



UN-FORUM

National Model United Nations 2007

*Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin,
representing the Kingdom of Morocco,
15 – 25 March 2007, New York City*

Freie Universität  Berlin

“Morocco reaffirms its commitment to support the emergence of new multilateral system built on international legality, justice and equity and cooperation in social and economic relations, and based on an efficient and dynamic United Nations system.”

*His Majesty King Mohammed VI
in his address to the General Assembly, September 2004*

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Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

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published by
Nima Feyzi Shandi,
Natalia Ruban,
Natalie Spiesser,
Marc Voelcker,
Irene Weinz,
and
Peggy Wittke

on behalf of the Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter of the
German United Nations Association

National Model United Nations 2007

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco



*back row (from left to right): Marc Lendermann, Stefan Hoffmann, Charlotte Sparla, Daniel Becker,
Jonas-Benjamin Walther, Luise von Stackelberg, Moritz Lohe, Marc Voelcker*
*front row (from left to right): Natalie Spiesser, Antonia Haegner, Almudena Sánchez, Leonie Lorenz,
Sandra Bedenk, Anne Nassauer, Ole Spies, Natalia Ruban*

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Foreword

This year, *Freie Universität Berlin* participated for the 12th time at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York. This figure does not only mean a lot of experience in Model United Nations, but it stands for 12 successful projects as well as many contacts and networks. Since 1995, the delegations from *Freie Universität Berlin* have represented various countries – Lithuania, the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway, South Africa, Bangladesh, Turkey, Argentina, Poland, Guatemala, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco – and one Non-governmental Organization, the *International Council on Social Welfare*. The participating students have become experts on their positions, oftentimes, they felt as real diplomats, representing “their” country or organization as realistic as possible. Besides, *Freie Universität Berlin* has established contacts to several embassies in Berlin as well as to the *German Foreign Office*, facilitating the organization of further events in Berlin. The lecture of the Guatemalan Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Luis Fernando Andrade Falla, on “*Democracy and the Rule of Law in Guatemala*” on 27 April 2007 is only one example for those ongoing cooperations.

This year’s delegation represented the Kingdom of Morocco, a country close to the *European Union*, but nevertheless an Arab state with a different background and a different culture. All 16 students managed successfully to adapt to the challenge of “*walking in the shoes of a Moroccan*”, as Counselor Mr. Reda El Merini from the *Moroccan Embassy* in Berlin had advised them: For the second time, the delegation of *Freie Universität Berlin* returned to Berlin with two Awards, one for their “*Outstanding Position Papers*” and one “*Honorable Mention*” for their performance during the conference.

The students had been prepared intensely during their sessions, meeting twice a week to learn about the UN system, international law, different fields of international politics and current topics within the United Nations. An important part of the preparation process was the learning process on the Kingdom of Morocco in order to identify with Moroccan positions and arguments. Moreover, they acquired practical experience in public speaking, rhetoric, negotiation techniques and strategies which were further practiced during conference simulations in Berlin and Frankfurt. This 5-month preparation process was completed by three days of Study Tour at the United Nations Headquarter in New York where the students met experts and diplomats to get first-hand information on current issues in the international community.

As always, I kindly thank Ms. Peggy Wittke, Director of the Model United Nations Programs at *Freie Universität Berlin*, who started the project in 1995, for her dedication and efforts during the last 12 years. Furthermore, I owe gratitude to Ms. Irene Weinz, Faculty of Law, *Freie Universität Berlin*, who has led the preparation process in Berlin, for her tireless efforts. Moreover, I would like to thank Xenia Jakob, Faculty of Law, *Freie Universität Berlin*, Mr. El Merini, *Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco*, Berlin, and Mr. Karim Medrek, *Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United*

Nations, New York, for their precious contributions to the preparation process. Again, the *German Federal Foreign Office* kindly supported the project, in this regard, I would like to mention the presentations of and discussions with Ambassador Dr. Wilfried Bolewski, Ms. Ilja Berg, and Mr. Christian Much. Last but not least, I would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Swati Dave, *United Nations Department of Public Information*, for the organization of this unique Study Tour.

The project would never have been possible without the outstanding financial contributions by the *Robert Bosch Foundation*, the *German Academic Exchange Service* (DAAD), and *Siemens*. We thank them for their support.

Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig

Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation at National Model United Nations 2007

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Genevieve Libonati for never ending support!

1. The National Model United Nations Conference

The *National Model United Nations* (NMUN) was founded in 1946 as a successor to the *Model League of Nations* which originated in 1923. These programs were directed at students to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and the work and function of International Organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of the *Model United Nations* programs has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programs are also being offered at high schools - in the United States more than 200.000 high school and college students take part in the simulations annually. The great acceptance of *Model United Nations* is not limited to the United States: today *Model United Nations* take place in more than 25 countries throughout the world including Germany. The Freie Universität Berlin organizes, together with different cooperation partners like the Federal Foreign Office and UNA-Germany, various Model United Nations conferences throughout the year in Berlin.

The *National Model United Nations* today is the largest simulation of the United Nations in the world. Each year more than 3.400 students from North and South America, Canada, Asia and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for five days at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York, and the United Nations Headquarters. Due to the increased attendance, in 2007 a second conference venue was established at the Sheraton New York. The *National Model United Nations* is sponsored by the *National Collegiate Conference Association*, a non-profit organization which works closely with the United Nations and was granted the status of a *Non-Governmental Organization* in 1995. The Board of Directors coordinates and supervises the simulation. The conference is administered by a 55-member Secretariat which is composed of graduate and undergraduate students who are elected annually. Head of the Secretariat is the *Secretary-General*, supported by a *Director-General* and a *Chief of Staff*.

Each participating university represents a United Nations Member State or Non-Governmental Organization at the conference. According to reality, these Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations are represented in different committees and International Organizations. It is the task of the Delegations to make themselves acquainted with the history and policy of their country or Non-Governmental Organization in order to act as realistic as possible at the conference. In addition, it is necessary to lay down the position concerning the different topics that will be negotiated during the sessions. The visit at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations offers the valuable opportunity to gather first-hand background information by consulting high-ranking diplomats.

During the five days of the conference the Delegates of the various committees strive to work out proposals and draft resolutions. At that point it becomes clear that the knowledge, which has to be obtained, cannot be limited to the country or Non-Governmental Organization represented, but has to include information on "friends and foes" as well, in order to get into contact with the proper partners during negotiations. The participating students are expected to behave as active diplomats, who have to formulate their positions and try to enforce them, but at the same time have to be open-

minded towards compromises, always taking into consideration the special interests of the represented nation or Non-Governmental Organization. This marks one of the major attractions of the *National Model United Nations* conference: each Delegate has to participate in the negotiations by ensuring that his nation's / Non-Governmental Organization's interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other Delegates he immediately realizes his failures and, most important, his success.

At the end of the conference voting procedures take place at the *United Nations* Headquarters. Selected resolutions are on the floor of the *General Assembly Plenary* and the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC). The passing resolutions are forwarded to the *United Nations* as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke



Peggy Wittke



Irene Weinz

Faculty Advisors of the NMUN 2007 Delegation

2. The Berlin NMUN 2007 Delegation



Daniel Becker was born on 18 April 1985 in Berlin. After completing his military service in 2005 he started studying Law at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on International Law. Daniel plans to do a Master's Program in International Relations or Humanitarian Law.

At NMUN 2007, Daniel Becker represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *General Assembly Fourth Committee* together with Charlotte Sparla.

Sandra Bedenk, born on 29 January 1979, studies Economics at *Freie Universität Berlin*. After finishing an apprenticeship she began her studies at the *Johannes Gutenberg Universität zu Mainz* and spent the summer semester 2004 at *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*. Afterwards she continued her studies in Berlin where she focused on economic development. She completed an internship at the *Office of International Corporation* at the Senate of Berlin. She is currently working as an intern for the *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)* in Lima, Perú.

At NMUN 2007, Sandra Bedenk represented the Kingdom of Morocco together with Jonas-Benjamin Walther in the *Conference on Disarmament*.



Nima Feyzi Shandi, born on 6 June 1985, studies Cultural and Historical Sciences at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on the Greater Middle East. He gained intercultural experience during a high school year in the United States and by regularly traveling to Iran. Nima's interest in diplomatic relations and the *United Nations* led him to the *National Model United Nations* program where he improved his rhetorical and negotiation skills and learned about Morocco and the UN system.

During the preparation process for NMUN 2007, Nima Feyzi Shandi worked with Leonie Lorenz on the topics of the *Organization of American States*.

Antonia Haegner was born on 3 October 1983 in Berlin. After a High School year in New Zealand she began her studies of Economics at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on development economics, international trade relations and finance and welfare policy. She joined NMUN 2007 out of the desire to develop a deeper understanding of international politics, other cultures, the work of the *United Nations*, and the ‘art’ of debate, compromise and conflict resolution.

At NMUN 2007, Antonia Haegner represented the Kingdom of Morocco together with Moritz Lohe in the *African Development Bank*.



Milena Hoffer, born on 2 February 1985, studies Law at *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*. Prior to her studies, she spent six months as an exchange student in a high school in Spain and gained further intercultural experience as a volunteer worker in an educational project for children in Bolivia. Being particularly interested in politics and international relations and in order to acquire a deeper knowledge about the *United Nations* system, she decided to take part in the NMUN program. Starting in fall 2007, she will spend an academic year at the School of Law at *King's College* in London.

During the preparation process for NMUN 2007, Milena Hoffer was the expert for the neighboring states of Morocco.

Stefan Hoffmann, born on 9 August 1983 in Austria, started studying Political Science at the university in Vienna and changed to *Freie Universität Berlin* in 2005. He is particularly interested in Peace and Conflict Research with a special focus on Middle Eastern Studies, which took him to spend a few months at *Tel Aviv University*, Israel. After graduating from *Freie Universität* in 2007, he hopes to pursue his academic career in the Middle East.

At NMUN 2007, Stefan Hoffmann represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *World Health Organization* together with Marc Lendermann.





Marc Lendermann was born on 1 July 1984 in Münster. After completing his civilian service in a hospital in France, he began studying Law at *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*. After his experiences at NMUN 2007, he decided to focus on Public International Law during his further studies. He is planning to return to France to continue his studies at the *Université Panthéon-Assas II* at Paris within the framework of a joint-degree program.

At NMUN 2007, Marc Lendermann represented the Kingdom of Morocco together with Stefan Hoffmann in the *World Health Organization*.

Moritz Lohe was born on 21 February 1982 in Berlin. Having started his studies of economics in Cologne, he soon discovered that not only economic problems attracted his attention but the complexity of social society, which led him to study political sciences at Münster. After an internship at the German *Bundestag*, he continued his studies at *Freie Universität Berlin*. In summer 2006, Moritz went to Ghana as an intern at a German foundation to gain first hand experience of the socio-economic situation of an African development country. With the rising importance of energy issues in the field of policy making, Moritz began combining his study focus on trade policies with the analysis of energy and environment issues.

At NMUN 2007, Moritz Lohe represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *African Development Bank* together with Antonia Haegner.



Leonie Lorenz, born on 5 May 1988 in Berlin, studies Political Science at *Freie Universität Berlin* with a special focus on International Relations and Diplomacy. She went to a German-French bilingual High School in Berlin and speaks German, French, English and Spanish fluently, she is currently studying Arabic and Russian. As she plans to work for an international organization in her professional career, she participated in two Model UN simulations in Berlin before joining the delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco. She was accepted recently at the Double-Master-Program of FU Berlin and the *Institut d'Études Politiques* in Paris, France.

During NMUN 2007, Leonie Lorenz represented the Kingdom of Morocco as a Permanent Observer in the *Organization of American States*.

Anne Nassauer was born on 19 May 1982 in Berlin. She is a student of French Philology, Contemporary History and Sociology at *University of Potsdam* and *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*. Anne spent one semester in Grenoble, France, with the ERASMUS exchange program and one year with a scholarship in Madrid, Spain. An internship at the division of international affairs at the *Office for Press and Information* of the *Federal Government* of Germany raised her interest for international relations even more. Anne decided to take part at NMUN 2007 to get to know the UN “learning by doing”. She is currently working on her final thesis.

At NMUN 2007, Anne Nassauer represented the Kingdom of Morocco together with Marc Voelcker in the *General Assembly Plenary*.



Natalia Ruban, born on 9 May 1985 in Kazakhstan, is a student of Political Sciences at *Freie Universität Berlin*. She came to Germany in 2004, shortly after finishing high school in Russia. She is currently working as a consultant for the Student Government. She applied for the NMUN program because of her great interest in international politics and hopes to continue working in international institutions.

At NMUN 2007, Natalia Ruban represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *World Tourism Organization* together with Natalie Spiesser.

María Almudena Sánchez Abajo was born on the 13th of November 1983 in Madrid, Spain. She is currently finishing her studies of Law and Business Economics at *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*. After one year of school in England and one year of High school in France the aim of learning a new language brought her to Germany where she is staying with the ERASMUS exchange program. She is very interested in international politics, other cultures and civilizations, and has therefore been part of AIESEC, the international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential. She plans to pursue her career in a European or United Nations organization. At NMUN 2007, Almudena Sánchez represented the Kingdom of Morocco at the *International Hydrological Programme* together with Luise von Stackelberg.





Charlotte Sparla was born on 20 July 1982 in Cologne. After having worked three months in Spain, she moved to Berlin and began her studies of History and Political Economy. In 2005, she worked as an intern at the Office of Economic Affairs of the Deutsche Bundestag in 2005 and spent the winter semester 2005/2006 studying French Economic History at the University of Nanterre in Paris. After taking part in a simulation of the European Commission session she applied for the NMUN delegation. Beginning in summer 2007, Charlotte will start an internship at the department of European Regional Politics in the *Department of Trade and Industry*.

At NMUN 2007, Charlotte represented Morocco in the *General Assembly Fourth Committee (GA 4th)* together with

Daniel Becker.

Ole Spies, born on 2 October 1980, studies Journalism, Political Science and International Law at *Freie Universität Berlin*. After having completed an internship in London and traveled through Europe, North America and the Middle East, his interest in organizations working on the improvement of international cooperation increased. He joined the NMUN program to learn more about the work of the UN and to experience working with students from diverse cultures and various fields of study.

At NMUN 2007, Ole Spies represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. Together with Marc Voelcker he was Head Delegate of the FU Delegation.



Natalie Spiesser, born on 20 September 1982, is a student of Intercultural Communication and Political Science at *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*. She is currently working on her final thesis. In addition to internships in London, Paris and Montreal, she has had the opportunity to spend two semesters at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* with the Erasmus exchange program in 2005, which have helped spark her keen interest for European and International Politics. Following the completion of her studies, Natalie will further specify in this field by pursuing a Master's degree in International

Relations.

At NMUN 2007, together with Natalia Ruban, Natalie Spiesser represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *World Tourism Organization*.

Luise von Stackelberg, born on 18 October 1980, is currently working on her final exams in History, Political Science and History of Art at *Freie Universität Berlin*. In 2004, Louise spent one semester in Madrid. Being fascinated by the idea of experiencing UN diplomacy herself, she decided to apply for NMUN 2007. She is particularly interested in social work and development aid activities, which is why she helps organizing aid transports to Russia as well as summer camps for handicapped people in Germany and Hungary.

At NMUN 2007, Luise von Stackelberg represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *International Hydrological Programme* together with Almudena Sánchez.



Marc Voelcker, born on 6 September 1982, studies Law at *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*. In 2006, he passed the *Certificat du Droit Transnational* at the *Université de Genève*. After having completed two internships at the *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations* in Geneva during which he was part of the German delegation to the 2nd and 3rd sessions of the *Human Rights Council* he wanted to take part in NMUN in order to draft policy guidelines and engage in negotiations himself. He is currently preparing his state exam in Berlin.

At NMUN 2007, Marc Voelcker represented the Kingdom of Morocco in the *General Assembly Plenary* together with Anne Nassauer. Together with Ole Spies, he was Head Delegate of the FU Delegation.

Jonas-Benjamin Walther was born on 9 November 1983 in Oldenburg. After a High School Year in Melbourne, Australia, he began his studies of Law at the *University of Osnabrück*. From September 2005 until March 2006, he studied Islamic Science at the *French Consulate in Cairo*, Egypt. Fascinated by the combination of International Law and the Arab World, Jonas decided to continue his law studies with a focus on Public International Law at *Freie Universität Berlin*. In summer 2007, Jonas will work as an intern at the *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations* in New York, USA.

At NMUN 2007, Jonas-Benjamin Walther represented the Kingdom of Morocco together with Sandra Bedenk in the *Conference on Disarmament*.





*The Head Delegates of the FU Delegation,
Ole Spies and Marc Voelcker*

3. The Kingdom of Morocco – an Introduction

Morocco with its strategic location along the strait of Gibraltar is one of the key players in the Maghreb. During the 1990s and especially after the accession of *His Majesty King Mohammed VI* to the throne in 1999 the Kingdom has undergone several changes. *His Majesty King Hassan II* had initiated political and economic liberalization during the last years of his reign. His son *King Mohammed VI* continued the reform process and proceeded with further reaching transformations. The family code was reformed, an *Equity and Reconciliation Commission* was set up in order to investigate past Human Rights abuses committed during the *Years of Lead* and the advisory board for Human Rights (CCDH) was established. *His Majesty King Mohammed VI* has made Human Rights a top priority. Morocco can be seen as one of the most moderate Arab states.



In contrast to other former colonies, Morocco has very close and friendly relations to France as the quest for independence was a rather peaceful one. France is Morocco's most important partner – not only in terms of trade – and often advocates Moroccan interests in the *European Union* (EU). The Kingdom of Morocco is closely associated with the *European Union* and claims an advanced status in relation to the EU. Not only the three quarters of Moroccan exports that go to the EU but also its location on the crossroads between Africa and Europe underline the importance of the relationship. Relations with Spain have long been tense due to territorial disputes and illegal immigration but they have improved a great deal since Mr. Zapatero took office as Spanish prime minister. Morocco is a close ally of the United States in the fight against terrorism and wants to remain its main partner in the Maghreb.

The main issue in Moroccan foreign politics is the Western Sahara conflict. After Spain had left its former colony in 1975, Morocco and Mauritania invaded the territory which they both claimed to be part of their national territory but were confronted with the *Popular Front of the Liberation of Saqiat al Hamra and Rio de Oro* (Polisario Front) which founded the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in 1976. After Mauritania pulled out of Western Sahara in 1979, Morocco took control of most of the territory. The fighting between Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario Front stalemated in the course of the 1980s when Morocco constructed a barrier to secure the territory it administered. In 1991, a UN-negotiated ceasefire ended the fighting and the parties agreed on a referendum on Western Sahara's future – the *United Nations Mission for the Organisation of a Referendum in Western Sahara* (MINURSO) was mandated to

supervise the ceasefire agreement. Today, 16 years after the ceasefire, the conflict still remains unsolved as no agreement on the modalities of a referendum has been reached. Many observers see the situation in a stalemate which Morocco wants to overcome with a newly drafted autonomy plan that has been presented to the *Security Council* in April 2007.

The dispute over Western Sahara is also the principal reason for the tense relations with Algeria. Due to the Moroccan-Algerian rivalry, regional integration has hardly evolved and the activities of the *Arab Maghreb Union* are stalled. The conflict over Western Sahara also led to a rupture of relations with the *African Union*.

Marc Voelcker

The Kingdom of Morocco – an Overview

Area: 446,550 sq km

Capital: Rabat

Population: 33,241,259 (July 2006 est.)

Human Development Index: 63.1

Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 99.1%, other 0.7%, Jewish 0.2%

Religions: Muslim 98.7%, Christian 1.1%, Jewish 0.2%

Languages: Arabic (official), Berber dialects, French as the language of business, government, and diplomacy

Government type: constitutional monarchy

Chief of State: King MOHAMMED VI (since 30 July 1999)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Driss JETTOU (since 9 October 2002)

Cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the monarch

Independence: 2 March 1956 (from France)

Legal system: based on Islamic law and French and Spanish civil law system

GDP - per capita (purchasing power parity): \$4,400 (2006 est.)

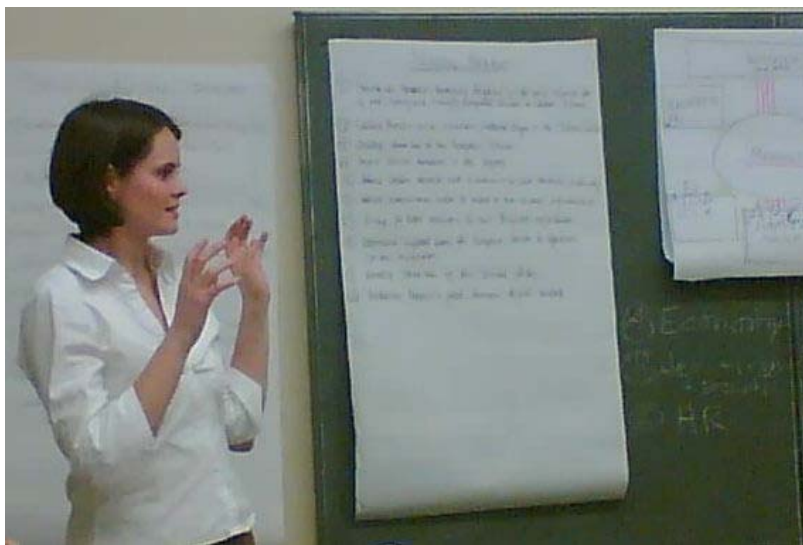
Net energy imports as % of energy use: 94

Membership at the United Nations: 12 November 1956

Sources: *CIA World Factbook*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mo.html>, and *The Economist, Pocket World in Figures*, 2007 Edition, pp. 180-181.

4. The Preparation Process in Berlin

“The preparation for NMUN is a lot of work“, Faculty Advisor Irene Weinz opened the first meeting of the NMUN 2007 seminar, “but also a lot of fun! I promise!” Every Wednesday und Thursday the delegation from Morocco gathered to test this promise. From October until March our attendance was expected twice a week. But not only physically: every delegate had to be very concentrated and focused, give his or her own input and ask questions. For half a year, eighteen students from different fields of studies were working to achieve a common purpose: to feel and finally act like Moroccan diplomats.



Usually the meetings were headed by Irene. Occasionally, her colleague Xenia Jakob chaired the sessions. And from time to time we welcomed special guests: At the beginning of the term Professor Kunig, the supervisor of the MUN/MEU Programs at *Freie Universität Berlin*, gave us an overview on international law. On 17 January 2007, we had the

unique possibility to attend a video conference with Stefanie Bunker at the UN Headquarter in New York concerning humanitarian aid and the role of the *United Nations*. In March 2007, the group met the Moroccan desk officer from the German *Foreign Office* and was happy to have a discussion with Mr. El Merini, who is working for the Embassy of the *Kingdom of Morocco* in Berlin.

But besides meeting interesting people, being a NMUN delegate means to work hard, to work on your abilities, and to work in a team. Everybody had to contribute to turn this common project into a success. The delegates of *Freie Universität Berlin* were represented in nine different committees, one or two delegates in each committee to represent Morocco's interests. Therefore, the students prepared the three topics on the different provisional agendas in small groups and presented them to the rest of the delegation. Each topic was debated intensively. And some, like eco-tourism, were even discussed endlessly.

Meanwhile, we learned about our abilities and weaknesses. The preparation process helped us to develop new skills such as public speaking and negotiating and to gradually become experts on our country and its position within the United Nations. The three steps of (1) theoretical introduction, (2) practical exercise and (3) mutual feedback and criticism lead to the improvement of the delegation as a whole and each one individually.



Our favorite job was to hold “one minute speeches”: one of us stood in front of the group. Irene or one of the delegates picked a controversial or funny topic. Right away we had to hold a speech, spontaneously and without time for preparation. *“So, tell us why uniforms are sexy.” “Please give us a short statement on how the perfect birthday party is supposed to be.” “Why do you think we should organize rather two instead of only one fundraising party?”* are only some

examples. Even though the topics sounded like fun, an adrenalin rush was rarely inevitable. And sometimes, one minute seemed to be endless.

In the end, we felt well prepared to hold speeches and engage in negotiations in our committees in New York. And by the way: Both had happened. We had much work, but also much fun. Promise fulfilled.

Luise von Stackelberg



4.1. Our Work in the Task Forces

Karaoke-singing, a Moroccan dinner and a Christmas-Party with German “Glühwein” – these activities were the outcome of some important extra work every single delegate was responsible for. Each one of us worked in one of the four so called Task Forces. The additional tasks included fundraising, conference preparation, setting up the homepage as well as the publication of this written documentation of the participation of *Freie Universität Berlin* at NMUN 2007 which you are reading at this moment.

The duty of the Fundraising Task Force was to find additional means for financing our trip to New York. In order to collect as many funds as possible the group organized the fundraising activities like our NMUN Party. Moreover, they tried to find additional sponsors among companies.

Another Task Force was responsible for conference preparation. It included the design of various conference material like business cards, polo shirts for the delegation and especially a memorable logo so that each one of us could be recognized during the conference as a member of the glorious delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The duty of the Homepage Task Force was obviously the design and development of our homepage. Their task was crucial for the representation of our group and was often more complicated than one might expect.



The Documentary Task Force was responsible for the creation of this documentation. In order to describe our various experiences during NMUN, we worked hard to write and correct reports and to put together a printable document.

More extra work was done by the two Head Delegates, Ole Spies and Marc Voelcker, who were not only responsible for the organization of some of our sessions or fun activities, but also worked several night shifts to finish our position papers. Last, but definitely not least our Faculty Advisor, Irene Weinz, has to be commended for the outstanding job she did in preparing our delegation for NMUN 2007. She also worked closely together with each of the Task Forces so we could fulfill our tasks and make our common work as productive and interesting as possible.

Although the commitment to these Task Forces needed a lot of time and energy, we always tried to help each other and we finally managed our main common task – the successful representation of the Kingdom of Morocco at NMUN 2007.

Natalia Ruban and Luise von Stackelberg

4.2. “Reform of the United Nations” – Session of the “Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”, 13 - 14 December 2006

On 13th and 14th of December, Xenia Jakob and Irene Weinz organized a Model United Nations simulation at *Freie Universität Berlin*, which was open for application to all interested students, but of course was compulsory for us delegates to NMUN 2007. It was, for some of us, the first time to participate in a MUN and to try out some of the skills we had only been practicing in class so far, as well as a chance to get to know and practice the rules of procedure of such a simulation.

The subject of our simulation was the reform of the *United Nations*, and we were acting as representatives of states, discussing how to strengthen the organization and make it more effective. The participating delegations were Algeria, Australia, Brazil, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

In preparation for the simulation, we had received a comprehensive Background Guide. Furthermore, we had to hand in a Strategy Paper two weeks prior to the conference, a task which turned out to be surprisingly more difficult for those who had never written one before, but again, very good in order to practice, to write down our strategy and to understand the huge difference between a position paper and a strategy paper.



The session was chaired by Xenia Jakob and co-chaired by our Faculty Advisor Irene Weinz. They were supported by Jule Jürgens from the NMUN 2006 delegation and Johannes Zöphel from the HNMUN 2006 delegation. It started, however, with a report by our Head Delegate Marc Voelcker, who had been participating as an intern at the 3rd session of the newly established *Human Rights Council* in Geneva. He gave us a very informative report on the conference and its results.

After the opening of the session, we had to hold our 2-minute opening speeches, which showed us that, in spite of intensive training in class, we all were reading from our notes

too often rather than speaking freely. After the opening speeches we dealt with the adoption of the agenda, and despite some efforts of delegations like Germany to change the agenda and to include the reform of the *Security Council* in the debate or the USA to include a debate on a Convention on terrorism, these proposals failed during the vote and we stuck to the agenda as proposed by the *Secretary-General*, which meant that our first point of discussion was “*Working methods of the Human Rights Council*” and the second point “*Revitalization of the General Assembly*”.

Thereafter, we had the possibility to become acquainted with the rules of procedure and to practice to speak in front of an audience, to lead formal and informal negotiations, to build regional alliances, to learn how to draft resolutions, and to negotiate them with other alliances. On the first day, two strong coalitions evolved, the first one being India, Algeria, Nigeria, South Africa, China, Egypt, Pakistan, Russian Federation and the USA who, as a coalition, sponsored the first draft resolution 127 on the Working Methods of the Human Rights Council, and the second one being Italy, Mexico, Japan, France, Germany, UK, and Australia, with Italy sponsoring a second draft resolution 128 and the other delegations co-sponsoring it. After long informal debates on the draft resolutions and, at the end of the Session, an adjournment of the debate to the next day, the strategy of the second group of states proved to be successful and after some amendments to their draft resolution, which had been demanded by the first group of states, the delegations withdrew from the other draft resolutions. A third revised draft resolution 129 was handed in and was accepted by roll call with 17 votes in favor and 1 against. The fact that we could already pass a resolution in the morning of the second day was a big success.

The second agenda topic, the “*Revitalization of the General Assembly*”, was not quite as



successful in terms of passing a resolution. Again two alliances had formed, one group of states who wanted to keep the status quo of the last resolution of the *General Assembly*, and another group, mainly Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan and South Africa, who sponsored a new resolution which however, despite some amendments incorporated in the resolution, failed with 10 votes in favor and 8 against.

The simulation was a great experience for all of us and served as an important opportunity to get more practice, especially for the delegates taking part in a Model UN for the very first time, and who after that had a much clearer knowledge of what would be expected from them in following simulations and in New York. And finally, because we had been acting like serious

diplomats for the last two days, we rewarded ourselves with a great night out afterwards, with lots of cocktails and some very unserious karaoke singing - “*New York, New York*”!

Natalie Spiesser

4.3. Video Conference "Humanitarian Aid: The Role of the United Nations", Stephanie Bunker, 17 January 2007

As part of its activities, the Chair of Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig from the law department of *Freie Universität Berlin* organized in cooperation with the *United Nations Department of Public Information* (UNDPI) a video conference on “*Humanitarian Aid: The Role of the United Nations*”. This conference was open to all students interested in the work of the United Nations (UN) and provided a unique chance to learn about the humanitarian aid activities of the UN from a person working in this field and knowing all the related problems.

At the beginning our speaker, Ms. **Stephanie Bunker**, who has been working for the *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) since 2000 and gained long-standing experience in Afghanistan and Pakistan, started speaking about the field of humanitarian aid by the UN in general and the legal framework of its work. As she reported, the UN intervened both in large natural catastrophes and in complex emergencies, like for example in the cases of interstate conflicts or by solving refugee problems within one country. The last one seems to be one of the most challenging problems because of the rising numbers of refugees and different technical, legal and security related difficulties. Ms. Bunker explained that in all these cases the main principle of work of the *United Nations* remained the principle of neutrality and interference only with the consent of the government of the country involved. Another important notion is not to give support to the whole population (because of capacity limits) but first of all to those people most in need.



Among the various problems which OCHA faces every day, the three most important ones are security, the lack of money and the obstruction of access, which means situations when a government is not willing “to be helped”, as it is in the case in the Darfur region. However, despite these problems, several new reform projects have been started to ensure that UN aid programs are implemented as efficiently as possible. In March 2006, the new *Central Emergency Response Fund* has been established with the aim to enable help within 72 hours to regions threatened by or experiencing a humanitarian crisis, and in the same year a new cluster approach has been adopted. It implies building up capacities in nine divided “clusters” (as for example logistics, emergency telecommunication, nutrition, health or water and sanitation), and is meant to improve the predictability and timeliness of humanitarian response.

After this short but comprehensive introduction to UN humanitarian activities and a short break because of technical problems, which however only enhanced the excitement in the

audience, the participants in Berlin were allowed to ask questions, amongst others the question why the help for tsunami victims was organized so inefficiently. The answer of Ms. Bunker was "*too many cooks in the kitchen*", or in other words too many actors without a strict division of responsibilities.

Although the conference lasted only a little bit longer than one hour, thanks to the openness of our speaker it delivered an inside look on how the organization really works and helped our delegation to enhance its knowledge about the topic.

We thank Stephanie Bunker for her interesting presentation, as well as Xenia Jakob, Irene Weinz, and Peggy Wittke, *Freie Universität Berlin*, and Swati Dave, UNDPI, for the organization of this video conference.

Natalia Ruban

4.4. The Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin at MainMUN 2007, Frankfurt, 25 – 28 January 2007

MainMUN, as its name specifies, is a Model United Nations organized near the river Main at *Johann Wolfgang Goethe University* in Frankfurt. Furthermore, as its name specifies, it was one of the *main* elements of our preparation for NMUN 2007. It was a good opportunity to learn how a Model United Nations conference works and gave us an insight on what to expect during NMUN.

Already our first impressions were excellent: a group of students had been working as a team for months in order to organize the largest UN simulation in Germany. They had acquired sponsors, obtained university support, set up a great webpage, and organized the schedule and further events... So we were waiting impatiently for the sessions to start.

The first session we attended was the Rules of Procedure Workshop which was given to familiarize the delegates with these "committee laws" that – although tiring at some points – are the best way to structure discussions in the committees. However, thanks to our previous experience at the simulation organized by *Freie Universität Berlin* in December 2006, this session was just a repetition for us.

The simulated bodies were the *General Assembly*, the *Security Council* and the *Human Rights Council*. The work in all three of them was intense and elaborated, the discussions went into details. In the *General Assembly* the only topic discussed was "*General and Complete Disarmament: Nuclear Disarmament*". To update our knowledge, we had the honor of listening to an interesting speech on "*Nuclear weapons and Disarmament*" held by Prof. Dr. Harald Müller from the *Peace Research Institute Frankfurt* on Friday afternoon. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to ask him questions for about an hour, during which an intense discussion took place. At the end of the session on Sunday, the *General Assembly* managed to pass four resolutions out of five that had been submitted to vote.

Fortunately, in the *Security Council* and in the *Human Rights Council* (HRC) the delegates were able to discuss two of the three topics that had been included in the

agenda. In the *Human Rights Council* the first topic discussed was “*Human Rights and Terrorism*”, where the delegates managed to pass one resolution, and the second topic was the “*Right to development*”. The expert that spoke to the HRC was Dr. Wolfgang S. Heinz from the *German Institute for Human Rights*.

In the *Security Council* the first topic discussed was “*Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction*” and the second “*The Situation in Pakistan*”. Concerning the second topic, the staff had made up a crisis for the *Security Council* to deal with in order to make the simulation even more exciting for the delegates. At the end, they agreed on a resolution to solve the crisis, stating that the use of Nuclear Weapons was condemned and that the *Security Council* had to apply the provisions of Chapter VII of the *UN Charter* in case Pakistan refused to cooperate. The expert enlightening the *Security Council* was Prof. Dr. Michael Bothe, President of the *German Association for International Law*. He held an outstanding presentation after which the delegates had the chance to ask questions.

Altogether the participation at MainMUN was a very enriching experience as we gained more knowledge about Model United Nations, practiced diplomatic behavior and got to know each other better, starting to build the team that would represent Morocco in New York.

María Almudena Sánchez Abajo



FU Delegates at MainMUN 2007

4.5. ma.rock.o Fundraising Party, 3 February 2007

On 3 February 2007, it finally happened: the NMUN 2007 fundraising party took place. But let me start with how it all began.

As funds are always short for NMUN (getting 16 students to New York and back is expensive) and as previous delegations had done a good job at fundraising we did not want to stand back. We started discussing fundraising in November when the fundraising task force first met. Having in mind that the delegation to NMUN 2006 had raised quite a lot of money by organizing a fundraising party, we immediately agreed to make a NMUN party, too.

We then had to find a suitable location – and this turned out to be more difficult than expected. Nevertheless, we finally found a nice and suitable location: the FC Magnet Mitte, located in Veteranenstraße. As soon as the question of the venue was settled, we decided that we needed a motto. Ole proposed to call the party “ma.rock.o”, a composition of the Kingdom of Morocco and our wish to rock the house. Everybody liked Ole’s inventive proposal and the motto was therefore adopted unanimously.

Next, we needed to think about advertising the party and our motto, because it would be useless if nobody saw it. So due to Ole’s creativeness and his Photoshop skills, we soon had five different motives for flyers to choose from. One showed Frank Sinatra singing “*New York, New York*”, another showed a modified UN headquarter. He also proposed a veiled woman and lastly, a camel in the desert. We chose the latter as our flyer because we felt it would be appropriate to choose an apolitical motive for the party.



Three weeks before the party, we sent the flyer to all members of the delegation, hoping they would forward it to their friends and colleagues. From then on, we had to wait and could only hope that enough guests would show up to make all the efforts worth it.

We spent the afternoon before the party with preparing Moroccan food, choosing good music and simply getting ready to party. At about half past nine the entire delegation was in the Magnet Club, waiting for guests which fortunately did not take long to show up. Shortly after midnight the club was crammed; our guests were dancing, drinking and/or talking – in short: having a good time. Naturally we still had to work: Marc supervised

the door, while others were taking care of the cloakroom or selling self-made Moroccan specialities.

We were especially happy that so many friends and the whole NMUN crew had come. Additionally, our party had been advertised in the schedule of HertieMUN (a Model United Nations conference simulation at the Hertie School of Governance) so many of the participants of HertieMUN also showed up. In the end, we had (N)MUN party people from all over Germany at our party. The



later the night, the better was the atmosphere. Some of us partied until six o'clock in the morning and waited until all our satisfied guests had left the club.

Charlotte Sparla

4.6. “Walking in the Shoes of a Moroccan” – Visit by Mr. Reda El Merini, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 14 February 2007



Representing a country is not only an honorable task but it is a difficult one, too, so we were looking forward to professional advice by a “real” Moroccan diplomat on how to credibly and professionally represent the Kingdom of Morocco. Mr. **Reda El Merini**, Counselor at the *Moroccan Embassy* in Berlin and working as a diplomat since 1995, came to one of our sessions to share his experience and expertise in Moroccan and International Politics with us.

Mr. El Merini had completed his studies of Political Science in Freiburg, Germany, and his postgraduate studies of International Relations in Vienna, Austria. Being familiar with Germany and German culture, Mr. El Merini knew how to give Germans an understanding of Moroccan culture and his country's particularities.

He started his briefing by giving an overview on the history of Morocco, the oldest existing monarchy, and we learned about the Berbers, the Arab invasion in the seventh century, the French Protectorate, and Morocco's development after having achieved independence in March 1956. Then he explained the country's political system with special regard to the elections that will take place in September 2007 as well as to the constitutional amendment which is currently a topic of lively discussion in Moroccan media. Recent developments in family law were explained, such as the *Mudawana*, a family code which gives women more rights and which is the first initiative of its kind in the Arab world. Furthermore, he emphasized the significance of freedom of religion in his country.

The next part of his presentation, in which we were highly interested, was about Morocco's foreign policy. He stressed the significance of good relations to Morocco's neighbors and the importance of being part of the Arab world and a member of the *Arab League*. We learned that Morocco's most important economic and strategic partners are France, Saudi Arabia and the USA, but also the *European Union*. Military cooperation and information sharing with the United States plays a big role in Moroccan foreign policy after the terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003.



We had been insecure of how to address the Western Sahara conflict but Mr. El Merini put forth this controversial issue immediately. He said that fifty percent of his daily work was focused on this topic. He summed up the historical developments that led to the conflict and explained his country's position on this issue. Our delegation was especially interested in knowing the reasons for the failure of the Baker plans.

After his presentation, Mr. El Merini was so kind to answer our questions. We asked about Morocco's relation with the *African Union*, its relationship to its neighbor Algeria,

the *European Union* and Sub Saharan states, about the role of the King and political parties such as the *Parti de la Justice et du Développement* (PJD). Again, he emphasized the reforms that have been achieved in recent years which contributed to the modernization of the country and he stressed that Morocco's foreign policy was shaped by pragmatism.

Finally, we thanked Mr. El Merini for his visit and his interesting briefing, which he said he also had enjoyed, and we all had the impression of being better prepared to fulfill our tasks as diplomats from the Kingdom of Morocco at NMUN 2007. It had been extremely helpful to get some advice by a professional diplomat and a Moroccan native. To speak with Mr. El Merini's words: *"To represent Morocco, you have to walk in the shoes of a Moroccan."*

Marc Lendermann

4.7. Islam and its influence on Moroccan politics – Presentation by Charlotte Miethke, 21 February 2007

On 21 February, we had the pleasure of having a guest of another kind than usual: not a professor, a diplomat, or an ambassador, but a student like us came to one of our sessions and talked to us about Islam in general and how it influences Moroccan politics. **Charlotte Miethke** studies Islamic science in the 8th semester at *Freie Universität Berlin*. She gained a profound insight into the Arab World during her one semester exchange at the *Kalimat Language and Cultural Center* in Egypt.

Charlotte started her presentation by telling us about Islam in general terms, Muhammad and Koran, and the two main doctrinal currents within Islam. We learned that for Islamists, Islam means both religion and state but that the majority of Muslims still thinks that the organization of the state should be adapted to the changing world and our modern times. Koran is often a lot less rigid in its rules than many Islamists interpret it, but as it leaves a lot of space for interpretation, the fundamentals for a liberal and constitutional state can be derived from it as well as those for an Islamic understanding of government and society.



She continued with the political system in Morocco, the role of the king, the government, the political parties, and the importance of Islam for Moroccan politics. She told us that even though Islam is the most important legitimizing authority for the King and his domestic policies and constitutes both an instrument and a barrier for politics, it is not dictating Moroccan foreign politics. Even more since the accession to the

throne of *King Mohammed VI*, there has been a steady modernization of the religious sector.

The last part of the presentation was about Islamist movements in Morocco, which came to life in the 1970's. Until today the strategies of the Palace dealing with this defiance can be described in different phases: Starting with no precise strategy, the Palace supported the Islamic movements against the leftists in the beginning and repressed, tolerated or co-opted them alternately after they had grown a strong political actor. At the end of the 1990s, when the Palace initiated political liberalization, an Islamic party was integrated into the political system for the first time and the King showed quite a tolerant attitude towards Islamic movements in general. With the terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003, the third and still enduring phase started: the King and his government radically changed their policies towards these groups. The most radical groups are no longer tolerated whereas the more moderate ones are partly tolerated but strictly supervised. Since then, even the politically integrated actors suffer from strong control.

At the end of her presentation, Charlotte kindly answered all our questions and also gave some personal impressions and views on modern Islam and its influences.

We enjoyed Charlotte's presentation very much and we are happy that she took the time to brief and inform us. Furthermore, we thank Jonas who had organized Charlotte's visit.

Natalie Spiesser

4.8. Briefings at the Federal Foreign Office, 2 March 2007

With the departure to New York only a few days away, we gathered at the German *Federal Foreign Office* to have a briefing on Morocco and negotiations in the UN system.

Our first speaker was Ms. **Ilja Berg**, Desk Officer Maghreb. She gave us a very comprehensive overview of Moroccan politics and society which lead to a much better understanding of the information we had collected in our preparation sessions. The view of an expert of the *Federal Foreign Office* was an interesting complement to the first-hand insights that had previously been provided by Mr. El Merini from the *Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco*.

According to Ms. Berg, political parties in Morocco cannot be compared with western political parties. She described them instead as rather loose associations. The *Parti pour la justice et le développement* (PJD) is the only one that does field work. She also contributed to our understanding of the *makhzen*, the governing elite in the entourage of the king. *His Majesty King Mohammed VI* promoted many of his personal friends after he had acceded to the throne in 1999, they are now important players in Moroccan politics. In practice, this means that the ministers elected by the prime minister are 'observed' by vice ministers from the *makhzen* which are often more influential than the actual minister.

With *His Majesty King Mohammed VI*, Moroccan policies have changed in several ways. Human rights and development issues are high on the agenda but ambitious plans often face implementation problems and are slowed down due to corruption. Three topics remain a taboo in Moroccan political discussion: the Monarchy as institution, the role of Islam as state religion and challenging the claim of sovereignty over Western Sahara.

Due to the tense relations with Algeria, Morocco's level of integration in the Maghreb is relatively low. The activities of the *Arab Maghreb Union* (UMA) are stalled due to the stalemate over Western Sahara; cooperation between member states is close to zero, the



only area of cooperation is counter-terrorism, as terrorist activities in the region are on the rise.

Morocco's relations to the *European Union* (EU) are much better than the relations to its African neighbors. Morocco is a main cooperation partner of the EU and claims a

'*statut avancé*' for itself. Relations with Spain have normalized after the dispute over Isla Perejil (Parsley Island) while relations with France are traditionally close due to Morocco's colonial past. France often advocates Moroccan interests in the EU.

We also had the chance to inquire about the new fisheries agreement between Morocco and the EU, which is heavily disputed as it includes the coastal waters off the coast of Western Sahara. Ms. Berg explained that this agreement was also disputed among EU member states – but the fact that the local population will benefit from the agreement had convinced the critics and made adoption possible.

The briefing of Ms. Berg was followed by a briefing on the *United Nations* system. Our speaker was Mr. **Christian Much**, who is currently the head of the Task Force Global Issues at the *Federal Foreign Office*. On his last post at the *Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations* in New York he was public international law counselor while Germany was non-permanent member of the *Security Council*. At that time, he participated in many heated debates and negotiations over the Iraq war and was thus the perfect person to tell us about negotiations at the UN.

At the beginning, Mr. Much clarified a common misconception of the *United Nations*, namely that it is not a homogenous body, but that it actually comprises two parts: the first is the UN apparatus around the *Secretariat* made up of around 2,000 UN civil servants and the other one is the part which is driven by the member states themselves. The public

often ignores this division and blames the UN as a whole for mistakes for which member states are responsible, as was the case with the '*oil for food*' program.

He also underlined the importance of consensual outcomes of negotiations. In order to achieve consensus or be otherwise successful during the negotiations at NMUN 2007, Mr. Much provided us with very useful advice: according to him, negotiations at the UN are to a great deal influenced by different communicational cultures. A good diplomat should therefore show real interest in his negotiation partner – on a professional as well as on personal level. Negotiations must be built on mutual trust; one should never mislead or fool his partner as this will lead to a loss of credibility. Delegates should pay special attention to even small details; the interest in the work of others will pay back as others will show interest in matters that are of importance to oneself. If difficulties persist, problematic language should be rephrased to accommodate the views of all or most delegations, but this must be done very carefully as those compromises might backfire. In case a question is too controversial to agree on, deferral might be an option.

According to Mr. Much, the Moroccan diplomatic service is highly professional; he described the diplomats as very approachable and willing to compromise. As Morocco is the only African state that is not member of the *African Union*, it might have a rather tough stance in negotiations as the support of its regional group cannot be taken for granted. As Moroccan delegates, we would therefore have to put many efforts into confidence building measures and try to win allies on a case by case basis. He suggested that we should refer positively to other speakers, especially African ones, and try to show approval for their ideas.

In the end, he gave some very enlightening advice on how observer states could exert influence. Without full rights in a committee, they have to lobby even more than other delegates. On the other hand, the interests of observer nations are also limited. The main interest of observers should be to prevent any decisions that could serve as unwanted precedence in areas of interest to the observer nation.

We greatly appreciated the openness of the speakers and their profound briefings which made the visit to the *Federal Foreign Office* a very enriching experience for our delegation.

Marc Voelcker

4.9. Journey through Morocco: The Quiz

For all of us, the NMUN Program at *Freie Universität Berlin* was both a lot of work and a lot of fun. While the program required many hours of preparation, constant concentration during class and the willingness to take on extra tasks, it was still full of creative and fun activities. Two weeks before our departure to New York, the head delegates together with our Faculty Advisor Irene Weinz had prepared a special quiz on Morocco and the *United Nations* - so that the delegation could show and review what we had learned during the past five months. We were taken on a travel through Morocco.



The delegation was divided into four competing groups. A map of Morocco, which Irene and the Head Delegates had drafted themselves, served as our game board. The task was to make a journey through all Moroccan cities by answering questions or completing fun activities, starting in Casablanca and ending in Rabat. Each team had one minute to find the right answer to the questions asked, if unsuccessful, the next team had the chance to move one step further. There were several types of questions: committee questions,

questions about the *United Nations*, questions about the Rules of Procedure, and questions about Morocco and Moroccan foreign policy, as well as an extra category of special fun tasks. The fact that the questions were certainly not simple to answer made the game both challenging and entertaining: *“What does the French acronym PJD stand for?” “How often has Morocco been member of the Security Council and when?” “In which year was the Kyoto Protocol adopted?” “Which specialized agency does the IHP belong to?” “What is the name of the two Spanish enclaves on African soil?”*

Luckily we mostly remembered all those small but important details, so we were racing to the final city in a fierce competition. As for the activity question, they were as tough for the team to complete as they were fun for the others to watch: *“Convince someone who is afraid of flying to go on a plane!” “Describe the Moroccan National Emblem by pantomime!” “Sing ‘New York New York’!”*

After two hours of playing and all teams competing for the final question, we all had not only laughed a lot but we had had the opportunity to refresh and systemize our knowledge about the various topics, leaving the classroom with a light heart and the feeling of being well prepared and ready for New York.

Natalia Ruban and Natalie Spiesser

4.10. “Conference Diplomacy: Symbolism, Rituals, Language, and Strategy” – Visit of Ambassador Dr. Wilfried Bolewski, 7 March 2007

In one of our last sessions before the departure to New York, **Ambassador Dr. Wilfried Bolewski** gave us a briefing on Conference Diplomacy. Dr. Bolewski studied Law and Economics as well as English and French in Berlin, Marburg, Geneva and Cambridge. Before starting his career at the German *Foreign Service*, he had worked as a Legal advisor for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland. After we had introduced ourselves, he told us that besides his work for CERN, he had had two other contacts with multilateral diplomacy: at the *Conference on Disarmament* (CD) in Geneva, Switzerland, where he had been Deputy Head of the German Delegation, and as Consul General to the Cayman Islands and to the Turks and

Caicos Islands as well as Germany's Permanent Representative to the *International Seabed Authority* in Kingston, Jamaica. He considered his time at the *Conference on Disarmament* as the most intense experience.



Dr. Bolewski told us “*Golden Rules*” and practical hints for diplomacy: we should always keep in mind that diplomats were representatives of their country and not private citizens. As representatives, they have to fulfill an official mission which may not be consistent with their personal view and opinion. The language of diplomats should be respectful, sober and unemotional. He advised us to always leave room for manoeuvring and

responding, and as we were only messengers, we should never get personal in case of an argument. Important characteristics for diplomats are trustworthiness, credibility and integrity, and we were to always keep in mind that there was no such thing as a time out for diplomats! In case we made jokes, they should be amusing to everyone and offending to none.

We further learned about the “*Art of Negotiating*”, which for him constituted one of the most important points of Conference Diplomacy. He told us it was important that we convinced our partners of our common interests or the search for common interests, or respectively convinced them of the disadvantages of different interests.

He also told us that even gestures, such as a handshake or a smile, could substitute politics. Furthermore, Dr. Bolewski said that even though in our globalized world we experienced cultural convergence, there remained important cultural differences, the so-called “*culture gaps*”. This means that a good understanding of other cultures is the key to successful negotiations. His personal “secret” to success: the search for a common ground of values and experience.

Concerning the “*Art of Diplomacy*”, Dr. Bolewski said that we should never cheat on our partners but rather convince them of our common interests or the disadvantages of their own positions.

Diplomatic language constituted the dominant medium of communication and we were meant to bear in mind that the language we used was creating our reality. We should put ourselves in the position of the other, meaning that we had to respect cultural limits. Also, speaking the language of our partner was always a huge advantage as we would gain respect and create a ground for common interests. He asked us to keep in mind that language also had a political role. He proposed that this point could be named the “*Power of Language*” which he considered as crucial.

Last but not least he gave us three practical hints for our time as Moroccan diplomats in New York:

- Know the Rules of Procedure!
- Familiarize yourself with the interests of your partner(s)!
- Network constantly with all participants ("*the Coffeeshop clause*")!

After passing on some more knowledge about diplomatic behavior, Dr. Bolewski was kind enough to answer many questions from our part. We were glad that he took the time to visit us and we greatly benefited from his advice and the hints he had given us.

Natalie Spiesser

4.11. Rules Training with the Delegation from Saudi Arabia

From the reports of the last NMUN delegation and the explanations of our Faculty Advisor Irene Weinz, we knew that for the success of the conference not only broad knowledge and good speaking abilities are necessary, but also the perfect application of the Rules of Procedure. In order to learn and practice them, several special sessions had been organized. One of them was conducted together with the delegation from Saudi Arabia, which was represented by the students from the *German Academic Association for Security Studies*. During one afternoon only days before the departure to New York, we simulated together the session of the *Fourth Committee* on the question of *Security in Iraq*.

During this meeting not the content as such was in focus, but the opportunity to exercise all the motions and points was important. The session began with several motions for a minute of silent prayer. After one of the motions had been accepted by the chair, the official meeting was opened and the training started.



The various motions – for instance to be put on the speakers list, to set the speakers' time or to suspend the meeting – were repeatedly used during this afternoon, so that until the end of the meeting, each of the delegates could perfectly handle the motions.



After the meeting some of the Moroccan delegates stayed for an extra coffee with the colleagues from the delegation of Saudi Arabia. During the study tour and the conference in New York we would have the chance to meet them again.

We thank Johann-Jakob Wulf from the *German Academic Association for Security Studies* for the organization of this Rules Training.

Natalia Ruban

5. The Study Tour at the UN Headquarters, 15-19 March 2007

United Nations Study Tour Program

15 March 2007	
10.00 – 11.00 h	Guided Tour
11.30 – 12.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on the Millennium Development Goals – <i>Pragati Pascale</i>
12.30 – 14.00 h	Lunch Break
14.15 – 15.15 h	Secretariat Briefing on the ICC – <i>Markus Pallek</i>
15.30 – 16.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Peacekeeping – <i>Dr. Cécile Mouly and Kai Schäfer</i>
16 March 2007	
10.00 – 11.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on Disarmament – <i>Tracy C. Brown</i>
11.00 – 12.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on Sudan – <i>Patrick Hayford</i>
12.15 – 13.15 h	Secretariat Briefing on Sanctions – <i>Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup</i>
13.15 – 14.30 h	Lunch Break
14.45 – 15.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on Terrorism – <i>Mitchell Hsieh</i>
19 March 2007	
10.00 – 11.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on Economic Development and NEPAD – <i>Mehdi Hamam</i>
11.00 – 12.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on Environment – <i>Jim Sniffen</i>
12.00 – 14.45 h	Lunch Break
15.00 – 16.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on Refugees – <i>Gonzalo Vargas Llosa</i>
16.00 – 17.00 h	Secretariat Briefing on the Responsibility to Protect – <i>Axel Wennmann</i>
20 March 2007	
11.00 – 13.00 h	German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) – <i>Stefanie Grupp-Clasby</i>
14.30 – 15.30 h	Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations – <i>Dominic Porter</i>
21 March 2007	
10.30 – 13.30 h	Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

5.1. On the way towards being a diplomat... - Exploring the United Nations

One of the highlights during the preparation process for NMUN 2007 and the first part of our mission in New York was the Study Tour at the *United Nations* Headquarter. Organized in close cooperation with the *United Nations Department of Public Information* (UNDPI), this tour gave us a unique opportunity to take a look inside the daily life of the *United Nations*. In the course of three days, we were not only able to gather in UN conference rooms where high ranking officials deal with the biggest problems of today's world on a daily basis, but also to talk to experts from different fields.

Our days started with a hasty rush to the building of the *United Nations* at the East River and a typical New York "business breakfast"- a coffee and a bagel bought on the way. Then, after passing the security checks at the entrance, we entered the conference room. We heard four or five briefings per day, with only a short lunch break in between. The topics of the briefings had been chosen with regard to our committee issues, so that we would not only listen to the speakers but also had the opportunity to show what we had been studying for such a long time. After short introductory statements on the topics, we were usually given the opportunity to ask questions - and we asked a lot of them!

Before and after the briefings, we saw UN employees and diplomats hurrying along the corridors and negotiating in the "*Viennese Café*", the famous cafeteria within the Headquarter.

We thank Swati Dave, *United Nations Department of Public Information*, and Peggy Wittke, Faculty Advisor and Director MUN/MEU Programs, *Freie Universität Berlin*, for the organization of this Study Tour.

Natalia Ruban



5.1.1. Briefing on the Millennium Development Goals

The first briefing of our study tour at the UN Headquarter was on the core objectives that the UN aims to achieve by the year 2015: the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs). They seek to reduce extreme poverty, child mortality and the spread of HIV, Malaria and other diseases, as well as to promote school education, the empowerment of women and ecological sustainability. Of course we were very



keen to learn more about the strategies the UN applies to implement these ambitious goals. Ms. **Pragati Pascale** from the *United Nations Department of Public Information* had been spokesperson of former GA President Jan Eliasson and gave us very interesting insights into the development plans of the UN and the efforts made to increase public awareness for development issues especially in industrialized countries.

At the beginning of our briefing on the MDGs she asked who had ever traveled to a developing country and what impressions about the living conditions we had gained. In case we had not been there so far, she encouraged us to travel to such countries and see for ourselves. Ms. Pascale emphasized the fact that billions of people had no access to clean water and sanitation which was an unimaginable burden to leading a normal life and an extreme hindrance to the development of a country or region. Several campaigns have been launched by the *Department of Public Information* in order to increase public awareness, and, in this context, to mobilize donor countries and hold them accountable. As a success she named the '*Make Poverty History*' Campaign which pressured the G8 states into making commitments.

Concerning the achievement of the MDGs, Ms. Pascale told us that much progress had been made in the field of primary school education and also in the field of fighting HIV/AIDS and poverty. Still, it has to be considered that the situation in some regions of the world is improving faster than in others, for example the economic growth in China and India pulling millions of people out of poverty. Nevertheless, international inequality persists due to the fact that the situation in Sub Saharan Africa and parts of Asia has actually worsened. Still, Ms. Pascale was optimistic and said that the MDGs were likely to be met on a worldwide basis, although on a regional level the situation was different with most of Africa being left behind in the global development process.

The measurement of progress remains a highly complicated process, since it is sometimes very hard to receive relevant data and to use representative indicators. In order to facilitate the process, countries submit a strategy paper in which they establish a plan to allocate and use their resources efficiently. This dates back to a proposal by Jeffrey Sachs and has proved to be a useful tool. To measure development, the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) uses the *Human Development Index* (HDI), which relates not only to economic growth but to human development as well.

After giving us this interesting overview, Ms. Pascale kindly answered all our questions. We had a lively discussion about the sustainability of the MDGs and whether the impact of climatic change is likely to disproportionately affect poor countries. Ms. Pascale assured us that the UN was very engaged in getting this problem into the minds of governments and also answered our questions about what the UN does to pressure governments concerning this matter.

At the end of our briefing, Ms. Pascale emphasized that the MDGs were definitely achievable, which had been validated by many experts throughout the world. This should be done by attacking the grass roots of development problems rather than by simply stimulating economic growth. By raising public awareness governments can be pressured to commit themselves to improve the situation in developing countries. If the political will exists, we might be the first generation to achieve the eradication of extreme poverty throughout the world. However, Ms. Pascale said that the UN had never stated that it was going to reach the MDGs, but it was rather a plan to bring donor and receiving countries together and to encourage cooperation.

Antonia Haegner

5.1.2. Briefing on the ICC

Among the various topics our delegation had wished to be briefed on, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague was one of the most requested.

Together with the NMUN delegations from Würzburg and Freiburg as well as college students from Virginia, we attended a briefing by **Dr. Markus Pallek**



from the *Office of Legal Affairs*. Having studied in Würzburg and worked at *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin*, the lawyer had more in common with our delegations than just nationality. Right from the beginning, Dr. Pallek emphasized that he could only speak on the *United Nations* and its relationship to the ICC and not for the ICC itself, as he did not work for the latter.

First he gave us an overview on the historical development. “*Fifty years ago*”, he said, “*the United Nations recognized the need for prosecution of crimes.*” In December 1948

the *General Assembly* had adopted the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*. Dr. Pallek emphasized the role of Raphael Lemkin in this process and expressed his regret that this important man behind the genocide convention is often forgotten. The idea of a draft resolution for the establishment of the ICC had been taken up by the *General Assembly* in 1990 and had then been referred to the *International Law Commission* (ILC). In 1998, a conference was held in Rome, on which the statute of the ICC was adopted. It became known as the *Rome statute*, and entered into force on 1 July 2002. Until now, 104 states have ratified the *Rome statute*. Dr. Pallek underlined that due to this relatively small number the ICC was still far away from the goal of universal jurisdiction. However, the court has left the preparatory phase and is now fully operational, investigating its first cases and holding its first hearings. In order to illustrate this, Dr. Pallek mentioned that the *Security Council* had referred the conflict in Darfur to the ICC and that the prosecution had already summoned Sudanese politicians.

Then, the expert from the *Office of Legal Affairs* explained the court's structure. It is separated into *Presidency*, *Chambers* and the *Office of the Prosecution*, which is independent for its substantial work. The *Chambers* are divided into three instances: the pre-trial chamber, the trial chamber, which will soon take up its work, and the appellate chamber.

Afterwards, Dr. Pallek came to the main part of his presentation: the cooperation between the UN and the ICC. He mentioned the *UN-ICC Relationship Agreement*, concluded on 4 October 2004, which affirms the independence of the Court while establishing a framework for cooperation. This agreement includes issues like the participation of the ICC, in the capacity of observer, in the UN *General Assembly*, the exchange of information, as well as the obligation to consult each other on matters of mutual interest. The United Nations delivers evidence as it would be too dangerous for the court to carry out investigations in the field itself. The UN agrees to cooperate with the Court whenever the latter requests the testimony of an official of the *United Nations* or of one of its programs, funds or offices. He also explained that the UN *Security Council* may refer a situation (in which one or more crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court appear to have been committed) to the *Prosecutor* and the Council may defer the commencement or continuation of 'an investigation' or 'a prosecution' for a renewable period of 12 months. He stressed that the ICC was a treaty-based organ that was fully operational. "*We do not have a baby anymore, we have a partner in the ICC*", Dr. Pallek expressed his confidence in the functioning of the court. However, he emphasized that enforcement instruments were still lacking and he regretted the lack of support. For instance from the five permanent members of the *Security Council*, only the United Kingdom and France have ratified the *Rome statute*.

After the presentation, we were allowed to ask questions. The first was about the ICC's investigations of five Ugandan members of the Lord's Resistance Army. The expert from the *Office of Legal Affairs* made clear that he merely could present the official line of the *Secretariat*: "*that it is an issue of the ICC*". But in his opinion "*peace is a precondition for justice*" and he explained the problem of amnesties: rebels claimed amnesty as a condition for peace treaties. "*Where is the answer to this problem? I do not know*" Dr. Pallek admitted. However, he expressed the hope that amnesties were not granted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. "*Hopefully, this will become*

customary law”, the German lawyer said. As he explained, only the *Security Council* could stop the prosecution of the case. It had considered it, but refrained from doing so, as this would have sent out a wrong message.

The second question dealt with the position of the *Security Council* towards the ICC. As Dr. Pallek stated, the *Security Council* derived its power from the *Charter*. He explained that the court could exercise its jurisdiction either if the accused was a national of a state that was a party to the *Rome Statute* or if the alleged crime had taken place on the territory of a state party, or if a situation was referred to it by the *Security Council*. Furthermore states that are not members of the ICC can accept the jurisdiction of the court for a crime in question, as for example Cote d’Ivoire did. However, the lawyer underlined that the court cannot deal with cases that happened before the entering into force of the *Rome statute*.

The following question was concerning whether the ICC would become an executive organ in future, he answered: “*We are not the police.*” Another question took up the problem of amnesties. “*Definitely, prosecution can disturb peace processes*”, the expert said. He called amnesties a wrong message saying “*you can get away with your crimes*”. He expressed his confidence in the prosecution by mentioning that the *International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia* (ICTY) had been able to try Milosevic, and that in the case of Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor had been brought to court. Therefore, he still hoped that the court would get “*the big guys*”. Other questions followed, concerning among others the participation of victims, the independence of prosecutors, a strengthening of the role of the ICC and the establishment of other tribunals by the UN. Dr. Pallek answered all of them very clearly and precisely.

In the end, we all had a much better understanding of the work of the ICC as well as international criminal prosecution in general. We are very grateful for this interesting briefing. Hopefully, Dr. Pallek enjoyed it to have visitors from his home country, too. At least, he seemed have liked the coffee mug from *Freie Universität Berlin* we had brought as a gift.

Marc Lendermann

5.1.3. Briefing on Peacekeeping

The last briefing of the first day of our Study Tour was about Peacekeeping. **Kai Schaefer** and his colleague **Dr. Cécile Mouly** gave us an inside view of the *Situation Centre* of the *Department of Peacekeeping Operations* (DPKO). During an interesting one-hour presentation we learned about the structure of DPKO, about the challenges of current peacekeeping operations, about the various peacekeeping mandates and the role of the *Situation Centre* within the department.

Kai Schaefer started with some personal information. An interesting fact to us was that he had also studied at *Freie Universität Berlin* before he joined the *United Nations*. Then, he moved on to talk more about peacekeeping missions. He told us a lot of important numbers: since 1948 there have



been 61 peacekeeping operations in total. At the time of the briefing there were still 18 DPKO-led operations in which more than 100.000 personnel were involved. Especially under *Secretary-General Kofi Annan* the number of peacekeeping personnel had increased. Unfortunately fatalities are part of peacekeeping operations. The total number of people who died during peacekeeping operations had reached 2,337 at the time of the briefing. While most of the fatalities were due to illnesses in contexts of often harsh living conditions, some were also due to “malicious acts”.

Another challenge for the peacekeeping missions is funding. The total annual expenditures on peacekeeping missions are US-\$ 6.03 billion. This may sound like a lot of money, but it really only makes up 0.6 % of the global military spending per year. The total annual budget for peacekeeping missions is the equivalent of what the United States spends in Iraq in only one week.

The “backbone” of all peacekeeping missions was the military personnel, said Mr. Schaefer. The biggest troop contributors come from Asia, especially from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Europe’s contribution has risen lately; this is mainly because of the involvement of European soldiers in Lebanon. Nevertheless, it seems that developing countries provide the bulk of peacekeeping troops while industrialized nations try to live up to their responsibility by supplying funding and equipment.

We were further briefed on current operations such as MONUC in the Democratic Republic of Congo and MINURSO in Western Sahara. To learn about MINURSO was of

course very interesting to us, representing the Kingdom of Morocco. These peacekeeping missions face many challenges. One of the main challenges used to be the problem of rapid deployment. Only a few years ago, it took 2-3 months to deploy troops; today deployment is possible within weeks. Remaining problems are logistics and obviously security. Furthermore, there are the questions of who is in charge, who controls the mission and who commands it. And maybe most importantly: who is responsible if something goes wrong? When asked about the impact that peacekeeping missions can have on the local population, Mr. Schaefer said that unfortunately the motto of the “light foot print” was not always possible, but DPKO was doing its best.



Besides the challenges, there are some prerequisites needed for a peacekeeping mission to be successful. First of all, the parties involved have to be genuinely committed to the peace process. Secondly, the mission depends on the strong political support of the international community. And last but not least, the necessary resources need to be

provided. Despite all these challenges and prerequisites, the two speakers were quite optimistic about the future of peacekeeping missions. And they added: *“You cannot find any better organization than the United Nations to do the job.”*

After having dealt with peacekeeping missions in general, we got some insights into how the *Situation Centre* of DPKO works. The Centre had been established in 1993 to support decision-making in response to crisis situations. It deals with a constant flow of information, working 24/7, every day of the year. Conflicts all over the world are evaluated, many of which do not make the news. The personnel works 12 hour shifts constantly monitoring what is happening in the world. It has 26 staff members, three of which are uniformed personnel. There is also one so-called NATO liaison officer working in the office in New York. We saw a picture of the operation room, which looked like any other UN office. The only amazing things were three backpacks sitting on the shelves, being there in case of an urgent relocation of the Centre.

At the end of the presentation there was still time for some questions. Since we already had good knowledge of the field, many critical points were raised, and we engaged in a lively discussion. When asked about the critical role of the *United Nations* in earlier conflicts, the speakers said: *“Since Rwanda, the UN has learned a lot.”*

Ole Spies

5.1.4. Briefing on Disarmament



Ms. **Tracy C. Brown** briefed us about nuclear disarmament and the work of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA). She works as a spokeswoman for the IAEA's *Public Information Office*.

As the IAEA's work has often been criticized by the international community during the last months, particularly when dealing with countries like Iran or North Korea,

Ms. Brown pointed out that the IAEA was a multinational institution which had been set up by sovereign member states and still was governed by them. As decisions within the IAEA are usually made by consensus, the power of the IAEA depends on the political will of these individual members.

She shortly explained the work of the IAEA New York office which cooperates closely with the Headquarter in Vienna, and told us that the IAEA had been founded in 1957. It has a regular budget of 322 million US-\$ (as of 2005). The three main parts of the IAEA's activities are nuclear technology, nuclear safety, and nuclear verification.

Every state has the right to peacefully use nuclear energy. So in the field of nuclear technology, the agency provides technical assistance and information exchange on the application of nuclear technology to over 80 states, most of them developing states. This cooperation is meant to support the countries and to contribute to improved food productivity, health care and electricity situation. Concerning electricity generation, the IAEA collects related data and provides assistance to improve the performance of nuclear power plants.

The second main activity takes place in the field of nuclear safety and security which in the public awareness is the main task of the IAEA. Although nuclear safety is a national responsibility, the agency tries to promote a universal safety culture among all organizations and individuals. In the security area, it focuses on states in order to help them preventing, detecting, and responding to terrorist acts such as the illegal possession, transfer, and use of nuclear material or sabotage of nuclear power plants.

Although most countries around the globe use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes, the international community together with the IAEA has set up a *safeguards inspection and verification system*, which is the third main pillar of the agency. Consisting of internationally approved legal and technical measures, its goal is to convince member states to stay in compliance with their non-proliferation commitments. Ms. Brown stressed the fact that the acceptance of IAEA safeguards was a voluntary act. The IAEA has no power to impose inspections on any state. This was often forgotten by the media and the public, she underlined.

The main treaty in this context is the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT) which entered into force in 1970. Under the NPT, the five Nuclear-Weapon States China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Russian Federation are obliged to undertake negotiations towards complete nuclear disarmament. All other states have the right to acquire peaceful nuclear technology but are obliged to declare all nuclear material to the IAEA and to establish a system to control nuclear facilities. To verify the data provided by states, the IAEA conducts inspections. In the cases of Iran, where a clandestine nuclear weapons program had been discovered, and North Korea, which had even withdrawn from the NPT in 2003, the IAEA can only try to influence the governments by speeches and statements, due to its clear mandates. Ms. Brown stressed that the IAEA's role was very limited and that the agency just provided expertise and training. This led to a lively discussion about the role the IAEA could play in future in order to convince those countries to return to the safeguards obligations they once had felt committed to.

According to Ms. Brown, the IAEA continued to be very relevant in ensuring the benefits of nuclear technology, which should be shared globally and conducted safely. One should keep in mind that the agency's ability to carry out all its functions relied on the political commitment and the financial support of its member states.

Stefan Hoffmann

5.1.5. Briefing on Sudan



As the ongoing conflict in the Sudanese region of Darfur appears to be one of the most urgent topics the international community has to deal with today, we were all tensely looking forward to the briefing. The presentation was given by Mr. **Patrick Hayford** from the *Office of the Special Advisor for Africa*. He intended to give us an overview on the country, its problems and the origins of the conflicts. His

presentation revealed that the topic of Sudan is of personal importance to him.

Sudan is the biggest country in Africa, located at the center of the continent. Mr. Hayford described Sudan as a country of cross routes between the Arab World and Sub Saharan Africa. Its population is of great diversity and ethnically mixed.

First, Mr. Hayford gave us an insight in the North South Peace Process, where one conflict had been resolved successfully with the help of the *United Nations* (UN) peacekeeping operation UNMIS. The conflict between the Sudanese government and the *Sudanese People Liberation Movement* (SPLM) was not only about the major oil resources in southern Sudan but also about identity and sharing wealth and power. Mr.

Hayford referred to the *Comprehensive Peace Agreement* (CPA) between the Government and the SPLM as a great opportunity for Sudan but he also saw great risks in the failure of the Peace Agreement that could even worsen the situation.

In the next part of his presentation, Mr. Hayford talked about the conflict in the region of Darfur in East Sudan. He explained that Darfur means “Land of the Fur people” and that it covered a territory of the size of France. The region is mostly remote and has a bad infrastructure. The environment is extremely dry and therefore people suffer from water problems. Two major groups of people live in the region of Darfur: the group of settled farmers and the other group being nomads. Both groups depend on the small water resources. Mr. Hayford explained to us that all inhabitants were Muslims and that the conflict did not have religious reasons. Once there had been enough water resources and people had lived peacefully side by side. But due to climate change, resources began to shrink and first conflicts evolved. The conflict also spread because of an easy access to arms. Movements like the *Sudan Liberation Movement* (SLM) and the *Justice and Equality Movement* (JEM) were founded. Concerned about a rebellion, the Sudanese Government overreacted and bombed the region. The different groups split up and started to fight each other. The whole conflict spilled over to neighboring countries as many people fled to their relatives in Chad and the Central African Republic. Deeply concerned, Mr. Hayford told us that the civilian population was suffering most from the conflict. Many people are displaced and living in camps lacking primary supply of water and food.

The *United Nations* is currently working in two fields regarding the situation in Darfur – a humanitarian and a political response. On the humanitarian side, the UN and several non-governmental organizations as for example the *Red Cross* try to grant basic help to the people living in camps. But this is very difficult as, on the one hand, many parts of the country are hard to reach because of the difficult territory and, on the other hand, any humanitarian aid depends on the acceptance by the government.

A political answer is as hard to find as a humanitarian one. The rebel groups are not very well organized so that the leadership is changing constantly. Negotiations lead by the *African Union* had been hard, and the *Darfur Peace Agreement* is not yet signed by all rebel leaders.

Mr. Hayford emphasized the need of an African solution, but he also pointed out the great difficulties of the *African Union* Mission in Sudan (AMIS) concerning resources, supply, command and control. He saw the need of a joint force of the *African Union* and the *United Nations*.

In addition to the problems AMIS is facing, Mr. Hayford explained the difficulties of the *African Union* to find a common and united position. He was very concerned about the consequences of an escalating conflict in Sudan on Sub-Saharan Africa.

Daniel Becker



5.1.6. Briefing on Sanctions

On our second day at the UN Headquarter in New York, we had the opportunity to meet Mr. **Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup** from Denmark. His presentation was very interesting and we subsequently had a vivid discussion about sanctions.

Mr. Ahnfeldt-Mollerup has studied law and currently serves as Political Affairs Officer in the *Analytic Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team* (the 'Monitoring Team'). This team is composed of independent experts with expertise in counter-terrorism, financing of terrorism, arms embargoes, travel bans and related legal issues. They provide information about the implementation and the effectiveness of sanctions regimes. The Monitoring Team supports the *Security Council Committee*, established in 1999 pursuant to *Security Council resolution 1267* in order to control the implementation of sanctions against Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The *Security Council Committee*, also known as the *Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee*, is composed of all 15 *Security Council* member states. Due to changing circumstances, the sanctions regime has constantly been modified by subsequent resolutions. Now, these sanctions cover all individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden and/or the Taliban irrespective of the country they are operating in.

First, Mr. Ahnfeldt-Mollerup gave a short overview on the changes the *Security Council* had gone through since the end of the cold war. Since that time, there has been a huge increase in sanctions because the *Security Council* (the only organ being able to impose binding sanctions) has finally overcome the blockade of the cold war. Before the 1990s, the *Security Council* had agreed on sanctions only twice. Meanwhile, sanctions have become a frequently used instrument of coercion.

This led us directly to the purpose of sanctions: according to Mr. Ahnfeldt-Mollerup, they were supposed to change an actor's cost-benefit-ratio. Ideally they incite an actor to refrain from certain acts. They might be imposed either on a whole country (comprehensive sanctions), for example by trade bans, or against persons (targeted

sanctions), as for example by travel bans. As in the past comprehensive sanctions have not proved to be very effective and as they often only affected the civilian population, there has been a transition from comprehensive to targeted sanctions in the last ten years. The diamond trade ban for example (which forbids the trade with diamonds from conflict areas) is particularly effective and has helped to end conflicts in Angola and Sierra Leone.

After this general introduction to the topic of sanctions, Mr. Ahnfeldt-Møllerup focused on his area of expertise: sanctions against Al-Qaida. In addition to overseeing states' implementation of sanctions measures, the Committee sets up the 'Consolidated List'. This list, which is accessible on the internet, enumerates individuals and entities that are connected to or associated with Al-Qaida. The consequences for individuals and companies on the list are very serious, since they are no longer allowed to travel or to withdraw money from their bank accounts.

Naturally, this raised the question of Human Rights. Consensus of all Committee members is needed to add persons to the list - as well as for a de-listing. He mentioned the difficulties connected to withdrawing a name from the list which involved proving the innocence of the person in question. Despite the fact that *Security Council Resolution 1617* (2005) gives a clearer definition about activities indicating that someone is associated with Al-Qaida, some of us were very critical towards this procedure as it seems to lack standards of due process. Mr. Ahnfeldt-Møllerup understood our reservations but emphasized that these sanctions were of political, not judicial nature. According to him, with more than 500 individuals on the 'Consolidated List' and more than 100 million US-\$ of frozen money, this list was a very useful instrument in the fight against terrorism.

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Ahnfeldt-Møllerup summed up that, especially in the fight against Al-Qaida, all countries tried to translate sanctions into action as effective as possible and that if problems occurred, this often was due to the lack of capacity and not to the lack of will.

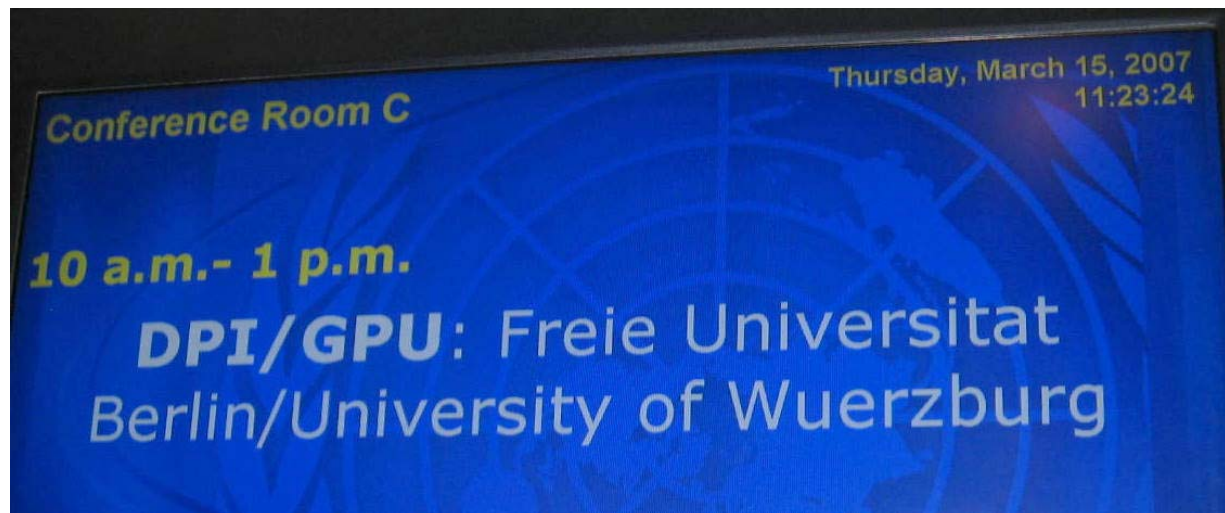
Charlotte Sparla

5.1.7. Briefing on Terrorism

Mr. Mitchell Hsieh works for the *Counter-Terrorism Committee* (CTC) as Public Information Officer. The CTC was established by S/RES/1373 (2001) with a mandate to monitor the resolution's implementation by the UN member states. He gave us a very interesting briefing on the different aspects of international terrorism and various counter-terrorism practices. Furthermore he was open to our questions that were in parts quite critical towards the international practices.

The speaker started by giving us a short overview of international terrorism in world history. On 21 December 1988, the *Jumbo Clipper Maid of Seas*, operated by the

American Airline *Pan Am*, was the target of what is considered the first terrorist attack that made its way to the *United Nations Security Council*. Almost four years after the Jumbo had exploded over the Scottish village of *Lockerbie*, the *Security Council* called in S/RES/748 the support of international terrorism a threat to international peace and security. Since this first careful reference of international terrorism in the halls of the Headquarters, international and especially radical religious terrorism was on the agenda of the *Security Council* almost permanently, and influenced the policies of almost all governments worldwide.



In 1999, the *Security Council* asked the Afghan government with resolution S/RES/1267 (1999) to hand over Usama bin Laden who was (and still is) considered the head of an international terrorist network called *Al-Qaida*. After the Taliban-ruled regime in Afghanistan had not responded positively to the *Security Council*'s request and the United States had faced the worst attacks on American soil on 11 September 2001, the *Security Council* called international terrorism a threat to international peace and security in its resolution S/RES/1373 (2001). With this resolution, the *United Nations* opened a new door to counter-terrorism actions under international law. In addition, the CTC was founded and all UN member states were asked to report their counter-terrorism activities to the committee. With resolution S/RES/1540 (2004), the *United Nations* faced the hot topic of international nuclear terrorism (also a topic during the NMUN 2007 Conference) and came up with a first and very careful definition of terrorism in international law. Resolution S/RES/1535 (2004) improved the existing counter-terrorism instruments by establishing the *Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate* (CTED) to assist the CTC. The newly established CTED is workplace to approximately 40 experts on terrorism, among them 24 lawyers. The CTED also added the dimension of Human Rights to the CTC by assigning a *Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Terrorism*. Resolution S/RES/1566 (2004), which had been sponsored by the Russian Federation, emphasized the role of the victims of terrorist attacks and created an international fund. It also gave the first global definition of terrorism and expanded the list for *targeted sanctions* (sanctions against individuals). Shortly after the London subway bombing on 7 July 2005, the *Security Council* passed S/RES/1624 (2005) that asked the governments to strengthen the dialogue among civilisations. In addition to the tight framework of *Security Council*

resolutions, the *United Nations* sponsored 13 multilateral conventions on international terrorism.

Having the unique opportunity to ask an expert about such a crucial issue, we confronted Mr. Hsieh with various questions on the topic. How would the *United Nations* tackle the topic of terrorism? He pointed out that the UN not only dealt with counter-terrorism activities but also with the prevention of terrorism by attacking the roots of extremism. One tool to do so was humanitarian aid. Besides numerous other bits of information we learned that the world is experiencing 100 terrorist attacks per month, 50% of them taking place in Iraq. Although different figures would use different definitions of terrorist attacks, the large number of attacks shocked us.

Having this in mind, we left the briefing with the sad certainty that terrorism was not just part of the NMUN 2007 Conference or the work of the *United Nations*, but part of the world we live in.

Jonas-Benjamin Walther

5.1.8. Briefing on Economic Development and NEPAD

The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (NEPAD) is a relatively new initiative, designed by Algeria, Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt.

Our speaker **Mr. Mehdi Hamam** is the Senior Economic Affairs Officer from the *Office of the Special Advisor on Africa* (OSAA). He held a comprehensive presentation on NEPAD, explaining how the UN supports this initiative, and he gave us a good overview of the challenges and problems that the *Office of the Special Advisor on Africa* faces in that field of work.

Our delegation, as we were representing the Kingdom of Morocco, knew from the briefing with Mr. El Merini from the Moroccan Embassy in Berlin that Morocco is quite suspicious about this issue but as it is affected by its impacts because of being a part of the region, NEPAD is still of special interest to Morocco.

Starting with basic information about NEPAD, Mr. Hamam underlined the fact that NEPAD was a homegrown initiative which remained to be managed by Africans and contained social, political and economical aspects in order to support integrated and sustainable development in the region. NEPAD had been developed to meet Africa's special challenges such as the high poverty level, underdevelopment, and the lack of integration into the world market. Thus, main objectives of NEPAD are the eradication of poverty, the sustainable strengthening of



economic power and growth, the integration of Africa into the process of globalization and the improvement of the position of women in Africa.

According to Mr. Hamam, the main problem of African countries is the lack of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The attraction of Foreign Direct Investments is considered to be a main pillar of sustainable growth in emerging markets. Just 1% of the FDIs worldwide is invested in African countries and for now, some African countries do not participate in world markets at all. NEPAD aims at improving the situation by strengthening economic growth and supporting economic development in order to eliminate this marginalization. He emphasized that the success of NEPAD was based on effective conflict prevention, good governance and democracy. *“No peace without development and no development without peace.”*

Then Mr. Hamam focused on the support for NEPAD by the *United Nations*. In 2001, the *United Nations* declared that they were willing to support the African initiative and in 2002, the *General Assembly* of *United Nations* adopted two resolutions, A/RES/57/2 and A/RES/57/7, which emphasized the importance of NEPAD in order to be the framework of all activities of the international community undertaken to support Africa's development. Due to the review of the UN's working methods and the development of a framework for coordination and collaboration, the support was intensified and became more effective. Cooperation and support take place on three levels:

- Country level
- Regional level
- Global level

On the country level coordination is managed by the *United Nations Country Teams* (UNCT). The efforts on the regional level are focused on the following priority areas: governance, peace and security, agriculture, trade, infrastructure, environment and science & technology. The support is based on a system of thematic clusters around the priority areas of NEPAD and on periodical regional consultations among the UN agencies working in Africa. The global level is directed by the *Office of the Special Advisor on Africa* (OSAA), established in 2002 by resolution A/RES/57/300 of the *General Assembly*. The main tasks of the *Office of the Special Advisor on Africa* are to align activities, to strengthen the global advocacy, and to communicate activities to improve the knowledge of NEPAD. The support of coherence is a major task as it is essential for the efficiency of the support, because otherwise, the country that is supposed to benefit has to suffer the consequences. The *Office of the Special Advisor on Africa* also oversees the coordination of regional and subregional cooperation to ensure the implementation of NEPAD, as well as building and mobilizing human, institutional and financial capacities.

In order to support the institutional capacities, the OSAA facilitates trainings for an improvement of technical knowledge of the staff, assists in development codes and standards, and encourages African countries to implement economic, social and political reforms.

Mr. Hamam also mentioned some shortcomings that were associated with the activities in Africa. The lack of coordination remains a big problem. UN agencies in Africa are frequently failing to consult each other and he claimed better policy coherence.

Looking ahead, the *United Nations* still has to make active contributions towards mobilizing resources. Aid is provided but it does not meet the needs yet.

Sandra Bedenk

5.1.9. Briefing on Environment



The briefing on environment was held by Mr. **Jim Sniffen** who works as Information Officer for the *United Nations Environmental Program* (UNEP). In order to save as much time as possible for questions, Mr. Sniffen directly began with his short presentation on what UNEP does in general and on its activities in Africa in particular, as all the students present at the briefing were going to represent

African countries during NMUN 2007.

As he reported, UNEP is one of the two UN agencies having its global headquarter in the developing world, namely in Nairobi, Kenya. Officially it belongs to the Secretariat, which means that it reports directly to the *Secretary-General*. It is a relatively small program with only about 600 employees around the world and a budget far smaller than that of large NGOs like *Greenpeace*. It has three very important and broad tasks:

- to arise public awareness of environmental issues, both globally and regionally;
- to take periodically stock of environmental developments throughout the world and bring it to the attention of the governments, and
- to mainstream environment to be paid attention to in all UN activities.

It is important to mention that UNEP is not meant to directly protect the environment, but to provide information to governments, other actors, and UN agencies in order to help them protect the environment. With this aim, UNEP issues reports and organizes conferences and panels. The reports, however, are not written by UN employees but by internationally recognized scientists.

The work UNEP is mostly noted for is the promotion of the climate change issues. In the middle of the 1980s, UNEP organized the first panel on climate change. During this panel, more than 200 scientists from different fields began to point out human responsibility for global warming. As a result of their report of 1992, the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* had been signed. There were however no binding obligations and UNEP continued its work. In 1995, it issued the second report strongly

underlining human responsibility. This led to the *Kyoto Protocol* in 1997 which obliges industrialized nations to achieve obligatory emission reductions. Similar schemes are used by UNEP concerning the promotion of other issues like biological diversity, desertification or ozone protection.

The two main problems Mr. Sniffen mentioned are the slow pace of the legal process and the limited financial recourses. For instance, in the case of the *Kyoto Protocol*, it took more than seven years from the signing of the document to the entry into force in September 2005. With regard to the second point, it is necessary to mention that UNEP relies on voluntary funding: 95% of its budget depend on the political will of the member states. The biggest donors are the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany.

Mr. Sniffen believed that the next UNEP report, which will be focused on North America and will describe past and possible future disasters, should provoke much stronger reactions by the media and the public. He said that one of the main requirements for the success of UNEP's programs was the involvement not only of governments but also of civil society, private actors, and the scientific community.

He explained that in his experience, there were four main types of reaction by the public following the reports:

- fear and willingness to achieve better results, to reduce emissions;
- fear and the belief that it was already too late to change something;
- the denial of the fact that global warming is caused by human activities and the belief that it was just a circle of the development of the earth so that humans just had to adapt to it;
- technological fiction, searching for rescue in outer space.

Because of the third group of readers, UNEP has to be extremely careful when publishing data.

Regarding its activities in Africa, UNEP in general tries to build a bridge between North and South concerning environmental issues. Since it is based in Africa, some projects tend to use African countries as case studies.

Natalia Ruban

5.1.10. Briefing on Refugees

The *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) is mandated by the *United Nations* (UN) to promote and protect refugees and to coordinate action to resolve refugee problems. UNHCR helps refugees to find asylum and to create conditions to ensure that the human rights of refugees are protected.

We had the great chance of having a briefing by Mr. **Gonzalo Vargas Llosa**, Senior Policy Advisor of the UNHCR office in New York. Mr. Vargas Llosa has been working for the UN for many years. His first mission had been in Afghanistan, later on he worked

for the UN in Geneva, where he specialized on Columbian refugees. Since 2006, he is working at the UN Headquarter in New York. Mr. Vargas Llosa briefed us about the background of UNHCR, activities undertaken in the field of refugees and last but not least about major challenges ahead.

A refugee, explained Mr. Vargas Llosa, was a person who had fled from his home because he or she had feared persecution. This person believes that he/she is not safe in the state he/she had been living in and therefore searches protection in another country, or, in the case of internally displaced persons, in a different part of the country. Refugees fear persecution for various reasons, e.g. ethnical, social, religious, or political.

After the First World War, there had been one million refugees, today more than 20 million people are considered refugees. However, persons leaving their country for economic reasons were not entitled to the status 'refugee', as Mr. Vargas Llosa stated. As the two groups leave their homes for completely different motivations they thus have a different legal status. An economic migrant normally leaves his/her country in search of a better life abroad. He/she has the possibility to return to his/her state of origin and to receive the protection of his/her government. In the case of refugees, this is not possible.

In 1947, the UN had created the *International Refugee Organization* (IRO) to deal with matters affecting displaced persons, which was replaced by the UNHCR in 1951. Today, the UN has over 6000 international and local staff in over 100 countries dealing with the problem of human displacement. The budget of UNHCR is mainly based on voluntary contributions by member states and comprises 900 million US-\$ per year, with only 20 million US-\$ from the regular UN budget.



The UN provides three types of assistance to refugees: First, it offers legal support. UNHCR works with governments to ensure that the rights of asylum seekers are respected. While the *International Refugee Convention* (1951) regulates rights and duties of refugees, there is no legal framework yet on how to deal with internally displaced persons. Since many states are very

protective of their sovereignty, they do not always welcome a possible engagement of the UN when it comes to internally displaced persons. Secondly, UNHCR provides material aid to developing countries confronted with refugee flows. In this field, UNHCR cooperates with regional organizations and NGOs, for example in building refugee camps. In the third place, UNHCR tries to find durable solutions for refugees. The ideal solution is a voluntary return of the refugee once the situation in the country of origin has changed. If a return was not possible, or if it was not for the best of the refugee, then, so

Mr. Vargas Llosa, the person could either permanently stay in the host country or, if local integration was not possible, he/she could settle in a third country.

As major operations currently undertaken by UNHCR, Mr. Vargas Llosa named the missions in Iraq and in Darfur. In Iraq, there are 2 million internally displaced persons and 2 million refugees outside of Iraq, mostly in Jordan and Syria. In Darfur, UNHCR deals with 2 million internally displaced persons. Over 250.000 people have crossed the border to Chad, where UNHCR cooperates with the government of Chad to build refugee camps. A third large field of operation is Columbia, where after 40 years of civil war the number of internally displaced persons is close to 3 million. According to Mr. Vargas Llosa, however, the largest operation UNHCR had ever been involved in had been in Afghanistan, where over 5 million Afghans had fled the country during the Soviet invasion in 1979, mainly to Pakistan and Iran. On all these missions, UNHCR and other aid workers are confronted with high security risks.

The major challenge ahead, so Mr. Vargas Llosa, was to preserve the institution of asylum in the face of increasing migration, and especially migration for economic reasons. The challenge for UNHCR is to make governments understand that the institution of asylum shall not be affected by the fact that migration increases. Since the search for asylum is often a question of life and death, it must not be confused with economic migration. Mr. Vargas Llosa also added that the fight against terrorism threatened to influence the rights of refugees in a negative way.

Mr. Vargas Llosa's interesting briefing pointed out the enormous work of the UN in the field of refugees and the increasing importance of protecting and promoting refugees' rights.

Anne Nassauer

5.1.11. Briefing on the Responsibility to Protect

The last briefing of our UN Study Tour was held by **Mr. Axel Wennmann**, who is currently working for the *UN Department of Political Affairs* and is – in this context – dealing with the question of the *Responsibility to Protect* (R2P).

Although the issue of the *Responsibility to Protect* is relatively new on the international agenda, it challenges traditional values and assumptions of the *United Nations* in that it represents a shift in the conception of state sovereignty. While sovereignty had for a very long time been a sacred, untouchable norm in international politics, this perception has begun to change since the 1990s and especially after the genocides in



Rwanda and Serbia. Now, state sovereignty is increasingly seen as the duty of a state to protect its citizens and to prevent massive human rights violations, such as ethnic cleansing, genocide or crimes against humanity, objectives that are also enshrined in the *UN Charter*.

In fact, the heads of state and government of UN member states agreed in the *Outcome Document of the World Summit* in September 2005 on a definition of the *Responsibility to Protect* which can be resumed as follows:

“Each individual state has the responsibility to protect its citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity and at the same time, the international community has to support the states in fulfilling that task, but if a state manifestly fails to do so, the international community, through the United Nations, has, in accordance with the UN Charter, especially Chapter VI and VII, the responsibility to take collective action through peaceful, diplomatic, humanitarian or even coercive means in order to protect civilians in armed conflict.” (Articles 138 and 139 of the *Outcome Document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly* in September 2005).

During his briefing, Mr. Wennmann explained the concept of R2P in detail and also specified what it implied and why it was disputed. With the concept of the *Responsibility to Protect*, so Mr. Wennmann, the international community strived to broaden the *concept of collective security* in order to intervene when a state was perpetrating Human Rights violations against its own citizens on a large scale. The concept comprises a three-step-approach. On the first level, each state is responsible to prevent Human Rights violations. Secondly, the concept envisages that the international community helps states to protect their citizens. In the third place, if a state lacks the will or the capacity to accomplish this task, the international community should step in, if necessary with military measures. It is exactly this intervention in internal affairs of a state and its territorial sovereignty that causes debate and dissent among UN member states, as some argue that the *UN Charter* provides no legal ground for such action. In Article 2,7, the *Charter* states that *“nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.”* However, all UN Member States now generally agree that notwithstanding Art. 2,7, the UN may – and should – act in order to prevent genocide and large scale human rights violations. Yet, in principle, an intervention in the internal affairs and state sovereignty as asked for by the concept of R2P may only take place if mandated by the *Security Council* in accordance with Chapter VII of the *UN Charter*, as only the *Security Council* is entitled to decide on *Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression*, i.e. sanctions or military action against regimes in breach of international law and Human Rights standards.

While the most controversial part of the R2P concept is a possible military intervention of the international community, Mr. Wennmann stated that the main focus of the R2P was conflict prevention. In this sense, we have to understand the *Responsibility to Protect* as a multidimensional concept which includes a *responsibility to prevent* (the outbreak of

conflict, for example by tackling the root causes of conflicts), a *responsibility to react* (by intervening when large scale human rights violations occur) and a *responsibility to rebuild* (i.e. providing assistance after a possible intervention).

We only have to open a newspaper and read about the ongoing conflict in Darfur to get an idea of how important the discussion of the R2P is. Still, until now, it is only a theoretical concept and it is not sure yet whether it provides a long-term strategy to avoid or to counter massive human rights violations in future. At least, due to the discussion of the R2P, conflicts such as the one in Sudan are no longer regarded only as domestic problems but prevention and the solution of armed conflicts are increasingly seen as our shared responsibility.

Leonie Lorenz

5.2. Visit to the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)

The office of the *German Academic Exchange Service* (DAAD) in New York is located in the *German House* at 871 United Nations Plaza, right across the *United Nations* Headquarter. The New York office, one of 14 international branch offices of the DAAD, has been founded in 1971 to support academic exchange between the United States, Canada, and Germany. The DAAD New York office has three major tasks:

- to act as a bridge between universities in the United States, Canada and Germany, higher education professionals and students by providing information and assistance
- to administer fellowships and other programs for students and scholars in the United States and Canada,
- to contribute to Germany's public diplomacy by promoting Germany's academic, scientific, and cultural achievements in the United States and Canada.

Upon our arrival, we received a very warm welcome by the staff members of the DAAD office. The briefing was opened by Mr. **Peter R. Kerrigan**, Deputy Director of the DAAD office in New York. He is responsible for marketing German higher education and DAAD scholarship opportunities and programs to the U.S. and Canada. He



told us his job history in order to give us a good example of how to get from the FU Berlin into the world of international affairs. He told us that after receiving his B.A. in Political Science and German from Bates College, he graduated from *Freie Universität Berlin* with a Diploma (M.A.) in Political Science in 1993, financing his studies by teaching English. Mr. Kerrigan then worked as marketing consultant and Vice President of Membership Development and Services for *The Forum on Education Abroad* before joining the DAAD. He told us that he had worked in more than 30 countries worldwide and in three different languages. He is a founding member of the *Friends of the Freie Universität Berlin* (FFUB), which had been founded in January 2003 with the support of *Freie Universität Berlin* and currently serves as Secretary of the Executive Board. One of his latest programs included an exchange opportunity at German universities for students from New Orleans who after hurricane Katharina had not been able to continue their studies and who had been studying in Germany the last year. Mr. Kerrigan reminded us to always stay open-minded in our professional careers, as life could always turn out different than we had expected, and that we should take the opportunity we were given by the NMUN program to gain from this experience as much as possible.

Ms. **Kristina Graaf** was next to introduce herself. She is Program Officer and responsible for DAAD Professors and Chairs, German and German Studies, University Summer Course Grant, Intensive Language Course Grant. Ms. **Katja Simons**, Project Director for the German Academic International Network (GAIN) had studied at *Freie Universität Berlin* as well.

Then Ms. **Hélène Sostarich-Barsamian**, the Executive Director of FFUB, told us about her work at FFUB. For the *Friends of Freie Universität Berlin*, Ms. Sostarich-Barsamian's responsibility is to bring together American Alumni of *Freie Universität Berlin*, business and political leaders, academics and grant making foundations with an interest in furthering academic and research cooperation between Germany and the United States. Current projects include the *Kofi Annan Fellowship in Global Governance* or the International Summer Program for Undergraduate Students as well as the annual *Transatlantic Bridge Award Gala* which is FFUB's annual fundraiser and takes place in New York City. Ms. Sostarich-Barsamian told us that in a city like New York, where there are so many offices for fundraising, you had to do things that were new and unusual in order to attract donors. She explained that *Freie Universität Berlin* was the only



university with a strictly fundraising office in the USA, and she encouraged us to stay in touch and contact her in case we knew interesting programs in need to be sponsored.

Our next speaker was Ms. **Stefanie Grupp-Clasby**, Program Officer, who had studied at *Freie Universität Berlin* as well. She is responsible for the placement

of German grantees in the United States and Canada. She started with a very detailed presentation on the possibilities to work at the *United Nations*. The scholarships offered by the DAAD support students in many ways including study and research scholarships, paid internships at the UN or other international organizations (for example the *Carlo Schmid Program*). Furthermore she told us about the cooperation between the DAAD and the UN and the different ways to apply for professional jobs at the UN, such as the *National Competitive Recruitment Examination* (NCRE). She mentioned that for this examination, Germans can only apply again in 2009. Furthermore, she explained the different types of posts in the UN and how to apply for professional UN jobs and the UN Volunteers.

Afterwards, she showed us a presentation by the German *Foreign Office* which dealt with programs to help German citizens and especially young and talented graduates to start a career in international organizations. The presentation introduced the programs of the German *Robert Bosch Foundation* and the Junior Professional Officer program. The German *Foreign Office* also regularly holds preparatory courses for people wishing to participate in the EU *concours*, which increases the chances of succeeding.

After this highly informative meeting we had lunch together with the staff members in the cafeteria of the *German House*, which not only included very nice food but also a great view over the roofs of New York and the East River. In general, the visit to the DAAD certainly was a highlight of our study tour.

Natalie Spiesser

5.3. Visit to the Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations

The Delegation of the *European Commission* to the *United Nations* in New York is located on 222 East 41st Street on the 20th Floor. Upon our arrival, we were welcomed by Information Officer Ms. Sarah Curran and Mr. Dominic Porter, who is the First Secretary for Social and Cultural Affairs. Our delegation was very much looking forward to this briefing at the *Permanent Mission of the European Commission* as we hoped to gain a better understanding of the working procedures at the *United Nations*.

Mr. **Dominic Porter** started his presentation by giving us an overview of the institutions of the *European Union* and their tasks. All EU Member States are members of the *United Nations*. The *European Community* has had permanent observer status at the UN since 1974. Since the EU's *Common Foreign and Security Policy* had been established in 1992, EU Member States have moved increasingly towards the coordination of their actions in international organizations. In



the UN, the EU member states, together with the *Commission*, regularly coordinate their positions, and the EU thus almost always speaks with one voice.

The *Commission*, which is responsible for the external representation of the *European Community*, has special responsibilities in areas where there is an exclusive Community competence, such as trade policy, fisheries or agriculture. Since 1991, the *European Community* is a full member of one specialized agency of the *United Nations*, the *Food and Agriculture Organization* (FAO), reflecting the *Community's* extensive responsibilities in the sectors covered by the FAO. Furthermore, the *European Community* is also a party to over 50 UN multilateral agreements. In general, the *Commission's* task is to work towards a common European position and to promote European values in international relations.

The Community has obtained special "full participant" status and has taken part as regular participant in many UN Conferences, notably the 1995 *Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development*, the 1995 *Beijing World Conference on Women*, the 2002 *Monterrey Finance for Development Conference*, and the 2002 *Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development*. In May 2001, the EU hosted a major UN Conference in Brussels, the *Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries*. It retains this status in standing bodies such as the *Commission on Sustainable Development* (CSD).

Nowadays the EU cooperates with all UN bodies, agencies and programs. The EU Member States as a group are the largest financial contributor to the UN system, as the EU members contribute 38% to the UN's regular budget, more than 2/5 of the peacekeeping budget and about half of all UN Member States' contributions to UN funds and programs. In 2005, the *European Community* contributed almost US-\$1 billion to the UN system.

Mr. Porter explained that the main difference between the everyday work at the mission of the *European Commission* and the work in Brussels was that they mostly worked on trying to find a common position of all EU Member States on the issues that were discussed at the UN in order to speak with one voice. With regard to the fact that the EU Member States and the EU as a whole are the most important Western allies of Morocco, this information was very helpful for our conference.

Concerning Morocco, Mr. Porter informed us that it had a kind of a special status as it was a member of a lot of different groups. He advised us to use this information and to look for the group that suited our interests best. Morocco is part of the *African Group*, but for rather practical purposes. Apart from that, Morocco feels dedicated to the *Arab Group*. Furthermore, it contributes to the work of *Organization of the Islamic Conference* and the G-77. Mr. Porter reminded us that Moroccan diplomats were very polite and moderate and that Morocco very often functioned as a bridge between the Western and the Arab-African World.

We were very grateful for the information given during the briefing, and hoped to be able to put his advice into practice.

Moritz Lohe and Natalie Spiesser

5.4. Visit to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

On Wednesday, the 25th of April, our delegation visited the *Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations*. We were cordially welcomed by two staff members and led into the conference room where they offered us biscuits and tea.

The first speaker was Mr. **Lofti Bouchaara**. He welcomed us and gave us an introduction about his topic, disarmament issues, where he highlighted the current frustration within the *United Nations*: since a large amount of time had been spent negotiating on resolutions that had proved to be useless due to the lack of political will and confidence between groups. The most discussed topic during the round of questions were nuclear weapons. When asked about Morocco's opinion regarding the way the United States negotiated with India and threatened Iran, Mr. Bouchaara reminded us that he could not speak on behalf of the United States, which had taken a political decision on a very complicated area. Another interesting question that was asked was whether there was any relation between the proliferation of Iran and the proliferation to other Arab states to build reactors for peaceful purposes. Mr. Bouchaara underlined that he personally did not want to make such a link. The last question referred to Morocco's role as a bridge and facilitator, and Mr. Bouchaara explained that usually countries came to Morocco and asked for its support. However, in order to be able to accomplish this work as a mediator, there must be political will from the different counterparts.

Our second speaker was Ms. **Fatima Baroudi**, Morocco's representative in the 3rd Committee of the *General Assembly*. Ms. Baroudi gave us a briefing about Morocco's position towards Human Rights and development. The key documents for this topic are the *Mudawana* (2004), which is the new family law and aims for the empowerment of women, and the Reform of the *Nationality Code* (2007) which for example equals rights and responsibility within the couple.



Morocco is entirely committed to the construction of a new society without forgetting its roots. She highlighted one of the most ambitious programs that Morocco has ever engaged on, "*L'Initiative Nationale pour le developpement humain*", the *National Initiative for Human Development (INDH)*. During the time for questions some points raised related to mentality and the slow path in which things usually changed. Ms. Baroudi explained that although the efforts made by the government were large, the mentality did not change overnight, especially in traditional rural areas.

Mr. **Abdellah Benmellouk**, Morocco's representative in the 2nd Committee, briefed us about economic and environmental issues. After an introduction about the different areas of work of the *United Nations* on the topics above, he talked about the initiative by

France and the *European Union* to establish a “*United Nations Environmental Organization*” in order to replace the *United Nations Environmental Programme* (UNEP). Mr. Benmellouk pointed out Morocco’s interest in diversification and renewable energies, today only two percent of Morocco’s energy supply, but expected to reach up to twenty percent by 2020. Another important point was the role Morocco plays in globalization and migration trying to achieve dialogue, protecting Human Rights and helping the Least Developed and Land Locked Developing Countries.

Then Mr. **Karim Medrek**, Legal Counselor, spoke about the fight against International Terrorism. It has been on Morocco’s agenda for many years and is one of the national priorities. Morocco so far has ratified 12 of the 13 conventions, the last one being debated in Parliament at the time of the briefing. He made clear that Morocco could only fight terrorism when cooperating with partners such as the *European Union*, France, Germany, the United States and Arab countries. Moreover, Morocco wants to fight terrorism together with its neighbors as Morocco and the whole Maghreb region are a target of terrorism. The Moroccan government believes that there is no excuse for terrorism.



The final words were spoken by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, **His Excellence Mr. Abdesselem Arifi**. He warmly welcomed us again at the Moroccan Mission and explained in French Morocco’s position on Western Sahara. The Deputy Ambassador affirmed that Morocco was answering the call of the *Security Council* to find a peaceful and fair solution to this ongoing conflict. The *Autonomy Plan* that Morocco had been presenting shortly after the meeting offered comprehensive autonomy to Western Sahara inside international legality following the German and Spanish models. The plan answered the needs of the population and offered a sincere will to solve the conflict. It comprised three main points: First, it plans a process of consultation of the population affected and political parties involved, secondly, it foresees a local parliament and local judiciary for Western Sahara, and finally, it should be seen as a strategic bridge towards the solution of a national conflict that will broaden the cooperation between all of Morocco’s neighbors, especially the *European Union*.

We kindly thank Mr. Karim Medrek for the organization of this unique morning at the *Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations* as well as all the speakers for their precious contributions.

Almudena Sánchez





6. The Kingdom of Morocco at the NMUN 2007 Conference, 20-24 March 2007

After the long preparation process in Berlin and an intense Study Tour at the *United Nations* Headquarter in New York, we finally arrived at the *National Model United Nations 2007 Conference*.

During the opening procedure in the Hall of the *General Assembly*, we were impressed by the large number of people that had come to the conference. There were no more seats available in the great hall which is able to hold more than three thousand people. After having listened to the opening speeches, we hurried to our first committee sessions in order to get to know our fellow delegates. During these first two hours, we had the possibility to get used to the Rules of Procedure and the atmosphere in the committees.

At the conference, we worked from early morning until late at night. Most delegates gathered to negotiate already before the official start of the sessions and many of them worked nightshifts, being busy writing resolutions. Nevertheless, we tried to maintain contact within the delegation during the five days of the conference. Every night after the end of the sessions we met in one of our rooms under the guidance of the Head Delegates to discuss the events of the day in each of the nine committees. Thus, we had the feeling of being supported, and we helped each other to reflect on the past day.

Although each of us was quite exhausted at the end of the conference, we all have learned a lot and have benefited greatly from this experience.

Natalia Ruban



6.1. The Kingdom of Morocco at the General Assembly Plenary

Represented by Anne Nassauer and Marc Voelcker

The *General Assembly* (GA), one of the six principal organs, is the main deliberative organ of the UN. Every member state is represented in the GA and has one vote. The GA may discuss and advise on all issues within the scope of the *UN Charter* or questions concerning powers and functions of any UN organ and may give recommendations to member states and to the *Security Council*. During the *National Model United Nations Conference 2007*, the *General Assembly Plenary* met from March 20 to March 24, 2007.

The first session of the GA Plenary was devoted to the adoption of the agenda. After a relatively short discussion, the GA voted to debate the topics in the following order (1) *Development of Partnerships to Combat Diseases Resulting from Environmental Degradation*, (2) *Structuring and Implementation of the New Human Rights Council*, and (3) *The Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers*. As we had expected, we did not succeed in convincing enough member states to discuss the *Protection of the rights of migrant workers* first. Instead, the topic *Development of Partnerships to Combat Diseases Resulting from Environmental Degradation* turned out to be the only topic that was discussed during the four days of our conference.

The first session was attended by 141 Member States and three observers – this meant that our committee was the largest at the NMUN Conference - which made it quite difficult to keep track of all negotiations. After having set the agenda, the delegates discussed the topic and formed groups according to geographical criteria, i.e. a Latin American group, the African block and others. We started to work with the African block, but since this large group was difficult to coordinate, it split up in smaller working groups later on.

Our delegation also worked closely with the delegations of France, Slovenia and Turkey on a working paper dealing with the establishment of a UN organization dealing with environmental issues. However, we tried to serve as a mediator between the African block and the European countries and therefore the collaboration with delegations from all regional groups was important to us.



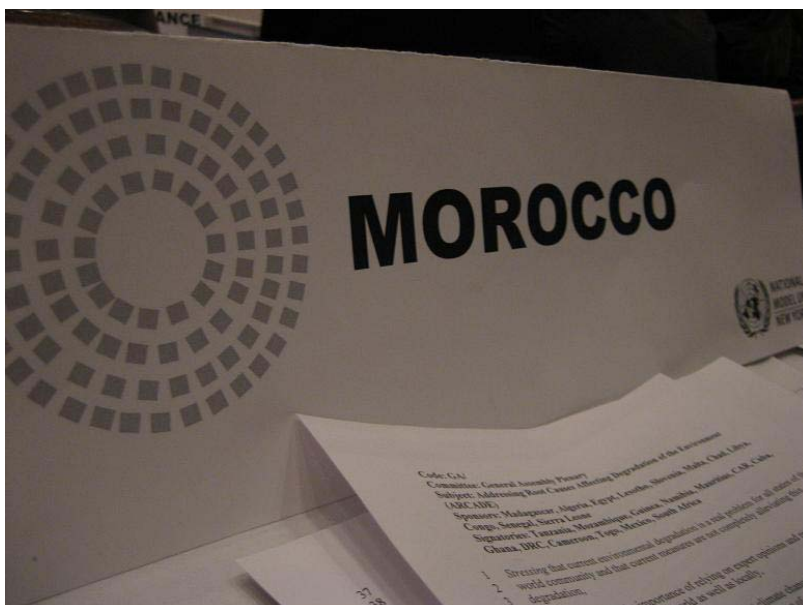
During the second session, several speakers were heard and the session was suspended several times in order to pursue informal consultations. At the end of the day, four working papers had been handed in. Morocco was sponsor of one of them and signatory of another one.

During the next day almost 60 speakers were heard. All elaborated on their current working papers and promoted them. At the end of the day 18 draft resolutions out of 22 working papers had been handed in.

Morocco was sponsor of a draft resolution to establish a UN organization dealing with environmental issues which we had drafted mainly with the help of France, Turkey and Slovenia. We felt that such an organization would be an important step to tackle the root causes of environmental degradation. Furthermore, we were signatory of several other draft resolutions aiming to develop international partnerships to combat diseases resulting from environmental degradation. However, we devoted most our efforts to the draft resolution which dealt with the establishment of an environmental organization in order to address global environmental concerns in a more efficient way. This organization should better coordinate environmental agreements and initiatives, assist in the negotiation of new conventions and have a range of other tasks which were to be agreed on at a later stage. The draft resolution also invited all stakeholders to participate in a conference on a “*World Environmental Organization*” in Agadir, Morocco, in June 2007 to further discuss this issue – one reason why we were particularly keen on promoting this issue.

In the morning session of the last day, amendments were drafted and negotiated and further speakers were heard. In the afternoon session voting procedures were held. Since we had to vote on several draft resolutions by roll call vote (meaning that every state has to say whether it is in favor or against the draft or whether it abstains), which takes a lot longer than voting by placard, the voting on 18 draft resolutions took several hours. During voting procedure Morocco voted mainly with the African block.

To our disappointment, the draft resolution on the establishment of a “*World*



Environmental Organization” was not adopted, but various other resolutions on which we had worked. In total, the GA Plenary adopted 18 resolutions dealing with sustainable development, water preservation, education in the field of environmental issues cooperation and regional partnerships in the environmental field and the Aral Sea situation.

We learned that it is quite a hard task to keep track of all the negotiations taking place and to promote one's own proposal at the same time. Even though our resolution had not been adopted, we felt that the conference was a great experience and we really enjoyed working with our partners.

6.2. The Kingdom of Morocco at the General Assembly Fourth Committee

Represented by Daniel Becker and Charlotte Sparla

The *Fourth Committee* is one of the six main committees of the *General Assembly*. Originally, it dealt with trusteeship and decolonization matters. But as more and more colonies gained their independence, the issue of decolonization lost its importance within the *United Nations*.

In the 1990s, the *First Committee's* scope was changed from Political and Security into Disarmament and International Security. As a result of the reform the special political tasks were handed over to the *Fourth Committee*. Today, the *Fourth Committee* works on open questions concerning decolonization, peacekeeping operations, and the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories. For Morocco the issue of the Non-Self-Governing Territories is of special importance as the question of Western Sahara is being dealt with under this topic.



For the NMUN 2007 conference, the *Secretary-General* had proposed the following provisional agenda for the *Fourth Committee*: (1) *The improvement of regional partnerships in peacekeeping operations*, (2) *The economic activities which affect the interests of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories*, and (3) *The implementation of the declaration on granting of independence to colonial*

countries and peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

At the conference in New York, one of the most remarkable moments was when we entered the large conference room for the first time. In our committee, every member state of the *United Nations* was represented which meant that there were almost 400 individuals trying hard to make as many allies as possible right from the beginning. With every handshake we were feeling more and more confident and at the end of our first session we perfectly enjoyed to act as diplomats.

After relatively few statements the agenda was adopted as proposed. The Kingdom of Morocco welcomed this decision as we thought that it was of great importance to have a look at peacekeeping operations, especially in African countries. On the one hand, we felt relieved because the topic of Regional Peacekeeping was supposed to be more “peaceful” for us than the other topics. But on the other hand, we were also a bit disappointed because we had prepared the problem of Western Sahara so intensively and felt like real Moroccan diplomats that we would have liked to take up the challenge to explain our autonomy plan for Western Sahara to our fellow delegates.

After having set the agenda, we started to discuss the topic. Due to the size of the committee it was hard to deliver statements in formal session, therefore most of the time the committee worked in informal session. The regional groups gathered quite quickly, which turned out to be rather problematic as we had hoped to work with the G77 and the *Non-Aligned-Movement* on this topic. Nevertheless we found partners in Arab States such as Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan, as well as Afghanistan and Iran. We immediately started our work on a working paper concerning the improvement of regional partnerships in peacekeeping operations. We had agreed on our position and the Moroccan policy to leave the responsibility with the UN while intensifying the relations between regional organizations and the *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*. This was enclosed in our working paper. After some improvements concerning its content but also wording and structure, our working paper was accepted by the chair and became a draft resolution.

At the end, as there were many drafts on the floor containing similar ideas and proposals, the time had come to negotiate with other countries to try to merge some drafts in order to have larger support for our ideas. Regrettably this figured out to be very hard. Most of the other delegates stuck tightly to their draft resolutions and were not willing to compromise as we would have liked. Nevertheless we were able

to promote our own draft and received a lot of support in the committee. During the voting procedures, the *Fourth Committee* voted on 13 resolutions of which none was rejected.

Looking back, we were satisfied with the outcome of our work and are very grateful for this outstanding experience.



6.3. The Kingdom of Morocco at the Conference on Disarmament

Represented by Sandra Bedenk and Jonas-Benjamin Walther

The *Conference on Disarmament* (CD), usually located in Geneva (Switzerland), is the only international permanent body that exclusively deals with disarmament issues. The council has 65 member states and was founded in 1979. Although the CD is officially independent from the *United Nations* with its own rules of procedure and its own agenda, the CD takes recommendations of the *General Assembly* (GA) and proposals of its members into account. The conference also reports to the GA annually and is financed by the UN's budget. In more than 35 years, the multilateral forum has taken major steps towards the promotion of worldwide disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Key documents that were developed and finally passed by the conference are the *Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) of 1968, the *Biological Weapons Convention* (BWC) of 1972, the *Chemical Weapons Convention* of 1993 and the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* (CTBT) of 1996 that – unfortunately – did not enter into force yet.

The provisional agenda of the *Conference on Disarmament* at the NMUN 2007 Conference comprised the following topics: (1) *Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space*, (2) *Improving Compliance with Non-Proliferation, Arms Limitation and Disarmament Agreements*, and (3) *Non-State Actors and Weapons of Mass Destruction*.

The formal session opened with nine statements, one of them by the Kingdom of Morocco, concerning the adoption of the agenda. Due to the fact that the Democratic Republic of North Korea had successfully tested its first nuclear bomb in October 2006 and the Islamic Republic of Iran had continuously violated and ignored the resolutions of the *United Nations Security Council*, there was a broad consensus among all members of the forum to elevate the topic of “*Improving Compliance with Non-Proliferation, Arms Limitation and Disarmament Agreements*” to the top of the agenda. With 52 votes in favor, 7 votes against and 1 abstention, the council agreed to put the topic mentioned on top, followed by the outer space topic and the discussion about non-state actors and weapons of mass destruction.



Arms control and limitation measures stabilize and control existing threats. Non-proliferation reduces the spread of additional threats that could be fuelled by the ongoing weak enforcement of existing measures and the detraction of the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. Disarmament is based on the idea or certitude that weapons are the

cause of conflicts and not the result of violence. North Korea is an example to show that the possession of weapons of mass destruction is oftentimes a vital part of a government's security policy. Japan can be presented as an example as well, just the other way around: As long as Japan is a *de facto* non-nuclear state, it is under the 'security umbrella' of the United States.

After we had set the agenda, we immediately started to discuss the different points in the forum and proceeded with the first formulations of the preamble and final clauses. These first drafts were mainly based on suggestions which had been submitted during caucus. Due to the fact that we had chosen a very broad topic for our discussion, we split into different working groups from the second day of session onwards. The issues discussed included measures to achieve a nuclear weapon free world, the implementation of incentive based compliance improvement and adding confidence building measures to the existing disarmament regimes. The discussion about measures towards a nuclear weapons free world were of special interest to the Kingdom of Morocco as this is a priority of its foreign policy. Other topics we discussed during the conference were the creation of nuclear weapon free zones as well as the establishment of a *Nuclear Energy Trade Protocol* and a *Nuclear Energy Trade Registry*.

During the third day of session, our work focused on three different working groups within the conference. In the end, eleven working papers had been submitted to the chair. Due to the high number of working papers we were asked to merge similar papers. This was the time for all of us to show our skills in diplomacy, debating and rhetoric. In the end we managed to draft five resolutions, with Morocco sponsoring two of them. Striving to adopt the papers on the floor by acclamation, we ended up in the discussion of twelve amendments. But before we entered into voting procedures, we listened to various speeches on the topic which underlined the importance of the draft resolutions in question.

Four out of five drafts were accepted by the body. Unfortunately, the resolution which Morocco had sponsored was not accepted by the forum. But our delegation was still proud of the fact that our Conference passed resolutions by acclamation that asked for the implementation of a *Nuclear Energy Trade Registry* and an *International Enrichment Agency* under the roof of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA).

Three weeks after the conference, similar proposals were discussed in the 'real' international arena. Probably the issue will find its way into the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and maybe they will come to the same results and conclusions as we did during NMUN 2007...

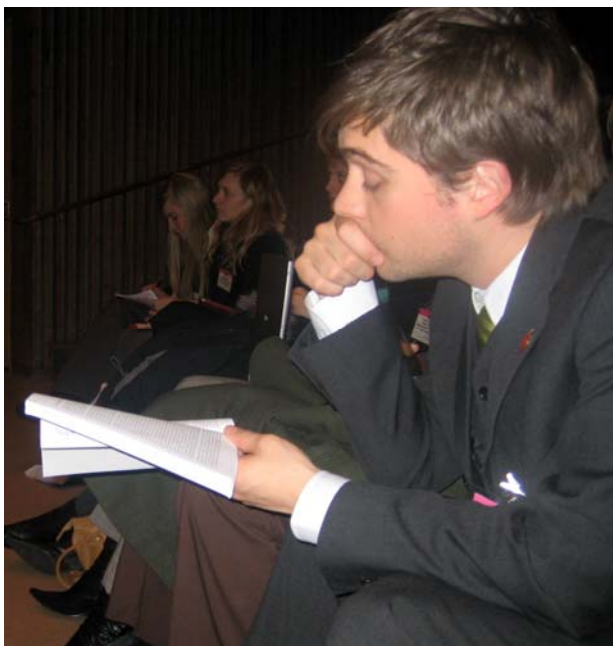
6.4. The Kingdom of Morocco at the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Represented by Ole Spies

Carrying my Laptop and important documents under my left arm while holding a paper cup filled with steaming hot coffee in my right hand, I was trying to maneuver through the conference room. Stumbling over the feet of the Honorable Representative from Turkey, I almost spilled the entire content of my cup over his suitcase. Finally, after having to climb over some more feet and suitcases, I somehow made it to my seat. I took a deep breath and wiped two drops of coffee off my freshly dry-cleaned tie. This was the first of a number of difficult tasks I had to face during the next couple of days. It was the first day of the meeting of the *Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* (CEIRPP) and I was here to represent the interests of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The *Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* was established by the *General Assembly* in 1975. It was created to help realizing the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence, sovereignty and the right to return to their homes. The main work of the Committee has become to frequently draw attention to the current situation in the Palestinian Territories. The Committee has 22 Member States; mainly Asian, African and Latin American countries. Core issues of debate for the Committee are the 3.6 million Palestinian refugees, the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the allocation of water resources, and the question of Jerusalem. Morocco serves as an observer on the committee and is known to hold a rather moderate position on the committee topics.

I briefly ran through these facts in my head, while I was sipping my coffee waiting for the meeting to begin. I had prepared for this day all semester. I had read books on the Middle East Conflict, I had studied Moroccan foreign policy and I had learned how to hold speeches and how to negotiate most effectively. I was a little nervous but I felt well prepared.



After some small talk and handshakes the official session began. The Chair briefly explained the Rules of Procedure to the committee, then we began with the formal debate. First we had to set the agenda. Only after a few minutes of debate concerning the agenda order, the meeting was already interrupted for one of the many informal meetings. I was still sorting through my documents trying to get organized when my cup of coffee was at high risk for the second time of the day: The moment the chair declared that the committee was now in informal

session, the person next to me jumped up from his seat and started shouting. By throwing his arms in the air and calling country names he was trying to get the attention of his regional partners. Many others followed his example. Soon the room was filled with the voices of delegates trying to summon their partner countries and regional organizations. After I had recovered from the small shock and had brought my coffee into safety from my neighbor's waving arms, I found my way to a group of Arab States standing in a corner of the room.

I was still looking amazed at the shouting and waving people when someone asked me about Morocco's points of view. Before I could gather my thoughts, he was already off to the next person. It took me quite a while to adapt to the speed and liveliness of negotiations. But after some time I got hold of it and found several delegations with which I had interesting discussions. By the end of the day and after quite a lot of debating and voting, we actually managed to set the agenda. The topics before the Committee were (1) *The Impact of the Separation Barrier on Palestinian Livelihoods*, (2) *The Right to Basic Human Rights of Palestinian Children*, and (3) *Palestinian Women in Public Life and Decision Making*.

During the following days we discussed two of the three topics on the agenda. We started by discussing the Israeli barrier. Speeches were held on the illegal nature of the barrier and its impact on the daily lives of Palestinians, and many ideas were discussed.

Looking at the composition of the committee before the conference, I had not expected much disagreement among the Committee members. Usually, the Committee is known for speaking with one voice and for its critical position towards Israel. But very much to my surprise, this was not the case during our meeting. I guess that every meeting has its own dynamics and one has to be prepared for everything. I noticed that some countries usually known for their strong criticism towards Israel used all their precious speaking time to especially draw attention to the Israeli victims of recent military conflicts. Other delegations openly dissented with their government's position by officially recognizing the State of Israel and some countries that usually are strong supporters of the Palestinian People proposed a questionable system of identity cards for all Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Despite these unexpected developments, I engaged in a number of working groups and managed to get across some of Morocco's ideas.

In the end, we decided on a number of concrete measures, such as the need for the destruction of large parts of the barrier. After we had successfully dealt with the first topic, we still had some time to talk about the Human Rights situation of Palestinian Children. After a vivid debate the Committee decided on a number of programs to improve education and healthcare for the children.

I learned quite a lot during the ongoing debates and discussion. I learned that in order to be successful in negotiations, one has to be able to adapt rapidly to new situations. I learned that bilateral talks are many times more fruitful than large group discussions. And I also learned that a good understanding on a personal level many times seems to be the best prerequisite for constructive cooperation. That is one reason why I ended up working quite closely with some rather not natural partners of Morocco such as Cyprus and Bulgaria.

Speaking from all these experiences, I came to the conclusion that it is true what they say about conference diplomacy: The real decisions are not made during the actual conference, but during face to face talks over a cup of coffee. I can also add another astonishing insight: Some major political differences can easily be set aside over a glass of beer and some mozzarella sticks – I guess, on some level, that is how politics in real life work, too. Oh, and I almost forgot to tell you another important thing I realized during the session: Always watch your cup of coffee!

6.5. The Kingdom of Morocco at the United Nations World Tourism Organization

Represented by Natalia Ruban and Natalie Spiesser

The *World Tourism Organization* (UNWTO), a specialized agency within the *United Nations* system, is the leading international organization in the field of tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and as a practical source of tourism know-how. The UNWTO plays a central and decisive role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, with the aim of contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for, and observance of, Human Rights and fundamental freedoms. In pursuing this aim, the organization pays particular attention to the interests of developing countries in the field of tourism.

The UNWTO was introduced for the first time as a committee at the NMUN conference, “*in an attempt to place greater emphasis on the promotion of the preservation of our global environment*”¹. At the conference, 117 states were represented. The following provisional agenda had been proposed: (1) *Information Sharing and Privacy Rights*, (2) *Eco-Tourism*, and (3) *Ethics in Tourism: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)*. For the Kingdom of Morocco, as a state that hopes to develop new tourism branches and to find financial assistance, the second topic was of priority. At the beginning of the first meeting, during the discussions on the agenda, we tried to convince as many delegations as possible that it would also be in their interest to discuss the second topic first, and as most of the delegations shared our view, the agenda was changed to (2), (3), (1), being a favorable way for Morocco.

Very soon, during the first informal caucus, all regional groups gathered and we naturally stayed with the African block. As the first day did not leave much more time, we collected ideas and shared opinions about the topic in order to start working on papers the next day.

¹ NMUN 2007 Background Guide.

The second day turned out to be much more successful. We had revised our strategy concerning Morocco's interests and were highly motivated. We returned to the African Block with which we had been working the day before, but we noticed very soon that these countries were not at all interested in cooperation as there was more or less one country that tried to take the lead while others did not have very strong feelings about the topic.

So we decided to create a new working group and started to write a report that included our ideas and goals. Our main objective to include in this report was that the UNWTO should expand the ST-EP program (*ST-EP=Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty*) to encompass more member states and particularly developing countries that seek to promote development via sustainable tourism. Furthermore, it should establish a trust fund for the development of ecotourism projects so that each country could receive financial or technical support. Very soon we found other countries that shared our vision and we had very fruitful talks and discussions. While one of us was constantly working on the report, the other one talked to different groups and delegations, telling them about our project, finding signatories for our report and discussing ideas. At the end of this second day, we came together with another group under the leadership of Bangladesh, which had started to write a report that contained very good ideas. As some of them were similar to ours, we decided to work together and merge our ideas into one report.



The first half of the third day was the most successful part of the conference for the Kingdom of Morocco. Together with Bangladesh, Madagascar, Senegal, China, Slovenia and others, we worked intensely on our report and we finally managed, after some minor discussions, to include all of Morocco's priorities concerning ecotourism.

At the end of this exhausting third day, we finally finished our working paper and handed it over to the chair. After only minor corrections, it was accepted as a draft report. As we had to wait for the other groups to finish their reports, we were not able to do much more during the informal session than talk to the other delegations and groups, discussing ideas and gathering support for our report. During formal session, we tried to put Morocco on the speakers' list as often as possible, which proved to be quite hard in a committee with 117 states, but luckily we were given the opportunity to hold three speeches, informing all delegations about our projects and partners, trying to stress the importance of our report and asking them to come talk to us in case there were any unanswered questions.

In our speeches we promoted the common goals we and our partners had, mainly the expansion of the ST-EP program and the implementation of a trust fund. We further

proposed to have a *Second International Year of Ecotourism* in 2009 and to hold regional conferences which would enable the countries to put ecotourism into practice and would build a platform for the knowledge exchange among countries on the topic of ecotourism.

On the fourth day, after all groups had handed in their reports, we finally went into voting procedure. There were 16 reports on the floor of which 15 passed – the report which Morocco had co-sponsored passed with most of the votes in favor and only few abstentions, as we proudly realized.

To sum up, the work in the UNWTO was very different from the other bodies and committees at NMUN 2007 as tourism and environment are topics that concern every country and so we felt that in general, there was more or less a broad agreement among us. Even if there were a lot of different ideas and projects, there was no need to negotiate hard or to convince other delegations of our views, which created a very friendly atmosphere. Compared to the simulations in which we had participated in Germany during the preparation process, it was a whole new experience.

6.6. The Kingdom of Morocco at the World Health Organization

Represented by Marc Lendermann and Stefan Hoffmann

Within the UN system, the *World Health Organization* (WHO) is the specialized agency for health issues. It has already been founded in April 1948. The representatives of the member states - in most cases the health ministers - meet once a year (usually in May) at the WHO Headquarter in Geneva to approve the budget, set new policies or discuss the existing ones and - every five years - appoint the *Director-General*, which is currently the Chinese Dr. Margaret Chan. The organization's four main goals are the provision of health care for everyone, the prevention of chronic diseases, the enhancement of global health security, and the achievement of the health-related *Millennium Development Goals*. Besides the reduction of child mortality and the improvement of maternal health, the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS is one of these goals.

The AIDS issue was also part of our provisional agenda which had been prepared to be



discussed by the NMUN Secretary-General: (1) *Twenty-five years of HIV/AIDS: Evaluating the Epidemic and Global Response*, (2) *Combating the Spread of the Avian Influenza*, and (3) *Developing Stockpiles and Distribution Strategies for Antibioterrorism and Related Agents*.

In our committee, about 125 delegations were present. In the WHO most of the resolutions

are adopted by consensus. This made us think in the beginning that the negotiations might not be as difficult as in other committees dealing with security issues because all countries should have at least similar positions on avian influenza or HIV/AIDS. But our expectations were shattered soon.

Immediately after the opening of the first session, many delegations moved to be put on the speakers' list. Then, the chair accepted a motion by the delegation of Georgia for a minute of silent prayer to commemorate the presidential election in Georgia. Fortunately, the chair managed to convince the delegation to amend this motion to a more general topic: the expression of hope for democratic elections. Only a few minutes later and to our surprise, the provisional agenda was already adopted and the HIV/AIDS topic became the first topic to be discussed. Due to the short duration of our conference, it remained the only issue we dealt with.

Due to the size of our committee, we struggled hard to present our position during the ongoing negotiations within the different groups of countries and to make our voice heard by other countries. Already during the first hours of the conference it became obvious that many countries had completely different interests about HIV/AIDS and tried to get their positions accepted. Most Sub-Saharan African countries wished to concentrate on education, whereas the majority of Asian countries preferred to talk about prevention programs.

Soon, it became clear that it would be extremely difficult to combine all these topics. Therefore, numerous working groups were formed that dealt with different ideas. As the Kingdom of Morocco is part of the Arab world as well as a close ally of the Western countries and also interested in supporting the Sub-Saharan countries, it was hard for us to keep up with the ongoing negotiations within those groups as the committee was characterized by a high fraction not just within the regional groups but also inside this groups which contributed to a large number of working papers. This was the reason why we tried to persuade our fellow delegates in our speeches to look for a more comprehensive approach instead of just dividing the committee into various groups.

On the evening of the second day, about 25 working papers circulated within the committee. Some of them were in our interest or were reflecting Moroccan positions such as the reasonable use of existing resources and a comprehensive approach in the fight against HIV/AIDS instead of creating new entities so that we became signatory of these papers. After having evaluated some of the papers in the committee, we decided to sponsor a paper mainly drafted by Central Asian countries with the aim of creating a conference in Qatar, where the fight against HIV/AIDS could be evaluated, and to urge countries to deliver medical treatment to everyone in need without any discrimination. On both the second and third day we put a lot of work into this paper, which soon became truly "our" paper and then a draft resolution.

After having convinced other countries, discussed paragraphs and rewritten sentences several times, the result was the support of more than 70 states as signatories as well as numerous sponsors. We were absolutely sure that this would give us a perfect basis for the voting procedure.

Although the chair had urged the working groups several times to merge their working papers, there were still 16 drafts on the floor during the voting procedures on the last day of the conference. Except one, which was – unbelievable, but true - ours, all of them passed. By these 15 resolutions, new entities such as a body for the transfer of technology were founded and quite unconventional ideas such as an engagement of the *International Cricket Council* and the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* were demanded. Unfortunately, none of these resolutions was revised by the ECOSOC the following day.

6.7. The Kingdom of Morocco at the International Hydrological Programme

Represented by Almudena Sánchez and Luise von Stackelberg

For the 2007 conference, NMUN staff had decided to include an organization dedicated to improving environmental problems: The *International Hydrological Programme* (IHP). The IHP is the intergovernmental scientific program concerning water resources of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO). Through the IHP, member states can enhance their knowledge of the water cycle and thereby increase their capacity to better manage and develop their water resources. As one of the three pillars of UNESCO's division of water science, the IHP was established in 1975 as an advising and report-writing committee. For our work at NMUN, this meant that all delegations present, 134 in total, were expected to form groups in order to draft parts or fragments for the final report, covering different aspects of the topic. In the end, they were supposed to be merged in one document and be voted on in the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC).



The first session of the IHP was used to debate the order of the agenda. The three topics on the provisional agenda had been: (1) *The Impact of Climate Change in Water Resources*, (2) *Water as an Agent of Cooperation*, and (3) *Urbanization and Water Management Challenges*.

“Hi, my name is Noemi, I am from South Africa. Which country do you represent? Oh, Morocco! Which agenda items do you favor?” Discussions about the agenda order, beginning like that, gave us the possibility to get to know the other delegations and to exchange business cards. Time for substantial debate, however, was very limited. Luckily, most delegations supported Morocco's strong conviction to discuss Climate Change as the first topic, so we did not need much time and efforts to persuade the other delegations. At the end of the first day, we were very happy to witness that our favored agenda order had been accepted: (1) *The Impact of*

Climate Change in Water Resources, (2) Urbanization and Water Management Challenges, (3) Water as an Agent of Cooperation.

We spent the following three days with formal debate, informal negotiations and report writing. During the first caucus, two diplomats jumped on a chair and screamed “*African block! African block!*”, urging all the other African diplomats to come outside in order to form an African working group. The following meeting was loud, but effective. First, we collected topics which were of special importance to each country. Then we decided to divide the many delegations in groups, according to the topics the respective countries were most interested in.

During the process, Morocco joined two different African groups: One concentrated on solutions for infrastructure problems concerning water distribution. Together with Ghana and Zimbabwe, we focused on new solutions for agricultural problems – for example on drip irrigation mechanisms, which save water while irrigating fields. The other African group we had joined dealt with developing a successor of the *Kyoto Protocol*. South Africa and Madagascar as well as our neighbor country Algeria were the delegations we happily shared our ideas with. In the end, our group concentrated particularly on simplifying and further streamlining the procedures of the *Clean Development Mechanism* (CDM). As the CDM for example helps deciding which countries receive development aid, our group recommended transparent and neutral criteria for the funding of projects.

From time to time, we tried to integrate into the European group which was headed by a strong German delegation and which had the same objective: to recommend new ideas for a post-Kyoto treaty, especially taking into consideration water-related problems. As for Morocco the *Kyoto Protocol* is of utmost importance, we aimed at fulfilling our role to act as a bridge or mediator between African and European interests. To put it in a nutshell: The European group loved to have African support, but was not as open to integrate African and especially Moroccan ideas as we had hoped. As those negotiations were not promising a successful outcome, we decided to finally leave the group without Moroccan support. Looking back, our work in the IHP was therefore more Africa-focused than we had planned: On the last day, together with South Africa, Ghana and Zimbabwe, we tried to lobby for merging our two African reports. But even though they would have complemented each other perfectly, authorship seemed to be too important for some of the delegates. In the end, the African block was neither standing nor acting as a block. In a way, that was probably very close



to reality.

In total, the member states of the IHP created twenty working papers. The working papers stressed scientific solutions, taking into consideration concerns and problems of regional groups, for example the small island states. Specific aspects of Climate Change and its impact on water resources were covered, such as flood management, agriculture or education. As none of those topics inflicted with Morocco's national interests (and as we therefore were flexible in negotiating), we took advantage of this situation to lobby for support for our own reports. By Friday – our last session – sixteen draft report segments had been introduced and the committee decided to go into voting procedure. Amendments were mostly considered friendly, and motions for division of the question always failed. Our two African report segments were adopted with an overwhelming majority - as the other twelve successful report segments did, too. However, there was no time left to discuss urbanization and water management challenges, nor water-related conflict and cooperation. As all water-related issues are inextricably linked, however, some aspects had been addressed in the course of the committee's work.

Summarizing Morocco's work in the IHP, we can say that we should have drafted our own report instead of joining other groups. But except for this decision in the beginning, we managed to represent Morocco as realistic as possible. And we are happy that we had the possibility to apply what we had learned during the preparation process.

6.8. The Kingdom of Morocco at the Organization of American States

Represented by Leonie Lorenz

Even though the *Organization of American States* (OAS) is not a body within the *United Nations* system, it was simulated at the *2007 National Model United Nations Conference* among other Intergovernmental Organizations.

The *Organization of American States* was founded in 1948. It is the world's oldest regional body and currently has 35 member states from America and the Caribbean, but the participation of the current Cuban government has been suspended. The Kingdom of Morocco is, of course, not a member in this regional body, but probably due to its close ties with the United States of America, Morocco is represented as permanent observer in the OAS. Altogether, there are 60 countries which follow the OAS sessions as permanent observers, many of them are important contributors. The role of a permanent observer is to provide knowledge and assistance as well as advice to the body by bringing in broad perspectives but also concrete experiences from its own region.

The first point on our agenda was the Setting of the Agenda which we were supposed to finish during the first evening of our meeting. As the Agenda Setting is a procedural question, observer states were allowed to vote as well, that is why this point was of high interest for the Moroccan delegation. The topics before the OAS *General Assembly* were (1) *Special Security Concerns of Small Island States*, (2) *Organization of American States and Free Trade Areas*, and (3) *Evaluating Human Rights in the Americas*.



Even though the majority of observer states, including Morocco, favored to talk first about Free Trade, the member states of the OAS were not interested in the same topics. After a number of possible agenda orders had been brought in and voted down, our favorite proposal was on the floor again and passed. The agenda order was then: (1) *Organization of American States and Free Trade Areas*, (2) *Special Security Concerns of Small Island States*, and (3) *Evaluating Human Rights in the Americas*.

As there was still some time left at this evening, the debate begun immediately. During the next suspension, the first working groups formed. The particular interest of the Kingdom of Morocco in the negotiations on Free Trade Agreements in the Americas was to promote open trade with a broader approach that would benefit all American countries and allow small economies of the South to better participate in the big North American markets. I first addressed my main partners in the committee, the USA and the *European Union* members, and then tried to get an overview on the different initiatives that were developing in the respective working groups, i.e. building trade capacity in vulnerable economies, creating a new development bank for Latin America or strengthening South South cooperation.

The next day, after further discussions with other delegations, I decided to join the working group focusing on South South cooperation and worked closely with delegations from Algeria, Barbados, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Pakistan, Qatar, and Suriname during the next days. Our paper followed the Six Steps Program of the *African Economic Community* to build a common all-American free trade area and included also the request for a reduction of trade barriers and (external and internal) tariffs and for the creation of common rules of origin and norms for packing of goods to facilitate trade between American states.

In the long run, our goal set out in the working paper was to bring small economies closer to the development level of strong countries and then to merge and unify American free trade agreements in a gradual way. The latter was a point which Morocco

would have liked to stress even more, but the closer the handing-in of our paper came, the more difficult it was to convince other delegations of necessary changes in our draft. In general, Morocco was rather acting as a mediator and trying to combine and coordinate specific proposals than to suggest concrete projects.

When the first working papers were handed in, the Kingdom of Morocco tried to motivate the different working groups to merge their papers and increase cooperation with the OAS member states which had not been listened to enough yet. But many delegations were too ambitious about their own proposals and not ready to negotiate and make compromises with other groups. Nonetheless, the whole session was held in a spirit of cooperation between members and observers, between big players and smaller states. At the end, though, we only had to vote on five draft resolutions concerning free trade and they all passed.

As some time was left, we started to discuss the second topic on our agenda: the *Special Security Concerns of Small Island States*. Even though Morocco's main focus lay on the fight against transnational organized crime and the prevention of the negative effects of climate change, I worked with delegates from Algeria, Haiti, Slovenia and the USA on disaster mitigation mechanisms and the establishment of an insurance fund to provide immediate financial support to Small Islands States that had suffered from a natural disaster. Our paper was accepted and became a draft resolution, but due to time constraints, the voting procedure did not take place, and our meeting was adjourned until next year.

To sum up, the work in my committee was very comfortable because the chair prevented a flood of motions and entertained many speakers. What I missed was a more lively discussion in the plenary as well as the willingness of some delegations to cooperate and combine approaches in order to find more general guidelines.

6.9. The Kingdom of Morocco at the African Development Bank

Represented by Antonia Haegner and Moritz Lohe

The *African Development Bank* (ADB) is an intergovernmental organization comprised of 53 Regional Member Countries (RMCs), which are African states, and 24 Non-Regional Member Countries (Non-RMCs), which are basically Non-African donor states. The ADB was founded in 1964 as a unique African bank. The main objective of the ADB nowadays is to assist African states in their commitment to achieve the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs). Therefore in 2006, the ADB had a total amount of authorized capital



of 33 billion US-\$ to support different projects all over the continent.

For the National Model United Nations Conference 2007, the provisional agenda of the ADB contained the following topics: (1) *Challenges of Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in War Effected Economies*, (2) *Policies for Regional Integration in Africa*, and (3) *Promoting Good Governance for Sustainable Human Development*.

At the first day of the conference, the formal session started with a minute of silent prayer to remember the victims of Malaria in Africa which had been brought forward by our delegation. Afterwards, the speakers' list was opened to discuss the setting of the agenda. Soon it became obvious that the majority of RMCs favored to discuss the most pressing political topic, namely the *Challenges of Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in War Effected Economies*, while the Non-RMCs preferred to address good governance issues first. After a lively discussion, the committee voted to put the first agenda topic on top, acknowledging that infrastructure backlogs are the main obstacle for achieving the MDGs in Africa.

There was no time left to discuss substantial issues during formal session. Nevertheless, we spent the late evening hours to meet with possible allies in order to talk about our objectives concerning the agenda topics and to substantially prepare for the next day. After that, we met with our fellow Moroccan delegates to exchange our impressions of the first day and to discuss further strategies. We continued to convene within the delegation each evening after the official conference to discuss our experiences and to support each other when necessary.

The next day was dominated by fruitful discussions about various aspects of infrastructure development. Soon the committee came to the conclusion that several parts of the topic needed to be addressed separately in different working groups. We started to work on a paper with member states of the *Arab League*, focusing on sanitation issues and the improvement of the ADB's review mechanism. Our aim was to work towards a more transparent and efficient ADB, as Morocco is the biggest African donor state. Fortunately, our delegation was represented with two delegates in the ADB, which enabled us to split up so that one delegate could continue to work on our paper while the other one was lobbying to receive further support. At the end of the day, our working paper was approved by the chair as an official draft resolution. Despite the hard work and tough negotiations, all delegations were very content with the outcome and the achieved progress.

On the last day of the conference, our committee had a long informal caucus, in which we discussed the several draft resolution on the floor. Unexpectedly, we faced a problem as France tried to oppose our draft resolution.



Therefore, we had to spend most of the informal caucus to persuade France and its allies to change their opinion and support our draft resolution. Unfortunately, France was not willing to discuss on a substantial level. Hence, we were not able to convince them to vote in favor of our draft resolution. Back in formal session, we used the remaining time to hold our last speech, in which we summarized the most important aspects of our draft resolution and called on all states to stand united in the spirit of the ADB.

In the afternoon, we finally entered into voting procedure. Several resolutions covering the various aspects of infrastructure development were on the floor. Some of them were adopted by consensus while others had to be voted upon. Our resolution clearly passed with the support of our allies (other African and European countries) which fortunately did not share France's skeptical position towards our resolution.

Due to lack of time, our committee session ended after voting procedure, since the committee adjourned the meeting. Altogether the whole committee was very satisfied with the achievements of the last days.

7. Awards for the NMUN 2007 Delegation

Even though they should not be the main goal of participating at NMUN, every year the NMUN staff recognizes a number of delegations for their outstanding work and performance before and during the conference. The NMUN organizers have established a number of criteria for evaluating performance of the participating delegations. Each element – remaining in character, the participation in the committee and the proper use of the Rules of Procedure – is equally important during the evaluation process. All committees are considered equally and delegations are rated on a mathematical formula in relation to the total number of committees represented by the individual member states. Traditionally, all awards are announced and presented during the Closing Ceremony in the General Assembly Hall. Awards are given in Recognition for Outstanding Position Papers, as well as overall delegation awards in the categories of (either): Honorable Mention, Distinguished Delegation, and Outstanding Delegation.

The Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin received two awards, the “*Outstanding Position Paper Award*” and the “*Honorable Mention*”.



We are very proud of these two awards, however being part of the delegation of *Freie Universität Berlin* and participating in the simulation in New York is a very special reward as such as it fosters the understanding of the UN system and current issues in international politics.

Natalie Spiesser

7.1. “Outstanding Position Paper Award”



A Position Paper is a kind of essay comprising the country's policies concerning the topics on the provisional agenda. As the Position Papers are to be handed in a month before the Conference, we started working on them very early and we put a lot of time and efforts in them. So we were all happy to learn that we received an award for our Position Papers.

7.2. “Honorable Mention”

Furthermore we received an “Honorable Mention Award” for our delegation’s performance during the conference.





**Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in the
National Model United Nations Conference 1995 - 2007**

Republic of Lithuania (1995)

Syrian Arab Republic (1996)

Kingdom of Norway (1997)

Republic of South Africa (1998), Award "Honorable Mention"

The People's Republic of Bangladesh (1999)

The Republic of Turkey (2000), Award "Honorable Mention"

The Argentine Republic (2001)

The Republic of Poland (2002)

The International Council on Social Welfare (2004)

The Republic of Guatemala (2005), Award "Honorable Mention"

The United Arab Emirates (2006), "Outstanding Position Paper Award", Award
"Honorable Mention"

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

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