



# UN-FORUM

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## National Model United Nations 2015

*Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin*

*representing Israel*

*22 – 26 March 2015, New York*

Freie Universität Berlin



*“We must think differently, look at things in a different way. Peace requires a world of new concepts, new definitions.”*

*Yitzhak Rabin*

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# National Model United Nations 2015

*Report of Participation of Freie Universität Berlin  
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22 – 26 March 2015, New York City*

Edited by  
Teis Tonsgaard Andersen, Karen Heckman, Peggy Wittke  
and  
Aylin Mengi

On behalf of the Berlin-Brandenburg Branch of the  
United Nations Association of Germany

## **National Model United Nations 2015**

### **The Delegation of Israel**



Back row (from left to right):

Viktoria Neubelt, Lena Ens, Antonia Binder, Pia Ernestus, Isa Adriane Günther,  
Sven Brünner, Yifan Zhang, Gandhi Vela Vargas, Teis Tonsgaard Andersen

Front row (from left to right):

Miriam Bulbarelli, Maria Fernanda Bravo Rubio, Aylin Mengi, Karen Heckman,  
Berna Orak, Veronika Sobolová, Leon Aretz

Photo Credit: Peggy Wittke (Faculty Advisor)



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### **Foreword by the Head Delegates**

With the Middle East as an epicenter for many of the current conflicts of the world and the United Nations as an epicenter for the creation and keeping of peace, the NMUN Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin was put on a complex task: representing Israel at the 2015 NMUN in New York.

Our Delegation was almost as diverse and multicultural as the United Nations itself with participants between 18 and 30 years coming from all over the world and from different academic fields. This mix of competences, knowledge and experience was the perfect foundation for the Delegation to deal with the complex task before us.

Highly motivated and under the fantastic supervision of Peggy Wittke, we spend months, days and hours of meetings, debates, presentations, policy alignment and research in order to be prepared for the world-wide biggest model United Nations competition in New York.

Did any of us know beforehand what we had signed up? Probably not! Being part of the NMUN Delegation was in no way comparable to any regular course at university. It was not just about gaining knowledge on international law, politics and diplomacy. However, it offered us a great opportunity to develop our personal skills, building up the ability to

understand other perspectives as our own and learning to work together. We could learn even more, due to the fact that we represented the highly disputed foreign policy of Israel, with its difficult inter-institutional position and coalition building within the UN.

The United Nations aims at solving complex tasks by interacting, sharing, and listening to each other. The same holds true for the NMUN Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin. We would not have been able to deal sufficiently with the tasks before us if it were not for our sponsors, the guest speakers, and especially Peggy Wittke, who all contributed and were willing to share their perspectives and knowledge with us. On behalf of the whole Delegation we want to thank you for all your effort and time!

Words on a piece of paper cannot do justice to the experiences we have gained and the transformation we went through thanks to our participation at the NMUN 2015. Nonetheless, this report attempts to describe the adventures, challenges and achievements we faced on our journey from a regular classroom in suburbs of Berlin to the United Nations General Assembly Hall in Manhattan, New York.

We hope this report will inspire others to participate in the NMUN, but also to face the world with an open mind and to interact and share with each other.

Teis Tonsgaard Andersen and Veronika Sobolová



## **Sponsors of the FU Berlin Delegation at the National Model United Nations 2015**

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## 1. The National Model United Nations Conference

The *National Model United Nations* (NMUN) was founded in 1946 as a successor to the *Model League of Nations* which originated in 1923. These programmes are directed at students to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and the work and function of international organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of the *Model United Nations* programme 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 co-operation partners like the *Federal Foreign Office*, various *Model United Nations* conferences throughout the year in Berlin.

The *National Model United Nations* today is the largest simulation of the *United Nations* in the world. Each year more than 5,000 students from North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for five days at the Hilton Hotel or the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, New York, and the *United Nations Headquarters*. The *National Model United Nations* is sponsored by the *National Collegiate Conference Association*, a non-profit organisation, which works closely with the United Nations and was granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council in 1995. The Board of Directors co-ordinates and supervises the simulation. The conference is administered by a 55-member Secretariat which is composed of graduate and undergraduate students who are elected annually. Head of the Secretariat is the Secretary-General, supported by a Director-General and a Chief of Staff.

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

During the five days of the conference, the Delegates of the various committees strive to work out proposals and draft resolutions. At that point it becomes clear that the knowledge, which has to be obtained, cannot be limited to the country or non-governmental organization represented, but has to include information on ‘friends and foes’ as well, in order to get into contact with the proper partners during negotiations. The participating students are expected to behave as active diplomats, who have to

formulate their positions and try to enforce them, but at the same time have to be open-minded towards compromises, always taking into consideration the special interests of the represented nation or non-governmental organization. This marks one of the major attractions of the *National Model United Nations* conference: each Delegate has to participate in the negotiations by ensuring that his nation's/non-governmental organization's interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other Delegates, failures are immediately realized, as well as – most importantly – success.

At the end of the conference, voting procedures take place at the *United Nations Headquarters*. Selected resolutions are on the floor of the General Assembly Plenary and the Economic and Social Council. The passing resolutions are forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke





## 2. The FU Berlin NMUN 2015 Delegation



### **Teis Tonsgaard Andersen**

was born in Copenhagen. He holds a bachelors and a master's degree in law from the University of Copenhagen and is currently doing a master in German and international law at Freie Universität Berlin. He has been working 1,5 years with international and European law in the Danish Ministry of Justice where he gained his

interest in the role of the United Nations. Participation in the NMUN 2015 was therefore a unique possibility to explore this interest further.

At NMUN 2015 he represented Israel in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations with Leon Aretz.



**Leon Aretz** studies law in the seventh semester at Freie Universität Berlin. Within his studies he specialized in public international law and European law. During his student-exchange at the Osaka University in Japan he focused on international, but also Japanese law. He speaks English and Spanish fluently. The latter is due to his exchange year in high school in Zacatecas, Mexico.

Subsequently after graduation, he fulfilled his community service in San José, Costa Rica. He is highly interested in international diplomacy, which is also the reason that motivated him to apply for the NMUN program.

At NMUN 2015 he represented Israel in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations with Teis Tonsgaard Andersen.



**Antonia Binder** was born in Hamburg and has started studying law in 2011. She transitioned from the University of Potsdam to Freie Universität Berlin in 2012. After accomplishing a public international law course abroad in Australia, she has gained interest in international law and the United Nations. Experiencing the National Model United Nations as a delegate would



be a great opportunity to become acquainted with diplomacy and international issues, while also improving in debating and public speaking.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Committee with Pia Ernestus.

**Maria Fernanda Bravo** was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela. She studies Business Administration at Freie Universität Berlin in her fourth semester and participated in several MUN at the intercollegiate framework in Caracas. For Maria to participate in NMUN 2015 was a new challenge because of the complexity and size of the



Model. Nevertheless this challenge represents for Maria a chance to think outside the box; to find solutions for problems that seem far away, but that relate to all of us. It represents an opportunity for many young people to understand, but most importantly accept another person's view and opinions.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the General Assembly Second Committee with Karen Heckman.



**Sven Brünner** is studying at Freie Universität Berlin in the Master's program History of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century with a focus on International Relations and a specialization on East Asia. Always looking for a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical usage, he has gained diverse work experience in

the field of international relations. To deepen further his understanding of the United Nations as well as diplomacy in general, he was happy to participate in the NMUN 2015.

At NMUN 2015 he represented Israel in the General Assembly First Committee with Lena Ens.



**Miriam Bulbarelli** is a graduate student at Freie Universität Berlin from Italy. She completed her bachelor degree in Political Science in Rome at the LUISS Guido Carli. Miriam is particularly interested in EU-related topics and International Political Economy and sees NMUN as a great opportunity to widen her knowledge.

**Lena Ens** is a Political Science student completing her Bachelor degree at Otto-Suhr-Institute. Her academic interest lies with International Relations and particularly with German foreign policy. Having been involved in the organization of MUN Conferences in Berlin, she wanted to get engaged thematically and experience the MUN-spirit as a delegate. NMUN 2015 therefore is an amazing opportunity to participate in challenging debates and to get to know the art of diplomacy firsthand. Most importantly though NMUN offers the privilege to make a contribution to the work of such a harmonious team and to form new friendships with dedicated young people!



At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the General Assembly First Committee with Sven Brunner.

**Pia Ernestus** is studying law in her 4<sup>th</sup> year at Freie Universität Berlin. Being lucky enough to already have accomplished several experiences abroad, she has always had a great interest in foreign politics and other cultures. As she engages with international law academically, NMUN offered her the unique opportunity to gain practical



knowledge while providing vital insights into the world of political communication. Debating with students from all over the world turned out to be an extremely enriching experience – both intellectually and personally.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with Antonia Binder.



**Isa Adriane Günther** was born in Berlin. Since October 2014 she is enrolled at Freie Universität Berlin for a Bachelor studies program in mathematics and English with the option to become a teacher. Assuming the project NMUN 2015 would help her learn more about debating and negotiation techniques as

well as international relations she was very interested in participating. In addition she is extremely interested in understanding how politics are shaped and to see into the United Nations and its issues in exceptional ways.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the General Assembly Third Committee with Veronika Sobolová.



**Karen Heckman** is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of North American and Latin American studies. She was born in New Jersey, grew up between Costa Rica, Guatemala and Germany and now studies in Berlin. Highly intrigued by different cultures surrounding her but also interested on understanding the political and social conflicts, she wishes to use

her personal experiences to find a viable solution for her native countries in the future. The NMUN experience sparked this wish even more, by firsthand diplomatic communication and further understanding of the complexity of the fascinating world of the UN.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the General Assembly Second Committee with Maria Fernanda Bravo.



**Aylin Mengi** is a graduate Political Science student at Freie Universität Berlin. She was born and raised up in Berlin. Her academic focus lies within the fields of International Relations, European Studies, as well as International Development and Environmental Policy. With a deep interest in international organizations,



she considers taking part in NMUN as a means of involving in procedures of gaining solutions and looking deeper at the system of the United Nations.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the United Nations Environment Programme with Gandhi Alejandro Vela Vargas.

**Viktoria Neubelt** is a law student at FU Berlin and is in her third year of study. She was born in Berlin and decided to spend most of her education in Berlin as well. After going to school in London and Paris, Viktoria is highly interested in cultural exchange and dialogue, different languages but also constructive solution-finding



for the problems of today. Concerning her further study carrier, she plans to focus on International Law and will also spend the next year of study in Lausanne. Therefore, the NMUN in New York was the perfect opportunity to combine all these aspects and to experience the work of diplomats at the UN firsthand.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund with Yifan Zhang.



**Berna Orak** was born in Frankfurt/Main and is of Turkish origin. She studies Law at Freie Universität Berlin and is currently in her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. As she has always been interested in international politics with a focus on juristic aspects, she sees NMUN as a good possibility to gain an insight into the life of a diplomat and

into the work process of the United Nations. Participating to the NMUN is a great opportunity to improve problem solving skills.



**Veronika Sobolova** is studying Political Science and International Relations and is from Slovakia. She has practical experience as an intern at the German Bundestag, the German Atlantic Association, the Slovak Foreign Affairs ministry and ERSTE Foundation in Vienna.

Veronika is a member of the Future Lab in Brussels, and the Körber Foundation and thinks that NMUN is a good opportunity to improve her skills.

At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the General Assembly Third Committee with Isa Adriane Günther.

**Gandhi Alejandro Vela**

**Vargas** was born and raised in Quito, where he went to the Catholic University and obtained a Law Degree. He moved to Germany in pursuit of a Legum Master and applied after its finish for a PhD position at Freie Universität Berlin. Currently he is doing his PhD research in Comparative Constitutional



Law. His motivation to participate at NMUN was to widen his knowledge and to experience international relations and international law, and also to be able to represent Freie Universität Berlin with his international background and skills.

At NMUN 2015 he represented Israel in the United Nations Environment Programme with Aylin Mengi.

**Yifan Zhang** is a law student from China. She completed her bachelor degree in Shanghai, China and is currently in her master study at Freie Universität Berlin. She is very interested in international legal affairs since she started to study international law. Hence NMUN 2015 is a great opportunity for her to get a closer insight in this field.



At NMUN 2015 she represented Israel in the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund with Viktoria Neubelt.

### 3. The Republic of Israel – An Introduction



#### 3.1 History

Israel sits on the historic place of the Jewish people, and the land known as Israel has been under the rule of various different cultures over the centuries. The following rules and years ruled are: Byzantine rule between the years 390 and 611, the Arab rule between 636 and 1099, the Crusades between 1099 and 1291, the Mamluk rule between 1260 and 1517 and the Ottoman rule between 1517 und 1920. The British Mandate of Palestine took place from 1923 until 1948. The development of history converted in a series of factors for the establishment of the State of Israel. Before the Second World War there was persecution over the years, Zionism at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th Century, World War I and the Balfour Declaration of 1917. The fresh established United Nations declared in 1947 the Partition Plan that divided Palestine into a Jewish State and an Arab part with Jerusalem under international Regime. The events of World War II and particularly the Persecution and Holocaust were the main reasons that the international community felt urged to establish the new State.

After the proclamation of the new republic on May 14, 1948, the young state of Israel faced the War of Independence because of the Arab invasion. 1949 is a year of particular importance because Israel became a member of the United Nations, although the Arab States did not recognize Israel as a State. Because of the land given to Israel, thousands of Palestinian refugees fled from Israel, and on the other hand thousands of Jews fled to Israel from diverse European and Muslim countries. The United States of America gave



important financial help to Israel, so the new state could cope with the high rising population.

During the following decades, armed conflicts shaped Israel. Exceptional was the one started by the Egyptian president Nassar that called to destroy Israel completely and called "The Six Day War". The Arab States formed an alliance against Israel which found itself isolated and outnumbered. The first strike made by Israel conquered the territories of the Gaza strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank. In 1967 the resolution setting guidelines for a peaceful solution ended with Israel's withdrawal.

The "Yom Kippur War" took place in October of 1973 and involved an Alliance between Syria and Egypt against Israel, called to be the Arab reconquest of the Sinai and Golan. Israel did not only repel the attack but advanced in Syria and Egypt.

Anwar El Sadat, president of Egypt made the first recognition of Israel by an Arab head of state, leading to the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty of March 26 the year was. In June 1985 the most of the troops from Lebanon were withdrawn by Israel.

Israel suffered two Intifadas (rebellion). The first one took place between 1987 and 1991, ended with the Oslo Accords of 1993. The Second Intifada called the Al-Aqsa Intifada was the Second Palestinian uprising against Israel between September 2000 and February 2005. This rise against the State of Israel ended with the unilateral withdrawal of Gaza and the construction of the Israeli West Bank barrier.



### 3.2 Society and Culture

Although small in territory, with a population of 8 million people, Israel symbolizes a **melting pot culture**, with vast influence from different immigrants from various countries. The small country offers the highest standard of living in the Middle East and the fifth highest of whole Asia. The Jewish citizens represent 4/5 of the whole population, constituting of survivors from the Holocaust, their offspring and those who have decided to escape anti-Semitism especially from Russia, Ethiopia and France. Israeli Arabs are the greatest minority, they are educated bilingually and think themselves as Palestinians. They are regarded with Israeli political and civil rights, which in recent times have gained more influence in the Knesset (parliament).

Established as a Jewish State, Israel relies on the so-called Law of Return, enacted in 1950, with the purpose to empower the Zionist credo. This means, that every Jew has the right to come to this country as an *oleh* (Jewish immigrant), founded on the Right of Aliyah - immigration of Jews in general and basic word of the Zionist credo.

The **Zionist movement** defines Israel's Culture. The idea behind the concept of Zionism is that the construction of a Jewish identity is only possible through the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine, "the Land of Israel". The Zionist movement was triggered by the spread of anti-Semitism in the 18th century. In the 19th century the Zionist movement emerges as an attempt to bridge the gap between the Jewish personal life and their public life in a secular society. With the Enlightenment and its spirit of emancipation started a social and cultural assimilation of Jews in European countries.

#### Streams of Zionism

**Political Zionism:** The main figure is Theodor Herzl, his ideology was based on the premise that Jews are a nation; therefore a sovereign state is the solution to their problem and to the anti-Semitism. The Jewish state is seen as a worldwide necessity and responsibility.

**Cultural Zionism:** The main figure is Ahad Ha'Am, Herzl ideological opponent, he emphasizes that Zionism should be a cultural movement. The main idea was that Jews should be guided by their historic quest for spiritual greatness if they acquire a state.

**Religious Zionism:** Were the minorities within the movement and followed the premise that "A Jewish nation without adherence to religion is like a body without a soul". The main idea was that religion and state should be a unity and religion should be at the core of institutions.

Historical Facts on the success of Zionism

-Balfour Declaration (1917)

➤ Mandate for Palestine from the League of Nations (1922)

➤ Judaism as a nationality for the first time

-World War II

- UNSCOP (United Nations Special Committee on Palestine) recommends to part Israel into a Jewish state and an Arab state (Sep 1947)
- United Nations General Assembly ratifies the recommendation (Nov 1947)
- **May 14, 1948 foundation of the State of Israel**

The success of the Zionism movement can be recognized in the mass immigration that followed the establishment of the State of Israel. Today, Zionism is still Israel's official ideology and defines its culture based on the Jewish history, language, and traditions to create after all the Jewish identity. The Zionist movement is itself defined by a diversity of cultures, because Jews from all over the world immigrated to Israel and brought with them their various cultural and religious traditions.



Furthermore, something very essential to Jewish culture are the **Kibbutzim**. A Kibbutz is a Jewish community dedicated to mutual aid and social justice and is based on joined ownership of property, equality, mutual production and consumption as well as education. Today, about 2.5 % of Israel's population lives in 270 Kibbutzim. Nevertheless, the Kibbutzim face the problems of the free-market-development; either by becoming economically insignificant or noticing a lack of personnel leading to the employment of paid workers, which is contrary to their principle of self-reliance. These trends lead to the maceration of the communities and their principals.

Another important issue in Israeli society is the protests for social justice, which started in summer 2011 and took many thousands of Israelis to the streets. The protesters denounce the raising costs of housing, transport, childcare and food and low salaries for many professionals. The protesters are mainly young people, having great support from the population.

### 3.3 Political System

In order to better understand the political environment of Israel, it is mandatory to examine its bedrock system, units and their interrelations. Following the old principle of checks and balances, Israel also introduced the idea of **segregated state's power**, which divides the potency of the state into the legislature, executive branch and the judiciary.

To begin with its **legislative** branch, Israel has a highly fragmented parliament (Knesset), due to low entry threshold of 3.25 % of overall votes. Thus, the parliament consists of ten different parties today, resulting in a highly fragmented party system that represents the social cleavages of Israeli society. Creating alliances and coalition governments is a demanding task due to the wide spectrum of parties represented in the parliament. Concerning the voting rights, Israelis are permitted to vote for a party from 18 years old. To get elected they must be 21 years old. It is, however, unlikely to perceive candidates with that age, since Israeli citizens, regardless of their sex, are obliged to complete a three years military service. After its performance, another three years – referred to as “cooling-off-period” – are required to apply for any candidateship for political positions. Another interesting fact is that Israel is a democracy without any constitutional anchorage. Instead of a written constitution, its foundation was developed over time and perpetuated in eleven incoherent Basic Laws.

The current Head of State and therefore the head of the **executive** is Reuven Revlin. In that function, he only possesses symbolic character. The Prime Minister, who is momentarily Benjamin Netanyahu, holds the most influential position within the executive branch. The Prime Minister is on top of a specialized institutional apparatus with overall 28 different ministries. The high specialization expresses itself in partly very specific tasks, such as the Ministry for Senior Citizens and the Ministry of Religious Services.

Most notably in comparison with other Western **judicial** systems is the strict division into secular and religious courts in Israel. While secular courts are in charge of cases with civil-, labor-, penalty- or military cases, the religious courts are accountable for issues of marriage, divorce and guardianship. The next instance of appeal for secular courts is district courts and finally the Supreme Court. Religious courts, however, transfer their cases directly to the Supreme Court for judgment. Next to being the highest instance of appeal, the Supreme Court simultaneously functions as the High Court of Justice, which treats cases “in matters in which it considers it necessary to grant relief in the interests of justice and which are not within the jurisdiction of any other court or tribunal”.



### 3.4 Economy

Being considered as a leading innovator and consistently ranked high in terms of development, Israel has one of the most resilient and technologically advanced market economies. This is all the more astonishing when considering Israel's frame conditions, facing scarcity, and limitation. Due to the essential and urgent demand of improving the surrounding living environment, a pretty efficient way to concentrate labour force, knowledge, and resources was adopted.

Although it was successful at first, the traditional economic structure, which was based on small-scale and self-initialized organizations, could no longer meet new upcoming and complex economic needs. Therefore, an **economic reform** with three main aspects took place: the reform in capital market by limiting government control in the economic sector, privatization, and the promotion of free trade. On a macroeconomic level, one of the most important progresses is the 1985 Economic Stabilization Plan which aims to decrease inflation, equalize the balance of payments, and stabilize the economy. With such measures being taken, Israel has changed from a developing to an industrialized country.

However, there are emerging new “**hot issues**”. The liberalization of the economy leads to a redistribution of wealth, widening the gap between rich and poor. Around five families own most of the country's wealth. In 2013, Benjamin Netanyahu established new

reforms that shortened many social welfare benefits which widen the gap even further. One should not forget that the country's area is limited just like its domestic market. The Arab League's policies prohibit merchandise with Israel: boycotts of trade cost approximately billions of dollars. However, the Arab League boycott could not curb Israel's remarkable economic development due to the export market overseas. Nowadays, the largest trading partner is the United States and, furthermore, Israel has trade and cooperation agreements with the European Union and Canada. Besides, the economic planning is very difficult because one of the problems is the demographic growth. In addition to that, the unemployment rate is rather high.

Progress has been made due to a shift to sustainability, the steering towards green economy through the **green growth** programme, an increasingly diversified productive base, and ongoing structural reforms. When it comes to naming examples of industries that particularly stick out in Israel's economy, the internationally renowned solar research and development industry should be noted first. In search for a stable source of energy, this industry represents a national priority due to the lack of natural resources.

Furthermore, the high-technology industry plays a significant role as it is not only Israel's most highly developed and industrialized sector, but also ranks the country 4th in scientific activity worldwide. Supporting this statement with further useful facts and figures, one should take into consideration that 200 start-ups are created annually in Israel, ranking Tel Aviv the second best city for high-tech start-ups after the Silicon Valley and, as a consequence, becomes a home for the high-tech industry's key players.



Similarly determining for Israel's economy is the tourism sector – it is sufficient to say that it has the highest number of museums per capita in the world. Furthermore, Israel is a major player in the global arms market, putting the country among the 15 largest arms exporters in the world and making the defence industry a large employer in Israel. While Israel represents one of the world's three major centers for polished diamonds, it is well-known for textile and fashion industry.

Finally, it is important to refer to the agricultural sector. Despite the fact that the country lacks water, Israel – as one of the world's leading greenhouse-food-exporting countries – is largely self-sufficient in agricultural products while only importing substantial quantities of grain. **High technology** is now in the leading status in Israel's economy. It is not surprising that Israel is ranked first worldwide in expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) as a percentage of GDP. Many important corporates have research and development facilities in Israel. The tag 'Made in Israel' is now comparable to the tag 'Made in Germany'.

### 3.5 Foreign Policy

Settled in a sensitive and divided, but rather dynamic region, the priority theme of Israel's foreign policy is maintaining and ensuring the security of its citizens. However, this goal is overshadowed by the Arab-Israeli conflict that touches all areas of policy and influences the relations and behaviour of neighbouring countries. More than half a century after the founding of the Israeli state, the surrounding Middle East is still far away from stability in order to meet security.

Shifting constantly from a local to a larger trans-national scale, the Arab-Israeli conflict refers to political strain and military clashes between Israel and a number of Arab states and actors, especially the **Palestine Liberation Organization** (PLO), the **Palestinian National Authority** (PNA), and **Hamas**. The main topics of dispute are issues concerning state borders, the status of Jerusalem, the return of Palestinian refugees, the water distribution, the settlement policy, and military operations. To bridge the fundamental differences between the conflicting parties on the crucial questions, negotiation tables have been launched without any notable progress in recent years. Furthermore, the latest military operations "Cast Lead" (2008), "Pillar of Defence" (2012), and "Protective Edge" (2014) brought no success. There is no sign of recovery that may reduce the threat of an upcoming third intifada.

However, closer examinations reveal the evidence on an asymmetrical, regional significance of the conflict: **Iraq**, **Lebanon** and **Syria** are conflicting parties and in "state of war" in terms of international law. The launching of the "Quds Day" as an annual public holiday combined with annihilation threats through the nuclear program and the support of Hezbollah, which is considered as a terror-organization, has led Iran to become "the greatest threat to Israel" in recent history. A variety of Middle East and





North African states refuse to recognise Israel causing diplomatic isolation and boycotts within the global community. The Security Council adopted more than 80 resolutions that criticise Israel for violations, which is leading to the assumption that the **United Nations** (UN) is biased. Since this isolation continues at agencies within the UN framework, Israel's membership is limited to marginal activities like development-related themes. Moreover, counterterrorism within the Middle East is feeding Israeli's doubts on regional stability.

Due to its stance on the regional and international level, Israel is very dependent on bilateral relations inside and outside its region. An essential countermeasure in order to achieve the principal objective of 'exploiting and realizing security concerns' is to strengthen moderate forces within the region and establish diplomatic relation to willing states. Country-specific considerations confirm the sustainable success of this strategy. Marked by negotiations and the implementation of peace treaties, the two regional neighbours **Egypt** and **Jordan** are maintaining full diplomatic practices to Israel. Even though the relation to both states is often described as a "cold peace", Egypt and Jordan represent strategic partners and mediators, being connected through strong economic ties and security cooperation. The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, caused by the Arab Spring, spread fears about treaty defaulting; however, there is significant improvement under the current leader al-Sisi. While diplomatic efforts to Egypt and Jordan are constant, a contrary development can be observed in **Turkey**. Being one of the first states recognising Israel, Turkey was a strategic partner involving military, trade and economic agreements. A severe downturn since the leadership of the AKP was recorded and several incidents, such as the Gaza flotilla raid, lead to diplomatic ill-will.



Considered as the closest ally, the **USA** is the essential warrantor of Israel's security by political and military means. In addition to economic aid and extensive military contribution, further political support encompasses vetoing of any Security Council resolution against Israel. This support is exceptional, but not unconditional: Criticism is increasing since the US is showing commitment in finding a peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition between Israel and a Palestinian state. Recognising the Israeli's right to self-defence and security, critique is also coming from the **European Union**. However, both share common security threats and keep vital trade relations. Scientific and cultural programmes are another additional interconnection. A special relationship exists with **Germany** as a main ally with their 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Nowadays, Germany is considered as the most important ally within the European Union.

Based on the usual partner- and friendships, Israel is keen on establishing diplomatic relations to important global leaders. Since the establishment of diplomatic practices, major components in the bilateral relation between **China** and Israel has been trade and technology transfer. Economic, military and strategic links continue to expand. Speaking of **India** as "the only country where anti-Semitism was never allowed" by Israeli officials, both states enjoy a strategic relationship with deep economic interrelations. The common share in fighting religious extremism resulted in increased collaboration on counterterrorism.

#### 4. The Preparation Process in Berlin

Being a diplomat is not just about going to official embassy receptions to small talk and drink wine – it is about hard work and thorough preparation.

In the safe guiding hands of Faculty Advisor Ms. Peggy Wittke we spent five intensive and exiting months in Berlin preparing to be Israeli diplomats at the NMUN 2015 conference in New York. This included learning about the legal and political functioning of the United Nations, diving into Jewish culture, society and history, and framing the international political agenda from an Israeli perspective.

We had a lot to learn and it was never boring. Every lecture was conducted interactively and engaged the whole delegation to participate by sharing knowledge and thoughts. Among others we did simulations of the UN Security Council and made a visit to the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We also conducted several speech training sessions practicing the use of rhetorical techniques.

In order to enable us to think, act, and be like real Israeli diplomats we had the kind support from the Israeli Embassy in Berlin as well as Dr. Liav Orgad from the Radzyner School of Law, who provided us with firsthand knowledge on Israeli policies on national as well as international affairs.



An important part of our preparation process was to write Position Papers for each committee. This was a task of putting all our gained knowledge down on a piece of paper, which clearly stated our policies and proposals, but at the same time allowed flexibility for our negotiations in New York.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, our five months in Berlin taught us the essential need of working together and sharing knowledge. Being part of the NMUN Delegation is not just being participant at any other class; it is being part of a team and making friends.

#### **4.1 Emergency Session of the Security Council: Incident in the East China Sea**

During the preparation for the NMUN 2015 the group held a UN Security Council Simulation that took place on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The roles of the Member States of the Security Council were previously given, and our instructor **Peggy Wittke** made the formal invitation for the simulation relating to a hypothetical aerial incident in the East China Sea. The Security Council meeting was a fundamental part of our preparation because as a simulation we had to stick to the rules of procedure, being really important to understand them and the diplomatic procedures during a UN simulation.

The simulation dealt over an Emergency Session due to a case that involved a Japanese aircraft, which crew was from Japan, Korea and the US, that was shot down in the East China Sea over a zone where the “Air Defense Identification Zones” of Japan and China overlap. The reconnaissance aircraft, a P-8A Poseidon, was shot down by Chinese Air Force on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The session was great practice for the real Conference in New York because every member of the group had to play the role of a different Member State of the Council, and

the praxis of real negotiations and short speech to reach the members was really important. The experience gained by the role playing and representing a nation over the personal ideas as well as the experience in informal caucus gave us all as group much more confidence. During the session we could see the creation of groups and allies as in real international politics, giving us an experience of real negotiations and the informal caucus importance during conferences to understand the others and joining groups with similar agendas creating alliances.

Other remarkable aspect of the simulation was creating an expertise of the usage of international law (UN Charter) as well as fast research and creating proposals that could convince the different states members. Having different tasks at the same time, and writing the proposals for a draft paper between various countries while debating was a demanding business but the whole group responded well to that. Generating proposals and getting sponsors although the small amount of states represented was really demanding, in the case was an opportunity for all of us to learn about the ADIZ (Air Defense Identification Zone) in the praxis and how different countries agendas collide due to their different allies. After a shy beginning the session evolved to a very dynamic session that had a full speakers list and Peggy Wittke was a truly solvent and brilliant chair, being fair and giving good advice as Faculty Advisor, making us understand the rules of procedure. Although no resolution was passed on the session, the two draft papers were well prepared and the conclusion was realizing the huge advantage of the Veto Power in the Security Council.



## 4.2 Visit to the German Federal Foreign Office

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 our delegation had the opportunity to attend two special lectures at the Federal Foreign Office in preparation for our work at the Conference in New York. The lectures were held by Dr. **Oliver Fixson**, a senior diplomat and head of the Ministry's international legal department, and Mr. **Kai Baldow**, the chief training officer for the higher diplomatic service at the Academy of the Foreign Office. During the visit we were not only given a firsthand introduction into the guiding principles of German foreign policy, but also enjoyed a lecture on the impact of International Law in the daily diplomatic conduct of the Foreign Office. On top of that the delegation had the exclusive opportunity to get acquainted with the selection procedure for the German diplomatic service as well as the professional and personal implications involved in this career.

Dr. Fixson, having previously served at the German embassy in Moscow, provided us among many other information on the work of the Legal department with topics concerning the International Criminal Court (ICC) or the Human Rights Council (HRC), with fascinating insights into the ramifications of the German consular work in the context the Crimean Crisis. We moreover enormously benefited from the ensuing opportunity to engage more deeply in debate with Dr. Fixson on negotiation style and tactics, diplomatic conduct as well as effective dealing with group dynamics.



Mr. Baldow, having participated as a FU delegate at NMUN in 1996 himself, apart from briefing us on career possibilities at the Federal Foreign Office, also shared his conference experiences in New York with us i.a. pointing out the great resemblances of the course of negotiations at NMUN to real life diplomacy.

We would like to express Dr. Fixson and Mr. Baldow our gratitude for welcoming us at the Foreign Office, dedicating their time to our preparation and providing us with so much valuable input. In addition, we would like to cordially thank Prof. Dr. Vergau for enabling this event and for his consistent support during the preparation process for NMUN in Berlin. We greatly appreciate his advice and encouragement as well as the important insights he provided us with in the framework of a simulation on the Security Council Reform.

### 4.3 Briefing by the Israeli Embassy

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. **Avraham Nir-Feldklein** and Mr. **Rogel Rachman** from the Israeli Embassy in Germany visited our seminar at Freie Universität Berlin.

In the beginning of their talk, the representatives highlighted the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany in 2015. Furthermore, they highlighted the current overall popularity of Germany and the German government in Israel and the excellent relations between both states. Berlin, they stated, is among the most important capitals in the world for Israel's foreign policy, potentially ranking as second following Washington, D.C.

Israel, they explained to us, is often seen from the outside through a prism of conflict only. But Israel should rather be seen in multiple layers. Israel is for instance among the leading nations in fields such as high-tech, science, and medicine and is also the home country of numerous Nobel Prize winners.

Furthermore, it is currently one of the best places for startups worldwide. And finally, it should be taken into consideration that the sole survival of the State of Israel, not only in spite of wars and a complex environment, but also in spite of waves of immigrants that were absorbed by Israel, is already a "miracle" in their eyes. Aspects different than war should therefore be our assets during the NMUN conference, they pointed out. We should focus on the respective topic on the agenda and avoid getting drawn into debates that have no place in the committees. Even if we cannot agree on another nation's position in certain aspects, we should still work together to achieve common goals such as fighting global warming. Israel has much to offer concerning most recent environmental technologies and trained personnel. Even hostility can be reduced, trust can be built if nations work together on aspects that both agree are in need of improvement.



In the end, Mr. Rachman and Mr. Nir-Feldklein offered their sincere support for our delegation and also appreciated our dedication during the preparation process. We would like to thank the two representatives of the Israeli Embassy in Germany for their valuable input, their openness and this unique opportunity to pose all questions that were on our minds.

#### 4.4 Briefing on Israel's Foreign Policy

From all the briefings and discussions during our preparation in Berlin we did not have a more persuasive one with a perfect watertight argumentation than the lecture held by Dr. **Liav Orgad**. The argumentation of Dr. Orgad was our guideline how to represent Israel's policy in a credible way and how to defend and justify Israeli positions on various issues.

Dr. Orgad provided us with many well prepared arguments that were also useful during our own negotiations in New York City. Looking at Israel in comparison to its neighboring states in the Middle East, it is a frontrunner in democratic and high living standards, and well economic conditions. Moreover, minorities enjoy a high level of protection in Israel and can use their own language or legal system. We were also surprised by the fact that the majority of Palestinians living in Israel are satisfied with their life or are proud to be Israelis. Based on these comparisons Dr. Orgad made, he could shield every accusation and criticism that Israel is facing in international politics and highlighting the achievements instead.

We would like to thank Dr. Orgad for his time and for giving us a very interesting insight in understanding Israel's foreign policy. After the discussion, we were encouraged to engage ourselves as Israeli diplomats in further during NMUN conference.



#### 4.5 Briefing on Diplomacy

Since the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference is a firsthand experience and prime example on how diplomacy works within the United Nations, we had the pleasure to listen to a very informative lecture of Ambassador a.D. Prof. Dr. **Hans-Joachim Vergau**. There could be no other adequate expert than Prof. Vergau since he has spent 50 years as an advisor, ambassador of the German Federal Foreign Office.

Recounting life-long experiences, Prof. Vergau gave us an overview among the highpoints and challenges of his professional career. His term of office included the independence of Namibia, where he served as a mediator. Moreover, he shared his expertise on group dynamics at the United Nations (UN). The term “group dynamics” refers to a movement in which a single delegation is fusing to form a homogeneous whole with other delegations. The group is connected through a set of value judgments, determined by emotional or ideological prejudices. As a result, biased and radical positions are increasingly intensifying without any regard towards rational, logical judgments or self-interest.



Going on with his time at the General Assembly Fourth Committee and the Security Council, Prof. Vergau described his “marvelous” time at the UN. The amount of knowledge and wisdom that is gathered within the United Nations turns every single individual into an expert. Furthermore, he provided us with strategic advice on how to act and react as diplomats. Endurance, empathy, reliability, and attentiveness should be a guideline for our activities during the conference.

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Prof. Vergau for providing us with a detailed and fascinating lecture. His enthusiasm, openness, and his description of the perfect Brooklyn Bridge momentum raised our motivation.



#### 4.6 Briefing by the Mission of Palestine

A salient part of our preparation shortly before the start of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference was the input by diplomatic envoys during our guest speaker program at FU Berlin. Rather than analyzing the stance of Israel on foreign affairs by secondary sources, we had the opportunity to enter direct dialogue with people involved in that field. One very important of these guest speakers was Dr. **Sara Husseini**, the policy and communication advisor of the Mission of Palestine in Germany. This mission is promoting Palestinian interest here in Germany since its inauguration in 1994.

Throughout our course the topic of Palestine was present during our discussions, due to its importance in the region and frequent violent eruptions in the area. We learned about its relations with Israel and the overall tensions that exist between both entities ever since the creation of Israel and before. We as the delegation of Israel, however, focused on the



Israeli perspective, as it was necessary to comprehend their situation and to reflect this mindset onto the international level. Therefore Ms. Hussein's presentation was very valuable addition to our prearrangements for NMUN. She presented the circumstances that the Palestinian people find themselves in and explained their views, rights and demands, often contradicting the argumentation of Israel.

At first she reiterated historical facts and developments: explaining the demographic make-up of the area known as Palestine before the creation of Israel in 1948, the UN-partition-plan, the two major wars in 1948 and 1967 and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967. Ensuing some of the pivotal and most controversial issues were tackled, which was first and foremost the situation in the Gaza strip and West Bank. In relation to the latter, Ms. Hussein explained how Israeli settlement policy affects the daily life of Palestinian citizens. Another pressing problem is, according to the presentation, the status of Palestine refugees, which hasn't been solved for three generations as of yet.

Ms. Hussein clearly articulated the official Palestinian position on various issues and lamented the absence of constructive cooperation with the Israeli authorities. Concurrently she valued the international support for the Palestinian people and how Palestine relies on it, because of the deep power imbalance between the two parties. By that, once again, we experienced how tangled the situation is and how difficult it can be to achieve reconciliation, since e.g. some facts are divergently interpreted, depending on the party.

Overall, the information that Ms. Hussein was able to give us was very conducive. It allowed us to increase our awareness concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and encouraged us to integrate all perspectives when talking about these political problems. We appreciated Ms. Hussein dedicating her time to us sharing her knowledge and want to express our gratefulness to her.



#### 4.7. Special Session of the Security Council: Reform of the Security Council

The second Special Session of the Security Council with Ambassador a.D. Prof. Dr. **Hans-Joachim Vergau** took place in March and gave us a chance to practice the rules of procedure and the preparation of short speeches. Topic of this session was the possible extension of seats to more Member States in the Security Council.

At the beginning of this session, all participating Member States had the chance to get on the speakers list and express their opinion about the topic. Many Member States believed that the Security Council has to be reformed and adapt to the growing number and the growing importance of states in the United Nations system and they especially criticized the disproportional power of the five permanent members, whose veto power enables them to outvote every decision. A growing number of Member States believe that there should be a change in the Council to make it more democratic and give all of the members the chance to be heard.

The different countries had conflicting positions that were discussed during this session. Germany, India, Brazil and Japan are striving for a permanent seat in the Security Council. The African states on the other hand claimed that their continent needed to be permanently represented to come to a balance with the powerful, industrialized nations. We negotiated various opportunities concerning the number of added seats, the extension of veto power, and different rotation systems, which ensure a fair allocation of seats.

Due to the wide range of conflicting interests, the refusal of most states to compromise on this topic and particularly the repeated use of their veto power by the permanent members, we were not able to adopt a resolution.

However, the simulation of the Security Council was a great opportunity to prepare ourselves for New York and practice the procedural side of the United Nations and gave us once again the chance to slip into the skin of another country.



## 5. The UN Study Tour in New York City

“There is something in the New York air that makes sleep useless.”

This quote by Simone de Beauvoir probably describes our time in New York the best. We were given two short weeks for an intensive program that provided us with incredible skills and experiences – in the city that never sleeps. The informal motto of conferences goes as follows: “The first one, who falls asleep, loses.” Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, is known as the “sleep camel” who can go days with just a few hours of sleep during marathon weeks of diplomacy. Our delegation had to suffer this fate as well.

Apart from the United Nations (UN) Headquarters, which was our main aim during that time, there were countless opportunities offered to explore New York culturally, culinary, and architecturally. Especially the impact of Jewish migration can be seen in a variety of areas everywhere in New York City, inspiring us all.

The Study Tour, which was much influenced by the post-2015 development agenda, was a prelude to our trip. UN diplomats and civil servants gave us a unique insight to share their knowledge and experience with us in an open, constructive, and personal atmosphere. There could not have been a more thorough and helpful preparation for the upcoming conference.



### 5.1 Briefing on Counter-terrorism

On the first day of our study tour in New York we had the opportunity to meet Mr. **Mattias Sundholm**, who works for the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) Executive Directorate (CTED). Mr. Sundholm gave us a comprehensive overview over the work of the UN concerning counter-terrorism.

He started by explaining that although no universally recognized definition of terrorism exists, there are 19 international legal instruments which clearly define “terrorist acts” in various areas. The reason for the lack of a universal definition of terrorism is simply because of various perspectives; “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter.”

Although terrorism is a global scourge, today, according to Sundholm, there are seven areas more heavily affected by terrorism: (1) Afghanistan/ Pakistan; (2) Syria/ Iraq; (3) Yemen; (4) The Sinai Peninsula; (5) Libya; (6) Nigeria/West Africa; (7) Somalia/East Africa. Terrorism has existed for thousands of years and has also been part of UN policy from the organization’s early days. But the work of the UN changed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks when CTC was created. UN policy then developed further in 2014 when the Council adopted SC Resolution 2178 on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). FTFs are being recruited from around the world, irrespective of borders.

The UN focuses on preventive work and is not operational like national law enforcement or intelligence entities in its efforts to counter terrorism. Its main goals include cutting the financing of terrorist organizations, facilitating legislation against terrorism in Member States, verifying/making recommendations about effective border management, and putting an emphasis on root causes, or conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, e.g. poverty, lack of education, lack of women’s empowerment, and human rights violations, to mention but a few. The CTC meets about once a month to discuss and decide on a wide range of counter-terrorism measures. Mr. Sundholm concluded by exemplifying the fight against ISIS financing. This is done by following the flow of money – where does it come from, where does it go to? The terrorist organization that calls itself ISIS (Da’esh) has been generating income through various means, including the selling of oil, kidnapping for ransom, the use of online social networks for “crowdfunding”. Since ISIS (Da’esh) is very innovative in terms of creating revenue, this is a very challenging task.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Sundholm for his insights into this important issue and therewith for his valuable support of our preparation.



## 5.2 Briefing on Disarmament

Another exciting opportunity in the framework of the United Nations Study Tour has been the briefing on "Peace and Security Through Disarmament" by a member of the Information and Outreach Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

During his presentation our Speaker expertly guided us through the various disarmament initiatives focusing, against the backdrop of the upcoming high level review conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), on existing prohibition and control regimes of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Among many other aspects, he also remarked upon the importance of adapting new verification and enforcement mechanisms to the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions (CWC) so as to also include and bind non-state actors by these legal instruments. The lack of implementation and insufficient enforcement of existing legal frameworks with regard to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), that are utilized in most present-day conflicts and are responsible for the vast majority of civilian casualties, thus continue to pose a severe threat to international peace and security that is arguably even more eminent than the danger exerted by WMD.

Our Speaker moreover pointed out that in order to promote disarmament goals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the UN System as well as its Member States need to find ways to address the ramifications arising from terrorism more effectively. Even though the Security Council and several commissioned subsidiary bodies have already invested enormous efforts into the fight against terrorism and its supporters, there is still considerable potential for

concerted international action, including i.a. the formulation of a common definition of terrorism or further information exchange on best practices of dealing with terrorist threat.

Following this comprehensive briefing our Delegation had the exclusive opportunity to engage with our Speaker in a more detailed discussion on issues concerning newly emerging Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) as well as opportunities for Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to enhance the security environment in regional contexts.

We deeply appreciate the professional insights our Speaker provided us with and would therefore like to express our gratitude for the valuable time he committed to our preparation for National Model United Nations 2015.



### 5.3 Briefing on Legal Affairs

During the UN Study Tour, we were very grateful to have an enlightening briefing presented by Mr. **Markus Pallek**, an official from the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

After a brief introduction of the history and structure of OLA, Mr. Pallek presented to us the changing functioning of OLA from the perspective of a jurist. With regards to our topic “Sustainable Development in the Arctic”, with particular focus on the current ice melting issue in UNEP, Mr. Pallek introduced to us the arctic regime in international



maritime law area. Visible progress has been made in recent years. Although in some Member States, domestic law, instead of binding international treaties, is still the main approach towards arctic protection. He also concluded, one important cause of such situation is different pursuits of interest in exploiting the seabed. Furthermore, under the topic of ratification and implementation of international law, he remarked that as an advisory organ, OLA is rather practical and goal-oriented to promote the implementation of UN conventions. Comparing to direct legal instruments such as GA resolutions, indirect, non-official and more flexible means could also make substantial progress.

Thirdly he mentioned, international law does not stay still but is always developing itself. From comparing changing views of the International Court of Justice between the Kosovo conflict and Crimea crisis, he remarked, it is often considered more important, to reach a practical solution, even though sometimes compromises should be made.

Lastly, as to the question, how to understand “RtoP” - Responsibility to Protect, in terms of the conflict between state sovereignty and protection of human rights, Mr. Pallek remarked, that the concept does not constitute a legal basis for humanitarian intervention outside the framework of the UN Charter. Intervention activities are only allowed under the limited conditions set forth in the Charter and only when the responsibility of human rights protection has shifted from the state to the international community.

We would like to thank Mr. Pallek for his informative presentation. It was not only a great help for our conference, but also a great enrichment that has broadened our knowledge of international legal affairs.





#### 5.4 Briefing on Children and Armed Conflict

During our UN study tour, Ms. **Stephanie Tremblay**, Communications Officer at the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, briefed the FU Delegation on the protection of children affected by conflict situations at United Nations (UN) level.

Foremost, Ms. Tremblay opened the lecture by giving us a historical overview of how the work of the Office of the Special Representative began. She outlined the influence of the effort of children's rights activist Graça Machel who spent three years travelling around the world while studying the effect of war and highlighting its surpassing asymmetric affects on the most exposed members of societies, namely children. In 1996, the results of Graça Machel, which are published in the report "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children" were followed by an international outcry. The mandate of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict was created by the General Assembly (resolution A/RES/51/77), equipping it with a firm framework to tackle violations against children.

Subsequently, Ms. Tremblay expound on six grave violations affecting children in times of conflict as follows: recruitment and misuse of children, killing and maiming of children, sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction of children, and the denial of humanitarian access. The first five of these violations are triggers to list parties to conflict in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. To eliminate violations, the Office is of pivotal importance by monitoring, and reporting grave violations. Furthermore, it is engaged in dialogue with parties on conflict and promotes Action Plans with them to halt and impede abuselements. This implies the capacity to work and collaborate with important stakeholders within the UN system, regional organizations, and member states and their civil society. Thanks to this approach, grave violations of children in times of conflict decreased significantly and are no longer considered legal.

Nevertheless, with reference to the 2015 annual report of the Secretary-General and having the complexity of every single conflict area in mind, Ms. Tremblay disclosed that fifty-seven parties in 15 of the 23 conflict situations are listed in the report's annexes, including seven countries whose Government forces still use and recuite children. Prior to this trend, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict launched the "Children, not Soldiers" Campaign in collaboration with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The aim of this initiative is to impede and finally end the use of children via Government forces by the end of 2016. Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen signed Action Plans while negotiations with Sudan are ongoing. Chad can be mentioned as a decisive case: following the successful implementation of its Action Plan, it was delisted from the annual report in 2014.

Answering our questions, Ms. Tremblay concludes that despite the existing struggles of a difficult and crucial topic, the work of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict is of utmost importance and bears remarkable fruits. We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Tremblay for drawing our attention to a challenging topic and for providing us with a fascinating and detailed overview.



### 5.5 Briefing on Sexual Violence in Conflicts

This briefing dealt with a challenge of international concern that is a crosscutting issue with political, legal, gender, human rights, cultural, political and economic repercussions. During the briefing, Ms. **La Neice Collins** described how rape and conflict-related sexual violence caused physical, psychological, economic and social trauma, leaving many victims ostracized by their communities with little or no support network. Children born of rape were often stigmatized as well and faced a bleak future with few prospects.

In order to combat rape used as a weapon of war, it must be treated with the same gravity as any other war crime or human rights abuse. Rape must be criminalized in the penal code, authorities must have the training and tools to investigate and document cases and perpetrators must be held accountable through criminal trials.

Sexual violence in conflict does not happen in a vacuum, however. This crime is rooted in a lack of respect for women's rights; if women and girls are not respected in peacetime, they will not be protected during war. Women must be politically, socially

and economically empowered to participate at all levels of society and to be part of decision making bodies at all levels of government.

Recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflict-related sexual violence and that this crime is a peace and security issues, in 2000 the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 which laid the groundwork for the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the international community. This resolution was followed up by a series of resolutions to help strengthen the mandate, including Resolution 1888 which established the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The key to combating sexual violence in conflict is to assist countries in strengthening their rule of law and legal frameworks to provide a basis on which to prosecute such crimes and build their technical capacity to investigate and bring perpetrators to trial to end impunity for acts of conflict-related sexual violence. The message must be sent that women are not second-class citizens and when their rights are violated the government and international community will not turn a blind eye. National ownership is a key ingredient to make lasting change because it is ultimately the government's responsibility to protect its citizens.

Ms. Collins vividly and comprehensively illustrated sexual violence in conflict in all its complexities during our briefing. We would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Collins for sharing her knowledge and time with us.



### 5.6 Briefing on Financing for Development

As an expert in the development field, Mr. **Oliver Schwank** – development economist at the Financing for Development Office - guided us through the history of the Financing for Development debate and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He specified that these two different processes have slightly different visions of development behind them, but are now merging.

Starting with the history of Financing for Development, Mr. Schwank pointed out that the main place of discussions on global financing take place at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Nevertheless, the roots of the debate can be dated back to 1970 when an ambitious initiative from the countries of the South made a broad attempt to rethink the shape of the global economy and how institutions could be made more favorable to achieve an improvement for developing countries. The outcome was the 2002 Financing for Development Conference which produced the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, a broad agenda that deals with how the world can finance development in developing countries. Previous UN discussions were centered on developing countries that are being supplied with economic aids from the North. Since Monterrey, developing countries have resumed responsibility in their own development.

Mr. Schwank thinks that the first priority to economic development is to bring forth as much own resources of a country domestically as possible. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) and its importance in the debate as an indicator of international aid flow have also been mentioned. The contributions of aid from other countries should be relatively small for economies to be successful. Moreover, the international community has to rethink how to relieve the debt on the developing countries to help them boost their economic success. It also needs to develop a broad financing for Development agenda to address the stability of the international financial system and the coordination of macroeconomic policies which were set back substantially after the impact that the global financial crisis had on developing countries.

For the second part of the briefing, he elaborated on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as a parallel process to the Financing for Development discussions. The expiring Millennium Declaration of 2000, consisting eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG), was a combination of efforts at the UN to re-emphasize the social aspects of development and poverty at the international agenda. Mr. Schwank proceeded to explain the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which will replace the MDGs. They are a broader agenda that focuses not only in economical and social aspects, but also in environmental aspects. Focusing on sustainable development, the SDGs tackle all countries and not just the developing ones, implying a transition to all economies.

Furthermore, the broader agenda of these goals will have immense implications on the economy, a more complex system to estimate financing is also required. The ODA is in the core of the SDG compact, but with limited reach, so there is a need for a much

broader range of financing. In this framework, Mr. Schwank elaborated on the meaning of a holistic vision of financing where domestic sources, private finance, international private finance, and ODA are being contemplated on the same pane.

Mr. Schwank finally told us to be attentive of the International Conference on Financing for Development which will be held in July 2015 and will build on the basis compact of Monterrey. We want to express our gratefulness to Mr. Schwank for his outstanding support and for sharing his knowledge and experience with us. His briefing was certainly a very valuable step of our preparation for the Conference.



### 5.7 Briefing on Environment

On the last day of our study tour, we got the chance to listen to Mr. **Dan Shepard**, an officer of the UN Department of Public Information, giving a deeper insight into the UN's work on Sustainable Environment.

As there are three important meetings coming up this year, Mr. Shepard told us that preparations for those events are already well underway. Starting with the International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July, the special Summit on a new 'Sustainable Development Framework' in New York in September and, last but not least, the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December, Mr. Shepard noticed that 2015 is a crucial year setting the world's course for a sustainable future. Since these events are not only putting a development agenda on the table but are also bringing up environmental issues, Mr. Shepard sees a greater chance for success than in former years.

Although it will be shown, especially in Paris, that the countries' commitments will not be enough to limit climate change to 2 degrees Celsius, the agreement there will be a positive baseline demonstrating the direction we should strive for. Considering various individual commitments, e.g. from China and the US, as well as the private sector, in which green economy is becoming increasingly popular, he expressed his confidence on already being on the right track.

When asked about the role of civil society in promoting and establishing environmental issues, Mr. Shepard affirmed that since the involvement of civil society in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992, its role has continually been growing and cannot be overestimated, as only civil society addresses issues which neither politicians nor the media is pleased to broach. In this respect he believes civil society is an essential party and one of the driving forces in the context of 'Sustainable Environment'.

He also put special emphasis on listening to the various views and positions of countries in the negotiations. While Australia, Japan and Germany (through the EU) stand out amongst the developed countries, China, India and Brazil as well as South or Central American countries like Bolivia and Nicaragua represent strong negotiation partners from the developing countries. A similar division into those two sides, namely the 'rich' countries on the one hand and the developing countries on the other hand, could be depicted during negotiations at the UN.



Finishing his briefing with praise for the MDGs, calling it ‘one of the best development initiatives ever considering it from how many people have been reached’, Mr. Shepard pointed out, that even though there are a lot of things waiting to be done, progress has been made in every area.

We want to express our gratefulness for Mr. Shepard for spending his time, for all the useful information and a really enriching briefing.

### **5.8 Briefing by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations**

From the very beginning, we knew that representing Israel would be a challenging task. Therefore, we were lucky enough and glad to meet a member of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations, despite of their busy agenda. Ms. **Hadas Meitzad**, Political Counsellor at the Permanent Mission, gave us an overview of her work, shared her experience, and provided us with great, practical information and advices for being an Israeli diplomat. In retrospect, the sound performance of our team during the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference is attributable to her briefing.

Development issues are a primary concern for the Israeli mission. Ms. Meitzad emphasized the Mission’s effort at the General Assembly Second Committee and referred to examples of Israeli work on promoting gender equality and women rights and its protection on a global scale. Another main pillar of Israeli endeavor is the promotion of a resolution on the power of entrepreneurship for development. The idea derived from the desire to best utilize Israel’s knowledge and best practices on this matter. Despite being a relatively small mission, the Israeli mission in New York does its utmost to be present and active in as many forum and discussions related to the “positive agenda” especially in the field of sustainable development.

However, Ms. Meitzad mentioned that unlike other mission, Israel faces many challenges due to the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict is being dragged into various discussions in the UN. Some states are following the idea, that Israel should not be treated as a normal country until the political conflict in the region is solved. Ms. Meitzad emphasized, that this is counterproductive. The conflict should rather be discussed in Jerusalem or at the relevant forum at the UN such as the Security Council, but shouldn’t be brought into each and every other discussion which takes place at the UN. Arab countries are continually trying to block Israeli contributions, such as resolutions on agriculture and entrepreneurship, despite that the majority of the General Assembly’s Member States were voting in favor. Furthermore, numerous imbalanced resolutions were issued against Israel, while there is just a single resolution about the ongoing civil war in Syria. This led to the fact that the UN is very much biased and not balanced against Israel.

Subsequently to her lecture, Ms. Meitzad revealed that representing Israel at the NMUN Conference would be a challenging task for us. She dedicated a lot of time to our questions and provided us with great advices. Two of them stood out and are needed



during the negotiations: If someone wants to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, we have to point out that this subject is not part of our work at the committee and should rather be discussed at the Security Council. Moreover, we should focus ourselves on a set of values - especially issues on education, sustainability, development, and equality should be seen as the main pillars of Israeli foreign policy and not countries.

We would like to thank Ms. Meitzad for her great enriching briefing and appreciate her openness. The insight, given to us with the help of her lecture in this decisive part of Israeli policy regarding the UN and the post-2015 agenda, formed an important part of our preparation. Additionally, Ms. Meitzad's advices were a cornerstone and helped us creating a strong start in the negotiations at the NMUN Conference.



### 5.9 Guided Tour of the United Nations

Being in New York and taking part in NMUN 2015, it was a must for us to take a tour through the United Nations Headquarters. Completed from 1948-1952 at the East River waterfront the building of the United Nations Headquarters has been an important sign for New York City, but also for the promotion of peace and security in the world since the early years of the United Nations.

The building has been subject to profound renovation in the last couple of years, which has limited the access of previous NMUN delegations. Lucky for us the whole renovation

process was finished in the beginning of 2015, and we therefore had the pleasure of visiting the completely new renovated building.

As part of the tour we were introduced to the United Nations, not only through factual information, but also through different exhibitions related to the work and the cultural diversity of the organization. Among others, several deformed artifacts from Hiroshima and Nagasaki were exposed as emotional symbols of the terrifying and devastating consequence of nuclear weapons and the importance of the United Nations efforts to denuclearize the world.

Our tour through the Headquarters also took us to the chambers of four of the six principle organs of the United Nation; the General Assembly Hall, the Security Council Chamber, the Trusteeship Council Chamber and the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The United Nations value openness and public access, but the Headquarters is also an active workplace where Heads of States, ambassadors and diplomats meet every day. At the time of our visit the Security Council was in a closed meeting, which for us unfortunately meant, that we could not access the Security Council Chamber. We did however see the chambers of the three other organs.

Especially seeing the size and all the country seats of the General Assembly Hall gave us the feeling of how inclusive and important – but also challenging – the work of the United Nations is.



### 5.10 Visit to the Museum of Tolerance

The Museum of Tolerance brings the visitor face to face with problems such as racism, discrimination and genocide by displaying interactive exhibitions. It deals with both historic and recent events and poses many questions.

At the beginning of our visit, we played the “Game of Assumptions” with our two museum guides because research shows that people only need the first 7 seconds to make 11 assumptions about another person. This is important to understand how prejudice comes into existence. Afterwards we watched an introductory video about the power of words and how politicians on the one hand used their words to create hope among peoples and on the other hand spread hatred and rumors. Our delegation discussed whether negative words and utterances influence us more than positive ones. We found out that tolerance plays an active role and that it takes more effort to remember positive events than negative events.



Right next to the screen, many propaganda and stereotype images were depicted. This showed the role of perception and advertisement and how easily the power of images can be abused to devalue minority groups. Then we went to the Point of View Diner, where we watched a video about hate speech. After having discussed the balance between hate speech and free speech, we watched another movie. It was about refugees and it was at the Millennium Machine, where we could answer questions by pressing buttons.

Before we watched the final movie, we saw the one and only artifact that the Museum of Tolerance owns. It is an old radio from Nazi Germany. Back then, radios were given out to families for free to spread Nazi propaganda. Then we watched a movie on genocides

in the 20th centuries. It took a moment for all of us to reflect everything we had seen at the Simon Wiesenthal Center. As we left, we still had discussions and thoughts about what we can do as individuals to make the world a better place and show tolerance.

We would like to express our gratitude for the **Simon Wiesenthal Center** for its encouragement to deal with the mentioned issues and for its support of our NMUN preparation.

## **6. Israel at the NMUN 2015 Conference, 22-26 March 2015**

For over five months, our delegation has worked and prepared itself intensively in order to represent Israel at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference at New York City. Thanks to the great briefings by diplomats at our Study Tour, we were more than ready and perfectly prepared for the Conference. As a part of the conference, the NMUN program offered additional seminars related to media in international affairs, violent extremism, disarmament, and the interaction of private and nonprofit sectors for social impact. Outstanding experts broadened our horizons and encouraged us to widen our vision. Moreover, we became familiar with the rules of the procedure to facilitate effective workings in each committee.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Sheraton Ballroom where students from various universities and countries were gathering and attending the speech of Mr. **Michael Eaton**, Executive Director of the National Collegiate Conference Association. With a firm reference, Mr. Eaton pointed out the special role we play and that we will leave the NMUN experience with „the insight needed to become better global citizens and the next generation of international leaders.”



For a project of these dimensions, the NMUN conference had a very tight timescale. The negotiations were set up early with the official committee sessions and ended often late in the night in informal meetings and caucuses. In addition to that, our delegation held unscheduled meetings, in order to share and reflect our experiences and discuss problem-solving perspectives. During the Conference, our delegation represented Israel at the following United Nations committees and agencies: General Assembly First Committee, General Assembly Second Committee, General Assembly Third Committee, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Committee, United Nations International Children's Fund, and the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34).

## **6.1 Israel at the General Assembly First Committee**

represented by Sven Brünner and Lena Ens

### **Committee Short Overview**

The First Committee on Disarmament and International Security is one of the General Assembly's six main bodies. It deals with global challenges and threats to the international community, seeking to promote, establish and subsequently maintain peace while simultaneously preventing further weapons proliferation. The Committee includes all UN Member States and closely collaborates with the United Nations Disarmament Committee and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. The scope of issues on the Committee's agenda ranges from issues concerning weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to small arms and light weapons (SALW) to relevant emerging technologies as well as threats posed by cyberspace and outer space activities.

### **Committee Report**

The three topics on the agenda before the Committee were:

- I. Prohibiting Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
- II. The Control of Biological Weapons in Today's Modern Era
- III. Confidence-Building Measures in a Regional and Subregional Context

Our work began months before the actual conference during the intense preparatory seminars at FU Berlin and continued in the following briefings during the UN study tour. On the flight to New York and in the hotel we kept on reading other nations' Position Papers to find out which delegations could be our allies during the conference. When NMUN started with the first session on the rules of procedure, we used the opportunity to approach other delegations in the hallway before and after the session. By that time we



had already realized that most nations preferred to debate on topic number one, concerning Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). Even though we believed that a debate on enhancing Confidence Building Measures would have fostered a more fruitful peace initiative, we quickly adapted our strategy to engage with as many partners as possible and convince other delegations of our overlapping interests.



LAWS are an emerging though not yet existent technology that is expected to be ready for deployment in the foreseeable future. As of now, however, there is no internationally recognized definition of LAWS. From the beginning on it was obvious that the very definition of LAWS as well as their utilization was heavily contested. Being among the leading nations in technological innovations, including military research and development, we quickly approached the delegates from the other leading states in this field, among them the five Permanent Members of the Security Council. The United States of America proved to be one of our closest partners from the very beginning. Apart from that, we also established close ties with several other nations including India, with which Israel shares numerous research and operative initiatives.

During the whole conference we demonstrated Israel's overall willingness to collaborate with any other nation on this important issue, which helped us to share our goals with numerous other delegations. In order to work with as many nations as possible, we used the time during the formal sessions to write letters to other delegations. During the informal sessions we decided to always take our placard with us to be visible to other

delegations, and also split up often in order to talk to other nations and contribute to working papers at the same time. Thus, from an early stage of the conference we engaged in drafting several working papers while simultaneously trying to convince still undecided delegations to support our ideas.

One of our main concerns was to make fellow delegates see the benefits of research and development of emerging technologies. Our efforts aimed at showing that a ban or even a moratorium on scientific activity would deliberately undermine technological evolution and prevent the international community from harnessing the benefits of autonomous systems, e.g. in health-care, life support or rescue missions. More importantly though, in accordance with our guiding principle of political engagement, we pushed for the creation of regional offices associated with UNODA that would enhance transparency and mutual trust regarding LAWS. We managed to convince our major allies that by including Confidence Building Measures which would address regional threat perceptions and enhance security regimes, we could get other nations to vote in favor of our draft resolution. Through this we significantly contributed to our overall goal of enhancing regional security and deepen regional collaboration in the Middle East, as well as in any other conflict-torn region worldwide.

On the third day of the Conference it became clear that some of the numerous existing working papers should be merged in order to gain support for the upcoming voting procedure. The process of merging itself turned out to be highly demanding since many parties' perspectives and interests had to be taken into account without watering down the essence of the proposition. Eventually we could convince like-minded delegations to merge their papers with two of the documents that we had sponsored. In order to achieve this aim, we gathered with the other leading nations of these merging papers in an overnight working session to line out the details of the combined working papers. Finally, two of our sponsored resolutions were voted on in the plenary session.

By the end of the Conference we were quite exhausted yet enormously satisfied with the productive work of the Committee. Especially challenging during the debates in GA First was that we, as representatives of Israel, were approached by several delegations in an unfriendly way, which gave us a direct impression of the tough work Israel's real diplomats face on a daily basis. We dealt with this by sticking to the topic on the agenda and keeping an open, constructive dialogue with any interested delegation. Overall, we were able to find strong support and reach consensus with crucial partners and significantly influenced the formulation of two resolutions. We are honored to have had the opportunity to participate in such lively debates, engage with talented young people and experience first-hand the challenges of diplomatic conduct.



## 6.2 Israel at the General Assembly Second Committee

represented by Maria Fernanda Bravo Rubio and Karen Heckman

### Committee Short Overview

The General Assembly Second Committee is one of the six main committees that shape the General Assembly. The General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations system. The GA Second has its focus on “macroeconomic policy issues, including international trade, the international financial system, external debt sustainability, and financing for development”. The GA Second has the power to create policies and legislate for the UN, but also it helps with the realization of these norms within the Member States. On general UN-issues, the GA Second works on the reinvigoration of the GA and its working method, for example the work of narrowing the number and the length of draft resolutions. Furthermore the GA Second may summon conferences related to development goals and also host side events, like a dialogue with the UN Regional Commission on the assignment of agenda items. Besides, the GA Second has the power to convene the Secretary-General to give reports on important agenda issues.



## Committee Report

After six months of preparation in Berlin, intense group work and enriching UN Study Tour, we were more than thrilled to put all of our preparation to the test the following days ahead of us and make the most out of this unique opportunity.

We took the initiative of starting to network with the other delegations after the conclusion of the Rules of Procedure. This step made us gain contact to talking partners for the future. By the time of the Opening Ceremony we had already gained insight of potential allies. We were inclined to connect with those delegations whose Position Papers coordinated with our own prospects.

Finally it was time, after the Opening Ceremony, our first formal session began; with our goal to set the agenda straight. There was no majority on the voting, so the Chair followed the order given by the background guide:

I. Women in Development

II. The Impact of Migration on Development

III. Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and the Green Economy

We put our heart on the first topic, Women in Development, and throughout the whole conference, we dealt with the same issue. The main reason why this topic was our priority was because it went in line with Israel's belief of gender based equality since its inception.

Delegations instantly gathered to start working on working papers. We formed an alliance with one of the biggest constellations and assumed an active position. All delegations were very open and inclined to hear about the multifaceted proposals. This alliance grew to consist of about 40 Member States, so in order to be more efficient, states divided themselves into smaller groups, from 4 to 5 nations to further discuss the issues.

Nevertheless, even though it was beneficial for us, we were a bit confused that some delegations did not assume their real positions. For this reason, the great group dissolved and every individual group of nations that had formed wrote their own working papers and was able to thoroughly bring in their own prospects. For Israel, this meant focusing on women's labor in the agricultural sector, fostering of education, health and means to work against violence against women and keeping in mind our groundbreaking resolutions (*Resolution on Agricultural Technology for Development (2011)*, and *Entrepreneurship for Development (A/RES/67/202)*).

Naturally, our goal was for Israel to be a sponsor of main draft resolutions. Overall this process took a lot of effort and attention to make sure that our points were considered and not left out.

After doing a room check to discuss and get to know the interests of the different working papers from the different groups of countries to find out if we could participate and be signatories of a promising working paper, we engaged with the delegation of Azerbaijan and Russia on a (first) small working paper on the role of women in participating in the sustainable development of a nation, so improving their capacities and motivation to work on the agricultural sector. With 18 working papers on the floor, our delegations started negotiations to merge common goals and achieve a more unified vision of the many proposals. Our working paper merged with three other working papers; these were very specific on improving labor conditions of women on the international framework and assuring equal gender treatment within the workplace, governments and at home. Furthermore, it included ways to develop the micro-finance initiatives to encourage women's entrepreneurship and reiterating the necessity of existing conventions and entities collaborating with the United Nations to work more effectively and closely with Member States to push gender equality because there is no other more influential and significant resource to improve social, economic and political sustainable development measures, than the human resource, more specially women.

With teamwork, communication and tolerance, we managed to create a balanced resolution, which was approved and praised by the dais. We were also sponsors of the first draft resolution passed, Draft Resolution 1/3, we were so excited and also relieved when this occurred. Satisfied with the accomplishment of having three Israeli sponsored resolutions and many allies, we entered into voting procedures.

We tried to be very active and deliver speeches as often as we could. It was an exciting experience to stand in front of the committee and elaborate on our goals and call for further unity between Member States for the progress of resolutions. A definite highlight was that Israel, represented by Maria Bravo, was granted the opportunity of speaking at the General Assembly Hall at the plenary session, with all nations present, to ratify the resolutions of the GA2.

At the end of the conference, our hard work paid off, for our position paper was recognized as an “Outstanding Position Paper”. As we went to the front to collect our award, we could not help but to feel very proud and honored to receive it, knowing that our goal of representing Israel the best way possible had been achieved.

### **6.3 Israel at the General Assembly Third Committee**

represented by Isa Adriane Günther and Veronika Sobolová

#### **Committee Short Overview**

The General Assembly Third Committee, also known as Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee, is one of the main committees of the General Assembly. It is

the largest platform for discussions about human right standards worldwide. Discussing humanitarian, social and cultural issues it tries to solve international problems. According to Articles 10 – 17 of the United Nations Charter the Committee may “initiative studies” and “make recommendations and receive and consider reports“. The committee was created in order to remind Member States to promote human rights and to ensure people's freedoms.

The Third Committee deals with basic freedoms and rights of children, women, indigenous people, refugees and other minorities as well as matters of social development. The committee may request other superior United Nations bodies to make studies for them. In addition it may hold conferences in order to draw people's attention to certain issues.



## **Committee Report**

I. Development and the Rights of Indigenous People

II. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

III. Eliminating Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances

Our committee work had begun even before the official start of NMUN, as we started with the informal talks on possible cooperation with the delegations of the countries we

considered as partner in the hotel lobby. During the first meeting of the committee participants, we settled the agenda for our following work during the whole competition. The agenda was set with the priority to the issue of Elimination Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, which was also our priority for pursuing important resolutions for the country we represented, Israel. The universal aim of eliminating ethnic, racial and related discrimination is a highly topical issue for Israel's interests. This is especially because the State of Israel understands the anti-Semitism as one of the oldest forms of racism. Taking into account the fact that the World Zionist Organization recently reported that this form of racism is at its highest level since the 1930's, Israel is appalled by the recent development. Due to the Jewish history, Israel highly emphasizes the need for tolerance and security for the Jewish population all over the world.

Within our committee, we worked very successfully, as we were able to define the term anti-Semitism as a form of racism in every resolution we worked on. Moreover, with our partner countries USA, Canada, France and also Germany and Russia we were able to pursue the binding international restrictions to incorporate the need to teach about tolerance towards beliefs and minorities in different educational systems also with the (financial and institutional) support of the UN. What was also essential to us, and which we could pursue together with our untypical partner, Belarus, was a resolution on guidelines to reduce (also anti-Semitic) discriminating content on the Internet. Thanks to this rather untypical partner country of Israel, we learnt that personal relations with other delegates or original nationality affiliation, play an important role when it comes to looking for partner or signatory countries.

To the less successful outcomes of our work, we have to admit, that we were not signatories of one of the resolutions we worked on most intensively. Although, we were able to set all priorities of our agenda in the final resolution, we also learnt that we need to look for more responsible and reliable (partner) countries.

Afterwards, we worked on the second topic "The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age". The State of Israel, as an IT nation, accented that the development of ICT has touched all sectors of economy and private lives and therefore it is of utmost importance to develop the legal framework in order to protect the privacy of individuals and also companies. Israel has a very comprehensive law on The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, therefore it was easy for us to look for partner countries in the European block. On the other hand, it was rather complicated to work with the US, which is historically our partner country, however the US government struggles to define the right to privacy in the digital age. While working on different resolutions on cyber security, we pursued also our hidden targets, such as transferring of Israel's know how/ Israel's technology on cyber security in other countries, as Israel has the second largest density of cyber security companies per capita on the earth. We were also successful to be a signatory party of one resolution that called for creating of a special UN body for ICT and Internet issues. However, in the final round we did not find enough supporting countries in order to pass the resolution.

#### **6.4 Israel at the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34)**

represented by Teis Tonsgaard Andersen and Leon Aretz



#### **Committee Short Overview**

Established on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1965, the C-34 since then is set to improve the salient implications that are inherent to contemporary peacekeeping missions. In accordance with this objective, the C-34 intends to vest impetus to current debates by issuing an annual and consensual report on the situation.

Although just created as an advisory sub-organ to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, it circumcises a total of 124 Member States in addition to several international organizations. Mostly their participation is based on their involvement in the international afford to render peace.

#### **Committee Report**

Preparation for our Israeli duo was subsequently to analyze the involvement of Israel in this field. First and foremost the evident connection to peacekeeping was through our neighboring countries, Lebanon and Syria, where peacekeeping missions have featured prominently in maintaining stability. Thus, we had a solid foundation to base our argumentation on. Taking this as a starting point, we then referred to the group of themes, which were specifically elected to form possible topics for our debate in New York. These were:

- I. Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa
- II. Enhancing Robust Mandate to Deal with Complex Crises

### III. Enhancing the Use of Technology in Peacekeeping Missions

The first task of our committee was to agree upon the setting of the agenda – a task that might sound easy, but caused a lot of debate. Our top priority was Enhancing Robust Mandates in Complex Crises, since Israel has first-hand experience with the inadequate power of peacekeeping personnel in the Middle East region. Our second priority was Enhancing the Use of Technology in Peacekeeping Missions, given that Israel is a leading country when it comes to use and development of innovative modern technologies – experience and knowledge which could be translated into Peacekeeping Missions. Finally, our third and last priority was Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa. However, with most peacekeeping operations placed in Africa, and the African countries forming a large part of the Committee, we knew that it would be tough to get our priorities through.

As foreseen all African countries spoke in favour of the agenda point involving Africa, whereas many Western countries spoke in favour of the two others. It was interesting to notice the different approaches taken by the delegations. Some had the priorities set in stone, some were more flexible and some had no priorities set, but used this initial phase to make partners and identify like-minded delegations. After several hours of formal and informal exchange of view it was clear that no specific agenda point had common support. The closer we came on the deadline for the agenda setting, the more flexible the delegations got. However, at the end we did not agree on the agenda, and it was therefore set by the Chair in its initial priority, which meant Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa as the first topic for discussion.

The following days were all about discussing substance. Since the task of C-34 is to write a report with suggestions and recommendation relating to all aspects of peacekeeping mission the discussions was generally very broad. We took the approach for defining our main interests, which were relevant for the topic and work towards incorporating them into as many drafts reports as possible. Our priorities were: counter terrorism, empowerment of women and use of communication and water-management technologies.

By discussion a topic, which in its geographical scope was limited to Africa, we as Israel were more or less free from having the Middle East conflict causing us difficulties. We could therefore openly talk, corporate and negotiate with most nations. From the very outset we had good cooperation with the USA and France.

On this topic one would think that the members of the African Union were playing a key role in the negotiations. This was however not the case. It wasn't until the end of the second day of negotiations that the African Union gathered to find a common African approach. What was interesting for the group dynamic was that the countries of the Africa Union more or less excluded all other countries from their informal talks. Thus, it



became visible how difficult it is to coordinate and create common ground even within regional groups.

The C-34 was a large committee with more than hundred delegations and limited time of formal sessions. Therefore it wasn't easy to get on to the speakers list. We managed however to speak four times, but with only 90 seconds speaking time, we had to carefully weigh our words. One of our speeches, that got very positive responses from the other delegations, was the following:

*"Honourable Chair, distinguished Delegates,*

*We are glad to see so much common ground and good ideas on how to improve peacekeeping in Africa, and we especially support the points just made by Ethiopia.*

*One of the biggest threats to peace and security is terrorism. In order to fight terrorism Israel believes, that we need to focus on preventive measures. This is where regional actors, such as the African Union, have the great advantage of local knowledge and leverage.*

*We believe that concrete measures to prevent terrorism should include: enhanced communication and early warning systems, through the use of mobile devices and smartphone applications and capacity building in border control. The long-term goal of our efforts should be sustainable peace building and development and we should therefore also focus on providing infrastructure and water-management.*

*Further, we support the remarks on the benefits of empowering women in peacekeeping, as mentioned by Argentina and Brazil.*

*To conclude, we believe that all African countries should have a strong say in this matter, and as say by the famous popstar Shakira: "Today is your day. I feel it. You paved the way. Believe it. This time for Africa!"*

*Thank you!"*

At the end the committee adopted eleven draft reports, which were then merged into one final report. We sponsored two of them, and where signatories to two others, and our priorities were very well reflected. The adoption of all drafts however also meant, that some topics were dealt with several times in the final report. The issue of coordination and streamlining is one of the challenges that the C-34 has also been faced in real life and that has led to a restructure of the meetings since 2013. NMUN comes indeed close to reality in all aspects.

Last but not least, out of the more than 110 Position Papers submitted we received as one of the few an award for an "Outstanding Position Paper". This was a great

accomplishment for us after all the hard work we had put into it during our preparation in Berlin and a great way to finish our work in the committee.

### **6.5 Israel at the United Nations Environment Programme**

represented by Aylin Mengi and Gandhi Vela Vargas



#### **Committee Short Overview**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the global leader on environmental issues and plays a key role in environmental policy, international and local. As an official program of the United Nations (UN), UNEP is said to be the “advocate, educator, catalyst, and facilitator” in promoting and establishing environmental practices and policies through political and civil coordination on various levels. Besides, UNEP offers political guidance, and valuable scientific insights, and is transmitting knowledge and information sharing on environmental matters. Overall, UNEP is “the voice of the environment of the UN system”.

#### **Committee Report**

The topics before the UNEP Committee are:

- I. Financing International Climate Change Technology Transfer;
- II. Sustainable Development in the Arctic; and
- III. Promoting Resource Efficiency in Urban Development.

Our preparation began early in Berlin when we were developing a comprehensive plan and strategy for the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference, considering the great importance of the topics before the UNEP committee with regard to the post-2015 agenda and the upcoming COP21 in Paris. Furthermore, our work included practicing formal and informal caucusing, inter alia, debate and discussion, holding speeches, and writing resolutions. Besides, we were studying the position papers of other delegations to seek for partnerships at the conference and were confident to witness productive negotiations. Israel is a leader in sustainable development and resource efficiency, supports technology transfer on a global scale through its agency MASHAV, and is therefore committed to support international initiatives that ensure the realization and implementation of international agreements. We were in favor of pushing the first topic on top of the agenda.

We arrived with a clear vision and strategy and realized very soon that having a plan was of utmost importance – conferences are about making compromises and finding consensus against all odds and surprises. To achieve that, you have to be clear about your positions and aims. However, a rushed situation in a committee with 193 member and voting states calling for bloc names, forming working groups, and changing minds cause the rise of a fluid dynamic process that is neither manageable, nor controllable, and cannot be prepared enough in detail. The very first lesson we learned is to react and be flexible to every occurring situation. Its application followed immediately, as the negotiations started with a little surprise. The request of a union – formed by European countries and our delegation in the first caucus – to set the first topic on top of the agenda was declined by a strategic alliance of African and Asian states who voted in favor of the third topic.

The activity at the UNEP committee was marked by innumerable suspensions of the formal caucusing which gave us a better opportunity to form working groups in order to discuss, debate, and finally draft resolutions. We were aware that Israel and its green growth programs and technologies obliged us to open our national and international interests to a broad variety of nations. Addressing the issue of climate change mitigation and its sub-categories resource efficiency and urban settlement, we promoted Israeli achievements and willingness to cooperate in a speech to our fellow delegates.

The path continued with the conformation of a working group of states with similar agendas. We soon found common ground with the remarkably cooperative delegations of Australia, China, the European Union, especially France, Japan, Norway, and the USA. By splitting up during the conference to get access to as much Member States as

possible, we were able to submit and be the sponsors of two working paper-turned-draft resolutions. As a main Israeli and Australian approach, one paper targeted on “green human settlements” with reference to the *Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development (2002)*. By reaffirming the integration of sustainable methodologies and resource efficiency within the context of future city planning, the paper concerned with transportation and water and waste management in growing urban areas. With our second French-Israeli working paper, which was supported by the G7, China, the European Union, and India, we developed wide-ranging resource efficiency programs to establish technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and financing. Using the *Green Climate Fund*, and the *Sustainable Development Goals*-agenda as role models, we created new models to ensure the “greening” and sustainable evaluation of main pillars such as politics, economy, society, and science with the support of the global community.

While our first working paper was focusing on the work with Member States on a global scale, our second approach was a bridge originating from technologized states. The evaluation of our working papers had to be combined with diplomatic excursions to other groups in order to understand the environment of the conference and to cooperate with any willing Member State in a productive and target-oriented way. The Tunisian delegation may be seen as a prime example, who joined our second working paper as a sponsor.

Having submitted an extraordinary amount of papers, we had to start a new round of discussion with other sponsors to merge our working papers. During this process, many clauses were added by the delegations though we kept making sure that none of these were contradictory to Israel’s foreign policy. Our “green human settlement” paper merged with the working paper of an African and Asian bloc which was led by an approach from Madagascar and Sri Lanka, giving it more support and expanding our paper even further. Our second working paper on technology transfer and financing programs was so unique that any merging process was not possible.

Lastly, we started advertising our working paper-turned-draft resolutions focusing on African and Asian states to gain enough signatories that we needed for the voting process to pass the draft resolutions. After four days of working and negotiating from early in the morning until late in the evening, our bloc’s final draft resolutions UNEP/DR/1-10 and UNEP/DR/1-13 included a total number of 23 perambulatory and 24 operative clauses and was passed by a clear majority.

From the very first beginning of the NMUN Conference, we had a very difficult stance at the UNEP Committee. Being ignored and even accused of human rights violations, we put the advices of Ms. Hadas Meitzad, Counselor to the Permanent Mission of Israel, into practice. Since there were only a few cases where our main allies had to step in to interrupt very inappropriate and biased talks, we have been very successful in implementing our strategy to keep those issues down. We stayed objective and

cooperative, kept a cool head and attempted to convey that UNEP is dealing with environmental issues and those accusations were out of subject. Moreover, we transacted the second advice, namely being active in “keeping the door open” to constructive dialogue. Our collaboration with the Tunisian delegation was the best example. Overall, representing Israel was both a challenging and a great experience.

The caucusing, the procedures of discussion, and negotiating in a cooperative way with other delegations in order to create new solutions and results to occurring international problems have been a few of the experience we made in the committee. It was all about learning a great deal about debate, diplomacy, and international affairs. We are honored and thankful to have participated in the NMUN Conference.

### **6.6 Israel at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Committee**

represented by Antonia Binder and Pia Ernestus



## **Committee Short Overview**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an UN Agency with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and is mandated to protect and support refugees worldwide. Its mandate is defined in the 1950 UNHCR Statute. It is governed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UNHCR is mostly financed by voluntarily contributions of Member States. 86% of the fundings are coming from Member States of the European Union, while 6% are coming from the private sector including the general public as well as private foundations and corporations. UNHCR also receives 2% of the regular budget of the United Nations. UNHCR is working in 123 countries worldwide and its work is mainly focusing on providing medical supplies and emergency aid, while finding a new home for the displaced, which are mostly victims of conflicts and persecution. UNHCR approaches the problem in three steps: repatriation in the home country once conditions allow or, if return is not possible, either integration in the first country of asylum or resettlement to a third country.

## **Committee Report**

Even before the National Model United Nation 2015 started with the Opening Ceremony we attended the Rules of Procedure Training at the Sheraton Hotel to refresh and deepen our knowledge about the procedure and also had the chance to meet other excited delegates from all over the world. This was also the time we met other delegations represented in UNHCR and we started exchanging business cards and looking for delegations sharing our opinion about the conference topics and the agenda setting. The three topics that were discussed before the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees at the conference were:

I. The Syrian Refugee Crisis

II. Protecting the Civil, Political and Socioeconomic Rights of Refugees

III. Protecting Refugees from Human Trafficking

As Israel has a quite strong position fighting human trafficking we voted for topic number 3 to be discussed first. Despite other differences, the majority of Member States chose the Syrian refugee crisis as their first priority at the agenda setting and the agenda was set as 1, 3 and then topic 2. Our main goal concerning the agenda setting was to avoid topic number 2 as it touched some sensitive issues in our policy. We shared the opinion that the Syrian refugee crisis is the most urgent problem and is also interlinked with the human trafficking problem and were satisfied with the agenda setting. The Syrian refugee crisis entered its fourth year of conflict now and an estimated 9 million people fled their homes. The surrounding countries are struggling with the high numbers of refugees arriving at their borders.

Right after the voting for the agenda setting the speakers list was opened and the first Member States started to express their opinion about the Syrian refugee crisis. All

countries agreed that the issue was of utmost importance and could only be tackled with the united strength of as many states as possible. After the Chair's question if there were any points or motions on the floor, almost all placards were raised immediately and we voted upon the suspension of the meeting for informal caucus for 45 minutes. The motion passed and we started discussing in working groups. We found several partners with matching interests and we discussed our proposals and ideas with the other states to formulate the first draft resolution.

Our main proposals to address the Syrian refugee crisis were to offer vocational and educational trainings for refugees to give them the chance to overcome language barriers and create a better future for themselves. This is necessary to enable the refugees to live self-sufficient. Another of our goals was to promote programs to fight Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in camps settings and raise awareness about this topic. We therefore offered our expertise and know-how on educational matters to the other Member States reflecting our good experience with previous programs of Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV).

To find more support in our committee we expressed our ideas in a speech as follows:

*"Dear Chair, Honorable Delegates,*

*the Delegation of Israel considers it highly important to set a focus on education when addressing the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Keeping in mind that only education gives refugees new and enriching opportunities, starting with the overcoming of language barriers, which keep them isolated and disadvantaged. These skills are necessary for refugees to become self sufficient and independent and give them the chance to create their own future. Therefore, the Delegation of Israel proposes to provide vocational and educational trainings for refugees and offers its expertise on educational matters to make these efforts as far reaching as possible.*

*We are now working together with a group of states including the United States, Denmark, Ethiopia and many more to tackle these issues as best as we can. With a system focusing on Sustenance, Safety and Education there will be change in the lives of these refugees and we invite all Member States to come and work with us and join our efforts (...)"*

As main sponsor we feel gratified about being able to constitute our ideas and thoughts into the draft resolution. In the end our resolution passed with a clear majority. Overall the conference was a challenging, but really educational and exciting time. It was a privilege and at the same time an honor to be able to represent Israel as a delegate at the NMUN conference. We are proud and feel accomplished about the rather positive reaction we have received for our efforts.



## 6.7 Israel at the United Nations Children's Fund

represented by Viktoria Neubelt and Yifan Zhang



### Committee Short Overview

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the only committee within the United Nations (UN) that advocates for the rights of children and equates the rights of the child with sustainable development. UNICEF has both a normative role in devising and setting international standards, and an operational role carried out at field level in areas such as emergency relief and rehabilitation; health; nutrition; education; water and sanitation; the environment; child protection; and gender issues and development. To meet the mandate by the General Assembly, UNICEF can work in coordination with other UN programmes and committees, other humanitarian agencies, particularly intergovernmental organizations. UNICEF has presence in more than 190 countries, territories and areas, consisting of the Executive Board, 6 Headquarters Offices, 7 Regional Offices and 36 National Committees. Since its establishment, UNICEF focuses on the welfare of children in at-risk areas worldwide. UNICEF takes actions during emergencies but also supports developing countries to provide children with basic resources and to stand up for children's rights.

### Committee Report

After the grand and very crowded Opening Ceremony, we rushed to our first official Committee Session of the UNICEF Committee to get the best seats, which made us

realize: NMUN starts – now! Due to the fact that we were one of the first delegates in the room, it was possible to already get in touch with the others and to start discussing the different preferences for the agenda setting before the start of the first Formal Session. Our three topics were:

I. Promoting Children's Rights in National and International Development Agendas

II. Children and Armed Conflict: Reintegration and Recovery

III. Advancing Human Development for Adolescents

We were very interested in keeping Nr. 1 on the top of the agenda because Israel is very active in promoting children's rights internationally and has many good campaigns and initiatives we would have liked to share. Fortunately, we quickly found a lot of delegations that agreed on keeping topic 1 on top, especially because we all thought about it as a good topic to find common ground with every present delegation. About topics 2 and 3, we were quite flexible, which made discussions and negotiations about the agenda setting rather smooth. To our pleasant surprise, the official agenda setting didn't take a lot of time and the motion to set the agenda in order 1-3-2, our preferred order, passed.

With UNICEF being a rather small Committee, we as Israel were lucky to speak during the first round of formal session and to present our general point of view. In the following informal consultation, we quickly found common ground with European countries like Denmark, Iceland, Finland and the Netherlands but also Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia and Chile and soon started to develop a concept for our working paper. It included a very broad and all-encompassing approach to strengthen children's rights in every aspect of life. Germany, Belarus and Kazakhstan especially focused on health issues which also included the global promotion of breastfeeding, so we soon agreed that they work out a paper that specializes on the health aspect and the big group around Denmark, the Netherlands and Israel covers all the rest with the intention to merge later and being signatories/sponsors of one another's soon-to-be-draft-resolution. Parallel to that, both of our groups continued to try finding more and more sponsors while keeping one another updated all the time. In the meantime, it became clear that a third working group developed around Yemen, Oman and Afghanistan.

During the second day, all of the three groups started to draft the working papers. Our group focused on a very concrete draft to design a children's rights blue print that is suitable but also flexible enough whenever a violation is happening or improvements must be done. We kept close contact to the "health" group, to make future merging as smooth as possible and to give all our sponsors and signatories a good insight. Denmark and Israel were highly active in developing our concept by organizing everyone's ideas

and requests and keeping up the communication with our “health-partner” while Tajikistan was in charge of the writing progress and the communication with our chair. At the end of the day, we were very glad to hand in our first draft.

On “Meltdown-Tuesday”, our main focus was on the editing of our first draft. The chair appreciated our great work but also had a lot of proposals to improve the paper. Parallel to that, it became clear, that the third working group around the Arab countries developed a very similar approach to our draft, but the communication about a potential merging did not go very well, both groups were too busy working on their drafts. Moreover, the delegation of Yemen started to attack us in one of their speeches, probably with the intention to pull more signatories towards their draft resolution. Fortunately, most of the delegations from the other two working groups criticized this diplomatic move and strengthened our backs. What a great feeling that so many countries did not hop onto the “Palestinian-war-train”, but relied on their personal impression of our performance! Nevertheless, this little dispute made further merging even more difficult.

At the end of the day, while we were still busy making the perfect draft, we had to watch in shock, that our partner group, the “health-group”, started merging with the “Arab-group” and not with us. Due to the fact that we kept the health-group involved all the time, it was quite a big disappointment and “Meltdown-Tuesday” very much deserved its name.

The next day, when it came to the final vote, we had two good papers basically everybody agreed with, so both of them passed with no votes against and we all felt very relieved and happy that in the end, everyone’s great work became a proper resolution.

## **7. Closing Ceremony at the NMUN 2015**

Two exceptional weeks have passed by. Two weeks in which we expanded our knowledge with the help of enriching briefings during the Study Tour. We appeared as diplomats in a demanding and exceptional conference, representing the position of Israel and discovered both New York and ourselves. You could not ask for a better practical experience and insight on the international scene at the United Nations.

The referendum on the elaborated resolutions and the Closing Ceremony formed the conclusion of the conference which was held in the General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters. The hard work during the conference paid back twice as much: All the resolutions our delegation took part in were accepted by a large majority. Other than that, the achievements of the Delegation during the conference got acknowledged with a „Honorable Mention“, followed by two other awards for “Outstanding Position Papers”.

This day was meant to end exceptionally, too. The final speaker turned out to be the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and he addressed us, the delegates. In a captivating speech, he drew the attention to the 70th anniversary of the UN and its importance in global processes: the world would be an unsafe world without the UN. These changes and improvements were achieved through political agreements, international cooperation, and solidarity. And only with this peaceful and beholden way, current conflicts can be solved and problems concerning the future can be managed and accomplished. Only this way the goals set in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which replace the MDGs, and the new climate treaty of the COP21 in Paris can be implemented.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda requires our attention, our assistance, and our implementation. With a plea that stresses the importance of our role in this process, the Secretary-General finished off his speech: “Now I call on you to transform your understanding into action. The United Nations is your global platform. [...] Let us join forces and advance together to the future we want.”



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**Article in Die Welt: Am Ende geht es immer um den Nahostkonflikt, 24 April 2015**

Von Eva Lindner (<http://www.welt.de/140025891>)

Bei "Model United Nations" simulieren Studenten aus aller Welt die Arbeit der Vereinten Nationen. Die Berliner Delegation vertrat diesmal Israel. Schnell lernte sie, was es heißt, isoliert zu sein.

Als Isa Adriane Günther bei einer Demonstration gegen Antisemitismus in Berlin eine Israelfahne in die Luft hielt, ahnte sie noch nicht, wie wegweisend diese Geste sein sollte. Viel habe sie sich damals nicht dabei gedacht, die 19 Jahre alte Studentin wollte einfach ein Zeichen gegen Diskriminierung setzen.

Heute findet sie diesen Zufall lustig. Denn damals ahnte sie nicht, dass sie ein halbes Jahr später wieder die Fahne Israels hochhalten würde. Diesmal aber als Diplomatin der Vereinten Nationen in New York.

Isa Adriane Günther und 14 Kommilitonen der Freien Universität Berlin (FU) haben kürzlich bei dem Rollenspiel "National Model United Nations" im Hauptquartier der UN vier Tage lang Israel vertreten. 5000 Studenten aus der ganzen Welt kommen jedes Jahr in New York zusammen, um die Arbeit der UN zu simulieren. Dabei repräsentiert jede Universitätsdelegation eine Organisation oder ein Land, das nicht das eigene ist.

**FU Berlin seit 1995 dabei**

Genau wie echte Diplomaten arbeiten die Studierenden in Gremien Resolutionen und Berichte aus, halten Reden und stimmen über Anträge ab. Seit 1995 nimmt die FU Berlin an der internationalen Konferenz teil, sie war vor 20 Jahren die erste deutsche Uni, die zur Simulation ins Hauptquartier eingeladen wurde. Seit 1999 sind auch andere deutsche Hochschulen dabei.

Die FU hat bereits Südafrika, die Türkei, die Vereinigten Arabischen Emirate oder Greenpeace vertreten. Bewusst habe sich die Delegation in diesem Jahr beworben, für Israel eintreten zu dürfen. "Nach den antisemitistischen Ausschreitungen im vergangenen Jahr und der großen Demonstration am Brandenburger Tor schien es mir an der Zeit, dass wir uns in 'Model UN' intensiv mit Israel auseinandersetzen", sagt Peggy Wittke, die Betreuerin der Studenten-Gruppe.

**Verständnis für die Politik fremder Staaten**

Was bedeutet es, für vier Tage den Ernstfall zu proben und zu tun, als könnte man die Weltpolitik beeinflussen? Und wie versetzt man sich in die Ziele und Positionen eines fremden Landes hinein? An der UN-Simulation teilzunehmen bedeutet nicht nur, die eigenen Vorstellungen, Vorurteile und Meinungen hinter sich zu lassen, sondern auch, sich die Befindlichkeiten und Standpunkte eines fremden Landes zu eigen zu machen.

Gerade zur Politik Israels, des Landes, das Deutschland seit vielen Jahren freundschaftlich verbunden und seit vielen Jahrzehnten historisch verpflichtet ist, haben



viele eine konkrete Meinung. Seine Politik prägt die Nachrichten in Deutschland. Das Programm will nicht nur das Verständnis für die Arbeit der Vereinten Nationen erweitern, sondern auch für die Politik fremder Staaten sensibilisieren.

Keine einfache Aufgabe, schließlich war keiner aus der studentischen Delegation jemals in Israel, nur wenige hatten sich bereits in ihrem Studium näher mit Israels Politik auseinandergesetzt. "Ich kannte Israel nur aus den Nachrichten", sagt Maria Fernanda Bravo Rubio, die 20-jährige BWL-Studentin. "Für mich stand das Land also immer vor allem für den Nahostkonflikt."

In der halbjährigen Vorbereitungsphase für die Konferenz sei ihr bewusst geworden, dass Israel mehr ist. "Israel auf den Konflikt zu reduzieren, wäre ein fataler Fehler", sagt sie. "Gerade auf internationalem Parkett hat das Land eine starke Stellung, was die Förderung von Frauen, moderne Technologien und Umweltschutz betrifft."

### **Angriffe im Umweltausschuss**

Tatsächlich ging es in den Ausschüssen, in denen die Studentinnen in der nachgestellten UN saßen, offiziell kaum um die großen außenpolitischen Themen Israels. Der Nahostkonflikt stand in diesem Jahr nicht auf der Agenda. Stattdessen diskutierten die internationalen Studentengruppen über ein Verbot für tödliche autonome Waffensysteme, nachhaltige Entwicklungen in der Arktis und die syrische Flüchtlingskrise.

Doch verschont blieb die israelische Delegation deshalb noch lange nicht. Denn sie musste lernen, was jeder weiß, der sich ausführlicher mit Israel beschäftigt: Jedes Thema, egal wie politikfern es zu sein scheint, endet meist in einer Diskussion um den Nahostkonflikt.

Am härtesten zu spüren bekam das die Politikstudentin Aylin Mengi. Im Umweltausschuss war sie sich sicher, einer politischen Diskussion zu entgehen. "Ich habe mich mit Israels innovativen Ideen auseinandergesetzt, wie das Land mit ausgeklügelter Technologie trotz Trockenheit aus einem Wüstenstaat ein blühendes Land macht", sagt sie.

Doch heute weiß sie, dass es blauäugig war, den Umweltausschuss auf die leichte Schulter zu nehmen. "Am Ende war es für uns am härtesten", erzählt die 23-Jährige. "Wir hatten extreme Schwierigkeiten, mit der Arabischen Liga zu kommunizieren. Albanien hat uns den Handschlag verwehrt, und die muslimischen Länder haben sich zu einer Lobby vereinigt." Nur mit Jordanien und Ägypten sei eine nüchterne Kommunikation überhaupt möglich gewesen. Klingt wie im echten Leben.

### **Frustration über missglückte Verhandlungen**

Letztendlich hätten die studentischen Vertreter der arabischen Länder jedes Thema, das Israel hervorgebracht habe, boykottiert und mit Verweis auf den Nahostkonflikt politisiert. Einen Vorschlag Israels zur Geschlechtergleichberechtigung wollten Pakistan und Sudan nicht unterstützen. "Wie könnt ihr über Gleichberechtigung reden, wenn in

eurem Land nicht mal Menschenrechte geachtet werden?", provozierten die Diplomaten. Letztendlich hätten die anderen Länder bewirkt, dass Israels Beitrag aus der Resolution gestrichen wurde.

Aylin Mengi ist die Frustration über die missglückten Verhandlungen noch immer anzumerken. "Wir waren während der ganzen Konferenz isoliert und konnten nur etwas erreichen, wenn wir Verbündete fanden. Russland und die arabischen Länder haben uns permanent angegriffen. Wir konnten kaum agieren, weil wir ständig damit beschäftigt waren, uns zu verteidigen." Seit ihrem Ausflug in die Welt der internationalen Diplomatie könne sie nachvollziehen, warum sich Israel innerhalb der Staatengemeinschaft oftmals als Opfer sehe.

Geholfen, sich gegen die Vorwürfe zu wehren, hätte allein die intensive Vorbereitung. Und die Tipps von den Profis. Im Vorfeld hat sich die Studentengruppe mit den echten Diplomaten der israelischen Botschaft in Berlin, aber auch mit israelischen und palästinensischen UN-Vertretern in New York getroffen. Ihr Rat: Orientiert euch an Ideen, nicht an Ländergrenzen. Und: Wenn ein eigentlich politikfernes Thema mit dem Nahostkonflikt in Verbindung gebracht wird, verweist darauf, dass der Nahostkonflikt Thema des Sicherheitsrates ist.

### **Drei Auszeichnungen für FU-Delegation**

Und schließlich reisten doch nicht alle erfolglos nach Hause: "Mein persönliches Erfolgserlebnis war, dass ich vor 300 Leuten eine Rede in der Generalversammlung halten durfte", erzählt Maria Fernanda Bravo Rubio. Ihr Bild sei per Video auf die riesigen Leinwände übertragen worden, die sie sonst nur aus dem Fernsehen kennt.

Die Aufmerksamkeit habe sie mit einem Zitat von Schimon Peres gewonnen: "I think that peace should be done not only among governments but among people" (Frieden ist nicht nur eine Sache zwischen Regierungen, sondern sollte auch ein Anliegen der Menschen sein). Das sei allen in Erinnerung geblieben, bestätigen die Kommilitonen. Und: Am Ende trug die israelische Delegation der FU sogar noch drei Auszeichnungen des Simulationsprogramms von New York mit nach Hause nach Berlin.

Auch Lehramtsstudentin Isa Adriane Günther, die vor einem halben Jahr in Berlin gegen Rassismus demonstriert hatte, konnte bei einem schon verloren geglaubten Kampf nach heftiger, stundenlanger Diskussion einen Sieg vermelden. Im Komitee gegen Diskriminierung setzte sie sich gegen die anderen Studenten durch und brachte das Wort "Antisemitismus" in einer europäischen Resolution mit unter.

Wie wichtig der Einsatz dagegen ist, weiß sie spätestens seit den Ausschreitungen in Deutschland. Und auch in Zukunft wolle sie Israel nicht von der Landkarte streichen. Schon bald will sie hinfahren und das Land, über das sie nun so viel gelernt hat, selbst kennenlernen.



**Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in the  
National Model United Nations conferences 1995-2015**

Republic of Lithuania (1995)

Syrian Arab Republic (1996)

Kingdom of Norway (1997)

Republic of South Africa (1998), Award “Honorable Mention”

The People's Republic of Bangladesh (1999)

The Republic of Turkey (2000), Award “Honorable Mention”

The Argentine Republic (2001)

The Republic of Poland (2002)

The International Council on Social Welfare (2004)

The Republic of Guatemala (2005), Award “Honorable Mention”

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

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

Japan (2008), “Outstanding Position Paper Award”

Australia (2009)

The Kingdom of Spain (2010), “Outstanding Position Paper Award”, Award “Honorable Mention”

The Republic of Turkey (2011), Award “Honorable Mention”, “Best Delegate in the Committee Award” - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Republic of Iraq (2012), Two “Outstanding Position Paper Awards”

Greenpeace (NMUN Latin America, 2013), “Distinguished Delegation Award”

Montenegro (2014), Award “Honorable Mention”, Two “Outstanding Position Paper Awards”

Israel (2015), “Honorable Mention”, Two “Outstanding Position Paper Awards”

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**The NMUN 2015 Delegation of Freie Universität Berlin is grateful for these awards as they honor our preparation for and our work at the Conference and conclude a wonderful and delightful experience.**



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