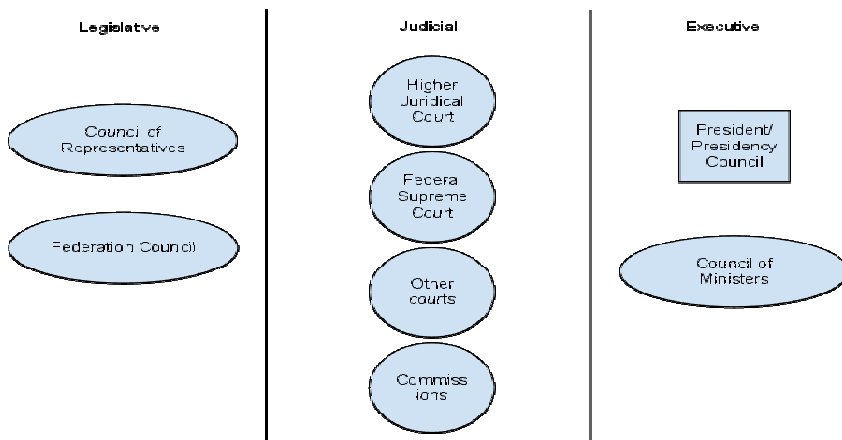
A federal state

Iraq consists of a federal system made up of governorates, regions and local administrations. One or more governorates can form a region that should have its own constitution and government. By now, Kurdistan is the only governorate that chose this option, dividing Iraq into 18 governorates and one region.

Separation of powers

The political system in Iraq was created on the basis of the principle of separation of powers, the federal powers being the legislative, executive and judicial power.

The graphic shows the federal organs in the system of separation of powers:



Up until now, only the Council of Representatives exists at the **legislative** level. The Federation Council, consisting of representatives of the regions and governorates, has not yet been established.

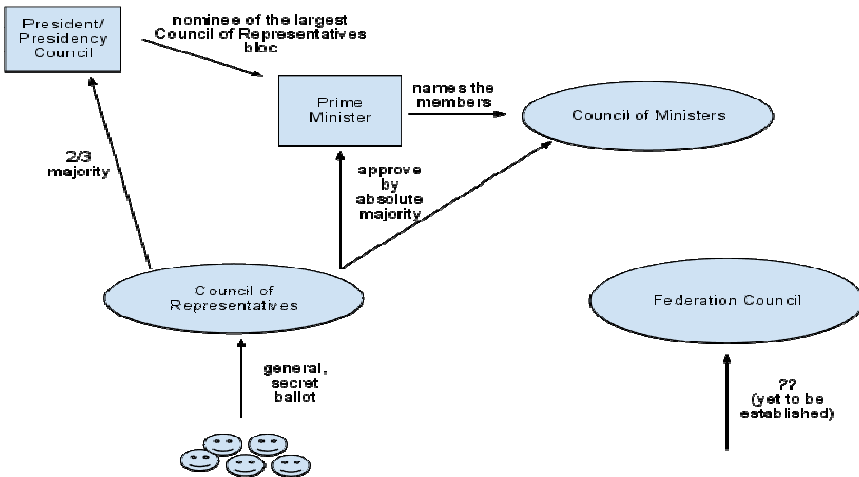
The **Council of Representatives (CoR)** at the moment consists of 325 seats. The number of members varies according to the number of population in the country, being fixed at a ratio of 1:100,000. The competences of the CoR include enacting federal laws, electing the president, approving the ratification process of international treaties and agreements and approving the budget. The electoral term is four years. The following chart shows what happens when elections have been held: In a general and secret ballot, the CoR is elected. Important to note is the fact that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the seats should be taken by women. The CoR elects the Presidency Council by a two-thirds majority. The Presidency Council proposes the nominee of the largest CoR bloc as Prime Minister who then names the members of the Council of Ministers. Both have to be approved by an absolute majority of the CoR.

The **judicial** power is independent and only relies on the law. On the federal level there is the Supreme Court, dealing with questions concerning the constitution, the Higher Juridical Council, supervising the judiciary, and other federal courts. Moreover, several independent commissions can be established, monitored by the CoR.

On the **executive** level, the Presidency Council and the Council of Ministers are the main actors. The **Presidency Council** consists of the President of the State and up to two vice presidents who have to make decisions unanimously. As this is only a transitional rule, in future the President should take action alone. The President is the head of state and a symbol of the sovereignty of Iraq. He is elected once every four years and is eligible for two terms. His powers/responsibilities are the ratification of international treaties and agreements after approval by the CoR, a special pardon right on federal criminal cases and the ratification and issuing of laws.

The **Council of Ministers (CoM)** is made up of the Prime Minister and the cabinet of ministers. The Prime Minister determines the general policy of the state and is the

commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He guides the CoM and has the right to nominate and dismiss ministers. The ministers execute their policy, oversee their ministries, draft laws, and the budget.



Elections 2010

The last elections took place on 7 March 2010. They were seen as controversial because of a pre-election ban that was put on many candidates linked to the Ba'ath party. During and after the votes, there were severe accusations of fraud and the votes had to be recounted.

For elections, the big number of small parties form coalitions together and choose candidates together. The winner of the elections was the Iraqi National Movement with 91 seats in the CoR, but it was not able to form a government with the other coalitions because the three-second largest blocs were cooperating with each other. The Iraqi National Movement adopted the president: Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party and former activist in the Kurdish movement. The Prime Minister's post was taken by Nouri al-Maliki from the Islamic Dawa Party.

Foreign Policy

Under the regime of Saddam Hussein, Iraq was considered a “rogue state” in the eyes of the world due to its blatant disregard for human rights and international law, its non-compliance with UN resolutions, and its weapons of mass destruction program. However, the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent change in government has ushered in a new era in Iraqi foreign policy, which is fundamentally different. Iraq is now committed to the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. In addition, it believes in employing peaceful means of settling disputes. The New Iraq acknowledges the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to

further global norms and values such as human rights and is deeply committed to nuclear non-proliferation.

Iraq was a founding member of the UN, yet for many years its relationship with the international body was highly problematic. Prior to 2003, Iraq repeatedly failed to comply with UN Security Council resolutions regarding the presence of weapons of mass destruction on Iraqi soil, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, its repression of the civilian population, and other misdeeds. The New Iraq, however, embodies a new role in the UN since it is deeply respectful and committed to the work of the body and is willing to cooperate closely. The UN is highly involved in the nation-building effort in Iraq and its importance is increasing since United States troops have left the country. The major bodies carrying out UN work in Iraq are the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq and the United Nations Country Team. In the UN, Iraq is a member of the following blocs: Asian group, Group of 77, Non-Alignment Movement, Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, and the League of Arab States.

Due to its decade-long involvement in Iraq, the United States is a close partner of the Iraqi government. Even after United States troops left Iraq in 2011, it continues to offer substantial support, both financial and other, to aid in the reconstruction effort. While there have been some difficulties in the Iraqi-American relationship, such as the disagreements over the United States' support of Israel, this relationship is set to continue robustly into the future.

Iraq shares cordial relations with the European Union, which is facilitated by an ongoing political dialogue and trade agreements. The European Union has contributed a great deal of aid to Iraq since 2003 and continues to be involved in Iraqi reconstruction through the EU Assistance Program for Iraq.

Historically, Iraq's relations to Arab countries have been very varied, ranging from war with Iran and Kuwait to continually close ties with countries such as Lebanon. Since 2003, Iraq is committed to becoming an active member of the Arab League and to improving its relations with states in this region. It has stated its support for the transition to democracy occurring in many countries during the Arab Spring.

Like most Arab states, Iraq maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel. In the past, Iraq has participated in several wars on Israel. Iraq's stance has become more moderate since, but it still expresses its overwhelming support for the Palestinian cause.

Iraq's foreign relations will doubtlessly continue to shift as the new government finds its place in today's complex world, yet we can expect the central principles enshrined in the Iraq constitution – those of good-neighborliness and non-interference – to be upheld.

Economy

At the time of the US invasion in 2003, the Iraqi economy was in shambles. Decades of mismanagement, coupled with crippling economic sanctions implemented by the UN Security Council, had dramatically reduced economic activity and lead to wide-spread poverty. In 2000, Iraq's GDP reached a low of \$12 billion. The citizens of Iraq bore the brunt of this economic decay, losing their livelihoods and having to subsist on food aid in order to survive.

In recent years, the economy has seen drastic improvements. Iraq's GDP was estimated at

\$108.6 billion in 2011, an almost ten-fold increase in just over ten years. In 2011, Iraq's was the sixth fastest growing economy in the world, growing at a rate of 9.6%. Inflation has remained low since 2006 and the Iraqi currency, the Dinar, has remained stable.

Despite these improvements, many challenges remain. With a per capita GDP of \$3,900 (2011 est., PPP), the average Iraqi citizen still does not enjoy a high standard of living. At 15%, the employment rate is still very high and an estimated 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. Youth unemployment is particularly low. Corruption remains high and according to a World Bank study, Iraq is still not an easy place to do business.

Iraq's economy is heavily dependent on oil, which provides over 90% of its government revenue. It has the fifth largest oil reserves in the world and is the seventh largest oil exporter in the world. In the coming years, Iraq is expected to keep increasing oil exports, which will lead to continued GDP growth. However, there have been some internal disagreements on how best to distribute oil wealth across the various regions. This high dependence on oil could also prove problematic if the global oil price were to drop. Therefore, it is absolutely essential for Iraq to diversify its economy and attract more foreign direct investment to boost business in other areas of economic activity.

The United States is Iraq's most important export partner, followed by India, China, South Korea, Italy, and Japan. Iraq's most important import partner is Turkey, followed by Syria, China, and the United States. 84% of Iraq's exports consist of crude oil, while its primary imports are food, medicine, and manufactured goods.

Society and Culture

According to the Constitution, the Republic of Iraq is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state. Especially the freedom of faith is one of the main principles of the new Iraq, however Islam is the official state religion.

The Iraqi population divides itself in various ethnic groups: Arabs form 75% of the population, followed by 15% - 20% Kurds, while Turkoman, Assyrian/Chaldean and other form 5% of the population. Around 20.000 Marsh Arabs live in southern Iraq. The Iraqi population also includes minor communities of Circassians, Armenians and Chechens. Official languages are Arabic and Kurdish. Languages of other accepted minorities like Turkoman, Chaldeans and Assyrians are considered as official languages in the accordant regions. Iraq is a Muslim country, with a mixed Shia (60%) and Sunni (37%) population. Christians have inhabited what is modern-day Iraq for about 2,000 years. Certainly, the number of Iraqi Christians shrunk from 25 % in the beginning of the 21st century to less than 3% in 2010. Due to the post-war conflicts it is assumed that over 2 million Christians have fled from the country. In addition to the Christian minorities, the Republic of Iraq is home to small communities of Mandaens, Shabaks, Yarsan and Yezidis.

Because of this diversity, various cultural and religious centers have been built up in the country over the centuries. The capital Baghdad represents the geographical, political and cultural center of the country. Basrah, the second largest city, is the center of the Shiite south. Mosul is the central point of the Christian and Assyrian culture. Arbil (kurd. Hawler), the capital of the autonomous region of Kurdistan in the northern part of the country, is 7000 years old, making it one of the oldest still inhabited cities of the world. Together with Sulaimanyia, the second largest city in Kurdistan, Arbil represents the

center of Kurdish society.

The composition of the Iraqi society changed significantly over the last 30 years. From the beginning of the regime of Saddam Hussein until today, many large-scale waves of emigration from Iraq occurred. In 2007 the UN High Commission for Refugees stated that about 40% of Iraq's middle class is believed to have fled from their home country. Due to these incidents, one of the main challenges of the new Iraq is the reshaping of the society.

Iraq has one of the world's oldest cultural histories and a very rich heritage. The country is known for its poets, painters and sculptors, which are among the best in the Arab world. The varied heritage is reflected to the wide spectrum of Iraqi Culture, as the country has been home for diverse ethnic and religious groups. Some important cultural institutions in the capital include the Iraqi National Orchestra; rehearsals and performances were briefly interrupted during the Occupation of Iraq but have since returned to normal. The National Theatre of Iraq; the theatre was looted during the 2003 Invasion of Iraq, but efforts are being made to restore the theatre. The live theatre scene received a boost during the 1990s when UN Sanctions limited the import of foreign films. As many as 30 movie theatres were reported to have been converted to live stages. Institutions offering cultural education in Baghdad include the Academy of Music, Institute of Fine Arts, and the Music and Ballet school Baghdad. Baghdad also features a number of museums including the National Museum of Iraq – which houses the world's largest and finest collection of artefacts and relics of ancient Iraq civilizations, some of which were stolen during the Iraq War.



3. The Preparation Process in Berlin

Starting in the winter semester of 2011/2012 at the hospitable environment of the Freie Universität Berlin and being a group of students from different backgrounds and faculties, we soon realized that our common goal and interest was to get as much insight as possible into the functions and negotiation processes of the UN organs. In April 2012 and after a long preparation period, we were finally ready to depart from Berlin and participate in the world's largest MUN conference in New York City with more than 5000 other international students.

In November, as it was the first month we met each other, after our first meeting we had an "Icebreaker-Session" at the Restaurant Luise next to the university in order to

exchange ideas on the various topics, discuss experiences, forge new contacts and view our weekly meetings also as a new possibility to improve cooperation in the field of education.

The next meetings until Christmas included well-illustrated and detailed information on the United Nations, International Public Law, peace and security, which was essential to get us involved. Material was given to us and presentation with slides made the understanding more effective. Our Faculty Advisers provided us constantly with information and suggested sources online, while at the same time Internet was provided in the room. Thus, direct connection to the websites our faculty advisers were referring to was guaranteed.

As Christmas drew nearer, we had a little Christmas party, which helped us relax a bit and get a break from all the work and preparation. Discussions about future plans and the election of our Head Delegates, Tim and Antonia, were the highlights of that evening.

Two really interesting simulation sessions took place, one in November and one in December. These were a Special Session of the UN Security Council on the Responsibility to Protect in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office and diplomats from Tunisia and a Special Session of the UN Security Council on International Peace and Security. Both lasted around seven hours each, during which we met other students as well. Long-lasting negotiations and a final composition of a Resolution marked these meetings.

Already at the end of November, we had to prepare presentations with analytical information on the Iraqi social, cultural, economic, historic, demographic, geographic and political situation. After gaining a sound knowledge about Iraq in its entirety, the student committees began researching the topics they had to discuss at the NMUN Conference. Committee Overviews, Position Papers and respective presentations were next on the agenda. By sharing information on the respective committees, each and every one of us, regardless the Committee he or she belonged to, gained a concrete idea on the issues the other Committees were dealing with.

Of course, speech training remained a vital part of our classes and the different methods included verbal as well as expression training, in order to guarantee the application of technical abilities in the practice. We negotiated between us a lot, and the feedback of our teachers was essential to make us improve the effectiveness of our speeches. We practiced on techniques the most of us were not familiar with before and we slowly managed to fight the nerves and stand up for the promotion of the well being of our country, Iraq. For this reason, we needed to be well informed about Iraq's international relations and national priorities on foreign policy and in this frame we learned a lot of new information, which helped us compose our position papers as well.

We started handing the first drafts of our position papers in the beginning of January, and after several rounds of feedback from our faculty advisers and endless meetings between the students of our groups, each Committee managed to hand in at the end of February the final version of a two-page position paper, representing the position of our country regarding the topics dealt with in each Committee.

Furthermore, each Committee had to clarify the goals and the strategy it would pursue during the conference. We were very much aware of the fact that each and every

delegation would try to promote its priorities. This is why policy tools were at this stage very important and the group strategy we wanted to follow was well clarified. During the strategy sessions, we specified the exact issues we would like to promote and include in resolutions or speeches, which was not an easy task, since it would have a decisive impact on the results of the negotiations. That meant that we had to be very concentrated, precise and goal-oriented.

Besides our weekly classes, we had split up into task forces and every group was responsible for one of the following tasks: Fundraising, Conference Management, Documentation and Homepage. We met in private, trying to coordinate actions, but synergies between the task forces appeared very soon. The Fundraising Team had a difficult task, since the financial issue was important for the practical realization of our trip. Parties where Iraqi food was served, a United Beauty Session at the university, waffle baking in the halls of the faculties, promoting our project to companies and private donors, have been some of the ways to raise money. But also the Documentation Team could not work without the contribution of all of us. The work for our yearly appearing booklet, consisting of approximately 90 pages, had to be well organized. The Conference Management Team was responsible for all organizational issues during the conference, including gifts for the officials, business cards and creating our logo. The Homepage Team kindly provided us with a platform to exchange ideas and post updates on recent developments in our project group.

It is to be assumed that this excited team, if it had had more months at its disposal, it would not have stopped researching, trying, analyzing, sharing, and preparing itself for the participation in the Conference. Looking back, we are now very happy for our successful participation and we strongly recommend NMUN to all students.

3.1 Special Session of the Security Council on “Peace and Security” - 28 November 2011

“The specific thing about this resolution is the *unspecificness*“. Beginning with a statement made by the Chinese representative, his comment sums up the probably most important lesson on diplomacy the participants learned at this conference.

Assembling in the morning, all delegates were ambitious to represent their countries' opinions as well as possible. This led to the first item of the agenda becoming the most important, at least measured by the duration of the discussion: the agenda setting.



With all delegates unwilling to agree on any compromise the agenda setting lasted until lunch break. Finally, a rather unspecific agenda setting, “Peace and Security,“ was the only one the participants could agree upon and made it possible to continue with the debate.

This agenda was broad enough to allow all delegates

to continue with exactly the same topics they proposed for the agenda setting. Forming small groups, the delegates were highly productive, working simultaneously on nearly every topic possible and impossible to imagine to be written about under the above-mentioned headline... This resulted in ten resolutions on the president's desk at the end of the conference.

Finally, to conclude this conference, the participants had to vote on the resolutions representing a broad variety on topics, starting from the definition of the term sovereignty, followed by security for embassies, the Iran, etc. and concluding finally with the Middle East Conflict; to mention just a few.

In the end, unexpectedly, the whole committee was able pass a resolution, and even more unexpected than the sheer fact that a resolution has been agreed upon, was the topic of the resolution: climate change.

Even though at first the phrase stated by the Chinese representative may sound negative, after the conference the participants realized that *unspecificness* may be a term with a rather positive connotation, since it allowed not only to continue with the debate, but also to agree on a resolution. It is a surprising result, that from all the topics the only one all delegates could agree upon was a resolution on climate change.

In conclusion, "*unspecificness*" can lead to a rather satisfying result!

3.2 "Climate Change" lecture by Ms Janina Körper – 26 January 2012

The sociopolitical responsibility towards the world's climate, in particular human-specific causes and the direct and indirect consequences of climate change play a dominant role in the politics of the 21st Century. Discussions about climate change regard both changes in the average global weather conditions and/or in the *deviation of the distribution of weather from the average conditions*. The importance of this topic is inevitable and hence falls under the United Nations Millennium Development Goal No. 7, "Environmental Sustainability". Negative impacts of climate change once again affect not only the weakest populations but also the least responsible for this problem.

Although the topic of climate change covers a broad field of different views and is worthy of an extensive discussion, not only for politicians but also for our *student delegation of Iraq to the NMUN Conference 2012*, this report focuses on the statistics of the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)* presented by Ms Janina Körper, graduated meteorologist, who is a research assistant of Prof. Dr. Ulrich Cubasch, one of the leading authors of the *Assessment Reports* regularly published by the IPCC, at Freie Universität Berlin.

Based on the statement "We don't have another planet to move to when we use this one up" Ms. Körper's lecture highlighted the impacts of climate change. The presentation summarized the work of the intergovernmental body, gave an insight into the most important results of the most recent 4th Assessment Report (AR4) "*Climate Change 2007*" and into statistical methods used to gain these results, and finally gave prospects on the information, which will be provided in the 5th Assessment Report (AR5) "*Climate Change 2013*".

The science that is summarized in the IPCC assessment reports, amongst other international bodies, covers the for example the world's climate since the European

industrialization in the 1860s. In summary, the following conclusions on the most disconcerting climatic and meteorological observations are drawn: an increasing greenhouse effect and the thereby resulting changes, such as the rising of global mean temperatures and further the acceleration of global warming through human activity (i.e. the increasing deviation from the expected mean values when calculating the results without adding human contribution to global warming), the rising sea levels and an increase in the frequency of extreme events. One main conclusion drawn by Ms Körper was that even if politics achieve a reduction in human interference, the negative impacts made until now will continue to have negative long-term effects on the above stated climatic and meteorological consequences. This statement calls for an urgent collaboration between states on a global level with the goal to create balanced and sustainable industries, particularly for those that are most affected by climate changes.

Prospects for future politics, and to be analyzed in the AR5, include the pending question: "How can politics reduce the accelerated global warming mainly caused by human activity?" Consequently, the increasing high variance of the weather conditions from the average conditions is of severe importance for the student delegation of Iraq 2012. Natural hazards such as drought, desertification and sand storms, apparently impacted by human activity, increase food problems and poverty and fuel regional political conflict between Iraq and neighboring States, as in the case of the upstream damming of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers by Syria and Turkey.

We kindly thank Ms Janina Körper for providing our delegation with an interesting and thoughtful lecture, along with a sound basis of knowledge on climate change issues.

3.3 Briefing on Diplomacy by Ambassador a.D. Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Vergau

Since National Model United Nations Conference is an opportunity for us students to understand the profound meaning of diplomacy and to experience the workings of the United Nations firsthand, it was of utmost importance for our delegation to come into contact with skilled diplomats, who could tell us more about their life-long experience on the diplomatic stage. Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Vergau, who pursued a brilliant diplomatic career within the Federal Foreign Office during 1964-2004, serving as advisor, political envoy, ambassador and head of the Office, has therefore been a distinguished presence at our preparation seminar on the 15th of March 2012.

Prof. Dr. Vergau kindly accepted our invitation and held an inspiring briefing about the start of his career at the Federal Foreign Office, his experiences in various United Nations bodies and his contributions to crucial moments in the history of international relations. Moreover, our delegation was delighted to hear from Prof. Vergau advice on the most important diplomatic skills and the most pressing issues on the current political stage.

Recounting the beginnings of his career at the Federal Foreign Office, Prof. Vergau gave us an overview of the most important challenges which he confronted as an adviser. After recalling his memories of the terrorist attacks from the 1972 Olympic Games in München, Prof. Vergau explained to us the difficulties he encountered when working within the 6th Committee of the General Assembly on the creation of a comprehensive convention on hostage-taking. He underlined that it took three years of hard negotiations in order for resolution A/RES/34/146 to be passed and thus our delegation became aware

once more of the challenges of negotiations within the United Nations.

After providing us with maps of the African continent, Prof. Vergau gave us an overview about the confrontations of the international community with the former Apartheid Regime of South Africa and provided us with backstage stories about how Namibia gained its independence in 1990. Prof. Vergau recalled the numerous conflicts between diverse groups of interests, his role as a German mediator and the vital influence of the Security Council's resolutions SC/RES/385 and SC/RES/435. Finding out about all his contributions to this crisis situation, our delegation has finally understood why Prof. Vergau has been called "Mister Namibia" by the Federal Foreign Office ever since. On several occasions, Prof. Vergau commended the work and skills of the former Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

After telling us more about the daily routine of his work as representative in the 4th Committee of the General Assembly and in the Security Council, Prof. Vergau clearly stated that "one becomes an expert in New York", due to the "monopoly of knowledge" that exists there. In addition, he recalled that working for the United Nations conveyed him a "magnificent feeling", in spite of the daily program being "truly exhausting".

One last crucial moment in the history of international relations, the First Gulf War, was then recalled by Prof. Vergau. Our speaker explained to us in detail his challenging mediation task during a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iraq and Iran in New York. Recalling the heated and conflictual atmosphere of the meeting, the unwillingness of both Foreign Ministers to communicate, the alarming war situation, and his "proximity talks approach" as a German mediator, Prof. Vergau defined this mediation-task as the most exhausting one in his overall career.

In the end, to our delight, Prof. Vergau also explained his views on how a diplomat should act and react and underlined that the most important qualities for a skilled official are patience, credibility and empathy. Our speaker has also drawn our attention to the alarming situation in Syria and mentioned the appropriateness of recalling the concept of the Responsibility of Protect in regard to this conflict.

After a two hour briefing, our delegation warmly applauded Prof. Dr. Vergau, feeling more inspired, motivated and eager to experience the real United Nations than ever. We were extremely thankful for having the chance to listen to a former ambassador speaking about the challenges of diplomacy. We therefore thank again Prof. Dr. Vergau for his thought-provoking briefing.

3.4 Our Work in the Task Forces

Task Force – Conference Management

The Conference Management task force consisted of three members and was thus the smallest within the delegation. Its objective was to provide logistical services throughout the preparation and conference period to ensure that the delegation could present itself properly at all the NMUN events.

Importantly, the manifold guest speakers, both in Berlin and New York, were handed

gifts in order to show the delegation's gratitude for lending their valuable time and expertise. As a means to represent the delegation visibly in New York, the task force chose to equip every member with a tote bag carrying our own logo. Unexpectedly though, the tote bags turned out not to work so well as the logos were difficult to attach to them.

The final logo was well received among all of the members in the end, although the decision procedure displayed quite some controversy within the delegation so that several versions of the logo were created. The logo now combines the state silhouette of Iraq on a blue *United Nations* canvas. The colours of the Iraqi flag were included in a dynamic way as to indicate the progressive development of the nation.

Though time constraints were an issue in the task force due to its particularly small size, it decently managed to provide all the necessary services to the delegation.



Fundraising

The members of the fundraising task force tried to find financial contribution for the conference. Surely, we had to spend a great deal of time raising funds to make up for shortfalls in funding. We have tried many different ways to raise money, from having waffle sales to hosting fundraising events.

The idea of baking waffles was not new and was used already by the previous delegations, but we expanded our sales and beside of the Wandelhalle of the Law Faculty we have had another hot spot, namely the School of Business & Economics.

Organizing our own fundraising events was very exciting and we had a great time. Our first party had to have an X factor. It was the oriental atmosphere our delegation was trying to create with hummus, special cocktails and, of course, music. We hosted our Oriental Party on the 6th of January 2012 in the Friends & Kunst Bar, which might not

have brought enough money to cover our rather large hole in the bank balance, but it sure was fun...

Sometimes, fundraising could be boring and monotonous, that's why we had to come up with unique fundraising ideas to spice up our efforts. On the 19th of January 2012 we hosted „United Beauty“, a unique glamorous fundraising event. We have invited a makeup artist for a lecture and a makeover session and we offered a collection of cheap beauty products. This event made some girls and women even more beautiful, but also brought some funds for our conference.

One of the biggest fundraising events was the Benefit Concert on the 22nd of March 2012 in the Lagari Bar, featuring such artists as Cassini, Ilo Rive, Limboski, Scarecrow Conductors, our very own Jil Winter and others. A lot of people showed up in support of our team. It was evident that the bar was filled with an incredible energy and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable evening.

Our delegation would like to express special thanks to our sponsors, contributors and friends!



Homepage

The delegation of 2012 has appreciated its website www.nmun-berlin.de as a valuable asset. We have been glad to integrate our contents into this existing design, set up by the delegation of 2011. We have used this platform as a tool to communicate matters of interest, while always taking into account the variety of visitors our homepage may

attract, such as: University officials, interested sponsors, prospective members of next delegations, and - particularly - delegates and faculty advisers of the 2012 delegation.

For this reason, the website's administrators, Leonie Betzwieser and Florian Tille, chose to apply a broad approach of content management on this site: Diverse topics, such as the delegation's preparation, their fundraising activities, and general information on the Model United Nations at the Freie University of Berlin are covered in different sections. The core piece is, however, the detailed presentation of the delegation: In the category "delegation", all delegates are individually introduced with an insight on their academic and personal background. Especially entertaining are their personal statements on why they chose to participate in NMUN 2012 and on what are the most important things in their suitcases to NYC.

We have additionally attempted to benefit from several (social) media outlets: We created a delegation group on Facebook that has become a great success, counting more than 70 fans: Delegates, fans and visitors use this group to discuss subjects related to the NMUN conference, to share important information on the represented country of Iraq and to get in touch with sponsors. The website www.nmun-berlin.org is of great support for anyone looking to get involved with the NMUN project.

Documentation

From the very first day when the NMUN project began, all the members of our team representing this year the Republic of Iraq knew they would experience an extraordinary adventure.

To immortalize this experience, each of us contributed with reports about the various issues, events, and briefings that took place during the year. In this way, this booklet was put together in order to document our wonderful experience.

Our work started at the beginning of our preparation in Berlin. Our first action was to divide the writing and correction work between ourselves by creating a database to keep track of the huge workload. Once the tasks were assigned, the second step was to set deadlines in order to gather all the texts written by each member of our delegation as soon as possible. Then the next step was to correct all the texts written in English several times, to put together the final reports, edit, and format and choose suitable photos to include in the booklet. These tasks were accomplished by the middle of June, so that this booklet could get printed.

It was challenging to ensure that the pieces of writing respected certain standards, it was not an easy task to coordinate our work efficiently, but we kept in mind our ultimate goal: to issue a publication about a profound and life-changing experience.

The team hopes that this booklet will represent a good way to keep in mind this amazing experience and at the same time give an overview of what NMUN means for the future team of 2013 and the general public.

4. The Study Tour in New York

On the 28th of March 2012, we began the Study Tour to the United Nations with great expectations. We had the pleasure of participating in a well organized 4-day-program, which included briefings on the current situation of pressing UN issues such as

disarmament, IAEA, human trafficking and poverty.

In addition, we had the chance to talk to diplomats from the German Permanent Mission to the UN, the Delegation of the European Union to the UN as well as the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the UN.

At this point, we would like to thank everyone involved for making New York such an incredible experience. We are grateful to our faculty advisors, Ms Peggy Wittke and Ms Despoina Glarou, for the organization and the unique opportunity that the Study Tour provided. Also, we are grateful for everything the brilliant Mrs. Swati Ratovonarivo from the UN Department of Public Information did for us.



4.1 Briefing on UN Women by Antonie (Ton) de Jong

Born and grown up in the Netherlands, Antonie (Ton) de Jong now has his residence in New York, working as a Director Resource Mobilization at UN Women. With all his international experience, as well as with the example he gives with his career, growth and professional development, Mr. de Jong has proven that one can definitely benefit from globalization. Not long ago, as he remembers, he was given the opportunity to be a Foreign Service Officer, exercising his position in countries like Nigeria, Colombia, Benin and Haiti. He worked in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN as well as in ECOSOC, before evolving from a representative of his home country to a UN staff member in 2005.

Starting off his briefing with stories on his personal impressions from some of the biggest projects he had the chance to work on, he highlighted that he believes every crisis could be seen as an opportunity. We live in a world where the population is growing tremendously fast; where conflict between nations are no longer on territory issues but on natural resources disputes; where there is an urgent need for more attention on the individual, on the people as a group and on the planet as a whole, in order to address all the challenges we face.

Looking through the scope of UN Women is in Mr. de Jong's opinion that family planning is a priority task we should pay more attention to. Measures such as improving education, raising public awareness on the use of condoms, HIV (AIDS) prevention, and health care improvements are crucial to the positive change the organization is looking

to. All these aforementioned are not simply women's issues, they are all about society, as stated by Mr. de Jong before giving examples of the programs he considers successful. They followed, giving a brighter picture of where positive influence and change could be achieved with the tiniest efforts and actions – namely with the work of the Good Will Ambassadors or with a marketing strategy addressing problems in an understandable and even exhilarating way. UNAIDS was proud to present an advertisement with Ronaldo (“Play safe – soccer and sex”) which marked great results in Haiti, as well as all the projects led by Nicole Kidman, who draw public attention on campaigns of UN Women to end violence against women.

According to Mr. de Jong, gender inequality is cultural problem of great depth, which will take a lot of time to be solved, whereas short-term and solely promising strategies would show little improvements

If there was one point he believes is in the heart of the future solution, it is the funding that is required for actual implementation of all the otherwise promising and internationally approved programs that stay blocked without budgets. Another pressing issue is women's empowerment and political involvement. It is in the belief of Mr. de Jong that Parliaments should include at least 40% female representatives in order to set on a good example for other spheres of society. As said by Michelle Bachelet, “*we should brake the famous glass ceiling*” and abandon discrimination of women.

Inspired by the briefing, the FU students started asking questions and a fruitful discussion developed concerning the situation in Germany, the already adopted women quota, the campaigns against violence and their results, the concept of gender equality which is often criticized to be a “western thing” and the role of NGOs. Questions even went on a more personal basis wondering about what it was like to be a man in a women organization and how Mr. de Jong did decide to dedicate his career in this field.

We want to express our gratefulness for Mr. de Jong for spending his time, for all the useful information and a really enriching briefing.

4.2 Briefing on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by Ms Tracy Brown

On the 28th of March 2012, Ms Tracy C. Brown, Liaison/Public Information Officer at the IAEA Office to the United Nations in New York briefed the FU Delegation on the work of the Agency.

Ms. Brown introduced her talk quoting the Agency's statutory mandate – “*to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world,*” *noting that it was interpreted also promoting the peaceful application of atomic energy while guarding against the spread of its use for military purposes.*”

She proceeded to list key challenges in implementing the mandate and later described the corresponding programmes aimed at addressing those challenges.

- How to help countries make use of nuclear technology for development?
- How to help countries use nuclear safely and securely, and
- How to prevent countries from misusing nuclear technology to develop nuclear weapons?

Nuclear Technology – helping countries to make use of nuclear technology for development?

Under its Technical Cooperation programme, the Agency partnered with Member States to address their development needs in numerous fields where nuclear techniques offered ad-vantages over others, or where nuclear techniques could usefully supplement conventional means.

She gave the use of radiation for plant breeding as an example that has produced a long chain of success stories:

- Wheat varieties bred to thrive in dry climates;
- Cocoa trees resistant to local viruses;
- Barley that can flourish at high altitudes; or
- various fruits and vegetables bred for their higher nutritional yield.

She said assistance was provided in the form of in-country projects in over 130 countries with components of experts, training, and equipment in such areas, to name a few, as:

- Food security – mentioned above
- health care – diagnosing and treating cancer for example
- Water and the environment – e.g. mapping sources and use management
- nuclear power - improving electricity production; energy planning
- Nuclear safety and security.

She added that the IAEA participation in the Rio+20 Summit would concentrate on four areas - energy, food, water and oceans.

Although non-power uses for nuclear energy formed the bulk of requests for Agency assistance, she said the IAEA also assisted countries in assessing and implementing projects in the use of nuclear energy for the generating electricity. In this area the Agency collects and disseminates information and assists in improvements of nuclear power plant performance and emergency response capabilities.

She said that today, nuclear power supplies roughly one sixth of global electricity, and that trends varied by region. Some countries were phasing out nuclear power plants, while others, primarily in the East, have embarked on new construction or innovative research and development. She underlined that there were over 400 power reactors generating electricity in 30 countries. Sixty-five are under construction, 44 of which are in Asia. Although the Fukushima accident altered the outlook for nuclear power, growth was still anticipated, but at a slower pace.

And, while the future of nuclear power remains uncertain, she listed some factors critical to its survival:

- The safety of facility operation;
- Environmentally sound radioactive waste disposal;
- The ability to make nuclear power economically competitive;
- The growing need for environmentally clean sources of energy; and
- Public acceptance.

In this context, she elaborated that the Agency saw its role as helping to ensure that the nuclear power option remains open among other sources of energy production, a process

that required:

- Ensuring a fair hearing for nuclear power in the comparative energy assessment debate;
- Preserving nuclear expertise as fewer young people pursue nuclear science careers; and
- Developing an innovative reactor and fuel cycle technologies.
- Assisting newcomers in establishing reliable infrastructure – emphasis on safety, security, and resistance to proliferation.

Nuclear Safety and Security

In reaction to Fukushima, she said the Agency convened a Ministerial Conference on safety; adopted a Declaration and developed an Action Plan with concrete achievable actions to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency response, and radiation protection, including:

- Development of new methodology for assessing safety vulnerabilities of NPP;
- Expert missions to review national approaches; and
- Systematic review of IAEA safety standards

Another Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety was being planned for December 2012 in Fukushima Prefecture. She explained that safety and security were considered to be national responsibilities, and that the Agency assisted states in their efforts by promoting best practices among individuals, facilities and organizations, including preparation for and responding to emergencies. She said the Agency also promoted binding international conventions, and internationally accepted safety standards.

The ultimate aim in this area is to protect people and the environment from harmful exposure to radiation. In the area of nuclear safety, the emphasis is on protecting people from the material, while in the area of nuclear security, the focus is on projecting nuclear material from people. Nuclear security focuses on helping States prevent, detect, and respond to terrorist or other malicious acts (such as illegal possession, use, transfer, and trafficking) and to protect nuclear installations and transport against sabotage.

Finally, a third programme area of the IAEA she said was its safeguard system, also referred to as its inspection and verification system, which consisted of measures whose ultimate aim was to verify that individual States were in compliance with their promise to maintain exclusively peaceful nuclear programmes, and to provide an early-warning to the international community if they were not.

Ms Brown gave an overview of the evolution of the IAEA safeguards system, noting the shift of its earlier focus on verification of the correctness of States' declared nuclear material, facilities and activities to include focus on verification of the completeness of States' declarations. The latter aimed at boosting its ability to detect States' undeclared activities. The role of the NPT was also outlined. And, she noted the significance of UN Security Council, particularly as the sole entity with enforcement powers under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In conclusion, she briefly described verification in practice, using the case of Iran as an example. We sincerely thank Ms. Brown for her outstanding presentation!

4.3 Briefing on the work of the Office of Legal Affairs by Markus Pallek

Our first day of the United Nations (UN) Study Tour marked the beginning of a series of inspiring briefings on a variety of key topics, which would provide us with more in-depth knowledge to be used both when acting as diplomats at the 2012 National Model United Nations Conference and in our future education. In the afternoon, Markus Pallek and Tamara Cummings-John gave us an interesting overview of the structure and functioning of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

In the beginning, Mr. Pallek underlined the advisory role of this Office, which provides the Secretariat and other bodies of the UN (such as the Department of Political Affairs or the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) with legal advice and service, adding that the Office also focuses on developing and codifying public international law. Consisting of six substantial subunits, OLA is an integral part of the UN Secretariat and was established back in 1946 by a resolution of the UN General Assembly.

Ms Cummings-John then continued to present the most important developments in public international law, humanitarian law and human rights law throughout the course of history, mentioning the crucial role of the Geneva, Hague and Genocide Conventions. The establishment of international tribunals and the prosecution of the trilogy of international crimes (genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity) were also brought into discussion. In this context, Ms Cummings-John recalled that the incentive of prosecuting international crimes became much more pronounced after the end of the Second World War.

Furthermore, the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the adoption of the Rome Statute were presented in detail by our speakers, who underlined the importance of prosecuting international crimes on an international level. After explaining to us the prerequisites for prosecution by the ICC, our speakers drew our attention to the crucial outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Rome Statute. This has been, *inter alia*, the adoption of amendments to the Statute, which defines the crime of aggression. Our speakers also underlined the complex mechanism of jurisdiction within ICC and the role of the UN Security Council, acting under the Charter, in this connection. Finally, we were made familiar with the Relationship Agreement between the UN and the ICC, which mainly includes logistical as well as substantive support and rests on the principle of international justice.

The role of individuals in public international law was also brought into discussion by our faculty adviser Ms. Glarou. In this regard, our speakers mentioned the individual responsibility for international crimes and stated that the continuous rise of the concept of human rights has contributed to redefining sovereignty.

Moreover, our speakers explained to us how OLA interacts with its "clients", for example when offering legal advice to mediation teams in conflict areas. They underlined the importance of formulating legal advice in a way that is perfectly understandable to political decision makers and considered this point to be the one "where law meets politics". "Advice cannot be imposed, but must be persuasive and understandable", observed Mr. Pallek.

Many questions were asked by our delegation, which addressed for example the appeal system within the ICC or the election of judges and prosecutors. Curiosities about the

personal and academic background of our speakers also arose, and to all these different inquiries both Mr. Pallek and Ms. Cummings-John offered comprehensive and informative answers.

For their wholehearted support and for taking their time to brief our delegation on essential issues of international law, we are extremely grateful to both Mr. Pallek and Ms. Cummings-John.

4.4 Briefing on the Global Economic Crisis by Ping Fan Hong

Since 2008, the financial crises and the sovereign debt crisis have been dominating international political and economic relations, affecting lives of individuals all over the world. The United Nations has been closely monitoring the developments in the aftermath of the crises, cooperating with other international institutions and the member states to find the policies to mitigate the impact of the crises.

For our project, the economic situation was of extreme relevance. Therefore, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to hear a speech by a Chinese UN staff member, Dr. Pingfan Hong, Chief of Global Economic Monitoring Unit, in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Under the mandate of the UN General Assembly, UN DESA publishes the World Economic Situation and Prospects annually, which provides assessment of the global macroeconomic trends, projection of short-term economic forecasts, identification of emerging risks, and analysis of macroeconomic policies. Dr. Hong and his Unit are responsible for this publication, in cooperation with several other UN offices.

Dr. Hong presented a comprehensive overview about the state of world economy in 2012. According to his presentation, global economy is still in the process of recovering from the Great Recession of 2008-2009, but the pace of the recovery is weak and fragile. The UN baseline outlook for 2012 is about 2.6 per cent growth for the world gross product (WGP), but in the UN downside scenario the global growth would be only about 0.5 per cent, should policymakers fail to mitigate a number of risks facing the world economy.

A salient weakness in the global recovery is the jobs crisis. The global unemployment rate averages about 8.6 per cent in developed countries, which is almost 3 percentage points over the level before the crisis. In almost all developed countries labor participation has declined and few new jobs have been created: the unemployed rates continue to rise in some European economies. In developing countries the situation seems slightly better, but the structural unemployment remains high in Africa and Western Asia. According to Dr. Hong, youth unemployment is one of the biggest challenges for policymakers in both developing countries and developed countries.

A critical challenge for the world economy is the sovereign debt crisis in the euro area, along with the high debt levels in most developed economies. Dr. Hong highlighted that the global economic prospects in 2012-2013 to a large extent depend on the solution of the sovereign debt crises in the euro area. Failure of policymakers in containing the debt crisis, along with the remaining fragility in the banking sector, can lead to fatal consequence not only to the European economies, but also to the rest of the world. In fact, a growing number of economies in the euro area are falling into a double-dip

recession and the growth in many developing countries is slowing down notably, partly because of the heightened risks associated with the sovereign debt in Europe.

Aggravating the situation is a policy paralysis in many developed economies, due partly to a wide political divide in the views on how to deal with the crises. For instance, the member states of the euro area have been very slow in reaching agreements on the approaches to dealing with the debt crisis and so far they are still divided on a number of crucial issues, such as the euro bond. A similar situation can also be found in the United States regarding the issues of the debt ceiling and fiscal consolidation. Developed countries are faced by a policy dilemma. On the one hand, the sovereign debt crisis in a few of them has forced policymakers to introduce a strict austerity program; on the other hand, more fiscal policy supports are needed to prevent the economy from falling into a double-dip recession. It would require a much tough policy will and adroit political skill for policymakers worldwide, to come up with an effective solution, Dr. Hong concluded.

We would like to express our gratitude for Dr. Hong for his insight on this important issue and therewith for his valuable support of our preparation.

4.5 Briefing on Sustainable Development by Beppe Lovoi

The second day of our UN Study Tour started with a lecture held by Beppe Lovoi on the issue of “Sustainable Development”. Beppe Lovoi is an Associate Sustainable Development Officer and is currently working on the preparation of the Rio + 20 Conference.

First, Mr. Lovoi gave us an introduction on the issue of Rio + 20. This Conference, dealing with ways of how to achieve international measures on sustainable development, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20-22 June 2012. The Rio + 20 Conference follows in a series of international conferences and summits aiming to bring together actors from the international community for a dialog on sustainable development and its challenges. A variety of participants discussed sustainable solutions in areas of technology, production and living.

Rio + 20 was established by a General Assembly Resolution in order to bring world leaders, participants from governments and other sectors, NGOs as well as other groups together to discuss solutions on how to reduce poverty, advance social equality and ensure environmental protection.

Mr. Lovoi pointed out that the three pillars of sustainability, namely the economic, social and the environmental, must be linked in order to fight emerging challenges in the field of green and decent jobs, food security, sustainable energy, water management, oceans and maritime resources, sustainable cities and the resilience to natural disasters.

Mr. Lovoi stressed the importance of the conference since this was the largest gathering in the UN history with more than 110 heads of States and Government being confirmed to Rio de Janeiro. Even the Secretary-General declared Rio + 20 as the most important conference inter alia because representatives of the major groups that are affected such as children and youth, women, farmers, indigenous people, scientific and technological community, business and industry, workers and trade unions, local authorities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will be present and discuss the current issues

including the difficulty of non-state actors as well as the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

What was seen critical about the MDGs by Mr. Lovoi was that Rio+20 would come at a time when the international community would be looking at the post-2015 development agenda. In his opinion Rio+20 would be instrumental in setting that agenda including a possible elaboration of the MDGs as well as an integration of the three pillars: economy, society and environment. Finally, he mentioned that several initiatives proposed at the Rio + 20 Conference could be universal - obtaining sustainability for all.

After the lecture, Mr. Lovoi opened the floor to questions. We gave him a short overview on our simulation and then the students took their chance since Rio + 20 was also a committee at NMUN 2012. Mr. Lovoi was asked for the problems of Rio + 20 arising especially between the European Union and the United States, the priorities of the Conference, developing and developed countries, the role of the global context, a possible outcome of the Conference, international development cooperation, the financial crisis and the civil society – all in relation to Rio + 20.

Another question was asked about his personal background and how he came to work for the UN. Mr. Lovoi told us that he joined the UN seven years ago. He started to work as a tour guide at the UN headquarters. His first overseas assignment led him to Afghanistan, working on sustainable agriculture.

Before Mr. Lovoi started coordinating the Rio + 20 Conference he worked in Iraq for 2 years which was very interesting for us representing Iraq at NMUN. This gave us the opportunity to go into some detail concerning Iraq and Mr. Lovoi could answer some questions that were more specific. Generally, in his opinion the situation in the Middle East has been considered and treated as a special issue within UN bodies for many years—almost since the creation of the Organization itself.

We enjoyed and appreciated Mr. Lovoi dedicating his time to us and sharing his knowledge and want to express our gratefulness to him.

4.6 Briefing on Human Trafficking by Kristina Touzenis

On the 29th of March, the second day of our UN-Study-Tour, we had the pleasure to listen to a very informative lecture of Kristina Touzenis (Head of the International Migration Law Unit) that dealt with the aspect of human trafficking/ trafficking in persons. According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, “*trafficking in persons` shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.*”

Since Ms. Touzenis mainly works on the topic of migration, she could explain the many interconnections with the aspect of human trafficking. In reference to that, she pointed out some major problems and aspects of the complex phenomena of human trafficking. On the one hand, there is the phenomenon itself, on the other hand there is the way states

(especially their administrations) deal with it. States authorities must deal in different ways with this kind of transnational organized crime: They have to try to prevent the trafficking in persons, to find the best solutions to fight it, to try to find the perpetrators and accuse them and they also have to take care of the victims, the trafficked persons.

Ms. Touzenis focused her lecture on the last aspect, mainly because she deals with the treatment of trafficked persons as an aspect of migration policy implementation. One problem being that victims of trafficking once found and taken away from their exploiters are too often considered “merely” as irregular migrants and returned without sufficient support. In such cases re-trafficking may easily take place.

Ms. Touzenis underlined the need to have a critical eye to anti-trafficking legislation and ensuring there is sufficient attention paid to the right of the victims and that e.g. legislation granting protection (temporary or permanent) only to those victims who are not only willing but also able to give information on their traffickers will not live up to international obligations.

Another focus of the lecture was the aspect of “vulnerability.” Most discourse referring to human trafficking measures “the likeliness of being trafficked” with the expression of vulnerability. It is the general chorus that “women and children are more vulnerable” than men. Ms. Touzenis highlighted the need to be aware of what the term “vulnerable” implies. The expression “vulnerability” implied that there are generally certain kinds of people that are more likely to be trafficked – or exploited and abused in general.

She strongly emphasized that this is not generalizable: Men, women and children are basically vulnerable to an equal extent as they are all human beings. Ms. Touzenis stressed the need of the discourse to turn into the direction of using the expression of “at risk”. Under certain conditions, all human beings can be “at risk” of being trafficked (or subject to exploitation/abuse/violation of rights). It was wrong to assume that one kind of people is generally more likely to be trafficked than another. It is also important not to imply that people are “weak” when they are categorized as “vulnerable” – many people who are at a greater risk because of their situation (momentary or permanent) are by no means “weak” but very resourceful.

Human trafficking is a very present phenomenon to all societies and political communities all over the world and we are still far away from resolving the issues pertinent to it – trafficking in itself, exploitation in the labour market, push factors and inequalities.

For providing us with the information to understand these aspects and drawing our attention to some of the challenges of “human trafficking” we are extremely grateful to Ms. Touzenis.

4.7 Briefing on Financing for Development by Mr. Daniel Platz

Even though financing for development has ever been a cornerstone of the implementation of development policy, its coordination was lacking a persuasive framework for organizing the streams of funds throughout the globe until the 1990s. Beforehand, financing has mainly been characterized by ad-hoc measures without a cohesive multilateral integration.

As an expert in this field, Daniel Platz – Economic Affairs Officer at the Financing for

Development Office, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – firstly pointed to the peculiar nature of financing debates which consistently appear to follow a cyclic pattern of about two years regarding what he terms the “hot issues”.

According to him, sustainable development emerged to be the issue in the financing community at this moment. Herein, the community has been mainly concerned with the central question of how sustainable development can actually be financed in an efficient and durable manner. Given the ambitious scope of contemporary development objectives, it has become clear that public sources alone will very likely not suffice to compel the desired results. Moreover, a majority of the industrialized countries remains notoriously non-compliant with the various explicit pledges toward Official Development Assistance (ODA) agreements. So far, the 0.7 percent of GDP mark is only met by a few countries. Hence, a wider range of sources including private, semi-private and civil engagements needed to be incorporated into a new finance architecture.

Eventually, in 2002, these considerations melted into the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. According to Mr. Platz, this document marks a historic achievement in the evolution of development finance as it represents the central blueprint for nearly all of the funding activities and stakeholders within the development sector – 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 (including specialized agencies such as the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank and others).

The traditional practice had been steadily criticized by a number of NGOs pointing to the inequitable policy-making structures within the specialized agencies. In contrast, the egalitarian governance structure within the UN (“one country one vote”) was thus generally perceived to be more beneficial to forge a fair and balanced new financing framework.

Mr. Platz proceeded to highlight the six key issues regulated by the framework, namely (A) Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development, (B) Mobilizing international financial resources and private flows for development, (C) International trade as an engine for development, (D) Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, (E) External debt and (F) Addressing systemic issues through improving consistency and coherence. One of the problems, according to his view, is that this UN resolution is not different from many others in the sense that it turned out fairly ambiguous in the light of the diverging interests among the concerned parties. It is such ambiguity that consequently creates a range of problems for practitioners in the field. However and overall, reaching comprehensive agreement in this issue can be seen as major step forward. By many observers, the Monterrey Consensus is particularly praised for its balance as it places initiatives both on the underdeveloped (see A. and B.) as well as the developed countries (see D. though F.).

Today, a decade later, the international development sphere gradually enters a new phase with the emergence of altered power relations among the nation-state landscape. Especially the G20 has come to be viewed as the major platform to regulate persisting development challenges.

However, as Mr. Platz pointed out, this new power balance brings new questions and concerns along with it. Mainly, there appear to be three unresolved problems. Firstly,

thus far there are no objective criteria in place organizing membership within this powerful group. When and why is a country entitled to shape global development policies within this institution? Secondly, the linkage to the UN-system seems to be rather selective and informal. This generates the risk of replication, overlapping or asymmetry regarding future efforts to achieve sustainable development. Thirdly, the efficiency of the G20 in regulating finance issues varies considerably compared to the established UN-agencies that incorporate extensive experience in the field.

Subsequent to his lecture, Mr. Platz dedicated a lot of time to our questions. His briefing was a highly valuable step of our preparation for the Conference and we are therefore very thankful to Mr. Platz.

4.8 Briefing on Disarmament by Mr. Ewen Buchanan

On the 30th of March 2012 our delegation had the opportunity to attend a briefing by Mr Ewen Buchanan, staff member of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The UNODA promotes nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and strongly supports all disarmament and arms limitation efforts in terms of conventional weapons. With expertise on issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, Mr Buchanan was able to answer questions about Iran's nuclear program, biological warfare as well as the forthcoming Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Disarmament has been on the UN agenda since day one as the principles of arms regulations are enshrined in the UN Charter (Article 11 and 26). There are major multilateral agreements in place, such as the 1968 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT); nuclear safeguards of IAEA, the 1997 Model Additional Protocol, the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which is a product of the Conference on Disarmament. Mr Buchanan explained to us that the disarmament machinery includes a range of different bodies, such as UNGA, Special Sessions in '78 '82 '88, the GA 1st Committee / Disarmament Commission, ODA, UNIDIR, UN SG Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, the UN Security Council, the Conference on Disarmament, as well as non-UN bodies, namely OPCW, CTBTO and IAEA.

Nevertheless, the world's military expenditure in 2010 accounted for US \$ 1.63 trillion. Between 2003 and 2008, the top 5 suppliers – the United States, Germany, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom – together accounted for 80% of international arms export. In addition, while in 1945 only one nation possessed a nuclear bomb, today there are five recognised states that own nuclear weapons in accordance with the terms of the NPT.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons is a serious threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Office encourages the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a disarmament, non-proliferation and transparency, confidence building measure. In addition, the adoption of the Additional Protocol means that the IAEA can investigate within the borders of a signatory country at any time, and at any place. The CTBT has not yet entered into force because of the particular provisions in Annex II. So far 157 countries have ratified the CTBT. However the following eight countries must also join for the Treaty to enter into force: US, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Israel, Egypt and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Mr Buchanan drew our attention also to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which entered into force in 1975 and has 163 member states as of October 2011. The Convention prohibits the production or the use of biological warfare agents. It has no verification provisions and verification of the ban would be difficult considering that the footprint of biological weapons production is much smaller than other WMD, and often complicated by the fact that most equipment in the biological area is inherently dual-use.

The fact that there has been no international regulation governing the transfer of arms efforts since 2006 gave the idea for a global arms trade treaty. In July 2012, the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty will try to adopt the highest possible standards for the transfer of arms. Thus, it aims to create a level playing field for arms transfers by requiring all state parties to abide by similar standards for export controls.

In conclusion, Mr Buchanan also gave us a short prospect: According to that, the international community is increasingly faced with new emerging issues, such as missile proliferation and missile defence as well as information security, cyber-warfare and new technologies.

Overall, Mr Buchanan's Briefing was a very valuable part of our preparation. We would like to express our gratitude for sharing his knowledge and experience.

4.9 Briefing on Indigenous Issues by Ms. Nila Bernardi

What we have gained first and foremost when preparing for and acting at the National Model United Nations Conference is probably knowledge: fundamental knowledge, expert knowledge, practical knowledge, world knowledge and last but not least, new knowledge. Being briefed by Ms. Nilla Bernardi on Indigenous Issues has surely provided us with fascinating new information about a challenging, yet sometimes neglected topic: the rights of indigenous people.

Working for the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms Bernardi gave us an overview of the characteristics, living conditions and rights of indigenous people, besides presenting the structure and functioning of the Permanent Forum.

Firstly, our speaker explained how indigenous people have contributed to the cultural diversity and the process of state building throughout the world and throughout history. Stating that there are more than 370 million indigenous peoples in more than 90 countries across the globe, Ms Bernardi drew our attention to the need for effective mechanisms of protection for these people and their fight. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has been created to bring their concerns high on the agenda of the United Nations (UN).

Furthermore, Ms Bernardi observed that the lack of a universal definition of indigenous people makes the self-identification process crucial. In this context, our speaker noted that historical continuity, distinctiveness from other sectors of society, non-dominance, and bonding to ancestral territories are the main characteristics of indigenous people.

Ms Bernardi then recalled the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and underlined that, even though being legally non-binding, this declaration sets a series of minimum standards for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights and sustains efforts for further achievements. After mentioning a series of individual and collective rights included in UNDRIP and emphasizing the significance of the free prior -and informed consent, Ms Bernardi

stressed the importance of including the perspective of indigenous peoples in international development efforts (such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)) and to discussions and outcomes of the upcoming Rio +20 Conference.

Regarding institutional support for indigenous people, our speaker gave us an overview of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and then focused mainly on the workings of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As an advisory body to the UN Economic and Social Council, the Permanent Forum is mandated with issuing recommendations to individual countries and the UN system, as well as to indigenous peoples, and promoting the full implementation of UNDRIP. In order for our delegation to understand the focus of the Sessions of the Permanent Forum, Ms. Bernardi named a few special themes: "Development with Culture and Identity" in 2010 or "The Doctrine of Discovery" in 2012. These topics tackle for example the difference between assimilation and integration and the challenges of the reconciliation process.

In the end, Ms. Bernardi informed us that the future work of the Permanent Forum will concentrate on the Rio +20 Conference, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014) as well as on the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In the context of support for future engagement, our speaker also mentioned relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on the Status of Women, for instance E/CN.6/2012/L.6, which tackles the key role of indigenous women in poverty eradication and sustainable development.

One of the numerous questions that arouse from our delegation addressed the importance of incorporating universal civil rights within indigenous communities. Ms. Bernardi fully agreed to a "double way process" of integration and reaffirmed the universality of human rights.

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Ms Bernardi for bringing to our attention a challenging topic and for providing us with a comprehensive, detailed and fascinating overview.

4.10 Briefing on Africa by Mr. Patrick Hayford

At last, but not least, we had a delightful opportunity to be briefed by a great man, who spent most of his life working for the benefit of mankind and holding currently a post of Director of the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Patrick Hayford. After working as a salesman, then a teacher, he joined the Ghana Foreign Service in 1974, where his United Nations diplomatic career started. His assignments varied from serving as Counselor, Ghana Mission to the UN in New York in the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly (1981-1986), as well as an Ambassador of Ghana to South Africa where he presented credentials to President Nelson Mandela (1997-1999), to performing the tasks of the Director for African Affairs in the Executive Office of UN by Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1999 July – 2005 August).

Instead of introducing us to common issues concerning the African Continent and holding a strict presentation, Patrick Hayford spoke freely. His speech was an appeal to us, who represent the young generation, the generation "which might and can change the future world towards a better place". His first words were: "Your generation is coming to clear the mess that my generation has made." He spoke of the United Nations as of a

place where problems of the world are discussed and sometimes solved. He talked about the problem of the Security Council cannot sometimes being unable to find a consensus, paralyzing then the UN. But whenever the Security Council can unite a lot could be done, so Hayford.

The main mandate of UN - peace and security - is focused on wars between countries. This system is in a process of shifting, posing new challenges. The reason is that today wars are not so much between nations anymore as inside countries, being mainly internal conflicts between different political, social and/or ethnical groups (i.e. Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, ex-Yugoslavia, Yemen).

In spite of all those obstacles, the United Nations, according to Mr. Hayford, "is all we have and all the countries of the world have agreed to the rules of the road". That is why the goal is to make it work better and more efficiently. How shall this goal be reached? Hayford sees the solution in the right orientation of policies main focus (i.e. on protecting human rights, women's rights, the right of the indigenous people) and maintains the opinion that the voice of people (i.e.-civil society) is becoming greater than ever particularly due to new communication technologies (facebook, twitter, blogs). A global community has emerged in which what happens in one corner is quickly known everywhere.

"We live in a global world. That is why we should have an interest in what is happening somewhere else. When a fire is burning in your neighbor's house, you cannot afford to ignore it; otherwise, the fire might spread to your own house. Keep pressure on your legislation no matter what your concerns are! You can play a strong role in making your parliament to act and to fund. Write to your legislator, your government, representative and don't give up the activism" he passionately called upon the present in the room and ended his main speech.



Subsequently and due to the presence of 3 Universities representing Iraq (Freie Universität Berlin), DRC and Myanmar, Patrick Hayford briefly overflowed the current situation in those countries.

He described the political situation in Iraq as difficult. With the independent government, as the American troops left, the situation has become even more complex. However, now the Iraqi people have recovered their sovereignty. Under Saddam Hussein's rule the minority Sunnis controlled the country entirely. Now the majority Shia is in control. As a result, the new government faces many challenges among which the development of the rights of the minorities (Sunnis, Kurds) is essential in order to stabilize the country and prevent the conflicts as well as consolidating peace and security. Concerning the Kurdish minority, their civil rights had to be protected. Iraq is a society that consists of many ethnical groups who must live in peace, as it was the case in pre-war times, where mixed families were not a rarity. Furthermore Iraq needs assistance, as it is slowly repairing the mess made by the war.

He described Myanmar is a very fragile country, where negotiations are essential, but keeping an eye on the incidents inside is of a greater importance. A strong pressure from

international community concerning the issue of human rights would help. The risk of the elections failing to resolve the country's challenge therewith another setback was real.

On the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mr. Hayford highlighted the vast size and lack of basic infrastructure as well as destabilization particularly in the East regions. Its government and military force is weak, corruption and violence still prevalent. Nevertheless, there has been progress: first elections were successfully carried out 5 years ago, schools and roads are built and the civil society is very vibrant with many Congolese living abroad helping the country.

Mr. Patrick Hayford inspired us to take politically relevant actions and enhanced the belief in our voice as well as expanded our perception of the main current problems concerning the country we would be representing at the NMUN 2012. His enthusiasm, friendliness, openness and motivation raised our spirits and build a perfect bridge to a successful start of the negotiations at the conference. Therefore, we would like to thank Mr. Patrick Hayford very much for dedicating his time to us.

4.11 Briefing at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations by Senior Adviser Karsten Geier

On the 2nd of April 2012 the NMUN delegation heard a briefing at the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the United Nations (UN) to better understand the impact of the Lisbon Treaty and the European External Action Service on the work of the EU in the UN system. Mr. Geier is now serving a two-year term for the EU at the UN in New York before he will return to his post at the German Foreign Ministry, where he also works as a diplomat.

Upon entry into force on 1 December 2009, the Lisbon Treaty, inter alia, was designed to enhance coherence between policy areas in the field of EU external relations. During the briefing, Mr. Geier argued that experience had shown room for increasing coherence between the foreign policies of EU Member States and the external activities of the EU Commission. With the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union's external relations have developed significantly. The new European External Action Service (EEAS) is meant to create more coherence and efficiency in the foreign policy of EU member states and the European Union as a whole.

Furthermore, the EEAS cooperates with member states and other institutions, especially the European Parliament. The EEAS is meant to support the (European) High Representative, the President of the European Council, and the Commission in their functions in the area of external relations.

The integration of foreign policy still remains a difficult task within the European Integration Process. The EEAS is not supposed to replace any national foreign service but rather serve as a coordinator and supporter of the former. This approach is reflected in the work of the EU at the UN. The Delegation of the European Union serves as a platform for internal discussions and decision-making within the group of EU members of the United Nations.

The EU Delegation represents EU interests to the UN family, third country missions, and other interested parties. EU diplomats speak for the whole EU in UN bodies, including the General Assembly. Through such internally coordinated effort, the EU and its

member states strive for becoming a more important, unified player in official negotiations with other UN members.

Mr. Geier pointed out that the UN Security Council reflects an exception within this coordination system. According to Art. 34 of the Lisbon Treaty, EU Member States shall coordinate their action in international organisations. EU Member States that are also members of the United Nations Security Council, however, are only obliged to concert, to keep the other Member States and the High Representative fully informed, and, in the execution of their functions, to defend the positions and the interests of the European Union.

In conclusion, Mr. Geier proposed that the EU and its Member States stand to gain more influence in international affairs by standing united and making full use of EEAS coordination.

The insight Mr. Geier gave us in this very important part of European, German and UN policy was a very valuable part of our preparation. We are therefore very grateful for Mr. Geier and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

4.12 Briefing at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations by Mr. Achim Gaier

We continued our study tour by visiting the German mission to the United Nations in the afternoon. Together with two other delegations from German universities, we were welcomed by Achim Gaier. Mr. Gaier briefly introduced us to the work of the German mission and the history of the building, but left most of the time for our numerous questions.

During his short introduction we learned that the building of the German mission was planned to be a hotel before the German mission decided to buy it. It does not only host the German mission but also the German Consulate General, the DAAD and a German trade association.

The German mission has two major areas of work and therefore consists of two departments: the departments for economic affairs and the department for political affairs. While the economic department manages the contributions paid to the United Nations and spent on development aid, the political department during Germany's two-year term in the Security Council deals mainly with Security Council politics.

The staff carries out necessary research,



prepare speeches for the German representatives to the United Nations and coordinate their content with the government in Berlin. Usually the German representatives speak on every topic on the Security Council's agenda, making speech preparation a busy task.

After this short introduction to the work of the German mission, the floor was open for questions, which Mr. Gaier answered thoroughly and honestly. Many questions dealt with Germany's role in the United Nations: Mr. Gaier explained that Germany is respected as an honest broker by the other UN member states. According to the German policy, the representatives are concerned with all topics, but they have also introduced two agenda topics to the United Nations as their specific priority, both of which have had a major impact: "environment and security" and "children and armed conflict".

In general, Mr. Gaier assured that the work of the Security Council might sound frustrating to outsiders sometimes, but usually broad cooperation and mutual respect would prevail. To him, diplomatic relations not only rely on foreign policies, but also on personal relationships. The disclosures by WikiLeaks shook up some of these relationships; nonetheless, he generally trusts in the confidentiality of diplomatic talks to still persist.

Some students also took the chance to ask not only about working life but also about personal experiences and difficulties. Mr. Gaier willingly shared some stories with us.

He studied Philosophy and Sociology and came to work for the Foreign Office rather "by accident" than planned. He has lived in many places around the globe, among them Damascus, Windhoek, Zurich and Beijing, and came to New York for three years in 2010. He is driven by the goal of world peace and is not at all frustrated by his work, believing that the United Nations make the world a better place by assembling almost all states and prevailing upon nations to first talk before a conflict escalates. Mr. Gaier described that although there is hardly a single situation in which one person can directly create peace; there are small steps and successes that a single person can contribute to this major goal.

Furthermore, he explained that working in the area of diplomacy is far less glamorous than presumed: While it might be true that diplomats often live in big apartments and regularly attend after-hour functions, these mainly serve to attain professional and political aims. Daily life in this profession is actually difficult and tiresome: Work starts at 8.00 in the morning by checking for instructions from Berlin, then preparing for the sessions which usually last from 10 am to 6 pm. After the sessions there are numerous side events and of course the report to the German government for the same-day reporting system must be written and sent.

Overall, we all enjoyed listening to Mr. Gaier very much and appreciated his openness. We got a good impression of what working as a diplomat for the German foreign office means and gained some hope that maybe one day some of us would become real diplomats.

We therefore sincerely thank Mr. Gaier and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations.

5. Iraq at the NMUN 2012 Conference, 3-7 April 2012.

For a period of six months, our team has worked and prepared itself extensively in order to represent the Republic of Iraq in New York. After researching the foreign policy, the political, economic and social situation of our country and topics which are specific to each of our committees, we were just waiting for one thing: the negotiations in New York.

The Conference began with the Opening Ceremony, which took place at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Thus, in the same place, around 2500 students from many different countries gathered together to share an unforgettable experience.

During the five days of the Conference, our task was to represent Iraq in different committees, respecting our national foreign policy. The negotiations began during the official meetings and ended in general late in the night in informal meetings. Our goal was to foster the cooperation between countries and create draft resolutions to solve diplomatic, economic and humanitarian problems. At the same time, we wanted to strengthen the position of our country, Iraq, and protect its interests.

At the end of each day, all members of our team gathered together during the Delegation Meetings to discuss what was happening during the Conference and to share our problems and perceptions of this experience.

Finally, the Closing Ceremony came very quickly on Saturday, the 7th of April 2012. During this ceremony, all the delegations met for the last time in the magnificent General Assembly Hall of the United Nations Headquarters, listened to inspiring speeches of the organizers, and took pictures to capture the unique moments. This experience was our opportunity to really discover what diplomacy means and what it can achieve, to build self-confidence, develop life skills, but also create new and lasting friendships.

5.1 Iraq at the General Assembly First Committee

represented by Brittney Becker and Leonie Betzwieser

Committee Short Overview

The First Committee, also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), is one of the six main bodies of the UN General Assembly (GA). The First Committee of the General Assembly is primarily engaged in tackling all issues concerning disarmament and international security, including nuclear disarmament, biological weapons, outer space, and terrorism. Further matters, such as the increase of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and prevention of an arms race in outer space, have recently gained greater importance. DISEC's role is to debate these global security issues, create draft resolutions that address those matters, and then send these to the General Assembly Plenary to be voted upon and adopted. Since it includes all 193 UN Member States, DISEC is the main representative body in the world dealing with issues pertaining to disarmament and international security. Iraq is a founding member of the United Nations and thereby also of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

Committee Report

For the members of the General Assembly First Committee (GA 1st), informal caucusing

began hours before the first committee session. Before and after the rules of procedure training session, we strove to meet with as many of our fellow delegates as possible in order to discuss the agenda setting. The topics to be discussed during the Conference by our Committee were:

1. Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa
2. Measures to Prevent and Deter Cyber warfare
3. Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention

To our dismay, it soon became clear that our aim to discuss Biological Weapons first would not succeed due to widespread consensus on the importance of the topic Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Africa. Still, we refused to give up, resolving to continue the struggle to promote our agenda setting in the informal caucuses that evening.

The first official GA 1st meeting began with a seemingly interminable role call. When the speaker's list was open, we were astounded to see that every single one of the 193 placards was raised to be added to the list. Unfortunately, we were not lucky enough to



make it into the first several pages of the speaker's list, so we knew we had to redouble our efforts in the informal caucuses.

The first informal caucus was called to discuss the agenda setting. It was pandemonium – 400 students rushing around, calling out bloc names and attempting to find their allies – while we stood, paralyzed with fear, daunted by the task of trying to speak with all of these delegates. However, we quickly pulled ourselves together and dove into the fray. We soon realized that we seemed to be one of the only delegations in the room that wanted to discuss the topic of Biological Weapons first. Though we managed to convince several delegations of the importance of this topic, our hope of placing it first on the agenda were dashed. With overwhelming support, the topic of SALW in Africa was voted to become the first agenda item.

After the agenda setting, our work began in earnest. As early as the second session, delegates began forming blocs and drafting working papers to address the complex topic of the illicit trade of SALW in Africa. Seeking to underscore Iraq's new positive role in international affairs, we shied away from aligning ourselves too closely with any one

group. Rather, we attempted to become acquainted with the positions of the various groups in turn and act as a go-between to promote cooperation. As a state that does not export a significant amount of weapons, Iraq does not have a vested interest in the arms trade. This fairly neutral position enabled us to take on an unbiased, benevolent role in the committee, working together with many other blocs and promoting compromise.

Early on, we set to drafting a working paper with several other states, which focused specifically on the use of end-user certificates to tackle the illicit trade of SALW in Africa. Since our working paper was highly specific and pragmatic, we were able to gain many signatories from member states from almost all of the different blocs. We also worked on a working paper promoting an incentives program to return SALW with numerous other delegations. All in all, a staggering 18 working papers were submitted to the dais as early as the third session. It soon became clear that these working papers would have to be merged so that we could distil the most important points into several detailed and extensive draft resolutions.

The work of merging so many different working papers was a highly demanding and exhausting task. We read as many of the working papers as we could get our hands upon in order to see which ones were closest to our position. To this end, we worked through two highly productive sessions to merge working papers with other groups while keeping the main spirit and content of our resolution as intact as possible. The negotiations were far from easy, as each working paper was authored by numerous delegations, all of whom wished to keep as many of their clauses in the final paper as possible.

By the end of the sixth session, we had not yet completed merging all of the working papers and the midnight deadline for working paper submissions was approaching rapidly. We called an emergency session with all of the main submitters of the working papers to be merged after official session ended. With six working papers and their main submitters present, the negotiations were noisy and fraught with tension. We suggested electing one or two “representatives” for each working paper who would then take part in the negotiations for the final merged document. We were proud to be elected to collaborate with the other representatives to further Iraq’s aims in the final merged paper. With herculean effort, we finished the final merged working paper, formatting and all, minutes before the deadline. Our efforts garnered heartfelt congratulations from the chair, who was pleased with the group’s ability to cooperate and work under pressure.

Our bloc’s final working paper-turned-draft resolution consisted of 14 operative clauses, four of which were from our original working paper on end-user certificates. Due to its high level of detail and multifaceted approach to tackling the issue at hand, our draft resolution was met with enthusiasm by the majority of the committee. During voting procedures, however, we were shocked to discover that one of the sponsors of the resolution had decided to raise a motion to divide the question so as to delete one highly important clause from the draft resolution. To our relief, this motion failed, and the draft resolution was passed with a clear majority. Ultimately, four out of the six total resolutions were passed, each addressing an important issue in the illicit trade of SALW in Africa and around the globe.

On the last day of the conference, our draft resolution was one of the two resolutions selected to be discussed in the Plenary Session at the United Nations Headquarters. We had the opportunity to speak in front of the plenary group in order to defend our

resolution, seated at the very same desk occupied by the Iraqi delegation to the United Nations during official General Assembly plenary meetings. This experience was undoubtedly one of the highlights of our Model United Nations experience.

By the end of the week, we were thoroughly exhausted but highly satisfied with the outcome of the committee. We had managed to face the daunting task of trying to achieve consensus with 192 other states (and 2 observer states) and emerged unscathed from this ordeal. In the process, we not only learned a great deal about diplomacy and international affairs, but were also afforded the chance to meet with hundreds of students from all over the world.

5.2 Iraq at the General Assembly Second Committee

represented by Maximilian Harms and Philipp Schulte

Committee Short Overview

According to Chapter IV Article 22 of the UN Charter, the “General Assembly may establish (...) subsidiary organs, as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions”. The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) is one of these



six (though only three present at NMUN) subsidiary organs and is currently chaired by H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh. During the 66th session, it will deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, the international financial system and external debt sustainability), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development and information and communication technologies for development. Since the 21st of December 1945, the Republic of Iraq has been a Member State of the United

Nations, hence has been participating in the General Assembly as well as all subsidiary organs including ECOFIN. During this session, both the 2nd and 3rd topic of the Agenda will be highly relevant for Iraq, especially for its economic and social prospects. At ECOFIN Iraq shall additionally deal with current disputes with the Republic of Turkey and Syria concerning its dependency on fresh water from Euphrates and Tigris.

Committee Report

The three topics at hand to be discussed at the NMUN 2012 were:

1. The Role of Intellectual Property in facilitating Trade and attracting Foreign Direct Investment
2. The Role of Microcredit in Promoting Economic Development
3. Fresh Water Management and Economic Development

In the run-up to the conference, we took part in a preparation session making the NMUN participants familiar with the rules of procedures. Right after the end of the session, most delegations used the opportunity to introduce themselves to their fellow committee members. Among others, we got in touch with the delegations of the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iceland. By the end of this gathering, we had already agreed on an informal meeting with some potential partners, most of which were from the MENA region.

Between the Opening Ceremony and the start of the first formal session on the very same day, we met for the first time in order to discuss the agenda setting. We agreed on the order we proposed, making Fresh Water Management our common prior topic.

The first formal session itself was an event for itself. Although having met in advance with some other delegations, we were definitely not prepared for the agenda setting. Surprising to us, some delegation had brought posters with their preferred agenda setting written on it. We then joined a group of about 30 states favoring our topic order, which we started to advertise afterward. In the end, we nevertheless achieved our goal and made Fresh Water Management the first topic to be discussed.

The next day we met among our working group consisting of about ten states such as South Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Djibouti as well as Turkey. Working with Turkey right from the start was the key to our agreement later on. Due to the ongoing conflict concerning the Euphrates and Tigris region, we could not take for granted even working with Turkey. We were focusing on the signing and ratification of an international agreement on Transboundary Rivers. Most delegations were not familiar with the *UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses*, which was heavily promoted by us. We did not experience much opposition to our proposition, so we started drafting a resolution. During this process many clauses were added by different delegations, though we kept making sure that none of these were contradictory to Iraq's foreign policy.

By the end of the third day of formal sessions, we began advertising our draft resolution. There were already fourteen sponsors and about thirty signatories involved. We were especially focusing on European states, of which Iceland and Poland proved to be good partners. Intense negotiations within and outside formal sessions led to a long-lasting partnership with the delegations from both Poland and Iceland.

In the end we successfully passed our resolution. Just before this we were provided with the opportunity to speak in front of the General Assembly, promoting the resolution and our main objective of signing and ratifying the above mentioned convention.



5.3 Iraq at the General Assembly Third Committee

represented by Tim Karolewicz and Florian Tille

Committee Short Overview

The General Assembly Third Committee (GA 3rd), also referred to as the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee (SOCHUM), is one of the six specialized subcommittees of the United Nations General Assembly. It provides a forum for all of the 193 member states of the United Nations to participate in multilateral discussion on social, humanitarian and cultural issues. The Third Committee acts according to the main goal of the United Nations: The insurance of international peace and security. In the GA 3rd, special focus is dedicated to global education as well as ensuring, promoting and advancing human rights. It has the competence to draft so-called “country-specific resolutions on human rights situations”. In this regard, the Third Committee offers the most representative assembly for dealing with the aforementioned subjects and thus certainly constitutes an integral role within the UN system.

Committee Report

It must have been the so-called ‘calm before the storm’: When we entered for the first time the Broadway South Conference room, the location within the hotel where our committee’s meetings were going to take place for the week of NMUN 2012 (and that soon became our living, sleeping and eating room), there happened to be quite a remarkable silence. It was a deceitful one, though. Nearly all of the other 192 delegations represented in the General Assembly Third Committee were thoroughly focused, preparing strategies for the upcoming negotiations and merely slightly socializing. However, as soon as our first formal meeting had been officially opened by the chair and roll call had been taken, it seemed as if all of the delegations - no matter where they were

from or what country they were been representing – had already agreed on one issue: The answer to the question “Who would like to be on the speaker’s list?” is “Us”. We, as the delegates of the Republic of Iraq, felt very well prepared for all of the formal and informal caucusing, the resolution writing and speech holding. But when it seemed like all of the 193 member states placards were simultaneously raised into the air, we were overwhelmed. After finally (and somewhat luckily) being placed on position number 50 on the speaker’s list, we undoubtedly saw confirmed that this will not be a playground for pseudo diplomats on vacation to New York City – but rather a highly serious, professional and competitive simulation of the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee.

Our working progress started out very well: Since Iraq has been witnessing the devastating effects of transnational organized crime activities in the Western Asian region for decades; we sought to argue for this very topic to be the first point of the agenda for the week’s session. Before the first formal meeting in the conference room, we took advantage of our time and possibilities to engage in dialogue with other delegations on our planned agenda setting. As it soon turned out, our intention was



received positively among the other delegations and soon appeared to be the very probable outcome of the voting on the agenda setting. How illusive this impression was, however, became obvious during the first informal caucus in and around the conference room: Various groups of states, foremost the African Block and the one from South America, preferred to have the topic of

Indigenous People on the very top of the agenda. Shortly, we found ourselves in the middle of very intense, persistent and exhausting, yet always fair and respectful negotiations – and that was “just” about the agenda setting. Fortunately, the talks and voting proceeded – from our perspective - successfully and the agenda was set in the following manner: Transnational Organized Crime, Human Trafficking and the Rights and Development of Indigenous People. This, however, was just the beginning of an unforgettable week.

After the order of the agenda had been decided upon, the actual working progress started. We were expecting the roughest and exhausting negotiations yet to come. We were right. On the second day of the General Assembly Third Committee’s session at the NMUN 2012, several suspensions of the formal meeting gave us the opportunity to engage in talks with numerous other delegations. We very much took advantage of not belonging to any set political union or confederation, while not neglecting our responsibilities as a member state of the Arab League. After all, we were aware that representing “the New Iraq” obliged us to open our national and international interests to a broad variety of nations when addressing the issue of transnational organized crime and its sub-categories

such as the trafficking in persons, money laundering, drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms. During our negotiations to promote our maximum outcome of establishing an inter-agency working group in the Western Asia region for close cooperation to prevent, combat and punish transnational organized criminal networks and structures, we soon found common ground with the remarkably cooperative delegation of Turkey. As a matter of course, we sought to expand this established bilateral working alignment and engaged in productive discussions with several other countries from the Western Asian region. While trying to strengthen ties with member states from all regions of the world and partner with regional powers, Turkey as an emerging regional authority and Iraq as a democratic and progressive state shared the role of the leading power in our working group. While being unrestrictedly open to cooperate with any willing and Member State, we focused on keeping our working flow, namely the creation of a working paper, productive and target-oriented.

The effort started to pay off and on the morning of the following day, we were glad to present our first result in writing: A working paper that already included many preambulatory and operative clauses. Of great relevance was the fact that we had accomplished to include even more than our maximum outcome. Before we were allowed to call this piece of work a “draft resolution” another crucial step – and valuable lesson – needed to be taken: We needed to merge our working paper with the ones from other working groups. Having submitted the record number of 25 papers, the GA 3rd of 2012 had produced an extraordinary amount of working papers, most of them of distinguished quality. Nevertheless, the committee’s chair did not offer sufficient resources in order to have all those approved as draft resolutions. To us, this meant that the next project included a new round of passionate, concentrated discussions with even more delegations, namely the sponsors of other working papers in order to create a paper that may ultimately promote global cooperative action.

Looking back to our experience in the Committee, to the amazing feeling during the voting procedures, to the pleasant memories of negotiating in a passionate way with other delegations, we are proud and happy to have been able to participate in the NMUN Conference as representatives of Iraq.

5.4 Iraq at the Economic and Social Council

represented by Nikolas Ott and Antonia-Ioana Sintu

Committee Short Overview

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established in 1945 under the United Nations Charter as the principal UN organ, which coordinates international economic and social affairs. The ECOSOC is made up of 14 specialized agencies, nine functional commissions, and five regional commissions, and formulates policy recommendations for the UN and its member states. Its principle areas of work are: promoting higher standards of living, furthering economic and social progress, and identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems. Additionally it aims to facilitate international cultural and educational cooperation and encourages universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. During the ECOSOC World Summit in 2005, the member states established the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) as new key functions of the ECOSOC. The

AMR assesses the progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, while the biennial DCF reviews trends in international development cooperation. At the end of each annual substantive session, a Ministerial Declaration is adopted, which provides recommendations and policies for implementing the goals discussed. Iraq has been member of the ECOSOC since 2007.

Committee Report

After the Opening Ceremony, we participated in the first Committee Session of the ECOSOC and finally got the feeling that we were approaching the height of our NMUN experience. Before the start of the first Formal Session, we discussed different preferences for the agenda order with some delegations, which consisted of three topics:

1. Evaluating the Progress and Projections of the Millennium Development Goals
2. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-based Violence on the Right to Reproductive Health
3. Environmental Migration and Social Vulnerability as a Result of Climate Change

Although we were eager to set the third topic on top of our agenda due to Iraq's specific interests and incentives in the area of environmental sustainability, we were also flexible on discussing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) first, as they comprised development, gender as well as environmental issues. To our surprise, the agenda setting took no more than five minutes and the motion raised by Comoros for setting the order 1-3-2 clearly passed without any informal caucusing beforehand.

In the first round of informal consultations, Iraq managed to convene a group of G-77 countries and soon we started to gather ideas on how to draw up a working paper. After deciding on following a comprehensive approach focusing on all of the eight MDGs, we listened to each country's concerns and main interests. We then decided to reconvene in a



smaller group later in the evening, when we started to make specific recommendations for possible acceleration efforts and new efficient incentives. The delegations of Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Comoros, Ghana, Namibia and Japan proved to be valuable cooperation partners of our delegation from the very first caucus.

During the second day of Conference, our group agreed to meet earlier in order to refine our strategy and start drafting the working paper. We focused respectively on a three-stage approach, namely evaluating the implementation and control mechanisms of both the United Nations and the national governments, while identifying the most problematic areas of MDGs, where progress had been slow and uneven, and making specific

recommendations. Our delegation was proud to introduce this approach in our first speech before the Council. In the following informal consultations, we strove to formulate clauses that were rich in substance and right at the end of the last Committee Session on Wednesday our group managed to submit the working paper to the Chair.

On the "meltdown Thursday" our group sat together again, from very early in the morning until very late in the evening in order to make specific adjustments and insertions, according to the recommendations of the Chair. We were constantly under pressure to make our clauses as clear, innovative, rich in substance and coherent as possible, which was a challenging task due to the very broad scope of the MDGs. Meanwhile, our delegation also engaged in discussions with the other working groups, which were mainly focusing on specific areas of the MDGs such as women's empowerment, water sanitation, financing mechanisms as well as food security. Constantly aware of our foreign policy objectives, we contributed to two working papers focusing on women's rights and water sanitation by modifying wordings and adding specific clauses such as "[...] in accordance with the constitutional and socio-cultural principles of Member States".



In the afternoon, the idea of merging working papers appeared to us as very clever and practical, yet extremely challenging, after we became familiar with the working paper of the African Bloc, which had adopted a very similar comprehensive approach. The prospect of the two groups (comprising more than 18 delegations) working together on the merging in full-size appeared impossible, so each group elected their representatives. Iraq was proud to be one of them.

At the end of the "meltdown Thursday" a brand new merged paper was conceived, including the best approaches and ideas of both working groups. This moment was welcomed with prolonged applause by the sponsors, and words like "good job!" or "we've done it" made us return to our rooms feeling both excited and proud.

In the morning of the next day, to our delight, the Chair commended the two working groups on the high quality of the merged working paper and made some other recommendations, which we hurried to follow, keeping in mind that the Council would soon have to go into voting procedure. We liked to call Friday the "Negotiation Day", as we all engaged in challenging but fruitful negotiations on the other draft resolutions. For example, Iraq along with other countries spent some time willing to change the wording "fully cooperate" into "actively cooperate", for in the end to find consensus on "extensively cooperate". This can give an idea about the passionate way of negotiation of all delegates, their commitment to the own draft resolutions and their willingness to include their national interests in other papers.

In the end, Iraq was proud to vote "Yes" and see a "wholeheartedly" sponsored draft resolution passed, which included many clauses favorable to our national interests and foreign policy such as: "*Calls upon greater regional dialogue on a fair distribution of international water sources and encourages member states to ratify the convention on the Law of Non-Navigational uses of International Watercourses in order to ensure equal access to water resources in development*".

In the end, with 11 resolutions adopted, the Economic and Social Council adjourned its meeting. We were feeling proud and content with the outcome of the Conference, motivated to further engage in development efforts at home and in our future international experiences, happy with all the new friends we had made throughout the week as well as feeling more experienced and confident with our speaking and negotiation skills. NMUN has shown us the real face of diplomacy.

5.5 Iraq at the Commission on the Status of Women

represented by Oleh Vovk and Anastasia Kallidou

Committee Short Overview

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946, is a functional commission of the ECOSOC. CSW is devoted to gender equality and improvement of the status of women and consists of representatives of forty-five Member States, which are elected by the Council for a period of four years, according to geographical distribution. The CSW is one of the commissions of the UN that do not limit participation to states only; for example, NGOs are also allowed to participate in sessions of the CSW. Since its establishment, it has been a mechanism to promote, report on and monitor issues relating to the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women. It was a unique official structure for drawing attention to women's concerns and leadership within the UN. Among its activities, the CSW drafted several conventions and declarations, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1967 and initiated women-focused agencies such as UNIFEM and INSTRAW.

Committee Report

Over the years, we have seen the efforts of the CSW leading to concrete results across the spectrum of the United Nations work in the field of human rights. It was an amazing

opportunity to contribute to the work for gender equality and to have stimulating discussions, joint learning, strategizing, and gain new insights.

Our negotiation process started before the conference. We started to work with other delegates, such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, United States of America, Gambia and others to get a constructive result. The first night of Committee sessions was all about setting the agenda and it opened with several statements concerning the agenda. Unfortunately, we could not get on the speakers list, which is why we had to continue our negotiations during informal caucusing. Our delegation thus introduced itself to the other 39 countries present and 1 observer and soon discovered that our preference with regards to the topics was unfortunately not shared by all the Member States. We realized that the topic the New Iraq eagerly wanted to discuss was not going to pass, however we exchanged interesting points with the other delegates, trying to convince as many of them as possible. After about two hours of debating and procedural matters, the committee eventually set the following agenda:

1. Improving Women's Health as a means to Achieve Gender Equality;
2. Women's Economic Empowerment in the Context of the Global Economic & Financial Crisis;
3. Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Planning and Implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Processes.



The Committee was addressed by several Member States in formal session and chose to suspend the meeting for caucusing purposes. In the context of improving women's health, the New Iraq hoped to focus on the issues of education and we tried to form a working group in order to develop our goal. At the end of the first session we held a speech in which we proposed a training program for medical personnel and an exchange program, which led countries like Gambia and United States to come back to us and to start developing preambles and main points of our resolution the same night. We offered other comprehensive approaches to the issue of improving women's health, such as public awareness campaigns and we worked with other countries to further develop our working paper.

Since a lot of other countries liked our concept, our working group enlarged the next day and we worked very closely with a lot of other delegations. Our working group drafted

our work and submitted a paper, which was accepted as a draft resolution at the end of session Friday morning.

The body moved to vote on the draft resolutions and all eight of them, including ours, passed. We introduced the following part of a Resolution CSW 1/5, Improving Women's Health as a Means to Achieve Gender Equality':

The Commission on the Status of Women,

...

2) Supports the cooperation between NGOs, specialized UN agencies, and grassroots organizations in facilitating a culturally-sensitive "train-the-trainer" initiative that incorporates all community health workers in ensuring that a comprehensive approach to women's health is achieved by:

a. Introducing a Healthcare Worker Training Network and maximizing their effectiveness by allowing members to share their knowledge with other women in their communities who are willing to participate in this aforementioned program;

b. Promoting healthcare education exchange initiatives focused on allowing medical workers to receive training in foreign countries, which have the necessary resources;

The New Iraq and Malaysia initiated an unfriendly amendment and tried to modify following clause:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

1) Invites Member States to expand services provided in health centers by considering the implementation of programs similar to the Israel's government sponsored "Drop of Milk Center for Mother and Child" that provides care and nutrition advice for pregnant women and new mothers;

We believed that it would be difficult to apply this resolution by a lot of Arab countries. And we tried to modify this clause dropping down the reference to the government of Israel, but still giving benefit to the program. Even though we had support of other countries, our unfriendly amendment was unfortunately voted down by the body.

The Commission on the Status of Women then moved forward to discuss Women's Economic Empowerment in the Context of Global Economic & Financial Crisis. "We have 15 minutes to save women from economic doom!!!" said the delegate from Philippines. In 15 minutes we moved into working groups, organized our goals and developed strategies and methods of bringing solutions to the topic. The New Iraq was a sponsor on one of two resolutions that were accepted by the dais and then passed a resolution before the adjournment of the meeting, bringing an end to a successful session.

5.6 Iraq at the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia

represented by Tatyana Mitkova and Irina Hardt

Committee Short Overview

The Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA) is the main general forum to promote social and economic development in the Western Asian region. Currently

ESCWA has fourteen members, all of them Arab countries from the region of Western Asia and its surroundings. These are: Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and United Arab Emirates. It aims to achieve its goal by sub-regional interaction and cooperation. Therefore, ESCWA has given itself five objectives, which are in short: to support the economic and social development, to promote cooperation between the countries of the region, to exchange experience, to promote integration and to familiarize the outside world with the circumstances and needs of the countries in the region. To fulfill these objectives ESCWA has developed seven focus areas: Sustainable Development and Productivity, Social Development, Economic Development and Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, Statistics, the ESCWA Center for Women and Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues.

Committee Report

Wishing to start debate right away, even before the actual first formal session, during the rules of procedure meeting the delegates representing their countries in the ESCWA committee had an unexpected task to face: finding their 14 colleague states among the 193 countries present.

Being a huge problem before the session, during the session, when we finally succeeded in meeting each other in the first official ESCWA session, all delegates began to regard the size of this body as its main advantage.



In order not to exhaust the speakers list, statistically spoken, in during the about 7 hours of formal debate a day each delegation had to speak approximately 30 minutes, to meet the demand of the speakers list, therefore instead of trying to get on the speakers list we got the opportunity to hold a satisfying amount of speeches, outlining guidelines and

representing our country's position regarding the topic currently debated upon. But still most of the work that concerned the content of the resolutions was done during the informal caucusing.

Forming three small groups, we focused on addressing each topic through different perspectives, bringing up three working papers that complemented each other to the dais. The resolution writing process was then concluded by an informal unmoderated caucus we succeeded in initiating, where each working group could present their work and all delegates could comment on the suggested measures. Our committee was focused on building consensus; therefore we can just outline our main partners since the work with all delegations was highly productive. We can stress our cooperation with Syria and Saudi Arabia, but furthermore mention that the teamwork was not limited to these. All 14 members worked together successfully as a team; being a regional committee, the Arab states could show the efficiency of that body.

After two hours of debate concerning the agenda setting, while we were discussing different agenda orders, during the first day no one thought that we would meet the aim to address two agenda topics, which were the following:

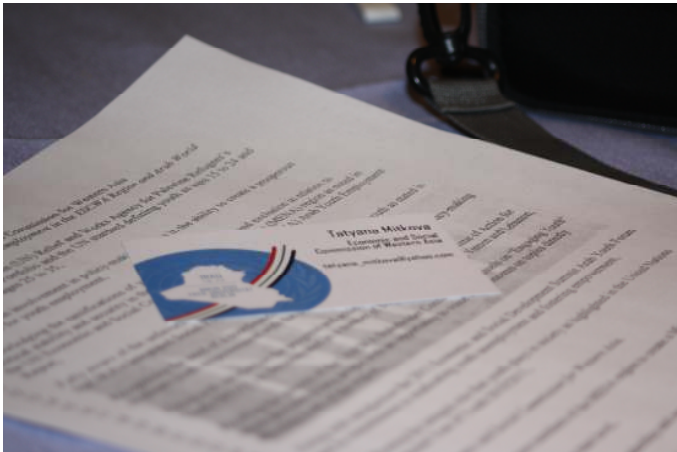
Topic 1: Addressing Youth Unemployment in the ESCWA Region and Arab World

Topic 2: Promoting the Empowerment of Women in the ESCWA Region

Topic 3: Economic and Social Reconstruction in Palestine

To address the first topic we focused mostly on educational programs such as industrial initiatives, exchange programs and vocational training and youth involvement in the political decision making process. Our plan for the resolution in Palestine aimed to improve the educational and health-care infrastructure and to encourage the establishment of a micro-loan program and the installment of an airstrip in Palestine.

Still looking back, our work is manifested in six resolutions we were able to pass unanimously by acclamation.



5.7 Iraq at the Committee on Sustainable Development (Rio +20 Conference)

represented by Giuliano Montanari and Saga Schrenk

Committee Short Overview

The Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the General Assembly through A/RES/47/191 at the end of 1992 as a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It thus followed a recommendation of the Agenda 21 agreement reached on the so-called UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or also known as Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in mid-1992. Its aim is to ensure the follow-up of major outcome documents and to serve as a high-level forum on issues of sustainable development. Thus it is supposed to review progress, monitor and report on implementation and challenges on the local, regional and international level of the respective agreements. The CSD comprises 53 members serving three-year terms and meets annually in New York completing two-year cycles with a focus on a specific cluster of issues. 2012 marks the first time for the Republic of Iraq being a member of the committee.

Committee Report

The three topics at hand to be discussed at the NMUN 2012 were:

Topic 1: The Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication;

Topic 2: Keeping the Green Economy Blue: Protecting Oceans and Fisheries for Future Generations;

Topic 3: Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

Even before the first formal session we seized the opportunity in the lobby and hallways of our hotel to meet, whenever we recognized them, potential partners such as Brazil or the US. In general, fellow delegates were eager to create an air of cooperation way before the official opening of the sessions. Thus, we were all the more looking forward to finally entering formal procedure. As it turned out, to the surprise not only of the dais but also to all of us, a vast majority of participants were “first-timers”, a circumstance which later on came to shape the overall style of negotiations.

As soon as the initial session was opened, agreement on the agenda rapidly emerged. To our content, the agenda was set with the Green Economy remaining the first topic to be addressed, an issue which we had been preparing in depth in the months before. Due to the scope of issues embedded in this topic alone, throughout the conference the plenary did not get to discuss the other two topics – a common phenomenon at the NMUN, as we were told.

At the beginning, we clearly underestimated the dynamics of the speaker’s list, which saw a quick rush of requests. As we made our bid to be put on it, we were already way down the list. Thus, we made our first realization that is to be fast in all of your approaches since this committee comprised the full number of UN Member States.

On the first evening, while becoming familiar with the general pace of the conference, we were particularly active in finding promising partners, meaning we would split up and approach as many interesting delegations as possible. We tried to better learn about their concrete plans and strategies, potential lines of agreement and dissent.

On the second day we got much more into detail, not only figuring out which delegations we would be working together with, but we also started creating a working paper. During the extensive informal caucuses we mainly came together with the United States, our natural ally given the recent history, as well as Costa Rica, Indonesia, Portugal and Turkey focusing on aspects such as education, technology transfer and green jobs.

Throughout the sessions of the third day, delegations were dedicatedly writing their working papers and then handing them to the dais by the end of the day. Realizing our committee had produced about 20 (!) working papers by that time, a fairly large volume likely owed to the number of first-timers, the dais decidedly suggested to the plenary to use the remaining time to significantly reduce redundancy and merge working papers. Obviously, that meant another short night for all of the delegates. We hence modified the first draft that we had created together with the United States to draw more signatories and sponsors, even though that included cooperating with a few, partly unexpected delegations.

On the fourth day the delegates managed to finalize the merged drafts and by mid-day our committee ended up presenting eight drafts to be voted on. We then moved into voting procedure where the committee passed all of the drafts thus presenting eight resolutions as a final result, a fairly productive outcome.

For the final day we got to visit and debate in the actual ECOSOC and General Assembly facilities of the UN which created a lot of smiles and spontaneous photo shoots among all of the delegates. The joyful atmosphere definitely compensated for the considerable exhaustion and challenges of the past days. In summary, the conference posed a great learning opportunity and inspiration throughout the months. It has been a tremendous experience in many regards that we will never forget.

5.8 Iraq at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

represented by Ikram Hajji and Reem Alabali

Committee Short Overview

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the second largest intergovernmental organization, plays a significant role in the consolidation of the Republic of Iraq. Since 2009, relations between the OIC and our country have been strengthened. This was particularly reflected by the opening of a permanent office of the OIC in Iraq. For its part, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, stressed the duty of the OIC to protect the Iraqi people, to encourage the political process and the defense of human rights in Iraq. For this purpose, the Secretary-General of the OIC also calls for solidarity among Islamic countries to help our country. Thus, religious tolerance, respect for fundamental freedoms of human beings and the development of a socioeconomic solidarity among the Muslim states in situations of emergency, are at the heart of the concerns of the OIC.

Committee Report

After long weeks of preparation and excitement, the NMUN conference had finally begun. Thus, my partner and I had the honor to represent the Republic of Iraq within our Committee, the OIC. The first contact with the other countries, members of the OIC, was made before the first formal session. Indeed, before the Opening Ceremony of the Conference, we had the opportunity to attend a seminar to enhance our knowledge about the rules of procedure during the simulation.

Thus, that seminar was a great opportunity for us to get to know our future partners in the negotiations and also to exchange business cards. From that moment we started to share our point of view concerning the establishment of the agenda. For our country, the Republic of Iraq, it seemed important to adopt the topic "Promoting Order for Regimes in Transition" on top of our agenda, followed by the question of "The Humanitarian and Socioeconomic Impact of Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Quality of Life", and by the topic of "Targeting Religious Intolerance".

After this first contact, the next step was the Opening Ceremony. That was one of the most important and symbolic moments in our experience. Indeed almost 2500 students from all around the world were present to stand for their country and share a human experience. During the Opening Ceremony, we had the chance to listen to a speech by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, who reminded us of the supreme values of the United Nations, and explained his motivation for becoming a diplomat.



After the Opening Ceremony, our first formal session began. During that session our goal was to set the agenda. Our committee negotiations started very well. Indeed, after having talked to many countries, we quickly realized that the majority of members of the OIC shared the same views as our country Iraq regarding the agenda priorities.

Once the agenda was set, a long process of negotiation started and friendships very quickly formed between the negotiators. The first issue we had to deal with was: "Regimes in Transition". One of our first incentives was to define the notion of "regime transition". In fact, after talking with many countries on the measures, which were necessary to improve the economic, political and social situation in countries dealing with political transition, we realized that a definition of the term was necessary.

Then the question was to consider if the definition should be part of a resolution or should be by itself a resolution. Given the importance of this definition, we decided together to make a resolution entitled "Definition of Regime in Transition" that could serve as a reference to all members of the OIC.

Since we decided that splitting up during the negotiations was the best strategy for our delegation to be able to have talks with almost every country represented and therefore we had the opportunity to work on various resolutions. By splitting up during the negotiations and coming together during the breaks and at the end of the day and exchange our experiences, we were able to work on and submit four draft resolutions.

Besides sponsoring a resolution on the definition of "regimes in transition" we also contributed to two resolutions that aimed to establish concrete measures to improve the economic, social and political situation in countries dealing with political regime change. One resolution focused on developing an instrument for humanitarian and social aid for OIC countries that have been going through a political transition. The aid was to be provided and monitored by OIC Member States in cooperation with other international organizations like the United Nations. The other resolution focused on a system that would provide economic aid within the OIC member states and encourage regional economic integration.

Another resolution that we worked hard on given also a merging process addressed two mechanisms: Firstly, a Consultancy on Organizational Methods for Proliferation of Assistance on Sustainable Stability and secondly, a Promoting Order in Regimes in Transition initiative.

After working continuously up to late hours with the partners that we made during the negotiations and difficult merging processes, the OIC Committee finally got to the voting procedure. That was very exciting for all our delegations. The OIC passed all six submitted resolutions, from which we sponsored and submitted four. At the end of the day, we felt that all the hard work was worth it, since the whole experience that we made on how to negotiate, how to cooperate, how to write a strong resolution and how to convince other delegations to pass the resolutions really developed our capabilities and knowledge. During the time we also met a lot of interesting people from all over the world and we made a lot of new friends by working together.

The Closing Ceremony was held at the General Assembly in the United Nations Headquarters. In the early morning, selected resolutions from all committees were voted upon by the present delegations. Given that the OIC is not a United Nations body, there was no voting on an OIC resolution, but a committee report was read aloud by a member of the OIC chair.

In the afternoon all delegations came together in the General Assembly Hall, which was a very impressive experience. Outstanding delegations were awarded and closing speeches were held. That was the last official part of our NMUN adventure and we were all ready and enthusiastic to celebrate the whole experience together at the Delegates Dance in the evening.

5.9 Iraq at the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

represented by Caroline Clajus and Nina Redmann

Committee Short Overview

The Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is working on a comprehensive global treaty that defines common binding standards for international arms transfer, pending on

states' responsibilities under international law. An Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) was established through *Resolution 63/240* by the GA, with the intent to meet for six sessions. After two sessions the remaining four sessions were converted into a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) in 2009, with the task to discuss which components should be included in an ATT in order to establish the groundwork for an UN Conference on the ATT in July 2012, during which the final treaty would be negotiated. One last PrepCom meeting took place in February 2012 in anticipation of the final conference in July 2012. Since the ATT was not yet adopted and thus many aspects still remain unclear the following issues need to be discussed during the Conference in New York: Scope, Parameters/Criteria, International Cooperation and Assistance, Victims' Assistance, Implementation, Verification, Final Provisions.

Committee Report

Our NMUN experience began with an ATT training session since it was the first time that the ATT was simulated at the NMUN. After the Dais introduced themselves, they gave us a short overview of how the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty will proceed and we then had the opportunity to ask remaining questions. It was incredible to witness how even before the start of the actual Conference every opportunity was seized for networking among the eager delegates.

The first Committee session of the Conference started just a few hours later. When the Chair asked who would like to be put on the speaker's list, we –like 192 others– immediately raised our placard but were not recognized. From then onwards, we knew what we had to expect during the following days.

After we listened to a number of speeches, the meeting was moved to informal caucusing. Since Iraq has a strong connection to its Arab brothers, we approached the delegates representing the states from the Arab League. While we were discussing and exchanging our points of views we found out that the Arab states were strongly in favor of the "7+1" formula in terms of the Scope of the Treaty while Iraq preferred the "7+1+1" formula. As a result, we also turned to Western countries, such as the European Union, because they were highly in favor of "7+1+1".

Soon it became evident, that Iraq was caught in a dilemma. Should we cooperate with our Arab brothers or should we, in fact, engage with the European Union, as it seemed to promote exactly what the New Iraq was looking for? Within a couple of hours, delegations started to work on the treaty segments. However, we decided not to initiate our own draft but rather to share our ideas with different working groups.

After we had sent a note to the Dais, that we would like to be put on the speakers' list in order to share our point of view on the ATT, we learned that we were only on rank 81 on the second day of the Conference. This came by no surprise considering that all UN Member States were represented in our Committee. We counted ourselves lucky and waited patiently for our 60 seconds of glory. After further informal caucusing and speeches, our time had finally come and Nina gave a speech, in which she emphasized the efforts of the Iraqi Government in terms of arms regulation as well as the importance of creating a transparent international arms control system. Two days later Caroline grabbed the opportunity to give another speech and pointed out Iraq's position on Victims' Assistance and international cooperation. We also encouraged other delegations

to support the working paper on victims' assistance, which was co-sponsored by Iraq. To deliver a speech in front of more than 300 delegates was challenging and at the same time exciting. We are both grateful that we were given this opportunity.

After four long days of negotiations the voting procedures began. Fortunately, a draft treaty segment for each treaty provision was produced so that we could vote on a complete Arms Trade Treaty in the end. Almost every delegate was pleasantly surprised by this achievement and applauded loudly.

After the treaty segments were voted upon, the Dais honored outstanding position papers. While we were congratulating fellow delegations, we were astonished when Iraq was also awarded for an outstanding position paper.

We were in awe during the final voting procedure on the Arms Trade Treaty, which took place in the UN Headquarters. The fact that we were sitting in the General Assembly Hall and voting on a treaty whose actual faith will be decided upon in July 2012 was an incredible feeling. Being representatives of the New Iraq, we decided to vote in favor of the ATT and were pleased that the majority of the Member States adopted the treaty.

Participating in NMUN 2012 was an incredible and informative experience. However, we had to realize that negotiations in a committee of this size are very difficult and that there was too little time to discuss the treaty segments in detail. Nevertheless, we are satisfied with the outcome of the Conference, since the Treaty practically reflects Iraq's position.



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4.8. Briefing on Poverty by Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee	Saga E. Schrenk
4.9. Briefing on Disarmament by Mr. Ewen Buchanan	Nina Redmann
4.10. Briefing on Conflict Resolution by Sebastian von Einsiedel	Florian Tille
4.11. Briefing on Indigenous Issues by Ms. Nila Bernardi	Antonia-Ioana Sintu
4.12. Briefing on Africa by Mr. Patrick Hayford	Ilana Nepomnyashchaya
4.13. Briefing at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations by Senior Adviser Karsten Geier	Nikolas Ott

4.14. Briefing at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations by Mr. Achim Gaier	Leonie Betzwieser
4.15. Briefing at the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations by Ishaya Odisho and Ambassador H.E. Dr. Hamid Al-Bayati	Reem Alabali

5. Iraq at the NMUN 2012 Conference

Introduction

written by Ikram Hajii

5.1 Iraq at the General Assembly First Committee

5.2 Iraq at the General Assembly Second Committee

5.3 Iraq at the General Assembly Third Committee

5.4 Iraq at the Economic and Social Council

5.5 Iraq at the Commission on the Status of Women

5.6 Iraq at the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia

5.7 Iraq at the Committee on Sustainable Development (Rio +20 Conference)

5.8 Iraq at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

5.9 Iraq at the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

written by the respective committee member



**Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in the
National Model United Nations conferences 1995-2012**

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), Awards "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)

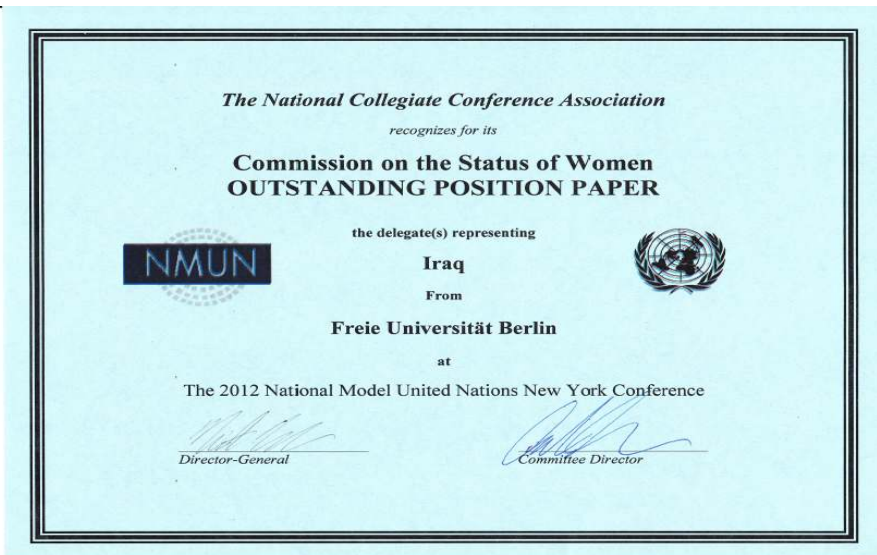
The Kingdom of Spain (2010), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", Award "Honorable Mention"

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), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", "Outstanding Position Paper Award"

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Awards for the NMUN 2012 Delegation

The NMUN 2012 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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