



UN-FORUM

Harvard National Model United Nations 2006

*Report of the Participation of the Freie Universität Berlin,
representing Bangladesh,*

13 – 19 February 2006, New York and Boston



Freie Universität Berlin

*“Precisely because our world is imperfect,
we need the United Nations“*

Kofi Annan,

UN Secretary General

New York, September 2005

GERMAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

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published by

Xenia Jakob,

David Stein

and

Peggy Wittke

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

Harvard National Model United Nations 2006
The Delegation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



General Assembly Hall

*Julia Bernhardt, Juliane Mendelsohn, Loredana Barbu, Tobias Kraski, David Stein, Hannes Ebert, Miriam Müller,
Patrick Schreen, Felix Meyer-Christian, Johannes Zöpchel, Julia Schad, Anne Tiedemann (from left to right)*

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The Delegation from Freie Universität Berlin

Julia Bernhardt, Tuyen Phan, Julia Schad, Tobias Kraski, Miriam Müller, Johannes Zöphel, David Stein, Anne Tiedemann, Juliane Mendelsohn, Patrick Schreen, , Felix Meyer-Christian, Hannes Ebert, Loredana Barbu, Mirko Heller* (from left to right)*

** vorzeitig aus der Delegation ausgeschieden*

Foreword

Freie Universität Berlin has a history of more than ten years of participation at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City. Year after year we have seen 'ordinary' students transform into adept diplomats – and not few of them have effectively chosen that profession later on. Yet, Model United Nations are a lot more than just career counselling. Participants learn about structures, working methods and rules of procedure of international organizations. Moreover, by interacting with students from all over the world, they gain social and intercultural competences and, last but not least, they improve negotiation and presentation skills. These are abilities that will pave the – sometimes all too stony – path towards a successful career, no matter in which occupational area.

Due to our record of successful participation, in 2006 Freie Universität for the first time sent two delegations to international conference simulations, one to the National Model United Nations and one to the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN). While the NMUN Conference yearly hosts about 3000 students from all over the world, the HNMUN – although open to international students as well – is in comparison rather a North American event, assembling students from renowned U.S. or Canadian universities. Our students therefore had to face the task of competing with rhetorically apt native speakers, a task they managed successfully.

The major challenge of any Model United Nations, however, is to walk in the shoes of a representative from a foreign (and sometimes remote) country. At HNMUN, Freie Universität students were to become the Delegation of BANGLADESH. Naturally, such a 'transformation' cannot come about at once. Therefore, the delegation from Freie Universität received an intense and comprehensive preparation both in Berlin and in New York at the Headquarter of the UN, due to the scientific guidance and organizational efforts of faculty advisors Ms. Peggy Wittke and Ms. Xenia Jakob. For six months, the students acquired broad knowledge of history, culture, economy, politics and policies of Bangladesh, i.a. through briefings by the German Foreign Office, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin as well as by UN staff at the Headquarters in New York. Moreover, the Delegation received training in negotiation and presentation, strategy planning, diplomatic behaviour, drafting resolutions and rules of procedure of various UN committees. Skills, that the students were also able to test in two conference simulations – one organized by Freie Universität and one by the University of Frankfurt (MainMUN).

As in previous years, we have composed an interdisciplinary delegation, comprising students from a wide range of departments, for example Law, Political Sciences, Geography, Journalism, Environmental Management, Economics, Philosophy and French Studies. Again, the interaction between different academic disciplines proved to be very fruitful and the participation of the FU delegation was of great educational value for all participants and a success for Freie Universität Berlin.

I owe immense gratitude to all those who were involved in the successful participation of our Delegation at the HNMUN. My warmest thanks go to the Embassy of Bangladesh for

hosting the students for a whole afternoon and for providing valuable information and insights. Also, I would like to especially thank Mr. Hermann Nicolai from the German Foreign Office for sharing his expertise, and Ms. Swati Dave from the United Nations Department of Public Information for having organized once again a comprehensive and informative study tour at the United Nations Headquarter. Finally, I would also like to thank the German Academic Exchange Service for financially supporting our endeavours.

Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig

Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation at the Harvard National Model United Nations Conference 2006

We thank the following persons, companies and institutions for their financial and/or academic support of our participation at the Harvard National Model United Nations 2006:

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Bonn

UNA-Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

Freie Universität Berlin

Ms. Swati Dave, United Nations Department of Public Information, New York
Embassy of Bangladesh, Berlin

Mr. Hermann Nicolai, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Dr. Wedigo de Vivanco, International Affairs Division, Freie Universität Berlin

Lufthansa City Center, AP Travel Service Pankow, Berlin

UNi-Gruppe of UNA-Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

Ms. Pera Wells, World Federation of United Nations Associations, New York
The team of 'Clash'

1. The Harvard National Model United Nations Conference

The first *Harvard National Model United Nations* (HNMUN) session took place in 1954. Like other Model United Nations programmes, its aim was to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and on the work and function of International Organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of Model United Nations conferences has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programmes 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. 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 Harvard National Model United Nations is today among the largest simulations in the World with annually around 2500 participants mostly from the U.S. and Canada, but also from Asia, Latin America and – to a lesser extent – Europe. In Germany, HNMUN is not yet well known and therefore the delegation from Freie Universität Berlin was the only German delegation at the HNMUN conference, which is held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

In contrast to other Model United Nations, the HNMUN is also known for its innovative committees, which include for example a historical Security Council session or so-called ‘Continual Crisis committees’ dealing for example with the Napoleonic Wars. In 2006, HNMUN staff for the first time also convoked a United Nations World conference in order to draft a treaty on Unilateral Acts of States.

At the conference, each participating university represents a United Nations Member State. According to reality, these Member States 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 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.

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 to be 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 compromise, always taking into consideration the special interest of the represented nations. This marks one of the major attractions of Model United Nations conferences: each Delegate has to participate in the negotiations by ensuring that his nation’s interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other delegates he immediately realizes his failures and, most importantly, his success.

Peggy Wittke

2. The Berlin HNMUN 2006 Delegation

Loredana Barbu, born on 10 February 1984 in Sibiu, Romania, studies International Economic Relations at the Academia de Studii Economice (ASE) in Bukarest and spent the academic year 2005/2006 as Erasmus student at the Freie Universität Berlin. Loredana was raised bilingually – in German and Romanian. As her German is already perfect, through HNMUN she was able to further improve her English. Inspired by her first diplomatic experience at HNMUN, she subsequently completed an internship at the Embassy of Rumania in Berlin. Loredana was actively involved in the delegation's fundraising events. At the HNMUN conference she represented Bangladesh together with Hannes Ebert in the General Assembly (Special Political and Decolonization Committee).



Julia Bernhardt was born on 28 July 1981 in Berlin. She is currently completing her studies of journalism, law and Italian philology. Julia, who had previously gained MUN experience at Freie Universität, says that her motivation for participating at HNMUN was to learn as much as possible about foreign countries and cultures. At the conference, she represented Bangladesh in the World Conference on Unilateral Acts of States – Subcommittee Enforcements together with Juliane Mendelsohn.

Hannes Ebert, born on 25 November 1983 in Göttingen, studies political science at the Otto-Suhr-Institute of Freie University Berlin with a focus on comparative studies and conflict resolution. Hannes has participated in numerous Model United Nations at Freie Universität and tirelessly organized the HNMUN delegation's fundraising events. His next project is an exchange year in Geneva, in order to study international relations. At HNMUN he represented Bangladesh in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee together with Loredana Barbu.





Tobias Kraski was born on 23 June 1984 in Ulm. As a student of political science, he focuses especially on international relations. He discovered his passion for Model United Nations by participating at the MainMUN in Frankfurt in order to prepare for HNMUN. He states that participating in MUNs has helped him to better understand state behaviour and the mechanisms of international cooperation. At HNMUN, he represented Bangladesh in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the General Assembly. Together with fellow delegate Felix Meyer-Christian, he was able to discuss a topic in which international cooperation is most important and most vital for

Bangladesh: the prevention of natural disaster. Tobias was involved in the conference preparation Task Force and patiently designed and redesigned business cards and stationery in order to meet everybody's taste.

Juliane Mendelsohn, born on 30 November 1985 Hamburg, grew up in South Africa. Thus, she speaks English, Afrikaans and German. In 2004 she returned to Germany in order to study law at Freie Universität Berlin. When she is not busy with her studies, other favourite activities are debating and sports. In the future, Juliane would like to study abroad for some time and plans a semester in the US. At HNMUN, she represented Bangladesh at the World Conference on Unilateral Acts of States – Subcommittee Enforcements – together with Julia Bernhardt.



Felix Meyer-Christian, born on 19 August 1979, studies Geography, Environmental Management and International Law, both at Humboldt and Freie Universität. He is especially interested in sustainable development and climate change. He has widely travelled – among other places India – and has completed some exciting internships, eg. with the German development agency GTZ in Bhutan and in a natural reserve in Peru. It is therefore not surprising, that shortly after the HNMUN experience he has left Germany again, this time to spend a semester in Lisbon. Felix, who also served as head delegate, was able to bring in his expertise when discussing international disaster at the Social, Cultural and

Humanitarian Committee of the GA.

Miriam Müller, born on 5 October 1983, studies political science and Islamic studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. She focuses primarily on conflict resolution in the Arabic and Islamic world. In order to deepen her knowledge in this field, Miriam, who also speaks Arabic, already has planned various internships abroad, amongst others in Yemen. She has played an active role in the documentation task force and at HNMUN 2006 she represented Bangladesh in the UN World Conference – Subcommittee Applications.



Julia Schad, born on 25 September 1982 in Offenbach am Main, is studying Political Science. Before changing to the Freie Universität Berlin, she has studied in Frankfurt and in Southampton, England. She now considers applying for an internship in an International Organization in order to gain more practical experience. At HNMUN, Julia represented Bangladesh in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with Johannes Zöphel.

Patrick Schreen was born on 1 September 1983. Before enrolling as a student of political science, he completed a one-year volunteer service in Mauritius. Currently, he is engaged as a part-time journalist for a Berlin newspaper. Patrick says that by participating at HNMUN, he has improved his negotiation techniques and his knowledge on the United Nations. First and foremost, he appreciated the international atmosphere on the conference, being able to work with students from all over the world. Patrick was actively involved in the organization of a fundraising party. At the HNMUN conference, he represented Bangladesh together with Anne-Kristin Tiedemann in the Committee for Disarmament and International Security.





David Stein, born on 28 September 1984, studies law at Freie University Berlin. His motivation for participating at HNMUN was to gain insight into work at the United Nations and international relations. Furthermore, as he had participated at Model United Nations in Germany before, he was very enthusiastic to compare his previous experience to HNMUN. As a law student, he appreciated the challenge of drafting an entire convention on unilateral acts of States. David represented Bangladesh in the World Conference on Unilateral Acts of States – Subcommittee Definitions.

Anne Kristin Tiedemann, born on 15 August 1982 in Hamburg, is currently completing her course of multi-disciplinary French Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. In summer 2005 she spent a semester in France, at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lyon. Anne, a passionate Ballet dancer, plans to enrol for an International Relations post-graduate program abroad. She was actively involved in the Fundraising Task Force and represented Bangladesh together with Partick Schreen in the First Committee of the General Assembly, Disarmament and International Security.



Johannes Zöphel, born on 22 May 1981, studies economics and philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin. Prior to his studies, he spent a High School Year in the United States and during the academic year 2004/2005 he was enrolled at Universidad de Chile in Santiago de Chile and completed an internship at the embassy of Chile in Argentina. Johannes was actively involved in the conference preparation task force and was able to bring in his talent and rhetorical skills at the United Nations Development Programme, in which he represented Bangladesh together with Julia Schad.

3. The Preparation of the Delegation in Berlin

From November to February, the delegation of Freie Universität received a comprehensive preparation: Classes took place twice a week for a weekly total of four hours.

The preparation served a threefold purpose: To familiarize students with the functioning of international institutions, to introduce them to Bangladesh's politics and policies as well as to the topics that were to be discussed at HNMUN. Finally, to teach negotiation techniques and rhetoric, i.e. to help develop important professional skills.

Furthermore, classes were enriched by contributions from experts: Prof. Dr. Kunig held a lecture on International Law; Hermann Nicolai, Deputy Head of the Task Force for Global Issues at the Federal Foreign Office briefed the delegation on Bangladesh's foreign policy, and Peggy Wittke gave an overview on the UN System. Another cornerstone of the preparation process was a visit to the Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin.

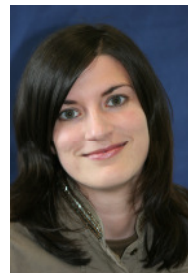
The academic preparation was supplemented by a Simulation of the UN Security Council on the topic of International Terrorism, organized and chaired by Xenia Jakob and Irene Weinz (faculty advisor of the delegation of Freie Universität to the National Model United Nations 2006). In order to get as much MUN experience as possible, parts of the Delegation also participated at MainMUN, organized by the Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt.

Another important part of the preparation was to actively involve the students in so-called task forces. These were organizational units run by the students themselves in order to help realize some parts of the organizational process, such as writing fundraising appeals, organizing fundraising events or designing stationery for the delegation. By contributing to a task force, e.g. 'Documentation', 'Fundraising', 'Events Organization', 'Conference Preparation' and 'Internet Presence', the students were able to gain fundraising experience, management skills and to improve their ability to work in a team. All in all, the preparation process was a challenging and enriching experience for students and faculty advisors alike.

Xenia Jakob



Peggy Wittke



Xenia Jakob

Faculty Advisors of the HNMUN 2006 Delegation



Participants of the Session of the UN Security Council on International Terrorism, Berlin, 12-13 December 2005



Head Delegate Felix Meyer-Christian, Tobias Kraski and faculty advisor Xenia Jakob

3.1. Visit to the Embassy of Bangladesh

On 19 January, still in the midst of our preparation, but already eagerly awaiting our trip to New York and Boston, we had the honour to be invited to the Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin. We were heartily welcomed by Mr. Muhammad Enayet Hossain, the minister of the Embassy, and Ms. Shamsun Nahar, an expert on Bangladesh's economy. Not only had they piled up brochures and information material on all aspects of Bangladesh's domestic and foreign policies, but we were also served drinks and biscuits.

“What do you know about Bangladesh?” was how Mr. Hossain started the briefing. This came as a surprise to us, having imagined that we would ask all the pressing questions that had emerged during our preparations. His question however enabled us to demonstrate our (already quite broad) knowledge about Bangladesh. Then, the minister gave us a comprehensive overview on Bangladesh's history, emphasizing that Bangladesh may be a ‘new country’ but is ‘an old nation’. Bangladesh's independence of 1971 was bitterly paid with 3 Million lives but it managed to overcome political insignificance from which it had suffered as former East Pakistan.

According to Mr. Hossain, Bangladesh's constitution reflects the key elements that Bangladesh has been striving for since independence: “the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries combined with a deep respect for the UN and its institutions”. We also found out that Bangladesh does not consider itself an Islamic state but rather a ‘Muslim majority state’ and that it sees itself as a mediator between Muslim and Western states because it successfully combines a Muslim majority population with a secular constitution.



After his briefing, Mr. Hossain and Ms. Shamsun Nahar patiently listened to our numerous questions and answered all of them in detail. They also gave us valuable advice on how to best conceptualize our national priorities and on how to deal with neighbouring India, a reliable partner but also a source of conflict, for example in water sharing issues.

To the last question which concluded our visit to the embassy “where do you see the biggest hope for Bangladesh in the future?”, Mr. Hossain smiled and said “we will come up”. His answer seemed to reflect an optimism that is founded in the way Bangladesh has faced all its challenges in the past. To speak in the words of Mr. Hossain “it's a small land suffering vast natural disasters but it is able to feed its population of 144 mio people”.

We are immensely grateful for this wonderful visit and the assistance the Embassy provided during our preparation!

Miriam Müller



A visit to the Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin, January 2006

Anne Tiedemann, Juliane Mendelsohn, Patrick Schreen, Julia Schad, Miriam Müller, Johannes Zöphel, Ms. Shamsun Nahar, Loredana Barbu, Felix Meyer-Christian, Mr. Muhammad Enayet Hossain, Hannes Ebert, Xenia Jakob, Tobias Kraski, Julia Bernhardt, David Stein (from left to right)

3.2. Briefing on Bangladesh's Foreign Policy and its role within the United Nations

After having been given first hand information about key aspects of Bangladeshi foreign policy by the Embassy, we had the opportunity to get a second opinion on the matter, this time from a German perspective, as Mr. Nicolai from the German Federal Foreign Office was willing to share his experience. Having served as Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Bangladesh and as a former staff member of the Federal Foreign Office's Task Force on Human Rights, which is interacting with the United Nations on a constant basis, he was able to give us detailed information about the 'real world' of diplomacy.

We were happy to hear Mr. Nicolai confirm what we had already found out ourselves: Bangladesh is an important actor and an active mediator within the United Nations. Bangladesh's bilateral influence may be rather small, mostly because of the economic situation and the scarce natural resources, but the government's strategy to counter that disadvantage is to be highly active and skilled in multinational affairs. Due to the

continuity of that principle, Bangladeshi diplomats have earned a reputation for being constructive negotiators and able mediators. Not only are Bangladeshi diplomats often asked to chair delicate negotiations, but also many Least Developed Country initiatives favour Bangladesh as their speaker. According to Mr. Nicolai, apart from the excellence of Bangladeshi diplomats, the country's ability to play this active role as a mediator in the United Nations also stems from the fact that diplomats are given a lot of discretion. Only occasionally matters are regarded to be of crucial national interest, most of the time, however, Bangladeshi diplomats have flexibility and space to manoeuvre in the multilateral arena. On many occasions, other states know that Bangladesh does not have a vital interest in those matters and is therefore particularly able to stir a committee to consensus or compromise.

We were also very interested in finding out about Bangladesh's role as a 'secular but muslim majority country' and how this affected its relations to Arab and Islamic states. While Mr. Nicolai confirmed that the fact that Bangladesh is a country with a Muslim population of over eighty percent but with a secular constitution makes it again apt to propose compromise positions – for example between Western and Islamic states, he also pointed out that some violent and radical religious groups have considerable potential to disturb the inner harmony of the Bangladeshi society. This, however, has no effect on Bangladesh's foreign policy, neither does the bitter political dispute between the two major secular parties Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

This led us to some major challenges for the young nation-state of Bangladesh, all of them rather connected to Bangladesh's, by times, violent domestic politics. According to Mr. Nicolai, no few foreign observers are worried about the resilience of the Bangladeshi state against the subversive activities of violent and radical religious groups and the government's determination to eradicate such groups and stop their harmful activities. Another open question is how much protection religious or ethnic minorities such as the Muslim Ahmadiyya sect, the Hindu minority or the ethnically and religiously different population of the Chittagong Hill Tracts can expect from the government against various pressures from violent and radical religious groups which also try to instrumentalize the majority population for their nefarious aims.

All in all, we felt we had been thoroughly informed by an impartial observer. Mr. Nicolai had confirmed our positive impressions about Bangladesh's foreign policy but he had also mentioned problematic domestic aspects. The Briefing we had with Mr. Nicolai was definitely a highlight in the preparation for the conference.

Johannes Zöphel



Briefing by Mr. Hermann Nicolai, January 2006

Miriam Müller, Anne Tiedemann, Xenia Jakob, Loredana Barbu, Mr. Hermann Nicolai, Johannes Zöphel, David Stein, Patrick Schreen, Julliane Mendelsohn, Tobias Kraski, Hannes Ebert, Julia Schad (from left to right)



4. The United Nations Study Tour: 13 – 14 February 2006

In close cooperation with the *United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI)* Freie Universität was able to offer a two-day Study Tour at the United Nations Headquarters to the participating students.

United Nations Study Tour Program

13 February 2006

09.30 - 10.30 h	Guided Tour
10.45 - 11.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on the United Nations Environmental Programme – <i>James Sniffen</i>
11.45 - 13.15 h	LUNCH
13.30 - 14.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Sustainable Development – <i>Hiroko Morita-Lou</i>
14.30 - 15.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on the Middle East – <i>Hamid Abdeljaber</i>
15.30 - 16.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Legal Affairs – <i>George Korontzis</i>

14 February 2006

10.45 - 11.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on Refugees – <i>Brian Gorlick</i>
11.45 - 12.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on Peacekeeping – <i>Fred Mallya</i>
12.45 - 14.00 h	LUNCH
14.15 - 15.15 h	Secretariat Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance – <i>Stephanie Bunker</i>
15.15 - 16.15 h	Secretariat Briefing on Disarmament – <i>Kerstin Bihlmaier</i>
18.30h	Delegation Dinner, Jackson Hole
	Guest Speaker: Markus Scharf, German Mission

4.1. Guided Tour through the Headquarters of the United Nations

How often do you have the opportunity to enter the United Nations as a mere mortal? Not quite often. So we were all the more excited to have the chance to see those parts of the UN Headquarters that are closed for the public.

08:00 a.m., lobby of the Hilton:

Still suffering from huge jet-lag, we have all gathered in the hotel lobby, in order to walk to the UN Headquarters.

08:30 a.m., UN Headquarters:

We are fully awake now, rubbing eyes, not believing what we see: the United Nations Headquarters and a line of people waiting to be admitted to the grounds. While we wait, we can admire the ‘German House’, the building of the German Mission to the UN.

08:50 a.m., UN Headquarters – Security Check:

It takes some time to enter the building but security comes first. Hard times require hard measures and even UN employees are checked.

09:00 a.m., UN Headquarters:

WE ARE IN! Finally!

At 9 o’clock on 13 February 2006 the HNMUN-participants from Freie Universität Berlin have entered the building of the UN Headquarters. An impressive entrance hall materializes in front of us. Information about the UN, certain countries and many other things can be admired in small exhibitions next to a row of pictures of the Secretary-Generals.

Then the tour commences - a stunning guided tour through the catacombs of the UN. At our first stop, we contemplate the gifts that have been given to the UN by different countries. Germany, obviously, gave a piece of the Berlin Wall. Then we walk through the chambers of the major organs of the UN, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council... until we finally enter the centre of power: the Security Council. Certainly an unforgettable experience!



After an exciting two-hour tour the “actual” part of the UN Headquarters visit begins as we are finally moving into the restricted part of the building.

We pass the security guard and proudly show our badges that allow us to enter the restricted areas. The UN-Tour surely was a highlight which we will never forget, an invaluable experience in life. I believe I can speak on behalf of the whole HNMUN-course to express our enormous gratitude to both Peggy Wittke and Xenia Jakob for preparing this special excursion, not to forget Swati Dave from the United Nations Department of Public Information for having organized the amazing briefings.

David Stein

4.2. Briefing on the United Nations Environmental Programme

On the first day of the Study Tour, our delegation received a briefing on the *United Nations Environmental Programme* (UNEP), held by **Mr. James Sniffen**. We learned that he has been working for the UN since 1979 when he started his career at the UN Press Office. He joined UNEP in 1991 in order to work at the UNEP-headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya for 6 years before relocating to New York.

Mr. Sniffen structured his briefing into three parts: climate change and its effects, “Green Helmets” and their possible tasks as well as environmental security. On the subject of climate change, he mentioned possible consequences such as sea level rise, arctic melt and a change in the oceans’ currents. According to Mr. Sniffen, Sea level rise is a growing hazard, especially to *Small Developing Island States* (SDIS) as the Maldives and to countries like Bangladesh. These states are geographically low-situated, have a high density in population, a strong need for agriculture in areas threatened by inundation, and only small financial means to meet these challenges. In Bangladesh, as Mr. Sniffen pointed out, the problematic coastal area and water management constitute the biggest problems to the government and the people.

In many cases, the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) is the most relevant partner for UNEP concerning the financing of projects. Generally, UNEP’s task is not so much carrying out specific projects but rather to provide agencies like UNDP vital and relevant information. Important and necessary tsunami research, such as environmental assessment of changes in the ecosystems, and early warning mechanisms for Sri Lanka and the Maldives serve as an example. In regard to financial contributions, the *Global Environmental Facility* plays a decisive role for UNEP.

The Kyoto-Protocol and the UN-Climate-Change-Conference in Montréal in 2005 were other important aspects of the briefing: Mr. Sniffen emphasized that especially the European states have to strengthen their efforts in promoting the Protocol as well as in technology export, in order to enhance their role model-status within the global community. In spite of adversaries of the Protocol such as China or the US, Mr. Sniffen still sees the future of climate protection in effective Clean Development Mechanisms and Joint Implementation projects.

In regard to “Green Helmets” Mr. Sniffen first acknowledged that there were many misunderstandings of the term itself. According to him, “Green Helmets” would be environmental volunteers on the ground in a post-disaster or post-military situation. Technical units would establish basic local capacities, similar to the task of the *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) in the humanitarian sector.

The last topic was environmental security. In times of increasing armed conflicts within states, just distribution and management of natural resources are a major necessity in order to maintain stability and peace. The Darfur crisis in Sudan could be seen as an environmental disaster, as it is a conflict between pastoralists and farmers over water and the use of land, also caused by environmental degradation after improper management of the resources. The role of water is also often underestimated when it comes to the roots of conflicts. Turkey and its neighbors Syria and Iraq, as well as Uganda and Egypt serve as further examples of bilateral conflicts.

In addition, Mr. Sniffen reported about the *The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)* in Southern Caucasus, where after the breakdown of the Soviet rule new comprehensive strategies were implemented by a cooperative project planned and implemented with the assistance of OSCE, UNDP and UNEP.

At the end of the briefing, we discussed the relevance of UNEP within the international community and the future of the programme itself, since its Executive Director Klaus Toepfer is about to leave office.

Mr. Sniffen provided us with a profound overview on the major global environmental problems and conflicts, together with an interesting personal insight into the work within this important agency.

Felix Meyer-Christian

4.3. Briefing on Sustainable Development

After having enjoyed the impressive view over the East River from the United Nations cafeteria during lunch, our delegation was invited to take a seat in the briefing room of the Headquarters' public affairs staff, which looked like an ordinary class room, equipped with tiny seats and a blackboard.



The next briefing was on *Sustainable Development*. Due to the profound expertise of our speaker, **Ms. Hiroko Morita-Lou**, employed in the *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs* (<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/>), Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), we heard an exceptional introduction to this topic, which is highly relevant to the United Nations.



As the secretariat to the *UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)*, the DSD is located in New York. In order to promote sustainable development, i.e. a process that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (according to the UN Brundtland Report 1987), the CSD administers technical cooperation and capacity-building at the regional, national and international level. Created in 1992 at the Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (which declared the so-called Agenda 21 and the Rio Principles) the CSD has worked towards further steps, for example the 1994

Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Bridgetown, the 1997 Earth Summit +5 in New York, the 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg and the 2005 adoption of the Mauritius Strategy. In a two-year cycle of review and policy, the Division monitors and reports on the implementation of these milestones. Ms. Morita-Lou has been involved in formulating the multi-year Programme

of Work which extends from 2004 to 2017, and which is organized around clusters of issues.

Ms. Morita-Lou said that during 20 years of work for the United Nations, she has experienced a gap between theory and practice in the field of development. As editor-in-chief of the journal “Natural Resources Forum”, she was familiar with both sides. From this perspective, she highlighted the importance of the integration of different, interdisciplinary factors. In that context, she also referred to the 2005 World Summit’s emphasis on “the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars” of sustainable development. According to Ms. Morita-Lou, a successful concept of development initiatives has to consider three dimensions, namely environmental protection as well as economic *and* social development.

Moreover, she outlined the background of the “partnerships for sustainable development”, as they were defined at the World Summit of Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Those include more than 200 registered voluntary, multi-stakeholder, and public-private initiatives, supporting the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development goals.

Another crucial element in this process is the broad participation of civil society, which our speaker emphasized as one of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development.

After our numerous questions, Ms. Morita-Lou told us about the possibility of a two-month internship at the CSD. She received a lot of applause for her presentation on this important issues – but also for having pointed out career opportunities.

Hannes Ebert

4.4. Briefing on Middle East

In the afternoon of the first day of our Study Tour, **Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber** introduced us to the root causes of the Middle East conflict. What a passionate briefing! Due to his personal (he was born in what is now the West Bank) and professional experience (he served as UN spokesperson in Irak until 2003) he was able to give us detailed information about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the role of the UN.

Mr. Abdeljaber has been working for the UN for 25 years. As UN staff, he is not a representative of a state, but is first and foremost loyal to the UN. However, he is aware that some pay a high price for their dedication: he left Baghdad just one day before the attack on the UN building, in which – among others – Sergio Viera de Mello, then UN Special Advisor to Iraq, was killed.

Mr. Abdeljaber took us back to the roots of the Arab Israeli conflict, which in his view dated back to 1897, when the idea of creating an Israeli homeland emerged in Europe. When the UN was founded, it also inherited the unresolved conflict in the Middle East. Ever since its creation, the UN has been involved in efforts to find a solution to this lasting conflict, from the Partition Plan of 1947, the “Right of Return Resolution” (GA

Resolution 194), to ceasefires in 1956 and 1967, after Israel had occupied the Egyptian Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the West bank and a part of the Syrian Golan Heights

Mr. Abdeljaber emphasized the exceptional work of the UN by explaining Resolution 242 in which the Security Council laid down principles for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East: occupied territory for a Palestinian state and security for Israel. However, the proposal failed and the Palestinians continued their “War of Liberation”. In October 1973, war broke out again between Egypt and Israel and between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

During this conflict, the Security Council adopted Resolution 338 reaffirming the principles of Resolution 242. However, fighting continued in the region and in 1982, a large-scale massacre of refugees took place in the camps of Sabra and Shatila. Though both sides began to adopt a more pragmatic attitude, the conditions of twenty years of military occupation contributed to the eruption of the first Intifada in 1987.



In 1991 a period of constructive negotiation between all parties began (again with major UN involvement). To Mr. Abdeljaber, the Oslo Accord from 1993 was a major breakthrough, because the core problems were addressed. However, the peace process was shaken by a tragic event: the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

According to Mr. Abdeljaber, new settlements finally caused the second Intifada which started on 28 February 2000. The nowadays withdrawal of Israel from Palestinian territory was decided unilaterally. Despite some progress four important issues have to be addressed if a comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict should be established: the refugees, the settlement, Jerusalem and the boundaries of the Palestinian state. Finally, Mr Abdeljaber outlined the imperatives a resolution must answer: justice for the Palestinian side and security for Israel.

The briefing on Middle East Issues was really fascinating because of Mr Abdeljaber’s broad knowledge and his vivid lecture. What a comprehensive and instructive approach to this topic! Mr Abdeljaber’s observations contributed to many discussions in our delegation, and we even scheduled another meeting with him for the following day in order to continue the discussion.

Anne Tiedemann

4.5. Briefing on Legal Affairs (Unilateral Acts of States)

Mr. George Korontzis from the Office of Legal Affairs gave us a very interesting overview on the latest developments concerning the codification of customary law on the topic of unilateral acts of states. Especially those students who were expected to draft a treaty in the United Nations World Conference on Unilateral Acts of States at the

Harvard National Model United Nations were excited to meet him and to gain new insights into this controversial and complex topic.

In 1996, the *International Law Commission* (ILC) decided to place the topic of unilateral acts of states on its agenda. As a first step, a working group was established in 1997 in order to discuss how the ILC should approach this topic, which direction future work should take and how unilateral acts could possibly be defined. Furthermore, since 1998, a Special Rapporteur issues a yearly report on unilateral acts of states.

In 1999, the working group presented six draft articles which proposed a definition of the term of unilateral acts. According to the draft articles, a unilateral act is an expression of will of one or more states. Mr. Korontzis stressed that the working group stumbled over several difficulties. For instance, some states doubted the mere existence of unilateral acts of states and claimed that they were always based on some kind of rule or custom. Others maintained that it would be impossible to formulate general rules on this topic since each category of unilateral acts includes very different cases. Most importantly, it is extremely difficult to determine the intention of a state behind a declaration, a notification or any other statement - especially as states rarely publish documents with facts explaining the expression of a unilateral act. All in all, there are many challenges to the task of the working group.

After having talked about the most frequent examples of unilateral acts encountered in international law, such as promises, recognition of states or governments or a waiver of a legal act or claim, Mr. Korontzis kindly responded to our questions and gave us some advice on how we might best design our own convention on Unilateral Acts of States during the Harvard National Model United Nations conference. Thank you, Mr. Korontzis!

Julia Bernhardt



4.6. Briefing on Refugees

In the European Union you are confronted nearly every day with news about refugees, risking their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. However, such events have become so common that they rarely make it to the headlines any more. But in the briefing held by **Mr. Brian Gorlick**, we learned that the global refugee situation is worsening.

As he was aware that we were going to represent Bangladesh at HNMUN 2006, Mr. Gorlick started his presentation with the sad fact that except for Afghanistan no South-Asian country is party to either the “Convention relating to the Status of Refugees” or to the (additional) Protocol.

The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is a key legal document: it defines the term ‘refugee’, refugees’ rights and the legal obligations of states. It was approved at a special United Nations Conference in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 July 1951 and entered into force on 22 April 1954. The Convention was initially supposed to protect European refugees after World War II but the 1967 Protocol, which entered into force on 4 October of the same year, expanded the Convention’s scope. Today, there are 146 signatories to either or both the Convention and Protocol.

What actually is a refugee and where is the difference to an asylum seeker? According to the 1951 Convention, a refugee is a person outside the country of their nationality due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, political opinion, ethnic origin or the membership of a particular social group. And unless migrants are not “stamped” a refugee by UNHCR, a government or another UN agency, their status is “asylum seeker”.

UNHCR’s mandate as it is written down in the Statute (UN General Assembly resolution 428 establishing the High Commissioner’s Office for Refugees as of 1 January 1951) is to provide international protection to refugees worldwide and to seek permanent solutions to refugee problems. International protection includes admission to safety, non-refoulement (Art. 33) and physical security. Durable solutions to refugee problems are assistance to voluntary repatriation with humanity and dignity, local settlement or resettlement in a third country. Unfortunately, while refugees often prefer the last solution, there are still too few countries willing to host these people permanently. The statute is criticised by many as being old-fashioned, but according to Mr. Gorlick it is still valid. However, certain regional legal instruments, such as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa or the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees for Latin America are more generous than the UN Convention, although the contracting states are quite poor.

To illustrate the theoretical part of his presentation, Mr. Gorlick used figures and numbers. At the beginning of 2005, the number of people of concern to UNHCR was 19.2 million. They included 9.2 million refugees (48%) and 5.6 million internally displaced persons (29%). The budget of UNHCR is about US\$ 1.3 billion (~1 billion from governments). Worldwide, US\$ 8-17 billion are used for development. In contrast: the world’s military expenses are about US\$ 750 billion!!!

With these excellently placed illustrations and his very vivid way of speaking, he directly caught everybody's attention. By looking at the faces of my fellow students, I realized that Mr. Gorlick definitively succeeded in bringing the serious problem of the global refugee situation to our minds.

Tobias Kraski



Anne Tiedemann and Loredana Barbu in the Security Council Chamber

4.7. Briefing on Peacekeeping

After having been briefed on the global refugee situation, we had the pleasure to hear a comprehensive briefing on peacekeeping by **Mr. Frederick Mallya**, Coordination officer in the best practices section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Mr. Mallya was able to give us a broad overview on the different types of peacekeeping while at the same time providing details about his daily work and his experience in the field (he had worked for the peacekeeping operation in Liberia).

In many cases UN peacekeepers act as a buffer between two conflicting parties, but their tasks involve a lot more than this. Since 1945, UN peacekeepers have undertaken 60 field

missions and negotiated 172 peace settlements that have ended regional conflicts. All operations are run from the DPKO, which is located in New York.

There are currently 18 DPKO-led missions that involve as much as 90.000 peacekeepers. Most of the current operations take place in Africa, for example in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi and Sudan.

Mr. Mallya told us that as the nature of conflicts has changed over time, so have peacekeeping operations: Traditional peacekeepers faced situations of inter-state conflicts; nowadays national borders play a smaller role while conflicts between ethnic or religious groups are of growing concern.

One of the reasons for this development is surely the end of the cold war. The number of operations has increased by 400% since 1990. But the overall strategy seems to work: the number of crises and wars slightly declines.

With 27% of the overall DPKO budget, the US is the largest provider of financial contributions. Japan and Germany follow with 19% and 9%. However, in terms of troop contributions the picture looks quite different. Bangladesh is the number one contributor, followed by Pakistan and India. Developed states are usually not even listed. When the question about the reason for this imbalance was raised, Mr. Mallya pointed out that the contribution of troops is connected to a financial compensation. That gives a strong incentive to underdeveloped countries to do so. Developed countries prefer to deploy armed forces in emergencies only and for short periods of time.

During the lively discussion that followed his briefing, Mr. Mallya was able to answer many questions and we are thankful to have had this opportunity to learn about an insider's views.

Loredana Barbu

4.8. Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance

The briefing held by **Ms. Stephanie Bunker** from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), was an exciting example of UN activities. Before joining OCHA, Ms. Bunker had already worked in the office of the United Nations Coordinator for Afghanistan as well as for the UN World Food Program for Afghanistan. After having lived in Afghanistan and Pakistan for quite some time, she came to the Headquarters in New York City in 2002.

OCHA has headquarters in New York and Geneva as well as regional offices in Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, and Panama and field offices in over 30 countries. Its mission is to help coordinate assistance to people affected by crises, for example famine or natural disaster, and to provide support and guidance to local institutions. While other organizations remain for long periods or permanently in a region, OCHA-teams can be deployed within hours and usually do not stay longer than necessary, i.e. until the most basic needs of the population have been met. The strategy is to get specially trained personnel on the grounds as fast as possible so that they can assist and instruct local staff in order to cope with the situation as the latter are sometimes

neither trained nor equipped for the occasion. While the interplay between OCHA crisis specialists and regional staff has proved to be very successful, there is one major obstacle: OCHA may only deploy personnel upon the request of the affected country – i.e. the consent of the government is a precondition to any action by OCHA.

According to Ms. Bunker, OCHA's first task is usually to establish very basic infrastructure facilities such as shelter or sanitary resources and to provide nutrition. When we asked how OCHA identifies and finds people in need, Ms. Bunker admitted that a difficult part of OCHA's task is to find the people that need help most urgently. Unfortunately, OCHA cannot help everybody in need and usually resources have to be saved for the poorest of the poor. Moreover, sometimes those needing help most urgently cannot be reached. She told us that for example in Sudan, it had not been possible to physically access crisis-affected areas in order to help people in need.

In total, the office has 1140 members working in New York, Geneva and as field staff. Surprisingly, only ten percent of OCHA's budget is financed by the United Nations. The rest (about 126 million US \$ in 2006) is donated by governments. This poses problems to OCHA, as money inflow is hardly predictable and often provided for a special purpose only. For example, the generous donations made by governments, companies and private donors for the tsunami victims in 2005 could not be used to help the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan.

During our 60 minute briefing Ms. Bunker made us understand OCHA in a very practical way. It deals with emergencies so it is about deciding and acting quickly. She herself seemed very experienced and determined and is probably a good example of what it takes to work in that field. All in all, the briefing was very impressive and it has definitely broadened our knowledge on the role of the UN in the field of humanitarian aid.

Johannes Zöphel

4.9. Briefing on Disarmament

Ms. Kerstin Bihlmaier, a specialist for NBC weapons, who works as a young professional in the weapons of mass destruction branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, started her presentation with some disturbing facts: every year, US \$ 960 billion are spent for military purposes, whereas all states together only provide US \$ 21 billion for health care. Evidently, many of the most pressing problems could be solved if states spent some of this money on welfare instead of warfare.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD), i.e. biological, chemical and nuclear weapons pose a threat that the United Nations continuously deals with through various agencies and instruments. In this context, Ms. Bihlmaier mentioned treaties like the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as some of the most important tools in the fight against WMD. Because of the ongoing conflict concerning the Iranian nuclear programme, Ms. Bihlmaier then concentrated on the NPT and international efforts to reduce nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into force in 1970 and has been signed by no less than 188 states including the five official nuclear weapon states (i.e. USA, China, Russian Federation, France and the United Kingdom). It is meant to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapon technology (article II and III), to promote cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy (article IV) and to promote disarmament (article VI). All non-nuclear weapons states that are party to the treaty are obliged to prove that they use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. In order to meet this requirement they regularly submit reports to the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA). Unfortunately, the treaty itself is not a sufficient tool for disarmament, as the case of North Korea shows: when the IAEA found contradictions in North Korea's report, the state withdrew from the treaty and in this way circumvented being controlled by the international community.

We then discussed the conflict regarding the Iranian nuclear programme and possible parallels to the North Korea case and whether India and Pakistan should be recognized as 'official' nuclear weapon states. Understandably, Ms Bihlmaier could not provide solutions to all these problems, but her balanced briefing was very helpful in order to get a broader picture of the problems of nuclear disarmament.

However interesting her report, admittedly most exciting for us was to find out that Kerstin Bihlmaier was a graduate of the Freie Universität Berlin and that she had been a member of our university's delegation to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in 2002. Maybe in a few years from now, one of us will have followed her example...

Julia Bernhardt



5. The People's Republic of Bangladesh – an Overview

Basic Facts:

Area: 147,570 sq km

Bordering Countries: India, Burma

Ethnic Groups: Bengali 98%, tribal groups, non-Bengali Muslims

Religion: Muslim 88.3%, Hindu 10.5%, Christian 0.3%, Buddhist 0.6%, others 0.3%

Languages: Bangla (official, also known as Bengali), English

Government: Parliamentary democracy (President Iajuddin Ahmed (since 2002); Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia (since 2001))

Capital: Dhaka (pop. 10 million)

Independence: 26 March 1971 (from West Pakistan)

Population: 147,365,352 (2006)

GDP per capita: \$2,100 (2005)

Population below poverty line: 45% (2004)

Export partners: US 22.4%, Germany 14.5%, UK 11.2%, France 6.9%, Italy 4% (2004)

Import partners: India 15.1%, China 12.5%, Singapore 7.5%, Kuwait 5.5%

Currency: Taka

Membership at the United Nations: since 1974

Source: CIA Fact book online



6. Bangladesh at the HNMUN 2006 Conference



The Delegation of Freie Universität with the Statue of John Harvard

6.1. Bangladesh in the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA 1st)

represented by Anne Tiedemann and Patrick Schreen

While some talk about abolishing those GA committees, which seem out of date, one of its main committees sadly is as important as ever: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA 1st). The first committee serves as a forum for harmonizing various approaches to global threats and to promote disarmament.

At HNMUN, the two topics on the Disarmament and International Security Committee's agenda were 'Non-state paramilitary groups' and 'Espionage'. In our opinion, this choice of topics showed the importance of cooperation and information sharing in order to ensure global security.

In our committee, as in many others, we organized our work in four steps: On the first day, the different delegations discussed their respective positions and searched for possible allies. Then, we spent the next day drafting working papers which were supposed to serve as a common ground for discussion. On the third day, different regional groups tried to transform the different working papers into draft resolutions. Finally, on the fourth and last day, voting procedure took place.

It did not take long to decide that our committee would start with the topic of 'non state actors and guerrilla movements'. We were very happy with that decision, as Bangladesh unreservedly supports collective efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Together with Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Bangladesh has adopted a regional convention against terrorism. Most importantly however, within the framework of the First Committee, we wanted to stress that the root causes of terrorism needed to be taken more into consideration. Thus, we were prepared to work towards a comprehensive solution to combat terrorism that also takes into consideration economic disadvantages and the fact that some states need support and technological assistance in the fight against terrorism.

The chair then formally opened the debate and asked whether any delegation wished to be put on the speaker's list. The answer to that question came promptly and unambiguously as 191 placards rose simultaneously. Every delegation, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, was eager to introduce their plans and ideas on how to combat global terrorism.

On the second day, the outside temperature in Boston had fallen below 30° Fahrenheit, and the air in the Imperial Ballroom - the place of our conference sessions – felt rather chilly. The moderator greeted us with "Good morning, dear delegates. Welcome to 'New England weather', I am sorry to tell you that the heater currently does not work".

Despite the low temperature, the spirit in our committee was always high and there was never a shortage of placards in the air. When we finally had the floor, we stressed that the root causes of terrorism (among others economic inequalities) should not be neglected. Less developed countries, like Bangladesh, needed economic and technical aid, in order to combat terrorism effectively.

The rest of the second and the whole third day, we tried to form coalitions with other Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Islamic countries during unmoderated caucus, hoping to find a common position.

On the final day, we heard an extremely passionate speech about the necessity of true international cooperation in the field of security (surprisingly!) by North Korea. Shortly after that unexpected contribution, one delegation made the motion to end debate -a motion that had been made unsuccessfully several times before. But to the surprise of the dais as well as to most of the delegations this motion passed narrowly.

Immediately, tactical considerations began about the order in which the three draft resolutions (that had been introduced so far) should be voted on. The draft resolution that contained Bangladesh's proposals was supposed to be voted on in the end. We expected that the draft resolution we favoured would probably have the best chance to get adopted, as there had seemed to be a narrow majority for this proposal. Besides, we hoped that the delegates would support our proposal if the other drafts failed.

As we had expected, the first two draft resolutions failed to get a majority. Subsequently, the moderator announced: "We are now going to vote on Draft Resolution III. All those in favour, please raise your placards." When we looked around, holding our placard high

in the air, we realized that this resolution certainly received more “yes-votes” than the previous ones, but would it be enough for the resolution to be adopted?

It seemed that those who had expected cooperation and harmony on a fine and bright Sunday morning were to be disappointed. There was an atmosphere of defiance: Those whose proposals had failed before, were not willing to support the third draft resolution and offered only scornful laughter instead of genuine cooperation.

After all the votes had been counted by the moderator, the director and the assisting staff it was evident that the final resolution had also failed. Now, some of those, who had hesitated to cooperate before, showed some regret and made a “motion to repeat the voting”. Although the committee director doubted that this was possible, she called the Secretary General to clarify the matter. When the Secretary General arrived, he examined if there had been any serious violations of the regulations during voting procedure. As this had not been the case, the Secretary General stated that it was not possible “to repeat the voting procedure because the committee did not like the result.” So, DISEC did not produce a resolution at HNMUN 2006, but this may be the reason why in the end the simulation came even closer to reality than anyone had expected.

Patrick Schreen



Harvard National Model United Nations 2006
People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Freie Universität Berlin, Germany



Honorable Members of the OIC,

We, the Delegates for The People's Republic of Bangladesh, would like to take a few minutes of your precious time to call your attention to an important issue.

As being a member of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, Bangladesh considers the topics that are dealt with in this committee of utmost importance for gaining respect for our religious traditions. We directly address you, because it seems as if we have the same interests to find a comprehensive solution for the problem of non-state actors.

These are the issues to be addressed:

- right of self-determination as mentioned in the “Friendly Relations Declaration”
- non violation of state sovereignty

The achievement of these goals is the cornerstone of peaceful eradication of terrorism.

Bangladesh looks forward to productive and fruitful cooperation with your delegation.

Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

Patrick Schreen, Anne Tiedemann

Delegation of The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Letter from the Delegation of Bangladesh to Muslim States in the Disarmament and International Security Committee

6.2. Bangladesh in the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (GA 3rd)

represented by Tobias Kraski and Felix Meyer-Christian

Third Committee sessions were announced to take place at the “Terrace” of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. What sounded like the best location in the building, possibly with a view over Boston, turned out to be a room in the basement equipped with plastic folding chairs. With 350 delegates and without air-condition, the air in the “Terrace” felt hot and humid, at about 25° C. As proper representatives from Bangladesh we felt comfortable in this ‘climate’ and saw a clear advantage against the delegates from Iceland (who never showed up, as we discovered later on).

There were two topics on the agenda to be voted on: *Topic A: Global Response to Natural Disaster* and *Topic B: Racism, Xenophobia and International Migration*. We started the session with a moderated caucus in order to discuss the agenda. At this early stage, we noticed that some bloc positions and alliances had already been established. It did not take us long to decide that we would debate Topic A first, very much to our delight, since natural disasters are one of the biggest challenges to Bangladesh. Its geographic location accounts for floods, cyclones and droughts in regular periods. We were therefore quite satisfied that we had been able to emphasize the relevance of this topic. We looked forward to sharing our expertise, as Bangladesh works on programmes for flood forecasting, shelter construction and awareness raising as well as improving the exchange of information between disaster reduction institutions and the scientific community.

As soon as the agenda was set, all states began strategic negotiations in unmoderated caucus in order to get to know the other countries’ positions and interests. We then tried to assemble our South Asian partners. As a result, Bangladesh and China were supposed to act as negotiators for the Least Developed Countries’ interests.



By the next morning, working papers piled up and the bloc positions had gained profile. China had decided not to further cooperate with South Asia and opted for a leading role with developing states worldwide instead. Bangladesh and its remaining partners, among them surprisingly the People’s Republic of North Korea, drafted a working paper designed for South and Southeast Asian countries, but open to amendments by other (preferably developing) nations. These turned out to be mostly African

states, but some European nations were willing to join us as well. Bangladesh, according to our National Priorities and strategies that we had worked out before, also emphasized cooperation with fellow Muslim states.

The third day was dominated by discussing draft resolutions and negotiating with allies. Together with our partners, Bangladesh introduced a draft resolution, which – unfortunately – only was distributed in the beginning of the session in the next morning.

With only a small amount of time left, the Chair suggested to start voting procedure and promoted the draft resolution that seemed most likely to gain a majority of supporters. As we thought that the Chair should remain impartial, we called for a Point of Order, which, however, was ruled out of order by the Chair. Nevertheless, the obvious display of appreciation from many other States for this move showed that we were not the only ones thinking that the chair had transgressed its competences.

Despite – or maybe because of – our enthusiasm, we were slightly disappointed about the preparative work of some other delegations. For example, we had expected the *Hyogo Protocol*, newest part in the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*, to play a vital role in negotiations and to serve as a starting point for discussion, but unfortunately many delegates had never heard of it. Moreover, some delegations seemed “out of character” and did not behave as “true” representatives of “their” country. However, all in all, we, the representatives of Bangladesh, left the Committee with new experiences and a little more expertise in persuasion and strategic negotiation.

Felix Meyer-Christian



Harvard National Model United Nations 2006
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany



Honorable Fellow Delegates,

We are the delegates for The People's Republic of Bangladesh in this committee, and we would like to take a few minutes of your time to call your attention to an important issue.

As being a Least Developed Country (LDC), Bangladesh perceives that the topics that are dealt with in this committee are of utmost importance for the development of these countries. International Migration can play an indispensable role in the economies of LDCs by reducing unemployment and providing remittance flows as a source of foreign exchange.

The most crucial topic for Bangladesh, however, is to find a solution on how to globally respond on natural disasters. Being threatened by natural disasters almost every year with catastrophic outcomes to humans and our national economy, it is Bangladesh's main interest to find effective measures against. Risk reduction, adaptation and prevention of climate change and wise environmental management must top agenda topics for the Committee. Natural disasters pose a bigger challenge to the international community every year, bringing high instability and insecurity.

Believing that your country may have the same opinion as Bangladesh in certain points, we would be pleased if we could manage to work together, in order to get a louder voice in the arena of the international community. We can make a difference!

Sincerely,

Felix Meyer-Christian, Tobias Kraski

Delegation of The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Letter from the Delegation of Bangladesh to fellow Delegations in the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee

6.3. Bangladesh in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA 4th)

represented by Loredana Barbu and Hannes Ebert

Fourth committee sessions took place in an impressive ball room of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, whose opulence still had an air of the roaring twenties. The immense hall provided enough space for three hundred fellow students from all over the globe – more or less prepared but always highly motivated – who had gathered in order to discuss this year's topics of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.



The Special Political and Decolonization Committee is one of the initial six committees of the UN General Assembly and held its first session on 11 January 1946. Since then, it deals with issues of territoriality, self-determination and peacekeeping.

During the first decades, the committee was responsible for assisting the non-self-governing territories on their way to independence (at that time one third of world population, i.e. 750 million, was living in these territories). Today, the 4th committee continues to examine the remaining 16 non-self-governing territories (Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tokelau, American Samoa, Guam, United States Virgin Islands).

For the HNMUN conference, the 4th committee's provisional agenda covered **Role of Foreign States in Structuring Post-Independent States** (topic area A) and **Structural Violence, Political Instability, and Armed Conflict** (topic area B).

On Thursday the 16th of February, the chair, a Harvard sophomore student, opened the floor for formal session in order to adopt the agenda. The first break for informal discussion was dominated by lively scenarios: delegations standing on their chairs, passionately praising their preferences. As intended and –adequately – formulated by Bangladesh, the first topic was chosen with a clear majority. The role of foreign states in restructuring post-independent states was going to be, as expected, *the* topic for the upcoming three days of session.

Naturally, we had prepared our **national priorities**: As one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping troops, Bangladesh particularly emphasizes multilateral cooperation in conflict resolution. In this context, we urged our partners to strengthen regional organizations, such as the African Union, taking into consideration that regional experience and knowledge will eventually enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of interventions. On the global level, we supported the claim that troop sending countries should participate in the decision-making process of international interventions, especially within the newly established Peacebuilding Commission. We also favoured multidimensional, long-term solutions (e.g. the human security approach). We explained that these solutions had to be realized in the framework of an established global partnership, as it was explained in the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

Honorable objectives! But, how were we to convince our fellow delegates to support our ideas? More precisely, how could we get their signature on our draft resolution? For this purpose, from Friday until Sunday, we did not tire of emphasizing Bangladesh's achievements which could serve as an example for other developing societies and post-independent states. Indeed, Bangladesh has a lot to offer in order to serve as an example for other states: it has achieved two of the eight Millenium Development Goals by continuous cooperation with the international community. Besides, we highlighted the significance of microcredits - in developing as well as in many post-independent states - as an instrument in order to achieve sustainable (socio-economic) development. Microcredits are small loans to poor people that aim at enabling them to start their own small business, for example through the purchase of a sewing machine. The concept of microcredits was invented in Bangladesh and due to its success, it has spread over the globe ever since.

Concerning the topic of the role of foreign actors in restructuring post-independent states, we continuously referred to Bangladesh's experience through its numerous peacekeeping missions. Thereby, we tried to fulfil our role as an active member of the United Nations particularly well known for its engagement as a mediator. We therefore tried not only to talk to other South Asian countries, to the members of the *Organization of the Islamic conference* (OIC) or to the group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). On the contrary, we consulted with representatives of Latin and North America as well as Russia and Eastern Europe. At the end of the Conference, this strategy was crowned with success – as a mediator between the Islamic and Asian states on the one side and Americans and Europeans on the other, Bangladesh contributed some paragraphs to the final resolution.



Particularly on the last day of the conference, the work consisted of pure lobbying. The voting procedure was long, but our resolution was finally adopted by the 4th Committee with a broad majority. To give an impression of Bangladesh's successful contributions, the following parts of the final resolution, mostly covering our preferences and intentions, will be quoted:

“I. Intervention

5.b. When approval is not given by host-country, on a case-by-case basis, intervention can be deemed necessary by the regional and international community if it is determined that the government does not reflect the interests of the citizenry.

6. Recommends that the international community utilize already established regional organizations with increased collaboration and economic, social, and logistical support through:

a. The Peacebuilding Commission as a body comprised of the primary peacekeeping force and peacekeeping budget contributors, and representatives of each regional body”

“III. Infrastructural Development:

36. Further Recommends in the financial reconstruction stage the use of microfinance on a municipality level, similar to example of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, such that:

a. Small loans and grants will be granted to poor and otherwise not-credit worthy groups;

b. Technical support and enterprise advice will be available to those who access such credit;”

To sum up, one could say that the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has again confirmed its respectable position in the international community. The reflection about the role of foreign actors in restructuring post-independent states has substantially progressed, and two students of Freie Universität Berlin have learned a lot about negotiation techniques, decision making within the United Nations, the serious challenges of intervention policies, and, last but not least, met many interesting and motivated people.

Loredana Barbu and Hannes Ebert

6.4. Bangladesh in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

represented by Julia Schad and Johannes Zöphel

The United Nations is an organisation with ambitious goals. It considers itself to be “central to global efforts to solve problems that challenge humanity”. Promoting International Security and Human Rights, protecting the environment, fighting disease, and reducing poverty – that means no less than fighting the most complex problems our planet faces today.

How can a single organisation take up this challenge successfully? The key is the United Nations’ role as a coordinator. A central part of its work is gathering and distributing

information, synchronising efforts, and being a platform for discourse and decision making.

The United Nations Development Programme works exactly like this: It is essentially a network. All of the 166 member countries have a local UNDP office, which provides advice and technical support. However, these are also connected to other UNDP offices that might give or require experience, know-how or equipment. The locally acquired data is centralized and published annually in the Human Development Report, in which UNDP informs scientist, policymakers, NGOs and the public about the status of and challenges to development. UNDP focuses on democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, environmental, and HIV/AIDS issues.

At HNMUN, an imaginary UNDP executive committee with about 60 member states was simulated. Topic one on the agenda was *Generic Drugs and Intellectual Property Rights*. For reasons of time we did not discuss topic two: *Small arms and demobilisation*.

We spent four days working intensely negotiating compromises, writing drafts, discussing amendments, and debating. Our topic was of such importance and controversy that it was hard not to get too emotional.

A generic drug is a chemically identical copy of a branded drug. But since branded drugs' prices include research and development costs whereas generic drugs' prices do not, the latter naturally are cheaper. Obviously, this can be an incentive for companies not to invest in R&D but to wait for others to do so in order to merely copy their developments later on. To counterbalance this obstacle to innovation, industrialized countries created patent laws, which grant a timely limited monopoly for R&D results. By protecting companies from competitors that offer generic und thus cheaper versions, legislators created a strong incentive to innovate.

But this solution is not perfect. Since monopolists do not face direct competition, their products are offered at higher prices and the incentive for innovation is ultimately paid for by the consumer. This is acceptable in industrialized countries, because medication is at least partially provided by welfare programmes. However, the situation is very different in underdeveloped countries: Prices for medication are often prohibitive for large parts of the population. Is it morally acceptable that high monopoly prices cost lives in developing countries, although people would have been able to afford generic versions? Of course not. But this is about how far states agree. From here it gets pretty complex. Countries like Bangladesh and NGOs like Oxfam argue that the right to live obliges the international community to come up with a solution that provides cheap generic drugs for everybody. States with strong pharmaceutical industries like the US and Germany agree that medication should be available to everybody. But diseases that threaten the developing world are of minor importance in industrialized countries. So, in order to provide incentives for companies in the developed world to spend R&D on these diseases, they need patent protection worldwide. It always gets tricky when discussing the details. For example, a solution that allows developing countries to manufacture their own generic drugs might be acceptable to countries like India that have the capacity to do so. But the poorest of the poor lack that infrastructure. They would again rely on others.

The conference was an experience of tremendous value to us because it made us *experience* what can not easily be explained theoretically. Developing countries represented the majority of votes. And yet, the resolution we passed can be at best described as “of little help” from the standpoint of Bangladesh. Why did that happen? One reason was conference dynamics. It is not easy to keep a heterogeneous group (i.e. developing states) from being subdivided by small disputes. And tactical manoeuvres from the industrialized world in order to break alliances by promising advantages to specific states did not help either. The most important reason, however, was that compromises aiming at making the world less unequal naturally include some transfer of funds from developed to developing countries. This gives effectively a veto power to the developed world.

In real negotiations it is even more difficult for underdeveloped countries. The 2005 WTO Summit in Hong Kong was disappointing to the seven delegates that had come from Bangladesh – a country with 150 million inhabitants. The US diplomats – representing 300 million inhabitants – had done quite a good job on the other hand. How many were there? 350.

Still, judging the UN one always has to consider the enormity of the task. Progress is being made slowly, but persistence may ultimately lead to success. The will to strive for the better was common to all in UNDP at Harvard National Model United Nations 2006.

Julia Schad and Johannes Zöphel



6.5. Bangladesh in the United Nations World Conference (UNWC) on Unilateral Acts of States

represented by Miriam Müller, Julia Bernhardt, Juliane Mendelsohn and David Stein,

In addition to regular committees, HNMUN staff had for the first time decided to convoke a United Nations World Conference for the 2006 session. This was a novelty, but we were promised that it would be one of the most innovative committees ever held at HNMUN so our expectations were high.

The task of the World Conference was to draft a comprehensive treaty on Unilateral Acts of States, a topic that the International Law Commission has been working on for more than ten years without much tangible outcome – although some success had been achieved lately. To sum it up: We were facing a challenge of high topicality.

The Conference itself was divided into three specialized subcommittees. These had different tasks: The Definitions Committee had to find an all-embracing legal definition that would serve as a basis for the work in the other committees, a delicate and difficult assignment that demanded a high level of accuracy. The Applications Committee had to apply the definitions in case studies in order to examine their impact on the political reaction of states. The Enforcement Committee eventually had to consider how non-complying states could be sanctioned.

At the end of the conference, all three subcommittees met in the largest hall of the hotel in order to complete the work, i.e. to draft a treaty comprising the main results of each subcommittee. Finally, we had to vote on the treaty and then to sign it.

Consequently, the UNWC required extensive preparation, an excellent understanding of international law and a good sense of feasibility, i.e. of what could be achieved in the conference.

As we were in different committees, there was little chance to modify our positions or strategy in the course of the conference. Therefore, we had spent innumerable hours in order to formulate our national priorities and to agree on what Bangladesh would maximally accept as an outcome. All in all, we were well prepared but a bit sceptical about the task that lay before us.

David Stein

6.5.1. Bangladesh in the UNWC Subcommittee Definitions

represented by David Stein

The United Nations World Conference was a remarkable experience. The task of the “Definitions Subcommittee” was to find a definition on “Unilateral Acts of States”. Unilateral Acts are a category of international law meant to make international relations more predictable and stable. Therefore, most importantly, we had to determine who could express unilateral acts on behalf of a state and how. Our draft articles were to be handed to the other two subcommittees as they needed our work, which was inevitably the basis of the treaty.

It had not been easy to find information on Bangladesh’s position towards the topic of ‘Unilateral Acts of States’. However, as Bangladesh has repeatedly been victim of unilateral acts – for example India is unilaterally channelling water from the Ganges River onto its territory – we concluded that LDCs are extremely vulnerable to unilateral action. Bangladesh is also concerned by unilateral nuclear test by India and Pakistan. This illustrates that third states can be subject to a unilateral act, even though the state performing the act did not intend to affect a third party. Therefore, we had concluded that immediate action in order to remedy a harmful unilateral act would be a main priority for Bangladesh.

I was excited to find out whether our demanding preparation had been fruitful or not: From the beginning I tried hard to find partners with whom I could formulate a common position. In order to do so, I had prepared letters which I sent to the other delegates, hoping to obtain as much attention as possible. This was, however, not as easy as I had assumed – unfortunately, many potential partners were not represented at all. Nevertheless, I managed to gather some delegates and we exchanged our standpoints and found a compromise. Then we began to negotiate with other countries and tried hard to persuade them to support our definition.

Unfortunately, I had the impression that some delegates were not well prepared. I had some difficulties explaining basic legal principles or the results achieved by the International Law Commission. Consequently, I had to clarify the distinction of already



existing legal instruments and unilateral acts. This was a time-consuming and challenging task. But I was not discouraged. On the contrary, it was an excellent occasion to negotiate with other delegates and to explain Bangladesh’s position. In fact, I am proud to say, that it was in part due to my commitment in explaining and clarifying the legal framework of the UN that a satisfactory definition was agreed upon.

During the negotiations, we especially tried to approach India and Pakistan, as we assumed that their consent would be a major step towards the ratification of the convention. As they were not as much interested in a restrictive convention as we were, we tried to find a compromise. And our negotiations were successful: We managed to

convince both states that a balanced agreement would have a positive impact on all countries. With India and Pakistan as our partners, it was quite easy to convince other South Asian states to support our proposals.

On the second day, the UNWC committees had the opportunity to hear two Harvard academics on the topic, lecturing International Law at Harvard University. Obviously, the chair had deemed it necessary that experts elucidate the topic. They gave a short introduction to international law and then discussed the role of unilateral acts in the existing legal structure. It was a great experience for us to participate in this workshop and certainly a highlight of the conference. However, contrary to its intention, the workshop created some confusion and encouraged delegates to abandon the definition which we had put forward beforehand.

On the last day, all delegates from all three subcommittees came together in order to vote on the articles, to put them together as a treaty and to sign it.

Bangladesh's efforts to be legally precise and to attach adequate significance to existing international law had an immense impact on the final version of the treaty. However, we only accepted to sign the treaty with reservations, as some clauses obviously contradicted international law or were insufficient.

The challenging task of organizing and conducting a three-fold committee which had to coordinate and match whatever was said in one of the subcommittees, may have been underestimated by HNMUN staff, maybe also because some knowledge of international law was essential to dealing with this topic. Unfortunately, many lacked this knowledge – a fact that was difficult to bear for those who were thoroughly prepared. So, I have to admit, that my expectations were not fulfilled.

But must expectations always be fulfilled? I learned a lot, not only about diplomacy, (mediation) and the United Nations but also about other (Nations') approaches to rhetoric, international relations or conflict resolution. The more I consider my disappointment about the Conference the more I realize that it was an indispensable experience which helped me to gain insights and which will undoubtedly remain precious for the rest of my life – more than any successful outcome of the Conference.

David Stein

6.5.2. Bangladesh in the UNWC Subcommittee Enforcement

represented by Julia Bernhardt and Juliane Mendelsohn

To attend a conference on the enforcement of a not yet fully existent definition of Unilateral Acts of States felt much like being thrown into deep water and asked to swim. And the more we swam, the murkier the water got.

Already in the preparation process, we discovered that most states do not have a precise stand on the topic – including the People's Republic of Bangladesh. As it is among the Least Developed Countries (LCDs), it understandably prefers to focus on more vital matters, such as fighting hunger and diseases. So, how could we succeed in a task the

International Law Commission has been working on for over ten years without achieving satisfying results?

Our subcommittee's task was to find ways to enforce or guarantee the compliance with the terms of the conventions we were about to draft. Over the course of its brief history as an independent state, Bangladesh has been and continues to be a victim to various harmful unilateral acts, for example India draining off water of the Ganges River, so that we could use this as an analytic criterion in order to estimate favourable enforcements, sanctions and methods of monitoring states compliance with the 'treaty'.

Concerning monitoring, we chose multilateral solutions, opting for global and regional cooperation and were willing to lay our trust in Non Governmental Organizations. Many of them are represented in Bangladesh.

When considering sanctions, an independent arbitral tribunal, setting up a system of monetary damages and cooperation with the Security Council was a suitable measure. Lastly, though, the most important organ to take into account was of course the International Court of Justice. We realized that it has the means and the competence to best act in the interests of its parties and that its jurisdiction could be imposed, quite simply, by the mere inclusions of a jurisdictional clause in the treaty.

All in all, we mastered to harmonize our ideas with the interests of our neighbors and other developing states and thereby assured the inclusion of rapid countermeasures against unilateral acts in the treaty. Moreover, we agreed that third states could take steps against unilateral acts to the extent in which they were concerned.

On arrival at the conference, we were unsure of what to expect. It was a tough and terribly complex topic for a debate. Were we about to talk with the super-jurists; was there a chance for a fruitful debate? In retrospect both questions could probably be answered with a 'no', we were adequately prepared though the challenge remained large. Confusion seemed to sweep through the entire conference, but lastly there were certain efforts that pertained to brilliance but not always to consensus.

We learned to listen to suggestion that were far from our own ideas, we learned to mediate and bring together ideas. We faced the challenges of international diplomacy, i.e. trying to explain ones own complex ideas when other states want to hear nothing else than what speaks in favor of their own interests and suggestion.

An experience that was hard, complex, challenging, not to say bitter at times, but in retrospect we believe it was an experience unlike any other, an eye-opening one, from which we gained much knowledge about matters that reach far beyond the topic and hence an experience that will stay with us and aid us, more than any superb treaty could ever do.

Juliane Mendelsohn

6.5.3. Bangladesh in the UNWC Subcommittee Applications

represented by Miriam Müller

The third Subcommittee of the United Nations World Conference was supposed to check the results of the first two committees and to judge the effectiveness and applicability of their ideas. More precisely, our task was to analyse “past and current examples of unilateral acts”. By applying general international law and the newly proposed draft articles, we examined the shortcomings of the results proposed by the other subcommittee. Our conclusions and recommendations were sent back to the other subcommittees.



At the beginning of the Conference, it was difficult for the delegations to agree on a set of cases to work with. Moreover, we had not yet received a definition from the Definitions subcommittee which could serve as a basis for our work. In retrospective, it would have been more productive to start the work of the applications committee only after having agreed on a general definition of unilateral acts. Additionally, some delegations were not aware of the fact that unilateral actions and wrongful acts were not supposed to be the subject of our treaty. On Friday, we received countless drafts, memoranda and notes to work on and thus were finally able to start our task.

Unfortunately, now, time was running out and it was not possible to look through all cases. The management of three committees, working simultaneously on the same topic had exceeded the capabilities of the organizing staff as well as of the delegates.

However, I still tried to find partners who would support Bangladesh’s interests, i.e. rapid reaction mechanism to remedy harmful consequences of unilateral acts and assistance to affected third states. As most Least Developed Countries were not represented in the committee, coalition building was difficult. Eventually, Bangladesh and Pakistan worked together for the rest of the conference. This alliance also found resonance in the other committees and in the plenary session on Saturday, in which all subcommittees convened in order to sign the treaty.

Unfortunately, due to some unclear formulations and legal inaccuracies, Bangladesh had to sign the treaty with reservations. Nevertheless it was an instructive experience.

Miriam Müller

7. Press Releases and Articles

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**Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in
International Model United Nations Conferences 1995 - 2006**

1995: National Model United Nations; Republic of Lithuania
1996: National Model United Nations; Syrian Arab Republic
1997: National Model United Nations; Kingdom of Norway
1998: National Model United Nations; Republic of South Africa (Honorable Mention)
1999: National Model United Nations; People's Republic of Bangladesh
2000: National Model United Nations; Republic of Turkey (Honorable Mention)
2001: National Model United Nations; Argentine Republic
2002: National Model United Nations, Republic of Poland
2003: Harvard World Model United Nations; Republic of Nicaragua
2004: National Model United Nations; International Council on Social Welfare
2005: National Model United Nations; Republic of Guatemala (Honorable Mention)
2006: Harvard National Model United Nations; People's Republic of Bangladesh
2006: National Model United Nations; United Arab Emirates (Honorable Mention, Position Paper Award)

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