

## Fourteenth Annual AMUN Conference Welcomes Over 1,100 Participants

Opening Plenary session highlights the importance of Model UN, United Nations diplomacy

**MATTHEW CORSO**

*Under-Secretary-General for Research*

The 14th Annual American Model United Nations Conference opened with an important message about the role of diplomacy and its impact on the day-to-day functions of the United Nations. Secretary-General Ryan Donovan opened the meeting with a rousing speech on taking away more than you expect from the AMUN Conference experience. Mr. Donovan focused on gaining a better handle on world events as well as interacting with



Keynote Speaker Mr. Ramu Damodaran addresses the Opening Plenary Session.

your fellow representatives and on developing skills that you will be able to use in your professional lives.

Mr. Donovan then went on to quote Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, who said that "there is only one cardinal sin at the UN, and that is to act alone," emphasizing the need to work together with your fellow representatives as the key to success.

Keynote Dignitary, Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Department of Public Information and publisher of the distinguished *UN Chronicle*, continued along the theme of the importance of diplomacy to highlight some of his own personal experiences and reflections on diplomacy at the United Nations.

Mr. Damodaran stated that as distinguished representatives, the first concern is representing national policies as the cornerstone to conducting effective diplomacy. "There may be times as a nation



Representatives, Faculty Advisors, guests and Secretariat members participate in the Opening Plenary Session, held Saturday evening.

that you are forced to "go it alone" and that starting an action on your own can be defensive.

Mr. Damodaran took a number of questions from the audience, many of which centered around the situation in Iraq and the Security Council's involvement. Mr. Damodaran emphasized the fact that, historically, the members of the council would often conform to the policies and agenda presented

by the United States. By contrast, recent debates by today's Council demonstrate a growing independence among member states.

The opening concluded with an informational speech by Under-Secretary-General Matthew Corso, who provided important logistical information, including a description of the purpose and location of Home Government, Delegate Services, Conference

Services and the International Press Delegation. Mr. Corso ended by reminding representatives to remove their credentials when out of the hotel and to make sure that they did not leave personal items unattended.

The session ended with the official opening of the 14th Annual American Model United Nations conference by President of the General Assembly Sarah Morse.

## WHA Considers Dividing into Committees

**JENNA ROSS**

*IPD Reporter*

In its opening session Saturday, delegates from the World Health Assembly focused on an issue unique to the Assembly: whether the body will split into separate committees or discuss topics as a whole.

"The configuration has many possible combinations and options, and representatives should decide what is best for our topics," the Assembly's co-Chair Kevin Ingram said. "I don't think we've seen it happen the same way twice."

The World Health Assembly

opened its session with a brief review of procedure and an immediate move to caucus for 30 minutes.

In this caucusing session, delegates from the 55 countries met beyond the Toronto room's walls to negotiate, influence, and hear opinions about the possible organization of committees.

Many delegates said breaking the Assembly into smaller committees would isolate countries into geographic and ideological islands.

"If you give the SARS topic to a select number of countries, you halt debate on an internationally important issue," a representative

of Singapore, Borua Bandari, said. "We cannot come together."

Others felt assigning smaller groups to committees would increase productivity.

"If we break up, people can research and investigate one issue thoroughly," Representative Lisa Lentz of Croatia, said.

Whether or not the committee assigns topics to smaller groups or discusses them as a whole, all topics will eventually be discussed by the entire group, Ingram said.

"Just as in any other committee, everybody must vote for in order for anything to be considered," he said.

## Committees Set the Agenda

General Assembly debates focus on topic order

**FIRST COMMITTEE**

**CHRISTOPHER M. ROSE**

*IPD Reporter*

**SECOND COMMITTEE**

**JESSICA HEIKKILA**

*IPD Reporter*

Saturday night's opening session attempted to lay out the agenda of the topic of discussion on the issue of Disarmament and International Security. The session began with a 30 minute caucus reserved for the various members to establish the night's topic of discussion. The First Committee agenda includes: Topic I, The Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament, and Topic II, General and Complete Disarmament: Consolidation of Peace Through Practical Disarmament Measures.

During the 30 minute caucusing session various Member States mingled in attempts to reach a vision toward which topic would be discussed first.

Completion of the caucusing session was immediately followed by a vote on the topics of discussion. Côte d'Ivoire's motion passed, changing the order of agenda items to Topic II, with a vote of 52-20-5.

Representative Adam Dour of Kazakhstan opposed the motion to change the order of agenda due to the sheer broadness of Topic II. Kazakhstan preferred a discussion of more prominent issues including transparency and the transfer and implementation of technology.

Representative Reale Rose of Venezuela favored the motion to change the order of the agenda due to the importance of Topic II to Venezuela in creating regional stability. The senseless deaths due to the proliferation of small arms is an issue of great importance to Venezuela.

After today's quick decision on the topic of discussion, it is hoped that Sunday's session will initiate steps toward the establishment of a general consensus on the issue of disarmament.

As the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) opened this evening, representatives engaged in an informal caucus to discuss setting the agenda. The majority of the representatives concurred that the issue of economic integration was a top priority. During the caucus, many representatives were pushing to set the agenda to Topic II, Integration of the Economies in Transition into the World Economies. The Committee is looking to set the agenda soon so that they will be able to discuss fully the issues at hand. If the issue of economic integration is put on the agenda first, representatives will further discuss developing and increasing economic growth in developing nations before discussing solar energy and other sources of renewable energy.

Representative Elena Seydel of Côte d'Ivoire felt that "providing resources for our people" and solving hunger problems should be a more pertinent issue, and should be placed first on the agenda. Representative JaneAnne Belmore of Liberia stressed that assistance from "larger economies to achieve sustainable development goals" is a priority of the Liberian government.

Both the United States of America and Germany were hesitant to settle on a single side of the issue. The United States was pushed to wait in order to "find a general consensus." With a few nations taking an indecisive stance, the agenda could be set in either order, but after hearing introductory remarks during the caucus, Representative Amy Barritt of Liberia felt that the majority of the representatives were pushing to address Topic II prior to Topic I.

## International Court Deliberates on Docket

**DAVE BAYLISS**

*IPD Reporter*

The gears of justice are meant to turn slowly yet efficiently and in the case of international law there is certainly no exception. The ICJ opened its first session with an overview and establishment of the credentials and preparedness of specific applicants (those who bring the case forward) as well as the respondents to each case.

There are three cases currently on the docket. Republic of *Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo* deals with a series of issues surrounding businessman Ahmadou Sadio Diallo of the Democratic Republic of Congo and his attempts make collections on debts which were owed to him through business partners within the states of Zaire and the DRC. The main issue of contention here is the subsequent arrest of Mr. Diallo under orders by the DRC Prime Minister, and the Republic of Guinea (under which he has current citizenship) requesting full reparations and an apology be delivered to Mr. Diallo in response to their actions.

*Mexico v. The United States of America* concerns a suit brought against the United States of America concerning their conviction

and sentencing to death of 54 Mexican nationals in several states within the United States of America. What is directly being questioned here is the possible implication brought forth by Mexico that 49 of the 54 nationals in this case were not told specifically of their rights to consultation with an attorney. There is also the issue of earlier precedence in similar cases such as *Germany v. The United States of America*.

The final case of the three cases is a historical dispute in *New Zealand v. France. 1974*. This case centers around the complications surrounding nuclear weapons testing by France within close spatial relation to New Zealand and concerns over environmental contamination and its aftereffects. At the heart of these case are allegations regarding the violation by France of prior nuclear testing treaties such as that of The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere in Outer Space and Under Water of 1963. The applicants and respondents will deliberate over the rights a country has to protect its environment in such conditions.

These cases will be discussed in greater detail over the next view days.

### ICJ Docket

**Sunday, 23 November 2003**

- 8:30 a.m. - Justice Preparations
- 9:00 a.m. - Oral Arguments:  
*Mexico v. The United States*
- 10:30 a.m. - Deliberations
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch Break
- 1:15 p.m. - Deliberations
- 5:00 p.m. - Dinner Break
- 7:00 p.m. - Release of Opinion:  
*Mexico v. The United States*
- 7:45 p.m. - Oral Arguments:  
*New Zealand v. France*
- 9:15 p.m. - Deliberations
- 10:00 p.m. - Court Adjourns

**Monday, 24 November 2003**

- 8:30 a.m. - Deliberations
- 1:00 p.m. - Free Afternoon
- 6:00 p.m. - Release of Opinion:  
*New Zealand v. France*
- 6:50 p.m. - Oral Arguments:  
*Rep. of Guinea v. Dem. Rep. of the Congo*
- 8:20 p.m. - Deliberations
- 9:30 p.m. - Court Adjourns

**Tuesday, 25 November 2003**

- 8:30 a.m. - Deliberations
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch Break
- 1:30 p.m. - Deliberations
- 4:00 p.m. - Release of Opinion:  
*Rep. of Guinea v. Dem. Rep. of the Congo*
- 4:15 p.m. - Court Adjourns

*General Assembly Committees Discuss Agenda*

**COMMITTEES FROM 1**

**THIRD COMMITTEE**  
**IVY BRADLEY**  
IPD Reporter

As the initial session of the Third Committee begins, the main topic of discussion is the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Twenty-Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly. Issues in relation to this topic are related to the worldwide AIDS crisis, economic and social equity and seeking the promotion of the international labor standards among all United Nations members.

The second issue up for discussion will be the Programme of the Activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which runs from 1994 through 2004 and seeks to ensure the rights of indigenous people.

Previously submitted draft resolutions relating to this topic include Cambodia's request that the indigenous people of the world have legal rights to use and possession of land, Cuba's alarm regarding the disappearance of indigenous culture and Venezuela's position that education is the key to the preservation of the world's indigenous cultures.

The Third Committee, which deals entirely with social, cultural, and humanitarian issues recon-

bers declined to change the order of consideration of topic areas. This decision will lead them to discuss the issue associated with the Geneva Convention first in tomorrow's session, and get the official business of the committee underway.

As the member nations began the consensus-building process, they articulated two needs to be addressed. The committee was largely divided into two interest groups, with the European bloc emphasizing one and the Latin American, Arab and African blocs feeling the other was more pressing.

First among the Latin American and African Blocs, as well as some Representatives among the Arab nations, was the necessity for strengthening the UN Charter to include sub-national groups who are not necessarily represented by the members present in the UN. This issue was acknowledged to need further consideration, and possibly the establishment of a special committee. Those Representatives from Peru, Guatemala, and Venezuela began negotiations to merge their resolutions into one cohesive statement by these nations.

On the other hand the European Bloc concentrated on the issues at hand regarding modifications and additions to the



Representative Michael Cabrera of Poland addresses the Third Committee on Saturday evening.

venes Saturday evening to begin a discussion on their issues and draft resolutions.

**SIXTH COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL CULLEY**  
IPD Reporter

As the first session of the Sixth Committee commenced, geographic differences began to divide the room. In an eventual decision the committee mem-

bers declined to change the order of consideration of topic areas. This decision will lead them to discuss the issue associated with the Geneva Convention first in tomorrow's session, and get the official business of the committee underway. As the member nations began the consensus-building process, they articulated two needs to be addressed. The committee was largely divided into two interest groups, with the European bloc emphasizing one and the Latin American, Arab and African blocs feeling the other was more pressing. First among the Latin American and African Blocs, as well as some Representatives among the Arab nations, was the necessity for strengthening the UN Charter to include sub-national groups who are not necessarily represented by the members present in the UN. This issue was acknowledged to need further consideration, and possibly the establishment of a special committee. Those Representatives from Peru, Guatemala, and Venezuela began negotiations to merge their resolutions into one cohesive statement by these nations. On the other hand the European Bloc concentrated on the issues at hand regarding modifications and additions to the

**AMUN REPRESENTATIVE DANCE:  
COME DRESSED IN BLACK AND WHITE**

**MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER @ 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.**  
**CRYSTAL BALLROOM B-C**

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS DELEGATION**

- Reporters:** Kathryn Bailey, Jessica Heikkila, Dave Bayliss, Jenny Kissane, Ivy Bradley, Chris Rose, April Culley, Jenna Ross, Erin Dexter
- Photographer:** Peter Kelley
- Editor:** Blake Johnson
- Publisher:** Adam D. Wolfe

**Publication Policy:**

Editorials, Press Releases and Personals to the *AMUN Daily Chronicle* should be submitted, in writing, to the IPD Office in the Atlanta Room. Any topic concerning the Conference or world issues is acceptable.

All submissions must be legible to be accepted. The Secretariat reserves the right to accept, edit, or reject all submissions.

**Cuba Controversy in Historical Security Council**

**KATHRYN BAILEY**  
IPD Reporter

Cuba was at the eye of the storm Saturday as the Historical Security Council (HSC) officially opened its 1961 session.

Citing a desire for a swift resolution of the conflict in the Americas, the Soviet Union moved to place Cuba at the top of the HSC's agenda.

The United States' perceived threatening posture toward Cuba should be viewed as a legitimate concern and resolved accordingly, said Representative Chris Wessely of the USSR.

"The USSR stands behind the idea that we must stand behind any nation that perceives a threat," Wessely said. "The USSR has

strong relations with Cuba, and we stand behind them."

The United States expressed concern that the USSR was trying to establish a communist sphere of influence in the western hemisphere.

"It is not so much an issue of Cuba feeling threatening as it is the United States feeling threatened," said representative Matt Skyua of the United States. "We have received intelligence that twelve long-range missiles have been placed in Cuba. We cannot stand idly by while we are directly threatened."

Skyua added that the United States believes Cuba's actions have brought their legitimacy as a nation into concern.

"The situation is very volatile,"

Skyua said.

Many of the other HSC representative nations also expressed concern. In caucus Chile questioned the USSR's intentions in the western hemisphere.

"What threatens America threatens us," said Representative Sloan Dawson of Chile, "We want to question Russia about their motives in this situation."

Liberia and China joined Chile, adding that the origin of the Cuban conflict may be in the USSR.

Following the passing of the 9-0-2 motion to debate the situation in Cuba, the USSR moved to make Cuba a party to the dispute with full debating privileges. After the Cuban debate concludes, the HSC will review the revolutionary situation in the Congo.

**Human Resources, Development in ECOSOC**

**JENNY KISSANE**  
IPD Reporter

ECOSOC began with most of the delegations on the Council wishing to consider topic area I, "The Contribution of Human Resources Development, including in the areas of Health and Education, to the Process of Development" first. However, the delegations have different viewpoints on what should be the first step in solving the problems at hand.

One idea expressed is education. Some countries feel that overall literacy is the first place to start. If all the people in the world are literate, then the people will have a desire to achieve more things in life. A greater need to achieve may bring people to be careful about the spread of disease because they are concerned about their health. This opened

up discussions on what is taught and what should be taught to the students that are in the schools.

Other delegations want to start with education about the various diseases that are a problem in that country. Citizens will be educated through the different organizations that need to be set up to distribute this information. Countries must keep in mind to treat all of the people equally, not just education to the big cities. Other people think relief should be given to various people that have the various diseases and then worry about educating those that do not have diseases.

Delegations argued that this will continue the spread of the disease because not everyone will be treated at the same time and not everyone may know they have a disease at that particular time. Finally, delegations noted

that relief and education need to be worked on together to reach the biggest impact in the country.

As of press time, the countries were still discussing the order of the topics.



Rep. Latorro Taylor of Cuba addresses the Economic and Social Council.

**Afghanistan Tops SC Agenda**

**ERIN DEXTER**  
IPD Reporter

With a passing vote of 12-2-1, the Security Council set their working agenda on the Situation in Afghanistan with record efficiency as the first session began.

Delegates in favor of giving the Afghan crisis higher priority expressed their support in brief floor speeches. In his speech, the representative of the United States of America named efforts to suppress al Qaeda operations. The representative of Pakistan supported making the Afghan crisis the top priority on grounds that the other suggested topic, an inter-

vention in Georgia, would constitute a breach of sovereignty.

Speeches in favor of making issues other than Afghanistan's crisis the first order of business came from, among others, the Russian Federation and Angola. The former set forth a brief case for intervention in a Georgian electoral crisis. The Representative from Angola gave a speech asking the Security Council to consider the recent terrorist attacks in Turkey.

Reports have it that the United States of America has a resolution in the works. Time will tell what this resolution entails, as it should surface sometime late Saturday night or Sunday.

**Faculty Sessions**

**Faculty Session I,**  
Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 am: Faculty Research. This session will focus on some of the areas of research of interest to our faculty.

**Faculty Session II,**  
Monday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Sharing Best Practices for Model UN Classes.

Both sessions will be held in the Gold Coast room on the Concourse Level.

**Norway, 6th Committee**

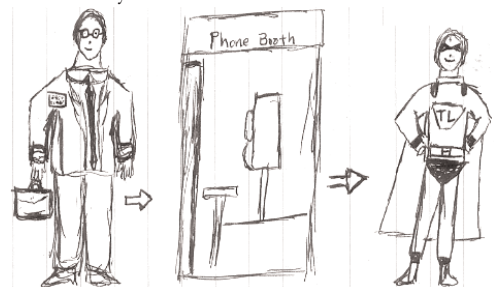
Norway strongly supports the issue to address the status of the protocols additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949 as it relates to victims of armed conflict. In its 6th Committee session, it, with

many other European countries showed staunch support for the basic promotion of international humanitarian law. "The basic concept of human rights, both domestic and international is enshrined in the UN Charter...we must live up

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FROM THE FLOOR**

The nation you know as East Timor is Timor-Leste:



to these principles that we have committed ourselves to."

Norway looks forward to working with other representatives of the international committees to further solve this issue in an open and diplomatic way.

**Attention  
Permanent  
Representatives,  
Faculty Advisors**

The first Permanent Representative / Faculty Advisor meeting will be held from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Toronto Room. This meeting will focus on rules-related questions and comments. All Permanent Representatives and Faculty Advisors are encouraged to attend this meeting.