

## 20th Annual AMUN Conference Convenes Opening Plenary Remarks Focus On Past, Present and Future

by Tracy Thiel

Saturday evening, the 20th American Model United Nations International Conference commenced with the Opening Plenary Session in the Hilton Tower's International Ballroom. The Opening Plenary Session began with reflections on the past as well as the future.

By the time the session was called to order, the ballroom was filled with Representatives from more than one hundred delegations participating in this year's AMUN conference, comprised of a number of seasoned veterans as well as a significant number of first time Representatives.

Brian Endless, the founder and Executive Director of AMUN, addressed the assembled body, and discussed how the conference has grown over the past two decades, and emphasized the importance of conferences such as AMUN for academic enrichment. Endless described the conference as "a great activity that really is incredibly different" than any other opportunity in the academic world. Representatives are given the opportunity to improve their public speaking and interpersonal skills, as well as the chance to hone their ability to come to a consensus on the issues facing their respective committees. Endless reminded the representatives that the world faces some problems that the United Nations may be unable to solve, but insisted that "someone has to try." Ever since the first conference in 1990, AMUN Representatives have been doing just that.

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be unable to solve, but insisted that "someone has to try." Ever since the first conference in 1990, AMUN Representatives have been doing just that.



Representatives gather for the Opening Plenary Session of the 20th AMUN Conference. Photo by Jacob Torres.

## Deliberation Begins in Committees

### GA PLENARY

by Tracy Thiel

The Representatives in the General Assembly Plenary immediately got down to business Saturday evening. The two caucusing sessions of the evening involved some discussion of future resolutions to be presented to the body in the upcoming days, however, they were not the primary focus once the sessions reconvened.

The issue most heavily debated and discussed during the evening's session was the limiting of speeches and points of inquiry. The first efforts to set limited were voted down by the Representatives, and as discussion of the topic progressed, a growing frustration among some of the representatives became apparent.

Gavin Aronsen, a Representative from Costa Rica, had been abstaining when the issue came to a vote. He explained that motions to set limits had been voted down four times before 9:30 pm, which forced the

chair to state that he would not entertain further motions unless they were "radically different" from prior motions. Representative Aronsen explained that there wasn't strong

support either way for setting limits. After the fourth motion failed, the GA Plenary moved into discussion of their first topic, International Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance in the Field of National Disasters, without further attempts to set limits on speech and subsequent questions.

### 1ST COMMITTEE

by Wesley Riley

After a long and intense caucus, the First Committee began work on their first topic, the Illicit International Trade in Small Arms. Several draft reso-

lutions were already circulating on the floor that contained a wide range of ideas on how to better control illegal weapons trafficking. Initial ideas included tracking the flow of

from such organizations.

However, the Representatives from Turkey, Czech Republic and Afghanistan questioned the draft resolution. Representative Gabriel Stancen from Afghanistan questioned funding. "If they are planning on funding it through seizing assets, how will it work since our biggest asset is opium?" he said. "Will they sell the opium on the black market to fund this program?"

Representative Dan Beer from Saudi Arabia explained, "There are a lot of charitable organizations in Saudi Arabia that receive funds but the money is actually going to terrorists and transnational organized crime."

The Representatives from Saudi Arabia stressed they were asking that individual states increase regulation over transactions by internal organizations in their own state to further their own sovereignty.

### 3RD COMMITTEE

by Brianna Ehley

The Third Committee spent the majority of the first session in grid-lock,

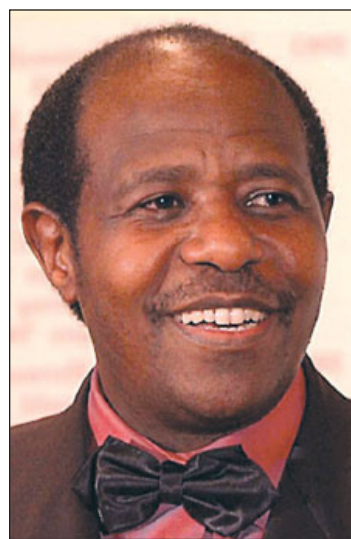
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## AMUN 20th Anniversary Keynote to Feature Paul Rusesabagina

by Martha Walter

Paul Rusesabagina's story of courage has become one that is recognized all over the world as the inspiration for the movie "Hotel Rwanda." The hotel that he managed, Hotel des Mille Collines, became

requested the assistance of the United States through a letter to President Barack Obama. He has asked the United States to take a leadership role in ending conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. His foundation, Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation, seeks to bring peace to this region



Paul Rusesabagina

the site of refuge for more than 1,200 Hutu and Tutsi displaced persons during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. While the rest of the country spiraled out of control, he found the strength to protect those in danger. More than one million people died in Rwanda during the 100 days in which the genocide occurred. Rusesabagina has

and end genocide throughout the world.

Rusesabagina is this year's conference keynote speaker. His speech will take place today at 1:15 pm in the Grand Ballroom. He will surely provide an interesting perspective on the issues in the Great Lakes Region, and he plans to take questions from the audience.

### Today's Docket for International Court of Justice

8:40 am Presentation of *Botswana v. Namibia*

7:55 pm Opinion read for *Botswana v. Namibia*

8:30 pm Presentation of *Nicaragua v. Colombia*



# AGENDA SETTING A TOP PRIORITY DURING INITIAL DELIBERATIONS

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derailing itself from the original issue of the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, by debating the time limit of a representative’s point of information.

The Chair limited points of information to three minutes, and points of inquiry to four. Representatives exhausted their points of information, further delaying the committee’s progress.

While several representatives offered points of information, including the Guinea-Bissau’s plan to implement vocational training programs and target issues like health care, a large volume of representatives presented points of inquiry, which also prolonged the process and exceeded the time limit.

After a failed vote to alter the time limit and an extension of points of inquiry, the committee debated whether or not the improvement of women’s situations in rural areas was a state’s concern or a global issue. The Third Committee will meet tomorrow in the International Ballroom at 8:30 am to continue discussions.

## 6TH COMMITTEE

by Chelsea R. Taylor

The Representatives of the 6th Committee began to discuss topics relevant to each country.

Tatiana Scripnic, Representative from Venezuela, stated one item that sums up the whole means

so strongly and trying to better the living conditions for those citizens within their country.



Historical Security Council Representatives negotiate during a suspension of the meeting on Saturday evening. Photo by Tauseef Hemayet

of Venezuela: “Stand for peace and collectiveness.” Those who represent Venezuela for the Sixth Committee believe education, domestic privileges for criminal punishment, and conventions must be sought. Educating civilians allows them to stand up and take action for their own beliefs. The domestic privileges need to be clearly stated with the United Nations civilians over criminal punishment. Lastly, the convention needs to legalize documentations which state to the citizens the role for the United Nations and how they will be punished. Gratitude to the representatives of Venezuela was given for standing

## ECOSOC

by Michelle Kampen

Upon entering the ECOSOC, one is immediately struck with the urgency each representative feels about the topics at hand. Choosing a topic is not easy, especially with topics regarding assistance to Palestinian women and global public health.

It seems, however, that many delegations in ECOSOC were concerned most deeply with “Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda.” Many countries in the EU and AU felt that this topic was particularly important because 80% of disabled persons reside in developing countries.

Representative Nicole Ramirez of Sudan was mainly concerned with mainstreaming disability because she represents a country where education and employment of disabled persons is especially important to achieve. Like many Representatives in the committee, Ramirez felt that the topic of mainstreaming disability was something no one could or should ignore. “This is something that affects everyone,” said Ramirez. “It is a topic that has been on the back-burner for a long time.”

## WFP

by Darnell Gardner

The World Food Programme was unable to come to a consensus after 90 minutes of deliberation and caucusing on how to proceed with writing two reports. The reports, which would be submitted to the General Assembly Plenary, concerned food procurement in developing countries and humanitarian access to countries in need of assistance.

Representatives spent some of their time in infor-

mal caucusing to better understand the positions of each country before reconvening. At the end of caucusing, several other countries expressed dissatisfaction with how the committee has proceeded so far.

“We don’t know the ideas that were brought up, and we want to see and hear those ideas,” said a representative of the Republic of Yemen.

The Representative from Brazil suggested a twenty minute consultative session to allow each country’s opinion to be heard. The majority of the representatives voted in favor of a consultative session and a long line of delegates assembled behind the microphone to speak when the consultative session began..

## ECA

by Martha Walter

The preliminary session of the Economic Commission for Africa focused on two key issues: the Millennium Development Goals and Aid for Trade. During caucus, the delegations that focused on Aid for Trade were concerned with aid volatility, regional cooperation, and the ability of a state to spend the money that is given as it sees fit. Representatives explained the importance of bringing lesser developed countries to an acceptable economic status within the global community and introducing economically advanced nations on to the international economic stage. The delegation from Chad stressed the modernization of customs across the continent, the need for easy travel between African nations, and the organization of responsibility for infrastructure.

## SC

by Elizabeth Van Dulman

Saturday evening, the Security Council discussed Iran’s right to be called as a party to the dispute. For over thirty minutes, Representatives discussed whether to grant Iran a question and answer session with the Council or to give Iran full debating rights. Those in favor of giving Iran full debating rights argued that this was important because it allowed Iran to be fully recognized in the session, while those in favor of a

question and answer session with Iran argued that this was the most efficient way for the Council to address the situation in Iran. Japan was one of the countries in favor of a question and answer session.

Representative Meher Kairon of Japan explained her position stating, “We are going off topic. A question and answer session will be better at efficiency. There are other good ideas that need to be discussed.” Iran was eventually called as a party to the dispute.

## HSC

by Tauseef Hemayet

With the start of the 20th anniversary of American Model United Nations, the Historical Security Council has decided to focus on the agenda topic of the Situation in the Congo. The countries in the council have been very cooperative with each other, even entering into a consultation session to discuss how to end the violence in the Congo. Belgium came up as an important country as it is being debated for a number of sanctions. Two of the important agenda items that were discussed are the sanctions involving the trade of small arms and

the withdrawal of Belgian troops from the Congo. All SC members decided that Belgium should be placed at the center of the debate and should be considered for sanctions.

## COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

by Veranja Liyanarachchi

An important deliberation began on the first day in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs regarding HIV/AIDS, one of the main problems in today’s world. The discussion considered two main solutions: education and a needle exchange program.

The United Arab Emirates and Australia proposed that education is the best solution for preventing this disease because they strongly reject needle exchange programs due to their religious beliefs. Other countries believe that a needle exchange program would be a better choice to solve this problem; however, the Czech Republic and Turkey argued that needle exchange programs and education need to work in conjunction to prevent HIV/AIDS.

All these states are looking forward to find a good solution that can be accepted by all countries.

## PERSONAL ADS

One year later and I couldn’t be happier  
-Lucky Liberal  
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Seeking OA, shall I find you in Mozambique?  
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Shout out to the University of Central Oklahoma delegation for being just fabulous!  
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20 years of AMUN...  
oh yeah!

This Kool Aid is delicious!  
\*\*\*

“Bunny finds the funny!” -- Phil  
\*\*\*

To my Enemies: The war is coming. No bacon for you. -- Paper Goddess  
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To the ladies I met in my room last night, it was fun. Let’s do it again tonight.  
- Sleeping Beauty

Many Opportunities  
at the 2009 Graduate  
School and Career Expo

The 2009 Graduate School and Career Expo will be held on Monday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Normandie Lounge overlooking the Main Lobby. Each AMUN participant is encouraged to attend the Expo. Information will be available from the following schools:

American University

Chicago Kent College of Law

Cornell University

University of California, San Diego

Fordham University

Institute for Public Affairs

Institute of World Politics

University of Kentucky - Patterson School of Diplomacy

Monterey Institute of International Studies

Pace Law School

Pepperdine University

Seattle University School of Law

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Texas A&M University,

Bush School of Government

University of Pittsburgh - Graduate School of Public Policy

Valparaiso University

Vermont Law School

Webster University

Williamette University

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