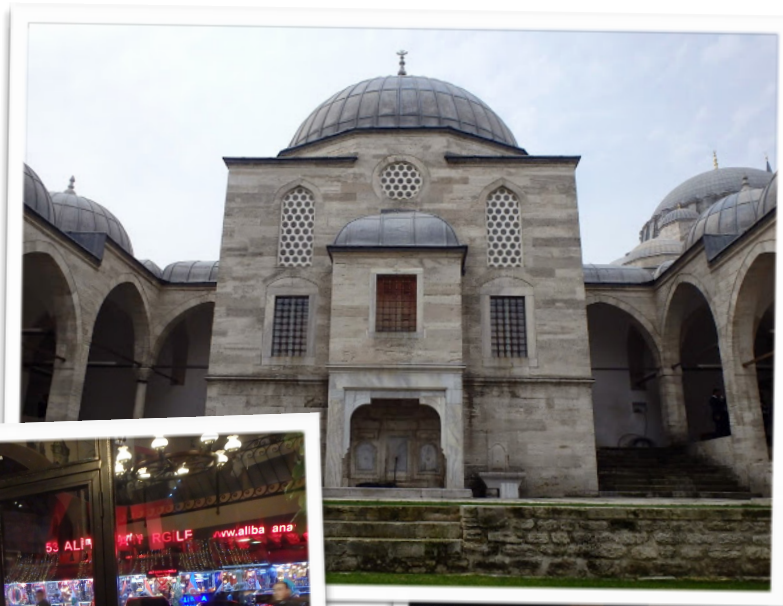


# MUN Istanbul

Istanbul Universitet & Freie Universität Berlin



Junis Sahib  
10.11. - 14.11.2014

## **Preparation, Arrival, First Meeting**

It was my great pleasure and honour to participate in the Model United Nations Program as a cooperation between the Istanbul University and the Freie Universität Berlin. When I heard of the possibility to join the group of students from Berlin that would go to Istanbul, I didn't hesitate but worked on my application right away. This conference was attractive to me due to its topic, which involved a very actual and interesting constellation of political actors and also the possibility to see Istanbul and to meet and work with students from there. As on every conference I attended under the supervision of Peggy Wittke, we were supplied with a very informative Background Guide covering every relevant aspect of the conference beforehand. Together with two preparatory meetings in Berlin and a lot of self-studies and the writing of the Position Paper in cooperation with our respective Turkish Committee Partner I felt very well prepared when arriving in Istanbul on the 10th of November. It was on the next day, that we first met the Students from Istanbul University, framed by a very interesting introductory presentation by Peggy Wittke. From the first moment the atmosphere between students was very warm and friendly leaving no doubt that the next two days would be followed by constructive debate on the basis of mutual respect.

## **The Conference**

Located at the most beautiful room for such a conference I have ever seen, the conference took place in the complex of the old Mosque next to Istanbul University. Not only the conference room was impressive but there was lots of room for informal debate on beautiful terraces that embraced this old building. Following the opening speeches the conference quickly gained speed and intensity when discussing the first topic on the agenda, which was Responsibility to Protect. Not only in informal session but also in formal debate was it an emotional but always respectful conference, wonderfully held together and supervised by the excellent

chair Peggy Wittke and Simon Blaettgen. I experienced the local students as very interested and active students with great knowledge and expertise and a passion for debating, sometimes at the cost of consensus. They were all well prepared one could see that from the opening speeches and the respective priorities each delegation had during debate. One of the most enjoyable things about the conference was the interest and enthusiasm shown by the students from the Istanbul University. The atmosphere was stirring with constructive ideas and passion, also due to the fact that students had a special and personal interest in the situation in Syria as a regional matter of politics.

### **The Teamwork**



Together with my distinguished delegation partner Yunus Ciloglu we represented the delegation of Iraq. As a directly affected state by the Syrian situation the conference was of utmost importance for the future of our country. Due to our

outstanding performance we were able to mark a watershed in Middle Eastern politics by drafting a resolution based on the cooperation between Syria, Turkey and Iraq. We felt proud and enthusiastic when the resolution passed voting procedure and currently we are working on ideas to implement and to develop the idea of regional cooperation in the region in an own project.

I thank everyone for the experience,

Junis Sahib