



# 19th Annual AMUN Conference Convenes

## Opening Plenary Remarks Focus On Finding Points of Diplomatic Agreement

by **Emily Donohoe**  
*IPD Reporter*

Every November, hundreds of students from many colleges and universities convene in Chicago to participate in the AMUN Conference.

At 6:15 on Saturday, the 19th session of AMUN officially began, and these students transformed into representatives of the many countries which comprise the UN. During the

Opening Plenary Session, members of the secretariat extended a warm welcome to all AMUN representatives, and offered words of advice and wisdom. Secretary-General Mary Jo Laws,

who participated as a representative in the 11th AMUN Conference, spoke of the importance of every committee in the UN. Laws noted that although there is a tendency to believe that

the Security Council does most of the work within the UN, “much of the work of the UN is completed by all of the councils...Distribution of responsibility allows the UN to discuss a variety of issues.”

AMUN Executive Director Brian Endless spoke on what it means to be a diplomat, saying that a diplomat’s “first job is to get results for your country.” Endless also established an important difference between how academics and ambassadors solve problems – academics will agree on 99% of an issue, but fight for weeks over the remaining 1%.

Ambassadors disagree about 99% of an issue, but instead focus on the remaining 1%. In other words, “you may not be able to solve the problems of the world in 4 days,” but you can do some good work.

The final speaker, Under-Secretary-General Christina Bates, talked about logistics during the conference. No smoking inside the Sheraton, the Conference Help Desk is a good resource for both information and souvenirs, all resolutions must go through the Processing Center, and most importantly, remember to show diplomatic courtesy at all times.



Representatives gather for the Opening Plenary Session of the 19th AMUN Conference. Photo by Jacob Torres.

## A Sneak Peek At Your 2008 Press Corps

**Meet Afia Shareef**  
by Becky Zeman



Afia Shareef

Afia Shareef was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She is currently a freshman at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), majoring in Biology, and she really wishes that UIC offered a minor in journalism.

Shareef has been involved with Model UN throughout high school, and wanted to stay involved when she enrolled in college.

Shareef says, “it’s everyone’s responsibility to be aware of what is going on in the world.” Shareef then let out her secret that she is Catwoman, and is busy “saving the streets of Chicago.”

So Representatives, do not be afraid when you roam the streets of Chicago this weekend. Ms. Afia Shareef is out saving the world.

**Meet Becky Zeman**  
by Afia Shareef

Born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, Becky Zeman is attending her first Model UN conference here in Chicago, IL. She is currently a junior at Alverno College (also

located in Milwaukee) majoring in Communications and minoring in Political Science. She is attending the conference through a course offered at her school.

Zeman explains that she was fortunate enough to experience the press aspect of the conference, connecting her educational goals.

Something unique about this AMUN reporter is her plan to take over Milwaukee and own the Lake Michigan waterfront with one of her best friends. It is only the matter of legality stopping this self-driven woman at this point.



Becky Zeman

**Meet Allison Roy**  
by Yirssi Bergman

Twenty-year old International Press Delegate Allison Roy is an International Relations, Journalism, and Public Relations major. Her career ambitions lie in political management, and she aims to work as a publicist for a political campaign.

Roy is a Junior at Creighton University, a private Jesuit university in Omaha, Nebraska.

She has studied ballet,

does yoga, and is also a jazz singer at parties.

Roy is the president of the International Relations Club, which focuses on AMUN, McMUN based in Montreal, Canada, and the Harvard sponsored WorldMUN. She is also campaign-



Allison Roy

ing to become the Public Relations chair for her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

She describes herself as creative yet “structure oriented,” and also “massively accident prone” except when she has her pointe shoes on for ballet, which is the only time she has coordination.

**Meet Yirssi Bergman**  
by Allison Roy

There isn’t much International Press Delegate Yirssi Bergman doesn’t take to heart. Whether it is her passion for international relations, rhythm and blues music, or the melodic undertones of Godiva milk chocolate, the sophomore Grand Rapids Community College student seems to apply herself wholeheartedly to all of her endeavors.

Bergman is also something of an international creature. Born in the Dominican Republic, raised in Mallorca, Spain, and currently a legal resident of the U.S. for six years. She is a child of the world. This is especially reflected in her triple-thread course of study in Journalism, International Relations, and Women’s Studies, as well as in her career ambition of writing as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press.

She is currently managing editor of her university paper; Godiva Chocolate key holder and truffle-making extraordinaire; and secre-



Yirssi Bergman

tary at her university’s Foreign Affairs Club, which is participating in this year’s AMUN Conference.

## Many Opportunities at the 2008 Graduate School and Career Expo

The 2008 Graduate School and Career Expo will be held on Monday from 9:30 am to 1:30 am on the promenade across from the Sheraton and Chicago Ballrooms. Each AMUN participant is encouraged to attend the Expo. Information will be available from the following schools:

American University	Pace Law School
Chicago Kent College of Law	Pepperdine University
Claremont Graduate University	Seattle University School of Law
Cornell University Institute for Public Affairs	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Heller School for Social Policy & Management	Texas A&M University,
Institute of World Politics	Bush School of Government
John Marshall University - Chicago	United States Department of State
Johns Hopkins University, SAIS	University of Pittsburgh - Graduate School of Public Policy
Monterey Institute of International Studies	Valparaiso University
Ohio University	Webster University
	Williamette University

## Today's Docket for International Court of Justice

- 8:45 am Presentation of *Germany v. United States of America*, Lagrand Case (Historical 1999)
- 7:00 pm Opinion read for *Germany v. United States of America*, Lagrand Case (Historical 1999)
- 7:20 pm Presentation of *Uruguay v. Argentina*, Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay



# Agenda Setting A Top Priority During Intial Deliberations

## 1ST COMMITTEE

by Emily Donohoe

The GA First Committee voted immediately to discuss the issue of Regional Disarmament. The Committee then decided to break for a 45 minute caucus. They broke into strong blocs, with much of Africa and Latin America working together to focus on disarmament in the context of small arms. Many delegations from Europe, Africa and Latin America spoke about the “transparency of disarmament,” and their hope to improve regulation and funding of disarmament programs within the United Nations.

## 2ND COMMITTEE

by Afia Shareef

The Second Committee started off in the right direction with the delegations discussing the connection between the two topics at hand: debt relief and industrial development cooperation. The issue of debt relief needs to be addressed first because it is directly related to the second topic.

With the committee driven to come up with an effective resolution, numerous ideas were introduced. The representatives discussed the relationship between creditor and debtor nations, and noted that the problems cannot be solved without the involvement of both parties.

As of right now, the Second Committee is somewhat divided in terms of the manner in which the conflict should be addressed. The European Union is one of the prominent groups that is

steering toward deferring payments and interest until developing nations are economically sustainable.

At the same time, the African Union is considering a draft resolution that addresses the external debt relief crisis in three different areas: the past, the present, and the future.

A third group, the Latin American bloc, is seeking “innovative approaches outside of traditional framework,” according to the representative from Mexico.

five points of inquiry.

Quickly after these motions, delegate caucusing began on the Report of The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Latin bloc countries including El Salvador and Columbia were firmly focused on staying together on the issue, as these nations are strong supporters of humans rights.

Israel worked closely

ment fund, even amidst the global financial crisis.

Representative Matt Kasenow of Estonia believes the green fund is an issue worthy of discussion. When asked why a green fund was important to Estonia, Representative Kasenow said, “because it is the [issue] threatening us the most” as a coastal country. According to Representative Kasenow, some of the less developed countries were not thrilled with the idea of a green fund because they believe

bat the issues” before focusing on the report for the ECOSOC.

## ECOSOC

by Danae Mercer

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is off to a united and opinionated start. By 9 pm Saturday, ECOSOC voted in heavy majority to discuss United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA). Specifics were debated.

Several representatives stressed private business-to-government interactions. “If we can skip the middle man [like NGOs], we can go directly to the countries,” said the Representative from Iraq, Eric Ruchensky.

Under such a system, companies like Microsoft would work directly with private regional organizations. “This way, a country can appeal for itself. It doesn’t need a committee or board for review,” said Representative Michele MacMillan from Sri Lanka.

Another group of representatives emphasized maintaining the sovereignty of rural regions. “How can we encourage governments to allow NGOs into a region without infringing? We are concerned about the validity of taking the UNPPA into a region without assessing the needs of the area first,” declared Ted Christopher, the Representative from the Russian Federation. He then suggested late-night caucusing.

Less popular factions within ECOSOC argued for monitoring of natural resources. “We’re too focused on certain regions while abandoning others!” Stated the Representative from Kazakhstan, JD Rowe. Two representatives hurried away mid-speech. Rowe frowned.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

by Allison Roy

A series of rumbling rumors have erupted from the Security Council Saturday night. Intelligence provided by an anonymous source reports that Sudanese Defence Minister Abdel Rahim Mohammed

Hussein indicated that the Russian Federation’s sale of 12 MIG-29 Fighter Jets to Sudan on November 14 was a blatant violation of the UN embargo on the sale of arms in the Darfur Region. Russia has been reported to have sold a total of 24 fighter jets to Sudan, including the 12 MIG-29, ballistically-capable, aircrafts.

Russia continues to upgrade Sudanese weaponry and more military experts are expected to arrive within the country. Additionally, Russia is rumored to have plans of continuing military support to and providing upgrades for the Sudanese army. Reports from early 2008 show that Russian pilots have consistently been flying the aircraft for the Sudanese Air Force due to the lack of capable pilots and logistical complications in training.

Under the terms of agreement between Russia and Sudan, the Sudanese military personnel are to receive additional training in Russia. These rumors are still clouded in the shadow of this highly armed aircraft and Council members seem anxious to shift attention elsewhere; however, the UK released a statement Saturday evening that its delegation is “shocked and appalled” at the Security Council’s collective attempt to move the subject of focus away from the illegal arms dealing in Sudan.



Third Committee representatives negotiate during a suspension of the meeting on Saturday evening.

## 3RD COMMITTEE

by Liz Smith

After a brief period of procedural debate, deliberation in the Third Committee began at 8:00 pm on the topic of “Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.”

Education was agreed upon as the primary method of promoting religious tolerance. A Representative of India indicated the country’s special interest in the subject of religious tolerance; the Representative reiterated educational measures as a top priority for tolerance. A Representative of Lebanon questioned the practicality of such a broad measure and reminded the committee to work in realistic terms.

Representatives from Bolivia revealed they would “only endorse resolutions that address the concerns of every religion.” Portugal questioned the logistics of the education on the thousands and thousands of religions. The response was that each religion would not have “equal say, [but that] each should be tolerated equally and have equal legal rights.”

## 4TH COMMITTEE

by Ryan Thomas

Fourth Committee is off and running; procedural motions were quickly resolved setting a limit of three minutes on speech and allowing delegates

with Russia, India, and, oddly enough, Iran, who is not traditionally an ally of Israel’s.

Once the formal session resumed, there was a motion to move to the second topic of the Fourth Committee, Assistance on Mine Action. The motion nearly succeeded but was voted down, 48-51-3, so the focus remained on the issue of Israel and Palestine.

## GA PLENARY

by Amanda Farley

Saturday evening’s meeting of the Concurrent General Assembly Plenary focused on the discussion of topics to be debated. There was abundant support to first discuss the Decade to Rollback Malaria in Developing Countries, instead of the Situation in Afghanistan.

The issue relates to the spreading of Malaria in developing countries and the current efforts to prevent this disease, furthering the Millennium Development Goals.

Susan Keen, Representative of Ecuador, said the malaria resolution will likely run into debate on who would distribute the aid; whether it would be an international organization or the nations themselves with concern for sovereignty.

“Speed is important,” said Representative Molly Paul of Germany, discussing the idea of whether to use medicine or education to prevent the disease from spreading.

## UNEP

by Tim Murphy

The discussion in the UNEP revolved around the creation of a green fund. The Delegation from China is a vocal supporter and strong ally for a green fund administered by the international community. However, China believes that the green fund can be modeled on an invest-

ment fund, even amidst the global financial crisis.

most of the benefits would be captured by developed countries.

The UNEP conference started a little slow, with many countries pushing for consensus on the idea of a green fund. However, progress is being made setting the agenda and tackling these global issues.

## ECLAC

by Becky Zeman

Improving the daily lives of women was the first issue brought up in the Economic and Social Committee of Latin America and the Caribbean (ELAC).

Debate has already begun on how equality between genders in these regions should be reached. The Representative from Korea discussed using a quota system in which a set number of women must be placed in certain jobs. Representatives from Chile and Japan agreed but wanted to add a few more details.

The Representative from Italy noted that a quota system will be like placing a band aid on the issue, and not solve the problem. Other representatives agree with Italy, proving that this will be an ongoing debate.

## CCPCJ

by Yirssi Bergman

Representative Steve Zimmerman from Uganda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice proposed several committees. His proposal included a committee on Awareness Campaign on Human Trafficking, one on law enforcement efforts, one on Victim Services and one focused on funding for the different resolutions under consideration.

Representative Shiva Kiani from Russia expressed her belief that “we should focus on the issues, and how to com-

## PERSONAL ADS

\*\*\*

Justin, I have some land in Florida I'd like to sell you. Love, Nia

\*\*\*

Russia, Sri Lanka, & Haiti:

An old friend wishes you good luck at AMUN 2008 Conference.

\*\*\*

MPH ate food / Straight off the floor at LD / Source of Pandemic?

\*\*\*

Got Peas?

NEED MORE INFO?

FORGET YOUR FOLDER?

QUESTION ON AN ISSUE?

## HOME GOVERNMENT CAN HELP!

LOCATION:  
Missouri Room

opens 15 min before  
committee session begins  
closes 15 min after  
committee sessions ends.

STOP BY CONFERENCE SERVICES FOR ALL YOUR AMUN 2008 MEMORABILIA

PHRENOLOGY T-SHIRT \$15

TOTE BAG \$6

AMUN Phrenology Chart  
FIND OUT WHY YOUR HEAD HURTS



American Model United Nations - Chicago Illinois

## AMUN CHRONICLE

Director  
Editor  
Publisher

Timothy Hoppe  
Brandon Von Feldt  
Andrew A. Lawrence

Reporters

Yirssi Bergman  
Emily Donohoe  
Amanda Farley  
Danae Mercer  
Timothy Murphy  
Allison Roy  
Afia Shareef  
Becky Zeman

Editorials, Press Releases, Letters to the Editor, and Personals to the AMUN Chronicle should be submitted, in writing, to the International Press Delegation Office in the Colorado Room. Any topic concerning the Conference or world issues acceptable. All submissions must be legible. The Secretariat reserves the right to accept, edit, or reject all submissions.