



# UN-FORUM

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## National Model United Nations 2017

*Report of the Participation of Freie Universität Berlin*

*Representing the Republic of Malta*

*Winter Semester 2016/2017*



*“Seddaq il-ghaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.*

*Confirm us all, in unity and peace. “*

*– National Anthem of the Republic of Malta –*

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# **National Model United Nations**

## **2017**

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Winter Semester 2016/17*

Edited by  
Alonso Burgos, Birkan Görer, Felix Schott  
and  
Victor Souza

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

## National Model United Nations 2017

### The Delegation of Malta



Back row (from left to right):

Victor Souza, Lewis Wattenberg, Birkan Görer, Frithjof Paulsen, Elisabeth Müller, Elisabeth Höhne, Elias König, Anne-Sophie Hanz, Julian Hettihewa

Front row (from left to right):

Selin Dirik, Eduardo Pages, Alonso Burgos, Kiyann Farmand, Felix Schott

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## Foreword by the Head Delegates

Abstracting and idealizing things comes very naturally to all of us. In one way or another, we all simplify concepts or develop ideas about things that feel very far away from our everyday life, or much bigger than what we are used to experience. Many times we don't even form these ideas intentionally; we just have a notion of how certain things are based on what we have heard, seen or read and on what our imagination was willing to add.

All of the fourteen members of the Delegation of Malta took on the task of representing the Freie Universität Berlin at the National Model United Nations 2017 with different ideas about how the experience was going to be like, and what "real" diplomacy truly is. Each had his and her expectations, notions and even phantasies about New York, the United Nations and NMUN 2017. Amongst many other things, our experience was a process of confronting our ideas and notions with the reality we got to know in New York.

Already in the preparation in Berlin before the conference, our expectations became quickly replaced by reality. Very soon we realized that this was not going to be like a regular seminar or lecture, and that from the very beginning we had to commit to the course and interact with the group in a way that none of us was accustomed to from other classes. Unlike in other universitarian experiences, we had to work together as a solid team and interact with each other much more than with regular classmates. The task of representing the university at an international forum had to be taken with seriousness, and representing a country of which we knew very little turned out to be a lot more demanding and challenging than what we had imagined.

The trip to the United States was also a source of expectations and wild phantasies. For some in the group, the visit to NY meant their first visit to the American continent. All of us could associate a film, a song or a book with Manhattan, and we were all very excited to see how magic the city that never sleeps really was. On the other hand, some were also worried about the trip to the United States. One of the most valuable characteristics of the group - it's multiculturalism and internationality became a reason to be nervous because of the troubling attitude towards foreigners that became visible in the United States since the beginning of the year. We were concerned, but also interested to see how the country and its population would receive a group of students from Ecuador, Mexico, Germany, Turkey and Iran, amongst others.

The conference itself was also an aspect where our expectations and ideas were put to test, and for most of us, they were vastly surpassed. The amount of people, the long working hours, the unexpected allies and enemies, the altering power balances, some of the big countries that didn't show up and some of the small countries that made themselves big; NMUN 2017 was all of that, and much more we wouldn't have been able to imagine. Amongst thousands of students, we were put to the task of making our voices heard and our ideas understood. In the end, we managed to push resolutions forward as Malta and to have our efforts in the preparation and during the conference recognized. We saw our expectations surpassed until the end, when we were awarded 6 Outstanding Position Paper Awards, a prize for Distinguished Delegation and got to receive an applause from our peers in the Hall of the General Assembly.

Of all, probably the most important lesson we made in New York, or the most important idea we had to demystify, had to do with the Organization of the United Nations itself, and the people who take decisions that impact the world. Many of us had formed a very abstract

idea of the way the UN operates, without really taking the people working there into consideration. Some of us thought of the institution as a complex living structure while overlooking the importance of human agency. We hadn't become fully aware that every diplomat, expert and advisor that works at the UN is in the end a normal person who lives outside of his/her job like everybody else. The unique opportunity to meet the people who work at the UN during our study tour and then pretend to step into their shoes for the conference came with a heavy realization: at some point, those who are now in charge of finding ways to bring peace to this world were probably in a very similar situation to ours at some point. We not only became fully aware that behind the immense work of the UN lies the everyday effort of individuals from all over the world, but that said individuals were no different from us in their youth, and that we had much more in common with them than what we had imagined.

An inevitable part of growing old and acquiring experience is to see that many of the ideas that we had formed for ourselves are very different in reality. In that sense, our work as the Delegation of Malta before and during NMUN 2017 was a formative experience, for it showed us that big decisions and great ideas are not the product of a large autonomous organization, but of the people that work there, who are not that different from us at all. Perhaps above all, the confrontation of our ideas with the reality of the UN made us wonder what our role can be in the future of this world, or to put it in the recent words of the UN Women Ambassador Emma Watson it made us ask ourselves:

*If not me, who? If not now, when?*

*Alonso Burgos and Elisabeth Höhne*



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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, as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke



Photo Credit: National Model United Nations

## 2. The FU Berlin NMUN 2015 Delegation



**Alonso Burgos** associates scenes from films by Woody Allen to New York. He was born in Mexico City and is currently in the 4th semester of the bachelor studying Comparative Literature and Political Science. He took part in several Models of the United Nations in high school and was chosen to be one of the Head Delegates of the Delegation of Malta. He is particularly interested in issues of disarmament and Human Rights, and would perhaps like to work in the real United Nations one day. Alonso has a passion for books and films and dreams of becoming a writer. His favorite

quote is by Friedrich Nietzsche: “He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster.”

At NMUN 2017, Alonso represented Malta in the First Committee for Disarmament and International Security with Eduardo Pages.

**Anne Sophie Hanz** comes from Brussels, Belgium and is a Law student. Anne Sophie went with the nickname of “Anso” for the Maltese Delegation since the very beginning. During middle school and high school, Anso participated in various Models of the United Nations, locally, regionally and internationally. Anso is very vocal about her political opinions and always willing to defend her views.



At NMUN 2017, Anso represented Malta in the International Atomic Energy Agency with Julian Hettihewa.



**Birkan Görer** studies Law in his 6th semester and is from Berlin. As Birkan majors in International Public Law and European Law, he wished to experience the process and the will to seek compromises in the UN. To Birkan, the UN remains first and foremost a guarantee of rights of the vulnerable. His favorite quote is by Epictetus: “For that reason, starting with things of little value – bit of spilled oil, a little stolen wine, repeat to yourself: ‘For such a small price I buy tranquillity and peace of mind’”.

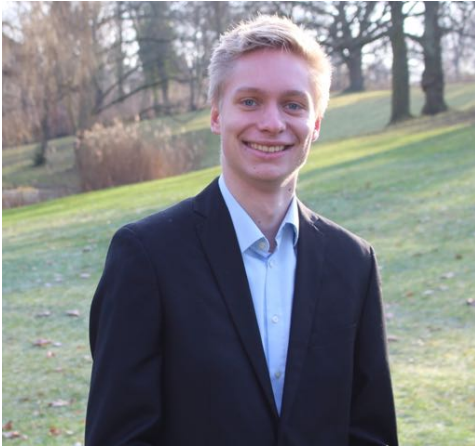
At NMUN 2017, Birkan represented Malta in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with Selin Dirik.

**Eduardo Pages** (“Eddy” for the Maltese Delegation) applied for the seminar to get a glimpse of what the sometimes mysterious and distant day-to-day work of the United Nations really looks like. The 21-year-old Ecuadorian from Guayaquil, who studies Political Science in the fourth semester, shows deep knowledge and interest regarding issues like nuclear disarmament, human rights and political theory, while also proudly showing his love for pop culture, Star Wars, Dr. Pepper and Spongebob Squarepants, who he assures, he can quote without problems. When thinking



about New York, Eduardo’s mind wanders off to the combination of nationalities and identities in the big city, where he says, the possibilities of cultural discovery are endless.

At NMUN 2017, Eduardo represented Malta in the First Committee for Disarmament and International Security with Alonso Burgos.



**Elias König** is from Heidelberg, Germany and studies Philosophy and Political Science. He was looking forward to meet wonderful people and gain a plethora of insights at the NMUN. For him, the most crucial issue in the world today is Climate Change. He is very interested and would like to work in education and educational policy. His favorite quote is “Your freedom starts where my freedom starts”

At NMUN 2017, Elias represented Malta in the General Assembly Second Committee with Victor Souza.

**Elisabeth Höhne** very soon became Lizzy for the Delegation of Malta. Lizzy was born in the depths of Eastern Brandenburg and has spent time studying in Cape Town and Ramallah. While studying a Masters in Clinical and Health Psychology at the FU Berlin and Politics and International Relations at LSE, Lizzy shows great concern about the Middle East and the implications of the Arab Spring in the context of international relations. Lizzy considers herself a bibliophile, and her favorite quote is from Francis Bacon: “All colours will agree in the dark”.



At NMUN 2017, Lizzy represented Malta in the United Nations Environment Assembly with Elisabeth Müller, and took on the task of being Head Delegate.





**Elisabeth Müller** studies law in her 4th semester at FU. She was born in Berlin and speaks German, English, Russian and Hebrew. Elisabeth applied for NMUN in pursuit of a new challenge and to further develop her research, negotiating and public speaking skills. To her, the most crucial world issues are the rise of populism and the consequences of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Elisabeth's favourite quote is from the Talmud: "And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world".

At NMUN 2017, Elisabeth represented Malta in the United Nations Environment Assembly with Elisabeth Höhne.

**Felix Schott** was born in Würzburg. After graduating from high school, he took a gap year and travelled to Australia and the United States. He studies law at FU Berlin and is particularly interested in International Law and European Law. At a time when the world faces many challenges, Felix believes these challenges are best met by international cooperation and the promotion of justice and the rule of law. His favourite quote is from Nelson Mandela: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others".



At NMUN 2017, Felix represented Malta in the World Health Organization with Lewis Wattenberg.





**Frithjof Paulsen** was born in northern Germany, but spent the last years in Dresden, before moving to Berlin. He studies Political Science in the 4th semester. After finishing school, he toured through Europe by train, volunteered on organic farms in England and travelled through Israel and Palestine. For him the issue of social justice is the most concerning and the one he is most interested in. After taking part in MUNs in London and in Paris, the FU Berlin NMUN provided the perfect opportunity to improve his knowledge about the UN's work and structures. His favorite quote is "If you

reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay at home." by James Michener.

At NMUN 2017, Frithjof represented Malta in the General Assembly Third Committee with Kiyen Farmand.

In 2015, **Gandhi Vela** already experienced NMUN as a Delegate representing the FU. What he learned from his past experience as a Delegate was one of the many invaluable things that Gandhi was able to offer the Delegation of Malta as one of its Faculty Advisors. Gandhi is currently doing a PhD in Comparative Law at the FU. Originally he is from Quito, Ecuador. Gandhi's first associations when hearing New York are all the songs that he knows that mention the city and Central Park. Gandhi has managed to become a high-



performance athlete in his free time and has completed many marathons, triathlons and Ironman challenges. In an early phase of the preparation for NMUN, our Faculty Advisor hoped that the Maltese Delegation would make a wonderful job, and thanks to his wise guidance, we can say we did.



**Julian Hettihewa** studies Law in his 4th semester and was born in Marburg, Austria. By virtue of Julian's interest in International Law, he wished to learn it in a practical way and participated in NMUN. However, the UN is much more to him: a forum to enable a peaceful world. After all, Julian agrees with Karl Jaspers that “Violent struggle vanishes through communication”. And the nations of the world should step up for this.

At NMUN 2017, Julian represented Malta in the International Atomic Energy Agency with Anne-Sophie Hanz.

**Kiyan Farmand** was born in Kaiserslautern. He has Persian roots and came to Berlin to study English and German Philology. Kiyan views himself as a ‘world citizen’ and is passionate about politics and international diplomacy. If he were to work at the UN, he would be promoting and fighting for human rights. Kiyan’s favourite quote is from Henry David Thoreau: “Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison”.



At NMUN 2017, Kiyan represented Malta in the General Assembly Third Committee with Frithjof Paulsen.



**Lewis Wattenberg** is a Law student in his 4th semester from a town near Bielefeld. As Lewis is going to spend his next academic year at a Parisian university, his inherent wish is to maintain the EU of peace, stability and shared values. Therefore, participating in NMUN was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the UN and work with like-minded people. Lewis favorite quote is by Seneca: “As is a tale, so is life; not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters”.

At NMUN 2017, Lewis represented Malta in the World Health Organization with Felix Schott.

**Sarah Nee** is currently finishing her bachelor’s degree in Bioinformatics. As her course of study is rather exotic for a participant of NMUN, she challenged to take an interdisciplinary approach. By this way, Sarah was able to prove that her skills in natural sciences are useful and applicable to matters of political and social sciences. Her favorite quote is from the Lord of the Rings: “It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there’s no knowing where you might be swept off to.”



At NMUN 2017, Sarah represented Malta in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with Selin Dirik and Birkan Görer, mainly during the preparation process in Berlin.



**Selin Dirik** is a real Berliner with Turkish roots. She studies Law in her first semester at FU. Selin is curious about the UN's work to promote sustainable development and to protect human rights. She likes the idea of representing another country and learning about its history and culture. For Selin, NMUN is a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience of international diplomacy. Her favourite quote is from Aung San Sou Kyi: "The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom of fear".

At NMUN 2017, Selin represented Malta in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with Birkan Görer.

**Victor Souza** is a Political Science student and currently specialising in International Relations and International Political Economy. Victor comes from Sao Paulo, Brazil and came to Germany to study. He is interested in the protection of human rights, peaceful conflict resolution, and therefore in the work of the United Nations as being an international platform for states to come together, communicate and find solutions for international problems. Being part of the NMUN allowed him to better understand the UN, its mechanisms and diplomatic negotiations in a variety of issues and conflicts. He speaks Portuguese, Spanish, German, English and is learning French. His favourite quote is "The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall".



At NMUN 2017, Victor represented Malta in the General Assembly Second Committee with Elias König.

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



#### 3.1 History

Maltese history has been shaped throughout the ages by a tradition of exchange between Europe and Africa. The first settlement on the island of Malta can be traced to around 5200 BC. More than 1000 years later, a culture left its mark on history through its ancestral constructions, the most notable of which is the Ggantija Temple in the island of Gozo, which still stands today and predates Stonehenge.

Around 600 BC, Malta started playing an important role in the regional landscape, as it was established as an important trading post between Europe and Northern Africa under the control of Carthage. In this period, Hellenistic architecture and the Greek language were introduced in Malta.

As a result of the Second Punic War, Malta became a part of the Roman Empire, under which control the island flourished. Until the end of Roman control over Malta around 500 AD, Latin was the official language of the island.

Together with the Maghreb and the Iberian Peninsula, Malta was conquered by the Arabs in 870 AD.

Under Arab rule, the importance of the island as a gateway between Europe and the Maghreb grew, and the influence of the Arabic culture on Malta can still be seen nowadays. The island received a big amount of new inhabitants coming from Sicily during the 11th century and the population grew considerably.

The island was taken back by the Europeans in 1091 under Roger of Normandy, and only two centuries later, it was captured by the Kingdom of Aragón of Spain. Malta remained under Spanish rule for almost three hundred years during the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance. The Spanish introduced the Feudal System to Malta, and the



island was eventually given to the order of the Knights of St. John in 1530. After defending the island from Turkish invaders, the Order decided to make the island their home, and they founded the now capital city of Valetta. For the next few centuries, Malta underwent its golden age and was the smallest state to take part in the colonization of the Americas.

During the 18th century, the Order of the Knights of St. John lost much of its might and resources due to administrative problems and other external issues like the French Revolution. By the time Napoleon Bonaparte arrived in Malta to occupy the island on his way to Egypt, the Order wasn't capable or willing to fight back, and control was handed over to the French. Their rule over Malta barely lasted two years, from 1798 to 1800, when the British liberated the island. In the following years, the importance of Malta as a gateway to the East and to Africa for the British Empire became evident, and in 1814 it became an official British Crown Colony. During both World Wars, Malta and its people showed their courage and commitment, and Malta served as an important military and naval base where many wounded soldiers were attended, receiving the nickname of "the Nurse of the Mediterranean" and the George Cross, the highest civilian award for gallantry.

In 1964, after more than 150 years of colonial rule, Malta became an independent constitutional monarchy in the Commonwealth of Nations, and Malta's neutrality and nonalignment principles were included in the Maltese Constitution in the 1980s. In 2004, Malta became the smallest member of the European Union.



### **3.2 Society and Culture**

Maltese identity and its societal and cultural practices are a reflection of the country's long history of exchange and mixture. Malta has a population of about 423.000 inhabitants, who are distributed in the smallest surface of a country in the European Union (316 km<sup>2</sup>). The official languages are Maltese and English. The former is a proof of the productive exchange of cultures that have shaped Malta, for it is the only Semitic language that uses the Latin alphabet, and that includes words and idiomatic expressions taken from Spanish, French and Italian.

Even though Malta is a multicultural country, contemporary Maltese society is highly concerned by immigration from Northern African or Middle Eastern countries, and the government's recent immigration policies have been critically noted by other countries of the European Union. Malta's society has access both to free health care and public education, which together with the low unemployment rate of 4.5% locates the country high on the global Gini coefficient scale (27.7).

Demographically, Maltese population does not vary a lot from the European trend, with a larger amount of older than younger citizens.

According to Art. 2 of the Maltese Constitution, the official religion of Malta is Roman Catholicism. Even nowadays, the church plays a very important role in Maltese life, with 88.6% of the population identifying itself as Christian, and 52.6% still attending Sunday mass. Regardless of this, the country's inclusion of sexual minorities is quite progressive (civil union of LGBTQ+ individuals was legalized in 2014). Especially since the election of the current president Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the government's efforts have directed towards the improvement of gender equality, both in the workplace and in private life.

Regardless of its size, Malta is a country that has a lot to show and appreciate when it comes to art, music and literature. Ranging from prehistorical works of architecture like the Ggantija Temple (which predates even other famous European sites like Stonehenge), to the paintings made by Caravaggio during his 15 months stay on the island, and the works of great classical and contemporary poets and writers like Dun Karm Psail and Immanuel Mifsud, the small nation has given artists the inspiration to deal with their complex history and identities in an undoubtedly interesting and beautiful manner.



### 3.3 Political System

Malta is a *parliamentary representative democratic republic* with the Roman Catholic Christianity as the state religion. The House of Representatives is the Parliament of Malta, based on the British equivalent, although unicameral. As of the beginning of 2017, 38 of the 69 seats are held by the Labour Party, 29 by the Nationalists, one by the Democratic Party and one is held by an independent MP. In order to assure an undisturbed flow of business within the House, the members elect a Speaker responsible for overseeing procedural matters, dividing debate times and mediating between the House majority and its opposition.

Furthermore, the Maltese President is elected by a simple majority vote in the House for a five-year term. Being a principally ceremonial position, the President appoints the Prime Minister according to the parliamentary situation. Since 2014, the President, residing in San Anton Palace in Attard, west of Valletta, is Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, former MP for the Labour Party and Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity. UN Women awarded her in September 2016 the “Agent of Change” award, recognizing her work for gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Mediterranean.

The Government of Malta consists of the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Secretaries. On the basis of the Parliaments situation the President appoints the Prime Minister for a five-year term. He is the highest official of Malta (currently Joseph Muscat, leader of the labour



party). The Cabinet of Malta is the collective decision-making body of Malta's government. It consists of a number of Ministers who were selected by the Prime Minister from the MP's to head government departments, and the Prime Minister himself. The Parliamentary Secretaries are "Junior Ministers" assisting a more senior Minister with his or her duties and can be invited to attend cabinet meetings and other senior government officials.

The Prime Minister has the obligation to keep the President fully informed on the general conduct of the government. While the President appoints the other Ministers (there are overall 16 Government Ministries) and members to the Judiciary on the Prime Minister's advice, the Prime Minister is constitutionally responsible for appointing Permanent Secretaries.

There is a number of departments of government the Prime Minister is responsible for (19). One of those is the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) that has been based in Valletta since 1972. It constitutes the administrative headquarters of the government. The OPM's main task is to support the Prime Minister in leadership and direction for a stable and effective government. There are three core departments of OPM: the Cabinet Secretariat, the Management and Personnel Office and the Department of Information.

The Maltese Judicial System is a mixture of both English and continental civil law. At its head sits the Constitutional Court, having appellate jurisdiction in matters of inaccurate application of the Maltese Constitution. However, the Court also has original jurisdiction in regard to cases concerning electoral fraud and corruption. The presiding judge is the Chief Justice of Malta, who is (like the other judges of the court) appointed by the President upon recommendation by his Prime Minister and acts only as *primus inter pares*. The tenure lasts normally until the usual retiring age of 65, unless he is removed prior to that through an impeachment process. Hierarchically directly below the Constitutional Court are the Civil and Criminal Appellate Courts, also presided over by the Chief Justice, followed by various inferior courts. In criminal courts, judges always sit with a jury of nine.



### 3.4 Economy

Malta is considered an open market, highly industrial economy. It is based on service, tourism, trade and manufacturing. The strength of Malta's economy is its geographic location, which also defines its economic development. In the past decade, its economic growth rate has been higher than that of its neighbours. Even though Malta is highly dependent on imports of food and energy, it has shown to handle international economic and financial challenges quite well. Following the financial crisis in 2008, Malta's banking sector recovered quickly and was in a position to aid in recovery. By 2015 the GDP per capita (20,347€) had already exceeded its pre-crisis peak. The unemployment rate is one of the lowest in Europe, but still the female labour market participation with less than 60% is far below the EU average.

For the government, the domestic financial system is the main source of financing. The risks connected with the large international financial market of Malta appear quite limited because the domestic financial system is comparatively insulated. Only a small part of the financial market is connected to the domestic economy. The larger portion is the internationally oriented market with little links to the domestic market. This provides stability in case of tension in the international financial market.

Being an isolated island without much natural resources and arable land, Malta's economy is heavily dependent on its manufacturing industry and its service sector.

Agriculture only contributes 1.4% to the national GDP and Malta can only cover 20% of its food requirement with domestic goods. Fishery plays an important role in offering jobs with 3000 ships operating around the island.

The manufacturing industry mainly consists of smaller businesses in the field of light industry, shipbuilding and microelectronics. In terms of energy, Malta relies entirely on oil and gas imports mainly from Libya, with only two thermal power plants powering the whole country. The mining and especially the building industry also contribute to Malta's GDP, with offshore explorations for oil and gas going on in the Mediterranean.

The service sector primarily revolves around financial businesses and tourism. There are currently 26 banks operating in Malta and since 1992 several offshore banks catering to foreign investors have been established. With around 1.6 million tourists every year and a good quality as well as quantity of hotels, tourism serves as one of Malta's biggest employment sectors and backbone of the economy.

In 2014, Malta's imports amounted to the sum of 11.4 billion USD with a growth of 7.3% in the last 5 years. The main imported goods include refined petroleum and passenger and cargo ships. Main origin countries are Italy, South Korea and the United States.

Malta exported goods worth 6.2 billion USD in 2014 with a growth of 7.2 % in the last 5 years. The most important export destinations include Egypt, South Korea and Germany.

The trade balance of Malta is negative by 5.17 billion USD and has increased compared to 1995.

Malta faces multiple economic challenges in the present and the future. Malta needs to strive further towards a more diverse and independent economy and battle its dependence from petroleum by investing in alternative power sources. Nevertheless, Malta's well positioned finance sector and its growing tourism industry cancel out the country's negative trade balance and establish it as one of the most economically stable countries in the European Union.



### 3.5 Foreign Policy

#### 3.5.1 United Nations

The Republic of Malta is part of the United Nations Organization since the 1st of December 1964. The application to become a member of the UN was submitted only 8 days after Malta gained independence on 21st of September 1964. Over the years, Malta contributed to many initiatives, promoted human rights, safety and the protection of the environment. Malta's most influential contributions were to the Law of the Sea, the elderly and the protection of the climate.

The Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations announced that it is their goal to „promote Malta's international multilateral profile, striving in so doing, to raise awareness and garner support for Malta's interests as well as its concerns, while upholding the principles and values of the United Nations Charter and participating pro-actively in a global vision to bring about a more peaceful and sustainable world for all.”

The Convention on the Law of the Sea emerged on the debate triggered by different initiatives and drafts adopted by Malta from 1967 to 1972. The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was convened in New York in 1973. It ended nine years later with the adoption of a resolution: the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Essential to Malta's (still most successful) effort were the threats and possibilities, as the Maltese Ambassador to the UN Arvid Pardo expressed in a speech in 1967, of military installations beyond the high seas, of highly radioactive waste polluting the seas, of conflicting legal claims and their implications for a stable order and of rich potential laying on the seabed. Three aspects of Malta's initiatives were crucial to targeting these problems. The Seabed Proposal sought to internationalize the seabed (ocean floor) beyond a narrow limit of national jurisdiction. The Proposal declared the seabed and ocean floor a “*common heritage of mankind*” and demands a share of the benefits between highly technological countries and developing countries. The Draft Ocean Space Treaty attempted to reconcile the politics of the ocean with “the scientific hypothesis that the planet cannot be divided into neat national compartments if the oceans themselves are to be saved.” Therefore, the Maltese draft considered the ocean floor as an ecological whole. The third aspect of the Maltese initiative to the Convention on the Law of the Sea was the International Sea Service, which led to interactions with national space programs and made the Maltese proposal a “trigger” considering further projects on other fields like the International Space Station (ISS).

In the year 1986, the Republic of Malta was the one, who first raised the question of ageing as an international issue at the United Nations General Assembly. Resulting from this, the General Assembly held the World Assembly on Ageing and continued in the resolution 37/51 which recommended „the promotion of training and research, as well as the exchange of information and knowledge in order to provide an international basis for social policies and action”.

An issue which has been playing an important role in Malta in the last years is the question of migration and refugees. In the year 1971, Malta signed the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol concerned with the status of refugees. The Refugee Act in Malta was approved by the Maltese Parliament on 25 July 2000 and entered into force in the following year. In Malta, UNHCR intended legal protection activities in order to acquire respect for each human being, which are constituted by Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law. UNHCR works together with the government of Malta, local agencies and civil society organizations in order to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees have access to their basic rights in terms of International, European and National Law. In fact, Malta has one of the highest per capita refugee acceptance rates in the world, but many on the island state are determined that Malta cannot take any more migrants. Still, Malta was assigned the role of an important consultant for the high-level summit. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said that it is their goal to share Malta's experience to help develop measures and ease the situation. Malta held a summit on the refugee crisis, for EU and African leaders in the year 2015.



### 3.5.2 Commonwealth

The Republic of Malta joined the Commonwealth in 1964, the same year it became independent from Britain. It remained a Member State of the Commonwealth and a Commonwealth Realm, having therefore Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II as Head of State, until 1974 when it declared itself a Republic. Since then, Malta is a member of the Commonwealth, but no longer in the Commonwealth Realm, given the fact Malta now has an elected president as Head of State – a Commonwealth Republic.

In the present, Malta holds an important role in the Commonwealth. The 2015 and latest Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) took place in Malta. This meeting occurs every two years and the host country is then the Chair in Office until the next CHOGM. Therefore, Malta's Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, is the Chair in Office until the next CHOGM in 2017/18. In the CHOGM15, Member States of the Commonwealth gathered to jointly search for solutions, exchange experiences, draw guidelines for the Commonwealth and enhance cooperation. Muscat's discourse and priorities involved: fight against terrorism through investment in education and job creation, good-governance, equality and climate change. The CHOGM dealt then with this point and reached consensus to act on issues such as the fight against radicalisation by implementing the "Commonwealth Countering Violent Extremism Unit". The Heads of Governments and Ministers also discussed and committed themselves to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa plan for financing, sustainable use of oceans and seas, fishing management and other marine-related industries (sustainable blue economy), better migration management and cooperation, climate change and the eradication of poliomyelitis. During the event, the Member States also released the "Malta Declaration on the Governance of Resilience" discussing how to make communities more inclusive and it included, for the first time, LGBTIQ issues and called upon Member States to take concrete action to prevent discrimination.

Malta has launched different initiatives within the Commonwealth. It is the home for the Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development (COMNET-IT, in Valetta), which develops global partnership to develop new technologies in the field of information and communication. Another Maltese initiative is the "Commonwealth Small States Centre for Excellence", which is a Malta and Commonwealth Secretariat initiative (supported by Dominica) to help small states deal and recover from disasters and natural catastrophes, and to assist in debt management, economic growth and development, education and health. This is an important initiative not only for Malta, but for all the 31 small states within the Commonwealth. In the words of Malta's Prime Minister Muscat: "We believe the Small States Centre of Excellence has the potential to serve as a life-line for developing small states, which are constantly having to manoeuvre multiple challenges in their endeavour towards achieving economic growth, and it shall aide in overcoming some of the hurdles they face in attaining their objectives for sustainable economic growth and development". The centre will be in Malta. Another Maltese recent initiative is the Women's forum, which gathered for the first time in November 2015. The Forum is jointly organized by Malta and the Commonwealth Secretariat and covers issues affecting women and girls, among other, such as education, information, violence, exclusion from political leadership positions, public bodies, private companies and the judiciary. In the opening speech, Muscat stated: "Next week is the meeting of heads (CHOGM), make this (Women's Forum) the meeting of brains". Beyond these initiatives, Malta has also supported and will be the base for the "Trade Finance Facility" (TFF). The facility will help small states have better access to banking and financing. At the start, small states will have up to US\$ 100 million incremental trade finance over the period of three years.

The historical development of the Commonwealth and Malta's role as a member with all the different initiatives it has started show how important the organization is. The cooperation among its Member States to tackle issues that comprehend economic growth and development, climate change and equality, especially gender equality, involve countries from each continent. Especially important is this network for the so called small states. And Malta plays a big role in creating initiatives to help and bring these states closer so they can all benefit from their common history as former British colonies and in the current Commonwealth of Nations.

### **3.5.3 European Union**

#### **Malta's Path to the EU Membership**

In 1970, Malta and the European Economic Community signed an Association Agreement which led to the creation of a customs union. Twenty years later, in 1990, Malta submitted its formal application to join the European Community. The application was supported by a positive opinion issued by the European Commission. A few years later, the newly-elected Labour government decided to temporarily halt Malta's application. The European Commission then presented an Action Plan outlining future relations between the European Union and Malta. However, after national elections had been held in 1998, Malta reactivated its application for its EU membership and finally joined the EU in 2004, together with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Malta also joined the Schengen Area in 2007 and the Eurozone in 2008.

The EU membership has renewed Malta's geopolitical relevance and enabled Malta to strengthen its role in the international community. Nowadays, cultural exchange takes place on many different levels and the Maltese are more connected with other nations across Europe. Malta's economy also benefitted from EU membership: Malta no longer has to deal with the risks of managing a small currency due to the adoption of the Euro and the reduction of Malta's deficit. There have been major EU investments in Malta's infrastructure and agriculture. The protection of Maltese heritage and the environment on the island are also supported by EU funds. There are, however, also voices of criticism and concern: On numerous occasions, Maltese politicians have expressed their dissatisfaction with a lack of support from other Member States when it comes to the issue of illegal immigration. Another point of criticism is that with more and more foreign goods coming to Malta, it becomes increasingly difficult for the Maltese to sell their own products. However, it should also be mentioned that Malta's exports into other EU countries have increased significantly. Despite these concerns, a majority of the Maltese approve their country's EU membership, as recent polls show.

The Presidency of the Council of the EU, established by the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, is a unique opportunity for Member States to influence the EU's agenda and define the Council's work on important issues. The presiding Member State promotes the Council's

work, represents the Council in relations with the other EU institutions, coordinates national policies and acts as a mediator. A pre-determined group of three EU Member States covers an 18-month period, the so-called Trio Presidency. Trio Presidencies draft a joint programme and establish long-term goals. However, the three individual countries also develop their respective national programmes within the framework provided by the Trio Presidency. The current trio is composed of the presidencies of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta. In the first half of 2017, it was Malta's role to lead the Council of the EU.

For its presidency, Malta identified six key priorities: Migration, the European Single Market, security, social inclusion, Europe's neighbourhood and maritime issues. Malta wants to ensure that the topic of migration remains at the top of the political agenda. The Maltese Presidency intends to strengthen the Common European Asylum System and to work towards a fairer overall distribution of asylum seekers. With regard to the European Single Market, ending roaming charges throughout the EU, tackling the issue of geoblocking and supporting small enterprises are on top of Malta's agenda. Emphasis will also be given to the fight against terrorist organizations and to the improvement of the EU's border security. Furthermore, Malta pushes for the creation of a European Public Prosecutor's Office. Regarding social inclusion, the Maltese Presidency pursues gender equality and wants to strengthen the rights of minorities. There will also be a Ministerial Level Conference on LGBTIQ rights. The Council's work regarding Europe's neighbourhood will be focused on the conflicts in Syria and the Ukraine, the democratic transition in Tunisia and the EU's relationships with the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Finally, Malta has put maritime issues on the agenda: The EU's Blue Growth Initiative and the Western Mediterranean Sea Basin strategy, which is intended to improve maritime governance in the Western Mediterranean.



**MALTA EU2017**



## **4. The Preparation Process in Berlin**

### **4.1 Visit to the German Federal Foreign Office**

November 2016

The day wasn't as cold as a week before. The group started getting together in front of the big entrance of the building at the number one of the Werdescher Markt street at about 15:40. While Gandhi instructed Julian on how to use his GoPro for the first scene of the movie, others talked about the university. Some had to skip a class in order to attend the visit, and no one seemed to be very sad about it.

After going through an airport-like security revision at the entrance and the obligatory first group photo, we were guided to a room. In there we were greeted by Susanne Fries-Gaier, an active member of the German Diplomatic Corps. She worked at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, and was present and played an active role in sessions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. She opened her presentation by asking fundamental questions about the legitimacy and the importance of the Security Council. To the question about the "blockade" of the Security Council, she answered that even though the executive organ has been stagnated on certain issues due to the division of the Permanent Members, the Security Council is still certainly active. During 2016, the Security has already passed 64 resolutions, she stated. Miss Fries-Gaier was also open to discuss the Security Council Reform, deeming it as a necessary, but very complicated process with many countries stating valid claims for a permanent seat, like Germany. About this, she raised the issue that 80% of the resolutions of the organ relate to Africa, even though there is no African country with a permanent seat.

Miss Fries-Gaier also answered questions related to her daily schedule as a diplomat, the future relationship with the government of the United States under president Trump and to alternatives of the reform in the United Nations.

After her, another active worker of the Foreign Affairs Office and a former FU student, Kai Baldow, introduced himself and gave a very interesting presentation about the life, the career and the preparation process of German diplomats, in which he is currently directly involved working for the Academy of the Foreign Affairs Office. The presentation concluded with an open invitation for the German students in the room to join the diplomatic division of Germany, which has brought many nations closer to each other in the past.

The group left the room with much to think and talk about, and after recording the scenes of the script for the movie with astounding performances made by Ali, Victor and Felix, and after a second round of group photos, everyone made their respective way home or somewhere, and so it started.



## 4.2 Fundraising/Bake sale

December 2016

The trip to New York for fourteen people and their 12-day stay in one of the most expensive cities of the country is not something to be taken lightly. Even though we are lucky enough to receive support from various institutions, organizations and private individuals, we still want to raise some money together as a group, so the burden on everyone is a bit lighter. During the first week of December, we undertook our first fundraising action.

On the 4th of December, right before St. Nicholas Day, we decided to take advantage of the season of the year when people buy and eat the most. We got together to bake delicious Christmas cookies and cakes to sell them at the university during the week.

We took shifts as salesmen and -women in the hall of the Law Faculty and had the opportunity to start exercising our persuasion and negotiating skills. The Latin American banana cakes and the masterfully baked *Benjaminblümchen Torte* were a success, and the revenues and donations are going to serve as financial support for the coming months and our trip to the NMUN conference in New York. Furthermore, we will continue assessing the ways in which we can raise more money for our trip. There are many that go from organizing a party and/or a cultural event to selling more cakes or other kinds of food at different venues of the university or even at a flea market in Berlin.

For now, our first attempt at make people aware of our existence and of our need for support got a very good response, and we hope to have left the people of the Law Faculty with a good taste in their mouth during the week.



### 4.3 Christmas Party

December 2016

Our last Delegation meeting in the year 2016 was ordered to be a Christmas Party. Although we felt uncomfortable to leave the hard work aside, we were able to adapt quickly and celebrate the Christmas spirit.

As the Delegation managed in the 2016 cake sale week to fairly divide the tasks and obligations within the Delegation, we again gathered a variety of food, hot punch, other beverages, and Christmas specialities. Especially Gandhi's masterly cooked roast beef, and guacamole with tortilla chips attracted the Delegates' attention.

Subsequently, after we had eaten and drunk enough, we started the session of Secret Santa. The idea is to look for rubbish at home that is useless or has been a gift that has been given to you and still is shareable. The exchange of gifts can be made more entertaining by buying trash for some money that may be funny.

In the hour of Secret Santa, we swapped humorous and incredibly useless gifts. Some of them were introduced by a lyrical poem or exciting speeches, that made the time even more pleasant. All in all, Secret Santa was a nice event and a huge success in strengthening the bond between the Delegates.

Afterwards, we elected the Head Delegates. Therefore, we firstly named nominees – Delegates, from whom we think have already shown skills in coordination and cooperation. In a second step, since the Delegation is well aware of women being underrepresented, we unanimously decided not only to appreciate every Delegate's efforts, but especially support women in our Delegation by making one of them our Head Delegate. In the end, we voted for Elisabeth (Lizzy) and Alonso. Both are recognized by the Delegation for either their driving effort and support or their ability to talk professionally to a set of UN topics.

After a lot of happy moments, more pictures being taken and nice conversations, we ended the party in the university building in order to continue with a big group in "Luise", the next bar/restaurant in the neighbourhood of Dahlem, where the Delegation had met and got to know each other more intensely after the first group meeting.



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

January 2017

If there is a saying that is well known by everyone, it is the “practice makes perfect” one. And it was by considering this saying that our Delegation gathered for a special conference of 6 hours to put the rules of procedures that will be used at the NMUN in New York into practice. How? By simulating an emergency session of the Security Council.

It all started in the first week of January as each Delegate was asked to choose three countries of the Security Council they would rather represent. Once the countries were assigned, every Delegate representing a member of the Security Council was informed on January 11th by the President of Security Council about the emergency session requested by the Delegation of Japan to discuss and handle an aerial incident in the disputed East China Sea where a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft had been shot down by the Chinese. In Japan’s letter to the President of the Security Council Japan expressed its pointed concerns with the unilateral decision of the Chinese to establish an East China Sea Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) and blame it for the incident, which killed an US-American pilot, an Egyptian co-pilot and a Japanese pilot, directly involving different members of the Security Council. On its own letter to the President of the Security Council the People’s Republic of China expressed its repeated warning to the Japanese about the Chinese ADIZ and that it had to take defensive action in response to the violation of Chinese airspace.

Two days later, on January 13th, the members of the Security Council gathered at 12PM in Berlin for the emergency session. The session started with a welcoming by the President followed by opening speeches by every Delegate expressing their solidarity to the victims and concerns on the matter. Right after, the “put the rules of procedures into practice” started. Sweden was the first to put a motion on the floor to set the speakers’ time to 90 seconds. Since the motion requires a debate (2 pro and 2 contra) the Delegation of Uruguay and Sweden spoke for it while the Russian Federation and Ethiopia spoke against. During the vote though most members - 9 votes - agreed with the 90 second speakers’ time. The speakers’ list was then opened as well as the debate on the incident in the disputed East China Sea. A few minutes later, Uruguay put a motion forward to the suspension of the meeting for 15 minutes for the purpose of informal consultations. As the motion passed, Delegates quickly ran to their respective partners creating different small meetings to discuss the matter, positions and start working on a draft resolution. And so, the day went by with debates, motions to suspend the meeting for informal consultations and to work on respective draft resolutions. At one point, we had two draft resolutions on the floor: The S/2017/1 put forward by Egypt, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Unites States and Uruguay and the S/2017/2 put forward by Bolivia, China, Ethiopia and Russia Federation. On the first draft resolution Bolivia also forwarded two amendments, both considered unfriendly, which meant we had to vote on it to decide if

they were going to be added to the resolution or not. To better discuss their draft China put forward a motion for a moderated caucus of 10 minutes. Once the moderated caucus was over we went back to the discussion as there were still Member States on the speakers' list. A while later Sweden put forward a motion to close the speakers list, which meant no one could be added to the speakers' list after the motion passed moving on to voting. And it passed. So it was that the voting procedure started. First voting on the two amendments from Bolivia to the S/2017/1 both of which failed. Moving on to the voting on the first resolution, Kazakhstan asked for a "Roll Call Vote". As each individual Delegation voted we realized the draft would not pass due to negative votes of two Security Council Permanent Members: China and Russia. As the first one failed, we moved on to the next one. The last chance to pass a resolution in that meeting. This time China motioned for a Roll Call Vote. S/2017/2 also didn't pass since it had 3 negative votes (US, UK and France).

The session then ended with no resolution passed on the matter. Nevertheless, it was an interesting session where we had the opportunity to learn how the Security Council works and how the procedures of such sessions are, and how we can use them representing Malta in the NMUN17.







#### **4.4 Briefing by the Embassy of Malta in Germany**

March 2017

Ten days before our departure to New York to represent Malta and Freie Universität Berlin at NMUN, we had the privilege of welcoming two members of the Maltese Embassy of Berlin as guests in our session. The Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Malta, Sephora Gauci, briefed us on Maltese national, regional and international policy, with a particular emphasis on Malta's priorities during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of this year. The Delegation was very happy and excited to see that the ideas and positions we have been developing throughout the semester for our representation of Malta at NMUN 2017 were approved by an official member of the Maltese Embassy. Sephora Gauci agreed with us on the importance of Malta in the international landscape as a bridge and as a mediator country in the Mediterranean, and underlined the paramount importance of Malta's neutrality, which is even included as an article in the Maltese Constitution. As a Maltese citizen, she was also kind enough to give us an insight to everyday life in Malta, and even told us a couple of anecdotes. We subsequently had the opportunity to further discuss Malta's positions on various issues during a question and answer session, and also got the chance to clarify our remaining doubts on Maltese policy. After the briefing, we had a very productive and dynamic speech training session, where we played a debate game called "Bunker". In it, each person gets a profession assigned. The debate is supposed to take place hours before the end of the world and of civilization, and there is only one bunker that can hold four people who will be in charge of saving the species in the aftermath of the catastrophe. The Maltese Delegation prepared and tuned its debating skills in a very fun session in which characters like a corn farmer, a Maltese Diplomat, a philosopher, a lawyer and a former dictator were pitted against each other to see who would carry on with the human species.





### **5. Our visit to the UN Headquarters in New York City**

In 1947, Oscar Niemeyer, world-renowned architect and part of the international team of architects in charge of planning the UN Headquarters, described his team's task as follows: 'When we make a building for the UN, we must have in mind, what is the UN? It is an organization to set the nations of the world in a common direction and gives to the world security. I think it is difficult to get this into steel and stone. But if we make something representing the true spirit of our age, of comprehension and solidarity, it will by its own strength give the idea that that is the big political effort, too.' During our tour of the UN Headquarters at New York's East River, it became obvious to us that Niemeyer was right in his assessment. Despite all the difficulties and setbacks the organization faces, the spirit of comprehension and solidarity is very much alive at the UN today.

When we arrived at the UN, we were greeted by a colourful display of 195 flags representing the organization's 193 Member States as well as the two non-member observer States, the Holy See and the State of Palestine. All flags are of the same size and arranged in alphabetic order, demonstrating that at the UN every Member State has an equal say. Our tour started with a quick look at the main stage of world politics: The Security Council chamber. To finally see the famous round table and the large mural behind it with our own eyes was very impressive and made all of us realise once again how important the work carried out in this building really is. We then walked through the chamber of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), another main organ of the UN, and looked at several exhibitions showcasing the UN's work in the areas of peacekeeping, human rights, nuclear non-proliferation and sustainable development. At the end of our tour, we walked through the General Assembly Hall. The hundreds of seats, like the flag display we saw at our arrival at the UN, were an excellent reminder of the global and far-reaching work of the UN.

We are very grateful that we had the opportunity to visit the UN Headquarters – the meeting place of Heads of State, ambassadors and diplomats, the workplace of more than 6,000 UN staff, and the place for nations to come together in order to overcome their differences and to seek common ground.



### 5.1 Briefing on Counter-Terrorism

Our unique opportunity to receive briefings by UN officials in the very Headquarters of the United Nations prior to our conference started with an UN expert who works as communications advisor to the Assistant Secretary General and as Executive Director of the Executive Directorate of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTED).

The expert explained to us that the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) was created at the wake of one of the defining chapters of the modern history of the International Community: 9/11. The committee works under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), using UNSC Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) as guidelines for taking a course of action. Its priorities are to coordinate the fight against terrorism and extremism, and prevent the strengthening of terrorist organizations and future attacks.

While the 15 Member States of the CTC hold regular meetings to draft resolutions on the fight against terrorism, the committee itself is advised and assisted by the CTED. We were explained that one of the CTED's main tasks is to carry out regular visits to Member States to conduct assessments of their mechanisms to prevent and fight terrorism on a governmental as well as on a structural scale. The experts of the CTED carry out these field visits upon decision of the CTC and invitation of the selected Member State. The evaluations conducted by the CTED regard mostly the shortcomings or gaps in the security, surveillance and defense systems to prevent and combat terrorism in the visited countries. Mostly, the CTED provides technical and logistical assistance to improve these short-term prevention mechanisms. The expert acknowledged the importance of long term terrorism prevention in the improvement of education and social equality in the countries where the young part of the population is exposed to being radicalized, however, the work of the CTED mostly focuses on technical and infrastructural advisory for the Member States that are visited.

During the briefing, he also explained that the issue of terrorism is much more complicated than what is normally seen in the political discourse or the media. He said, for instance, that there is no generally accepted definition of what a terrorist is. Who is a terrorist for some might be a freedom fighter or a revolutionary for others. Nevertheless, there are 19 legal instruments that define acts of terrorism for the International Community and that provide the basis of the actions and discussions of committees like the CTC. Another issue with the fight against terrorism that the speaker pointed out was that when discussions take place about the necessity of dealing with the root causes of terrorism, some Member States show themselves skeptical about the issue. Some governments are not so willing to accept that there are social, cultural and developmental causes for acts of terror and radicalization, because accepting this premise would in some way justify acts of terror.

Lastly, the UN expert told us about the current pressing issues of the CTC and the CTED. In 2014, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2178. This resolution focuses on the FTFs, also known as Foreign Terrorist Fighters. FTFs are individuals who travel from their country of residence to another country in order to plan, prepare or take part in acts of terror. It is of enormous importance to the International Community to develop mechanisms to control the flow of FTFs in all directions; when they are about to leave, when they leave, and even when they return.

The expert on counter-terrorism was very precise and attentive when answering our questions after his briefing and left us with invaluable insight knowledge of the active efforts of the United Nations and the International Community to combat terrorism and make this world a safer and better one. In New York we were already able to thank him by giving him a cup of our university and some of our wonderfully personalized M&M's. In this report of his briefing, the Maltese Delegation of the FU has nothing to do but to reiterate its gratitude.



## **5.2 Briefing on Global Nuclear Disarmament**

The topic of global nuclear disarmament and the actions undertaken by the International Community regarding nuclear energy have been one of the main concerns of the United Nations ever since their creation. The very first resolution of the General Assembly adopted in 1946 already called for the “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy”. The topics that we as the Delegation of Malta were going to deal with at NMUN also had in some cases a direct relation to the importance of global nuclear disarmament, as it was the case for the GA1 committee, that considered the topic as the second item in its agenda.

Even for the members of the Delegation that weren't going to be talking about nuclear energy during the conference at all, the briefing by the expert of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) was very informative and interesting.

Our speaker is a Political Affairs Officer at the Strategic Planning Unit of UNODA. This office works in close coordination with other bodies of the United Nations that focus on disarmament issues, such as the First Committee for International Security and Disarmament (GA1), the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, amongst others. UNODA focuses on the one hand on providing these committees and bodies with organizational support. On the other hand and most importantly, UNODA provides trustworthy and updated information regarding agreements and advances undertaken on the field of disarmament either by states, NGOs, or other kinds of institutions and organizations.

The expert walked us through the latest developments in the field of global nuclear disarmament undertaken by the International Community and aired his concerns and opinions regarding certain countries and regions. First of all, he briefly mentioned the landmark 1968 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT), that set the first big step taken by the Member States of the United Nations toward one of the ultimate goals of the organization: total nuclear disarmament. The expert acknowledged that the NPT is very far from perfect, with 5 Member States that are not yet signatories and are in possession or are suspected of being in possession of Weapons of Mass Destruction (Pakistan, India, Israel, North Korea and the newly independent South Sudan), and also with a current freeze of activities that originated from tension among the main signatories of the Treaty (Russia and the United States of America) in the last period of revision of the Treaty in 2015.

Our expert talked with enthusiasm about the last big development regarding global nuclear disarmament that was set in motion last year after a period of almost two decades of no visible progress on the matter. During its Plenary Session of 2016, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/258, that called all Member States to participate in a Conference that was going to take place at the Headquarters of the United Nations only three days after our own conference, on March 27, 2017. The conference followed the goal of the Humanitarian Pledge, (to which Malta coincidentally was a big contributor). The Humanitarian Pledge stated the importance of a ban on nuclear weapons as a humanitarian issue that concerns everyone. The goal of the conference was to create a legal mechanism to ban nuclear weapons. When asked about the practical effect that such a ban could have taking in consideration that all the Member States holding nuclear assets had already declared their refusal of the endeavor, our speaker convincingly argued that the ban resulting from the conference was at the very least going to change the content and the strength of the political discourse regarding nuclear disarmament, and that the ban of nuclear weapons is a necessary step, taking into consideration that all other kinds of WMD's are already banned under international conventions or treaties.

In the end, our speaker also answered questions regarding the topic of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the possibility of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East, which was one of our goals to attain as Malta during the conference in GA1. About the issue of the DPRK, he was serious and stern when

addressing the attitude of the government of Kim Jong-un. The expert clearly said that the question that should concern the International Community is not if the DPRK will be able to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM's) in the near future, but what is going to be done when they do.

Even though the expert welcomed our idea of attempting to start the process of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East during the conference, he was honest to say that with the current situation in the region, that is a project that will unfortunately not take place in the near future outside the conference.

The Delegation of Malta is enormously grateful to for having received such an informative and thorough briefing about one of the most important concerns of the United Nations and its current stage, in which hope has not yet vanished.



### **5.3 Briefing on Small Island States and Malta**

Our last briefing of the first day of our Study Tour had a lot more to do with our position as representatives of Malta and the role that Malta plays in the International Community and at the United Nations.

The briefing was jointly given by two experts who work as Political Affairs Officers at the Europe Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations.

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is a part of the United Nations Secretariat. The DPA is tasked with keeping an eye on the situations of individual Member States or regions

and being particularly on the lookout for escalating tensions that could lead to crises of any kind. The DPA offers its expertise to the Secretary-General and to other UN bodies, and its officials are fit to be deployed in conflicted regions to act as mediators and advisors in the peacemaking process.

Both experts talked to us mostly about the Small Island States and the important role that they have in the International Community. Coincidentally, one of our speakers happened to be Maltese, and he was very glad to hear our ideas and stances as Delegates of his country for the NMUN Conference, and was also kind enough to give us insight about the role of Malta at the United Nations.

The briefing started with a very significant thought to us as Delegates of Malta: regardless of its size, its population, or its military power, each Member State has one vote in the General Assembly and in the committees of the United Nations. Therefore, the voice of each small state is as strong as the voice of other bigger states when it comes to passing a resolution, and the United Nations grant small states like Malta the unique opportunity to lobby on an even level with other states that are much bigger and more powerful. However, we were also told that small states find themselves on a difficult position in the United Nations. Their permanent missions tend to be small, consisting only of a few diplomats who take the task of representing their nations on a wide array of topics on their own, whereas bigger nations tend to have one or more specialized Delegates in each committee. The representatives of each small state need to take priorities and come to terms with the fact that their country won't be represented in all forums of the United Nations. Dealing with this reality, the small states therefore tend to work as one body, with each country focusing on one issue and informing the others about it. The expert described this as a method of "niche diplomacy" that has proven to be very effective in the past, for example, in the case of Malta and the creation of the United Nation's Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), or in Liechtenstein's specialization on international criminal justice.

After we were briefed on the role of small states in the International Community and their importance to the United Nations, we had the opportunity to talk to the Maltese expert about Malta. He seemed to be very excited to hear us talk about his own country that we had been preparing to represent for months. We briefly told him about the committees that we were going to represent Malta in, and talked to him about our topics and the position that we were planning to represent at the conference. As if he had assisted us in our preparation to represent his country, he explained the role of Malta as an island in the Mediterranean word by word exactly as we had: Malta is a bridge between Europe and the countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa. All of us had to smile when we heard him, a Maltese citizen and a Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations, come to the same conclusions about Malta's role in the International Community as we had back in Berlin. We got so carried away in our conversation with him, that we had to thank both him and our other expert and give them their presents outside the room where the briefings took place. More than anything, we were happy to hear that we were going to be excellent representatives of Malta, and are thankful to both DPA experts for giving us an insight on

how the smallest countries can also make a difference and have their voices heard in the United Nations.



#### **5.4 Briefing on Sustainable Development Goals**

The second day of the UN study tour started with a briefing by a Public Information Officer in the Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He briefed us on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The expert started by telling us about the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development named ‘Our Common Future’, also known as the Brundtland Report, which was published in 1987. It contains the most commonly used definition of sustainable development. According to the report, development is sustainable when it ‘meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. The three dimensions of sustainable development are social inclusiveness, economic development and environmental protection.

Since 1987, the scope of the UN’s work has increased dramatically. New issues such as climate change or AIDS emerged. As the number of problems that can’t be solved by one country alone is getting bigger and bigger, the only way to respond to this development is to further increase international cooperation. More recently, sustainable development action is not merely focused on Member States but also on individuals. As the role of non-state actors such as NGOs or scientists becomes more important, the need for the international community to cooperate with them to achieve progress is apparent. We were explained that the results of ‘MyWorld’, a global survey conducted by the UN to capture



the views and priorities of people all over the world, show that, for most participants, action on climate change is the last priority. This, of course, totally contradicts the immense importance of climate action. In the light of this result, the Sustainable Development Goals, which were mandated at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 and adopted in 2015, also serve to raise awareness. In addition to that, they contribute to the prevention of future crises.

After that, the speaker presented some of the key elements of the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs constitute an integrated approach, meaning that the specific goals are linked to each other. Moreover, the SDGs are universal. Their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), on the contrary, focused only on social aspects. Another important difference between MDGs and SDGs is that the latter were negotiated. Therefore, there is a sense of stronger ownership among Member States. Furthermore, the SDGs are meant to be inclusive, so that civil society, NGOs and the private sector can also get involved. In addition, there are review mechanisms to monitor the progress being achieved. For instance, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Asked about how the international community wants to achieve all the goals, given the fact that some of them seem to be quite contradictory, our speaker told us that the UN's effort of course is to implement all goals. Sometimes, however, it remains to be a challenging task to combine progress in so many different areas.

We also discussed the non-binding character of the SDGs. Governments and Member States are not obliged to achieve the goals and progress cannot be enforced in any way. Nevertheless, as our expert pointed out, the SDGs put a lot of pressure on Member States to achieve the targets and goals on the agenda. For instance, Member States regularly have to report and outline what they have achieved during the reporting time. However, at this time, it is difficult to say how much progress has yet been achieved because the agenda only came into effect two years ago and the process of reporting and analyzing always takes time.

The Delegation of Malta would like to express its gratitude for the interesting briefing on sustainable development which was as a valuable contribution to our preparation process.



### 5.5 Briefing on Climate Change

The day continued with a briefing on a topic very much related to sustainable development. We had the opportunity to listen to an expert from the UN Department of Public Information, who gave us an insight into the international climate change negotiations.

He began his remarks by making us realize what a crucial time it is for the international effort to combat climate change: Now, the critical stage of the implementation of the Paris Agreement begins.

The speaker then illustrated how the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) works. The UNFCCC with its 197 parties is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and has the overall objective to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The annual Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC are important international fora for the assessment of progress in dealing with climate change.

Then the speaker came back to the Paris Agreement. He explained that the threshold for the agreement to enter into force, its ratification by at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least 55% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions, was not expected to be exceeded before the year 2020. However, on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the threshold was already crossed, so that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016. We were told that so far, 195 states have signed the agreement, 135 of which have already ratified it.

Asked how the new U.S. administration, with President Donald Trump having called climate change ‘a hoax created by the Chinese’, will affect future progress regarding climate action, the speaker pointed out that the United States won’t be viewed as the ‘indispensable party’ anymore. He further indicated that ‘nature doesn’t negotiate’ and that he counts on a learning process.

Finally, our expert told us why he still is optimistic about the future of our climate, given all the difficulties and setbacks in this area. He expressed his confidence that as long as people get engaged in climate action and demand changes, there is a reasonable chance of achieving the climate goals.

Thanks to the briefing, we could deepen our knowledge about climate change and the work of the international community to tackle its negative effects. The excellent briefing helped us with our preparations for the NMUN conference.



### **5.6 Briefing on the Role of the Secretary-General**

The next briefing gave us a better understanding of the role of the Secretary-General. We were briefed by the Director of Communications in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and speechwriter for Mr. Guterres.

The speaker pointed out that the Secretary-General plays not one, but many roles. Naturally, he plays an administrative role as the head of the United Nations. He has to ensure that the UN is ‘running’. Furthermore, the Secretary-General plays a decisive political role. He serves as an impartial broker on an international level. For example, he

can facilitate peace agreements between hostile nations. One of his most important tasks, however, is the prevention of future conflicts. In some cases, the Secretary-General pursues his political role visible to the public, in other cases he acts behind the scenes.

In addition to the Secretary-General's administrative and political roles, he also engages in public relations work. According to our speaker, his task is "to listen to the world and to tell the world about the UN". Therefore, the Secretary-General reaches out to Member States and NGOs to get to know their opinions and concerns. He can exercise his "convening power" to bring Member States together to negotiate and to find solutions.

Moreover, there is the Secretary-General's agenda setting role. Through his speeches and reports he pushes Member States to act. By setting up committees and appointing special representatives and envoys, he can draw attention to issues that need to be in the focus of the international community.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he embodies a moral voice. He has to speak up and defend the principles of the UN Charter against any threats. He doesn't act in the interest of a particular nation, but instead in the interest of the common good.

We asked our speaker what the Secretary-General is concerned with at the moment. He explained to us that the Secretary-General, besides having regular meetings with his staff, special envoys and other UN diplomats, naturally, is concerned with the most pressing issues of today such as the war in Syria or the worldwide refugee movement. Mr. Guterres also tries to achieve progress with regard to the UN reform.

As our speaker has served under the past three Secretaries-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and now Mr. António Guterres, we asked him how the respective Secretary-General's personality impacts his office. He assessed that the office is much more impacted by the national identity of the officeholder than by his respective personality.

In the briefing, we were provided with fascinating and entertaining insights into the daily work of the person leading the United Nations. We would like to thank our speaker for this valuable contribution to our preparation process.



### 5.7 Briefing on Gender Equality

The briefing on gender equality and women empowerment concluded our second day at the UN headquarters.

At the beginning, our speakers explained that UN Women, or in the long form the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, is a special UN entity established in the year 2010 to accelerate progress on women's rights and to foster the attainment of SDG 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. Under the leadership of Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, the body works with other UN programmes and specialized agencies, UN Member States and civil society to help Member States implement new standards, to provide them with technical and financial support and to lead and coordinate the UN's work on gender equality. Although their work is quite difficult due to Member States' different perspectives on the topic, our speakers were confident that more progress can be achieved in the near future.

Our speakers described the many challenges women still face today. For instance, one in three women suffers from sexual or physical violence. Moreover, women often experience a lack of access to employment opportunities. Once employed, in many cases they still receive less money than men do. The experts illustrated the disadvantaged status of women with the shocking fact that a literate man is 50% more likely to survive than a woman.

Then, our speakers presented UN Women's 'LEAPs' framework, which aims to strengthen young women's leadership, promotes economic empowerment and skills development of young women, fosters action to end violence against women and girls and pushes for partnerships of young women and men in gender equality.

As all our previous speakers at the UN had been men, we asked our speakers about the percentage of women employed at the UN. They told us that at the moment women only make up less than 50% of UN staff. UN Women's ambitious goal, however, is to increase the percentage of women to 75%.

We also talked about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the primary intergovernmental body promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, whose annual session took place at the UN headquarters during our stay in New York City. At these sessions, representatives of Member States, civil society participants and UN entities gather to discuss issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women, to monitor the progress being achieved and to formulate new policies. UN Women supports the commission's work and facilitates the participation of civil society representatives.

Our speakers concluded their briefing and thus our day at the UN with an urgent appeal to all of us to take action on a personal level and fight for equality and women's rights in our daily lives.



### 5.8 Briefing on Financing for Development

On our last briefing day, March 17, our first briefing was on "Financing for Development" with Oliver Schwank, an economic affairs officer and policy analyst at the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

At first, he explained us what he actually does. This includes supporting Member States in negotiation with information and knowledge giving substantive inputs on issues concerning economic and social developments.

Moving to the topic of his briefing, he started by implying that “Financing for Development” means financing the Sustainable Development Goals. Here is important to stress the difference and link between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MDGs were an initiative of the UN-Secretariat, who were then involved in the process of deciding what goes into this agenda and the relevance of issues. Neither the Member States nor the civil societies were consulted what led to certain disregard. The negotiations on the SDGs, on the other hand, were a process where Member states and civil society were able to participate and voice their ideas. People from all over the world with internet access could respond to the *MyWorld2015* survey and answer which topics they found most deeply concerning and needed urgent addressing by the Member States. The Member States themselves could participate and create the SGD, what made these goals much more direct, and forced them to increase their commitment since this was “their” agenda that they had worked on and now had to find resources to implement. The question is then how?

For that, Mr. Schwank further discussed with us about the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, where Member States gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and came up with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In this agenda on financing development, States laid out lines, lines goals and designed a framework to finance the SDGs. One important part of this framework is the cooperation with and the role of the private sector through *foreign direct investments*, investment and cooperation with domestic industries, and remittances to foster growth and development.

The briefing was very informative and interesting. We all got the opportunity to have a better look on how the United Nations, its Member States and Secretariat work and how the SDGs came into being. It was especially helpful for our Delegates in the General Assembly Second Committee since they got a better understanding of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was one of the topics on the agenda of their committee. Furthermore, it was interesting to see how States from the European Union negotiated with one voice, which was later the strategies of our Delegates representing Malta.



### 5.9 Briefing on Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was thought as an emergency agency. In view of its daily tasks and obligations all over the world, the UNHCR has become a necessity for survival to millions. Somehow, we should have known beforehand that this briefing was not going to be easy. Although we think that the UNHCR deserves infinite respect and is maybe the only well-known UN body with which work we affirm fully, we did not think through the precise obligation the UNHCR fulfills every day. That suffering people are a common and core objective of the Officials to the UNHCR, made our speaker's presentation sorrowful to us.

As a Syrian, his statement that "everyone can become a refugee anytime" struck us, because he made it real and relatable. With over 65 million refugees worldwide, this time serves as the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. The UNHCR officials and its body urge the international community to solve and prevent crises, because the record numbers of displacement affect the UNHCR's ability to basic lifesaving and education assistance.

In 2015, the UNHCR received from an 8 billion USD budget only 3,5 billion. The Maltese Delegation to NMUN 2017 therefore clarifies, Member States have to pay up. As a matter of fact, there is no reason to contribute less on life saving than profit made by armor export. Pay up and multiply, because we don't want to be struck anymore.

We would like to thank our speaker for enriching our knowledge and consciousness on refugees and internally displaced persons.





### 5.10 Briefing on Migration

Following the briefing with the UNHCR, we got accustomed to the tasks of a comparable, but different international occasion, migration. The main difference between the movement of people that are searching for refuge or are migrating is the compound of voluntary aspects. The migrant chooses to move, although the migrant's reasons can be similar to the root causes of refugee movements. Our speaker, the Chief of Migration at DESA, is a long-term UN staff member and able to teach difficulties in a light manner. The tasks the DESA is mandated to fulfill, are the estimation of global demographics, research, capacity building, regional training and intergovernmental assistance in migration. DESA informs i.e. the General Assembly and is the expert on the consequences of migration. To think the movement of people reversed is of crucial importance at least for maintaining peace and security. What does the emigration of certain area mean for its social, economic and political stability; What are potential risks and where is danger expectable in the region of immigration? These questions need to be surveyed and the parties concerned need to be informed. We are very thankful for the presentation and endorse DESA's efforts on migration.



### 5.11 Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN

“When you are a big state, you can get away with murder.” For this reason, it is in Malta’s interest to maintain its aim in the United Nations: to coordinate with regional organizations, mainly the European Union and Mediterranean States, and to incorporate efforts to global support of peace processes and conflict prevention. The Maltese ambassador to the UN, explained that Malta is “blessed to have the EU-Delegation to the UN.” The Group of the European Union is a necessity to Malta and the world in strengthening a position with a major voice to current issues.

It has been a very pleasant meeting. The ambassador greeted us with an energetic input and made himself very popular to the Maltese NMUN Delegation, especially when he mentioned that he read all of our position papers and evaluated them as professionally. Definitely, cake and coffee sweetened the conversation, but his professional attitude to critical topics, the honesty he wanted us to feel in his statements and his calm but progressive manner supported our positivity towards him. The ambassador, however, served the Maltese agenda on international concerns, national policies that ought to be enforced internationally and the Maltese view on certain topics concerning the UN itself. Since 2011, Libya experiences an ongoing conflict causing the destabilization – the erosion of effective control over a state’s territory – of Northern Africa. This is of concern to Malta, regarding its location in the Mediterranean between North-African and South-European states. The interest of the European states in the Libyan state’s wellbeing shifted, since migration and refugee movements occurred by crossing the sea, launching often from Libyan shores. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to support long-term democratic

transitioning and short-term contribution to humanitarian assistance in order to ease suffering. In the UN, in accordance with the idea of a peaceful Mediterranean, Malta furthermore contributes to the two-states-solution between Israel and Palestine, “a valid and only solution.” The ambassador remarked to the known criticism towards the practicability of a two-states-solution: “You can always have an imperfect peace and a perfect war, but no state can always live in conflict.”

Within our research during the semester about Malta’s policies and current legal status to UN topics, we found out that Malta criminalized “gay cure”. This, the ambassador stressed in a talk about LGBTIQ-rights, is an example where Malta took a progressive lead and pushes the international community to take part. The aim is to further increase the rights of LGBTIQ persons, which is not an easy task, as the ambassador said, because of the influence of the Catholic Church in Malta. Moreover, the ambassador made it unmistakably clear to us that the UN should rather “refocus” on its main task: maintaining peace and security. “We are blurred by too many things,” he said. Explaining what he means, he recited regional problems that should not be discussed in an international forum, where they most likely will not be solved. “Xenophobia in the media, for example, should not be discussed in an UN room, but in the region where the media is xenophobic.” Although this specific topic can be of particular international concern, the ambassador gave a serious argument when he said that these “side events are not serving their own purpose.” If the task is to maintain peace and security, these happenings might be seen as of subordinate concern.

Malta’s stance on a potential reform of the Security Council is deeply pragmatic, too: There is a democratic element of the Security Council, the non-permanent Members, and, simply, an undemocratic element, the five permanently seated Member States. This, the rooted undemocratic element, cannot be supported in a reform and Malta stands therefore against the expansion of the permanent seats at the Security Council. On the contrary, Malta takes a lead role in Uniting for Consensus.

All in all, the impression the Ambassador gave us about the Maltese approach in the UN is matching with our previous research. Especially the approach on Uniting for Consensus reiterated our knowledge about Malta in the international community and backed us in our strategy at the National Model United Nations Conference: Acknowledge that you are not the big player and value every opinion in order to, and this is truly in the spirit of the UN, reach a consensus.

We thank the Ambassador for his time and the energetic presentation. Meeting the Permanent Representative to the UN made us feel proud to represent the Republic of Malta.



#### 6. Malta at NMUN 2017, 19 to 23 March



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

represented by Alonso Burgos and Eduardo Pages

### **Committee Short Overview**

The GA1 was established as a subsidiary organ under the principles of Art.22 of the UN Charter with the goal of better organizing the discussions on the vast number of questions the Assembly is called to address. The GA1 has been active since the first meeting of the GA in 1946. With the existence of the atomic bomb, the GA1 firstly focused on the political and security implications of it, thus producing the very first GA Resolution entitled “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy”. The Committee would eventually become the birthplace of key multilateral (nuclear) weapon non- proliferation, testing and disarmament treaties such as the landmark 1968 Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Following Art. 11 of the fourth chapter of the UN Charter, the GA1 deals with matters regarding the principle of disarmament and the regulation of arms, under the purpose of the maintenance of global peace and security. The committee is a reflection of the Plenary of the General Assembly, which means that all Member States are represented in it. The draft resolutions adopted in the committee do not become official resolutions until they are voted for by the Plenary of the General Assembly.

### **Committee Report**

The three topics on the agenda before the Committee were:

- I. The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament
- II. Global Nuclear Disarmament
- III. Increasing Women’s Role in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Already before the first session we met some Delegates that were going to be with us in the committee. Before we expected it, we already had our hands full with presentation cards of all colours, designs and nationalities and our work in NMUN started.

During the first session our name was put somewhere far beyond sight on the speaker’s list. We wouldn’t be up to address the whole committee until the next day, so we started right away to try to get in touch with the countries of the European Union and the Middle East through diplomatic notes. Things seemed to be going well until the chair asked for motions for the first time and the debate was suspended for 15 minutes. We sat in awe as the 180 people in the committee suddenly started to wander wildly and yell across the room calling other countries. After a brief period of pure diplomatic chaos, little groups started to form at the corners of the room. We decided to split and work with different Delegations.

One of us joined the small European group that was starting to form and the other attempted to gather the countries of the Middle East. To all we introduced ourselves firmly and confidently as Malta the bridge, the gateway, the champion of the Small Island States, the President of the Council of the European Union and the Chair of the Commonwealth of Nations. To most of the Delegates, we simply remained as Malta.



We had prepared thoroughly for the three topics, but we wanted to discuss about global nuclear disarmament first. Others clearly did not, for all possible orders of the agenda setting were voted for and rejected by the committee. It seemed that each country wanted a different topic discussed first, and in the first session no one came to an agreement. At the end of the session, GA1 had to adopt the default order that considered the topic: The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament first.

On our way back to the hotel that night, we devised a plan to work together with the countries of Maghreb, Mashreq and the European Union, and come up with a resolution developed by both regions together and facilitated by Malta. However, by the first moments of the second session, we realized that our plan wasn't going to run as smoothly as we had expected, as we found the committee divided itself in oddly composed working groups and blocks that started adopting very different and specialized approaches to the broad topic at hand. We decided to do as we saw and joined the working groups that fitted us best. One of us ended up working with countries such as Kuwait, North Korea, Cabo Verde, Malaysia, Ireland, Switzerland and Morocco, while the other worked closely with countries like India, Guinea Bissau, Croatia, Norway, Egypt, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. After extenuating sessions and sometimes fruitless lobbying, each of us managed to get a

strong and serious working paper on its feet with our clauses and interests. After merging our papers with others that had similar or complementary approaches to ours, we ended up putting forward two draft resolutions, GA1/1/2 and GA1/1/4, both of which were adopted by the committee. The former approached at the issue of the role of science and technology in international security and disarmament on a very general scale, proposing a system of risk assessment of new technological and scientific developments, and their implementation in certain countries. From that working paper comes our operative clause:

*4. Encourages collaboration among all Member States together with representatives in the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, and the IAEA to:*

- a) Develop a classification system of currently relevant scientific developments and emerging technologies, that can either play a role in international security or in sustainable development;*
- b) Review the classification system yearly;*
- c) Assess the potential risk that technologies and specific developments, in particular chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear resources (CBRN) and artificial intelligence, pose for international security;*
- d) Formulate guidelines for how these technologies and scientific advances can be used ethically and for the benefit of development following the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the SDGs;*

The second draft resolution to which Malta contributed focused on the development of disarmament-centered STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math) education programs, which can significantly increase the capabilities of Member States when assessing potential technological threats. One of our contributions to the paper can be seen in operative clause three:

*3. Recommends the above collaboration to implement United Nations information on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (UNiSTEM), a global educational program which:*

- a) Will be based on the current UNESCO STEM educational initiatives;*
- b) Will include a focus on disarmament under technological education to promote the research and advancement of technologically-based disarmament solutions and to further increase Member States threat assessment capabilities concerning technological developments;*

GA1 ended up adopting a total of 9 resolutions for the topic, all of which offered different approaches and insights to an issue that needs to be discussed in the real General Assembly. In the end, we were especially happy to see the effort of our preparation in Berlin pay off, as we were honored with an Outstanding Position Paper Award, and with an unforgettable experience at NMUN 2017.

## **6.2 Malta at the General Assembly Second Committee**

represented by Victor Souza and Elias König

### **Committee Short Overview**

The General Assembly Second Committee (GA2) and, therefore, one of the six main committees has its responsibilities stated under chapter IX of the United Nations Charter. This means, as observed in the chapter title “International Economic and Social Cooperation”, that this committee is responsible for dealing with issues concerning “economic and social progress and development” (UN Charter. Ch. IX. Art. 55/a). The GA2 can be seen as a normative body developing standards for Member States and promoting better development, growth and social conditions. It cooperates closely with the ECOSOC, IMF and World Bank and due to the rise of economic crises issues are shared with other international organizations like WTO.

Specifically, it means the committee deals with economic and financial issues such as financial stabilization, trade policy, economic growth, macroeconomic policies (trade, finance, debt), climate change (new sources of energy), food security, and with financing sustainable development, especially the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030. Beyond these previously mentioned responsibilities, the GA2 committee exercises its importance by helping and encouraging member states, through advises and resolutions, to pursue, commit as well as implement sustainable socio-economic goals and UN norms and standards developed in the committee. Furthermore, special issues such as Least Developed Countries or Palestine are on the agenda.

The structure of the GA2 is similar to other main committees (all Member States and observers, one vote per member). The General Assembly works out an agenda for the committee and from September to January the GA2 meets for debates, consultations and working groups producing draft proposals or reports for the GA, which are tried to each agreement by consensus.





### Committee Report

*Our preparation was discontinued due to the withdrawal of our Co-Delegate Dimitri for health reasons. He was greatly missed and we wish him well in all of his future endeavours. Nevertheless, we were able to complete all required assignments and thoroughly research Malta's position on the given agenda items.*

Upon arrival in New York City, we started connecting with other Delegations and working on alliances. We re-interpreted the old rule “divide and conquer” and split our team in order to be able to approach as many Delegations as possible. As of the first session, our Delegation was able to deliver a first speech and successfully propose the agenda setting that was later confirmed by the Assembly:

- I. Implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- II. Harnessing the Green Economy to Eradicate Poverty (Sustainable Development Goal 1)
- III. Designing Effective Policies and Institutions to Reduce Inequalities (SDG 10)

Subsequently, the substantive work on the first topic, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), commenced. As a Small Island State in the Commonwealth of Nations, Malta had already been very active in promoting the AAAA, therefore we found ourselves fortunate to be able to work together with a variety of partners: The European Union, the Small Islands States and countries in the Mediterranean, to which we then reached out to

exchange ideas and proposals as well as to work on resolutions together. Soon after negotiations started many of the groups mixed welcoming countries that were not necessarily from the European Union or Small, Island States, but that shared common principles and were inclined to cooperate for a working paper.

After submitting the first version of the working paper to the Dais, who reviewed the content and suggested a merge with another group that had similar proposals, we started working with the sponsors of this paper to work out a merge and negotiate clauses that were not in the interest of every party. After a day and half of negotiations the working group reached consensus and was able to submit the paper as a draft resolution, which was accepted by the Dais as resolution GA2/1/4. Thus, at the end, Malta managed to be sponsor of a major resolution focusing on the environment and the Article 31 of the AAAA, include its initiative and promote the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science* in Resolution GA2/1/13, and to be signatories of most draft-resolutions. In our second speech before the committee, we were able to convince a majority of the Delegations to support this proposal, which eventually got adopted by the assembly.

On the last day, the General Assembly Second Committee moved to the voting of the draft-resolutions on the floors. The Committee was able to pass all 13 draft-resolutions and, a day later, at the plenary of the General Assembly at the UNHQ, two GA2 resolutions were adopted by the body, the GA2/1/2 and the GA2/1/6. Since Resolution GA2/1/2 called for greater examination and control of global taxation, Malta (not really known for its rigorous tax system) objected to this interference in national sovereignty. In our third and final speech, we stressed this approach and gained some support, however not enough to refute resolution's adoption.

Still on the last gathering of the General Assembly Second Committee, the Dias awarded the Delegation of Malta the “Outstanding Position Paper” Award in recognition for laying out its position and goals on the topics that would be discussed by the Committee.

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

represented by Kiyon Farmand and Frithjof Paulsen

#### **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**

The topics on the agenda were

- I. Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies
- II. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- III. Promoting Rights and Strengthening Protections for Older Persons

In our preparation for NMUN, we were surprised to discover that Malta played a major role in the protection of the elderly being the first to have raised the question of ageism at the United Nations. Furthermore, Malta fully commits itself to the protection of people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender and the advancement of LGBTIQ-rights. The simulation started and every country rallied for their preferred agenda setting. But fairly quickly we realised, that a large number of members was pushing to discuss ‘Coordination in Humanitarian Response’ first - the one topic we were trying to avoid because of insufficient information about Malta’s positions and proposals. But our

attempts at persuasion came to nothing: with an overwhelming majority, the committee decided against our preferred agenda setting and we dived right into the debate.

In the simulation, all 160 Member States of the United Nations were represented in the Third Committee - excluding the Observer States Palestine and the Holy See. Immediately, countries began to form in regional working groups. From the very beginning, we worked in the European bloc and tried to exploit Malta's prominent standing as President of the Council of the European Union by taking up a leadership role in the working group. Because of the size of the group and the complexity of the topic, we decided on splitting up into sub-groups, each one concerned with a different aspect of the topic on hand. We managed to establish a successful organisation and division of labour in our group, enabling us to work more efficiently on the topic. Our resolution tried to link the already existing institutions on EU and UN level while also covering questions of prevention, on-ground relief and funding. This comprehensive approach received a lot of support from other working groups with similar ideas about the topic. After long hours of discussing, rewriting and finally merging, we came to a consensus with the Latin American bloc - just in time before our merged resolution was submitted to the chairs. After some feedback we finalised our results and were able to present a thorough resolution with very broad support throughout the committee. Additionally to being a sponsor on this resolution, we as Malta also acted as signatories on numerous other resolutions.

The final day was reserved for voting procedures. Everybody was anxiously sitting on their chairs while the doors were secured and the final roll call carried out. Going through all of the ten resolutions took time because often, an unanimous vote was prevented by two or three countries raising concerns about certain clauses. But step by step, we adopted one resolution after the other. In the end, our committee agreed on all resolutions thus finishing with a successful and comprehensive result to the issue. After voting procedures, we erupted in applause and cheers hoping for a free evening - only to continue on the second topic. Understandably, everybody was rather exhausted and after one hour of debate the topic was concluded without a resolution. The committee sessions were completed with the awarding of the peer awards and the best position papers. In an Oscar-like blunder, the chairs mistakenly announced the wrong recipients for the peer awards, resulting in confusion first and laughter second. Our work before and during NMUN 2017 was rewarded with an award for an Outstanding Position Paper, before topping of our great experience with lots of pictures and good-byes.

Taking part in a Model United Nations can be exhausting and frustrating. Endless discussions about small stylistic differences in the resolutions, debates with undiscerning Delegates and long waits before you can finally present your arguments in front of the committee. But maybe that is how the UN actually works: not by sitting back and hoping for problems to solve themselves, but by hard dedicated work. Before and during the conference, we invested countless hours into researching, writing and debating before finally reaching consensus and coming up with a resolution. The result after three long tiring days and the feeling of accomplishment makes all that work pay off. We learned

about the UN and its workings, we gained incredible experiences during the conference and we personally grew while constantly stepping outside of our comfort zone. NMUN 2017 was fascinating, rewarding, and an experience we will never forget.

#### **6.4 Malta at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

represented by Selin Dirik and Birkan Görer



##### **Committee Overview**

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is a forum with the main responsibility to examine and verify the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, issued in 2015 by the GA Resolution 2030 on Sustainable Development. The HLPF plays a pivotal role as it provides a forum for discussions on development on a global level and promotes all 17 SDGs. It offers a global forum to merge international efforts, identify challenges and monitor progress. Furthermore, the HLPF stands out with its fundamental role in providing political leadership and guidance to the international community on how the SDGs should be implemented and monitored.

##### **Committee Report**

After preparing half a year for the NMUN Conference in NY, we finally submitted the position papers including the HLPF one, on

- I. Education for Sustainable Development and Youth Leadership
- II. Decent work for all

### III. The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

When all the other Delegations' position papers were uploaded on the NMUN web-page, the great reading began. One after another we got an overview of the common and less common positions, which countries may share our initiatives and where lobbying is needed.

Just a week before the departure to NY we wrote down the strategy which we had been working on over the last months. It also contained our preferences on the setting of the agenda: that it stayed like originally instructed by the NMUN staff (see above).

When all Delegations had finally arrived, small talks started in the hotel, the elevator, at the opening ceremony and even in the grocery store around the corner. Everybody wanted to know what the others' preferred agenda setting looked like and tried to convince them if it mismatched theirs. We had given around a fifth of all our business cards already, by the time the actual conference started.

As according to our research, internationally there were undertaken initiatives on *Education for Sustainable Development and Youth Leadership* the most, we decided that it should become Malta's first preference on the agenda setting. Malta's key priority *inter alia* is working towards a sustainable society, and education generates many development outcomes: it interacts with other factors to contribute to the achievement of the related SDGs. The special focus thereby always lay on the environmental aspect of SD. One example for Malta being active in this field is the *Centre for Environmental Education and Research (CEER)* which is a result of cooperation between key entities in environmental education and research in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Considering the fact that there are several other unique, successful and efficient initiatives and programmes Malta is working on, we had prepared far reaching proposals and were working very hard on putting this issue on the first place on the agenda, because: The first day, the chair told us that due to the HLPF being one of the big platforms including all UN Member States, it usually does not get beyond topic one.

As Malta, being a small island and low-lying coastal country, shares similar development challenges and concerns about the environment with other Small Island States (SIS) - especially due to the particular vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change - we targeted SI(D)S in the first round of negotiations on the agenda setting. At the same time Malta is the current Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth and holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. We had to stay in our leading role on both sides; the developed and the developing one.

Bearing that in mind, we raised our placards as highly and quickly as possible when the speakers' list was opened. And we were lucky: being the third ones speaking, we could purport the scale of the next speeches' content and make us known. It was a great feeling to get up and stand in front of so many people. Each of us held a speech and pointed out the different centres of gravity which were of grave concern to all of us. All went down

quite well as we received plenty of messages from Delegations congratulating our “great” and “impressive” speech.

When the first conference day was over, the next round of work run its course. We drafted a working sheet, tipped down all mail addresses from the business cards we had received and sent it to certain target countries the same night. One of those were the European ones:

—  
*“Dear European Countries and MS of the European Union,*

*Malta is glad that ESD and Youth Leadership were set as the first topic on the agenda which gives us the opportunity to unite all three topics; including STI for SD and Decent work for all.*

*After hearing the different positions of many Member States, Malta fortunately found overlapping interests and a common denominator.*

*There is a common demand for:*

*I.) Tackling root causes of Migration*

*II.) Offering access for Educators (including Trainers, Volunteers, Teachers, Universities, Companies, etc.) to up-to-date information on SD*

*III.) Facilitating/Providing Youth Leadership Exchanges*

*Malta has started a working paper including these points (in the attachment). Concise steps to achieve these aims should be discussed; Malta does have concrete ideas but as we heard many other initiatives we are interested in as well, we would like to discuss this issue more in detail.*

*As the meaning behind a “working paper” is to work together and achieve a common sense in an honest and conscientious manner we are looking forward to any suggestions and close cooperation and hope for a united European voice.*

*And still: Malta has been serving as a bridge between developed and developing States for centuries due to our history and location. Being the Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth and holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the same time might illustrate this role very clearly. Therefore we assume responsibility in reminding our EU-MS, that it is important to reach consensus not only among us European and developed States - but among the international community as a whole. ESD and Youth leadership constitute the basis of all 17 SDGs which can only be regarded as achieved if there is no single exceptional state lacking one of them (Which is the main distinction to the former MDGs). This is also very important when it comes to tackling the root causes of migration. We really look forward to further discussions!*

*Best regards, The Delegation of Malta ”*

The next morning, we got great responses, for example by Greece and Belgium “looking forward to our leadership”, and were impatient to finally apply all the things we had learned the past months *inter alia* through speech trainings and comprehensive presentations. The

following days serving as a bridge turned out to be really stressful, because we had many additional things to do:

The AU countries always played a significant role for us too, as one of Malta's key priorities is tackling the root causes of migration in Africa, so we closely cooperated with them and concludingly were sponsors of the "AU and Friends working paper" from the first day on. After one Delegate of us felt sick the second day, it was not possible to split up anymore. We had to leave one group to push our priorities through in the other. But: we, by changing the plan and taking us a little more backseat, managed to uphold the crucial mediating role Malta plays, and in some way gained the EU's interest in merging with the Latin American States, while we were the main corresponding body.

Finally, we were sponsors of two resolutions: One with the EU countries and one with the AU countries, including in the EU resolution two paragraphs which we phrased and one that Belgium phrased on the basis of our beforehand mailed working paper; and one paragraph in the AU resolution. NMUN definitely is an experience both of us had to make. Practicing the role of a diplomat, prioritizing our interests and believing in ourselves made us successful. We thought that winning the Outstanding Position Paper award was going to be an official proof of our success, but when we stood there with all the other students from every edge of the world, we knew that participating in this great project was already enough to consider everyone in there as successful. We did win the award, though.

### **6.5 Malta at the United Nations Environment Assembly**

represented by Elisabeth Höhne and Elisabeth Müller





## **Committee Short Overview**

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) constitutes the new governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). As such, the UNEA serves as a platform to legitimate and coordinate environmental policies and to set an agenda for UNEP. Instruments in implementing the latter may include the creation of task forces and further subsidiaries. As a relatively young organ, the UNEA has only assembled twice to this date, but enjoys the membership of all 193 UN Member States. Through the establishment of the UNEA, the environment eventually gets the same level of attention and global prominence as issues such as peace, poverty, health, security as well as finance and trade.

## **Committee Report**

Our journey began months before the actual NMUN conference in New York City started. After months of intensive preparation in Berlin, the adoption of a Maltese turtle and our Study Tour at the UN Headquarters, from which we could draw a lot of incitements and ideas, we arrived with a comprehensive strategy in mind at the conference and were very excited to represent Malta in the UNEA - not only because it was the first Model UN experience for both of us, but also because the environment is of the utmost importance for Malta. As a Small Island State in the middle of the Mediterranean, inextricably linked to the sea and extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, environmental topics take on an essential role within Malta's national and foreign policy. In this sense, it was the first country that tabled the issue of climate change as a political agenda in the General Assembly, made vital contributions to the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* and has ever since been advocating responsible climate action as well as the protection, preservation and sustainable use of environmental resources.

The Rules of Procedure Training was the first occasion to meet other Delegations and we used the opportunity to start networking by approaching Delegates and exchanging business cards. By the time of the opening ceremony, we had already made contact with some of our potential allies, putting out a few feelers to see whether they gave preference to the same agenda setting that we had in mind.

The UNEA held its annual session to consider the following agenda topics:

- I. Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife
- II. Implementation of the Paris Agreement
- III. Sustainable Use of the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources

Our preferred order for the committee discussion was to prioritize the third topic on the “Sustainable Use of the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources”, followed by the second and first topic, wherefore the debate on the setting of the agenda became our first apparent challenge. Although the enormous number of Delegates was at first a bit overwhelming, we realized from the beginning on that it is eminently important to be fast in engaging with others and in forming networks while at the same time promoting own ideas and objectives. Even though we were trying to persuade as many Delegations as possible, by adducing some good reasons and solid arguments, to give precedence to the third topic, the committee eventually adopted the agenda in the order of II, III, I, beginning with the discussion on the “Implementation of the Paris Agreement”. Nevertheless, we eagerly awaited the upcoming committee sessions and were already fully immersed in work after the first Assembly session. Despite the lateness of the hour, we sent emails to the Delegations we were seeking collaborations with, particularly the EU Member States and the group of the Small Island States, expressing that we were looking forward to cooperate with them and that we would like to gather the respective groups in an informal meeting the next morning.

On the next day, we started pretty much straightaway with the working process, noticing that the Delegations were very differently prepared. There was a wide range from very organized, experienced and well prepared Delegations to Delegations that clearly did not put much effort into the research of their countries’ positions. At first, our strategy was to split up to be able to work together with different allies and to co-develop two working papers with different thematic priorities. While one of us negotiated with the group of the Small Island States, trying to find a consensus about the content of a concrete proposal, the other one tried to mobilize and gather the European Union, advocating that all 28 Member States should speak with a united voice. Malta’s Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2017 was an ideal starting position for that since its priorities are driven by the overall objective of a “rEUnion” - to restore trust in the EU and to further the dialogue between all Member States, in light of the fact that the EU is currently facing the toughest challenges in its history. Unexpectedly, our strategy to unify the EU turned out to be quite difficult as some of the Member States just clearly refused to work together with the other European countries. In spite of that, we were able to bring most of the Member States together and even to assert the Maltese Presidency as our leadership of the EU was accepted by all the other Delegations.

The subsequent committee sessions were very stressful and loaded with work. We went through ups and downs, had heated as well as very fruitful discussions, intensified partnerships while ceasing the collaboration with other nations. To our regret, the group of the Small Island States had more dissent than consensus among its members and as we did not see the working paper actually getting somewhere, we decided to focus together on the one of the EU. While we were making good progress in the conceptualization of a global financing mechanism, another working group, consisting of the Delegations from Canada,

Colombia, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, the United States of America and Viet Nam, worked on a very similar proposal, wherefore we already decided on Monday evening to merge. With the first deadline for our proposals at the back of our minds, Japan, the USA and we as Malta, commissioned to speak on behalf of the EU, went on working until the early hours.

Tuesday morning began with a strong cup of coffee and last minor edits before we submitted our proposal to the Dais. Throughout the day, while we were waiting for the comments and further remarks on our working paper, we constantly worked on the improvement of our financing concept as well as on the phrasing of our preambulatory and operative clauses. Besides that, after a long wait on the speakers list, we finally held our speech:

*“Honorable Chair, distinguished Delegates,*

*as Malta was the first country that tabled the issue of climate change in the international community in 1988, and as it is one of our key priorities during our Presidency of the Council of the European Union, our Delegation is very delighted to see that all Member States have come together to work towards the achievement of our most pressing global goal - the preservation and protection of our environment.*

*Malta is currently a sponsor of working paper L, which was developed by many of the EU Countries together with other Member States like the United States of America, Japan, Canada, Lebanon and others. With this working paper, we aim to establish a United Nations Retroaction Scale (UNRS), with the main responsibility to provide guidance to Member States who have ratified the Paris Agreement and who seek to receive funding from the Green Climate Fund.*

*We highly appreciate the work done so far and invite all Member States to enter into a dialogue with us.*

*Thank you.”*

Our final resolution draft on the “Accountability of Funding in the Implementation of the Paris Agreement” was aiming at the establishment of the above mentioned UNRS with the main responsibility of defining the allocation of funds based on whether a Member State is fully, partially or not in current progress to reach its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The associated recommendations, which UNRS representatives would give to the Green Climate Fund Board on the basis of the introduced three-stepped classification, are furthermore intended to define the degree of control that a Member State has in terms of the allocation of funds. In this regard, a Member State in progress to fully reach its NDC targets would have complete control of the allocation through its own domestic institutions, with the recommendations of UNRS representatives; a Member State in progress to partially reach its NDC targets would be able to take decisions regarding the

allocation of funds, but requiring the final approval from UNRS representatives and a Member State not in current progress to reach its NDC targets would be fully dependent on the UNRS representatives as they would be given full authority regarding the allocation of funds.

On Wednesday, we used the last hours of the conference to promote our proposal, to find co-sponsors for our resolution draft and to get acquainted with the other resolution drafts we were going to vote on. After a total of ten resolution drafts had been officially approved by the Dais, we went into voting procedure. The drafts represented a wide range of issues, from environmental education and awareness-raising, over technology, data sharing and capacity building to minimize the adverse effects of climate change, to comprehensive financing mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation initiatives. After four intensive days of working and negotiating, our draft resolution was passed by a clear majority and finally became resolution UNEA/1/9. Noticeably delighted and relieved, we congratulated and gave great thanks to our working group, which it was a real pleasure to exchange ideas and work with.

Last but not least, out of more than 130 submitted position papers in our committee, we received as one of the few Delegations an award for an “Outstanding Position Paper”, which was a great reward for the countless hours of work that we had put into this whole project. But even more rewarding was a message that our Delegation received a couple of days later - an email by Mr. Carmelo Iguanez, the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the UN, who sent us his congratulations and best wishes for the future.

We are honored to have been a part of this incomparable experience and long journey, which has broadened our knowledge and perspectives in many valuable ways.

## **6.6 Malta at the World Health Organization**

represented by Felix Schott and Lewis Wattenberg

### **Committee Short Overview**

The World Health Organization (WHO), located in Geneva, is a United Nations specialized agency under supervision of the ECOSOC, charged with the promotion of international public health. It is represented by the Director-General, currently the physician Dr Margaret Chan, and operating with a budget of USD 4 billion, largely comprised of voluntary contributions. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the main decision-making body of the WHO, referring its executive duties to the organization’s Executive Board. WHO’s main goals are the eradication of non-communicable diseases, mitigating the effects of outbreaks, building capacities to surveil, inform on and tackle all issues regarding public health, especially Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). With the International

Health Regulations (2005), the WHO has implemented a legally binding framework to prevent and respond to acute health issues.



### **Committee Report**

‘The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.’ This extract from the preamble of WHO’s constitution sums up perfectly the importance of the work conducted by WHO and Member States regarding public health. While the international health community has to tackle many problems simultaneously, at the NMUN conference WHO’s particular focus was placed on the following topics:

- I. Mitigating the Public Health Effects of Climate Change
- II. Ensuring Access to Clean and Safe Water
- III. Improving Coordination of Health Services in Outbreaks and Emergencies

For the five days of the conference, we were tasked with achieving progress in these critical areas, all of which are closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To be able to represent Malta in the best way possible, we needed to prepare ourselves thoroughly. During our training in Berlin we researched the topics before our committee

as well as the World Health Organization itself. What can be done to respond to the detrimental public health effects of climate change? Which initiatives can be taken to an international level? What is WHO actually entitled and allowed to do? The preparation then continued with getting to know Malta's position on the topics. Despite being a relatively small country with limited diplomatic capacities, Malta actively engages in international cooperation, especially with regard to climate change. By the time we were writing our position paper for the conference, we had developed a broad understanding of what Malta's priorities are and what measures it seeks to be implemented. Then, in the days before the conference started, we began to familiarize ourselves with the positions and ideas of other countries' Delegations by reading through their position papers. By doing so, we found out which Delegations had the same priorities and would pursue similar approaches, so we could become partners during the discussions ahead.

Eventually, the 19th of March had come and the conference started. After we had polished up our knowledge about the rules of procedure and had attended the opening ceremony in the Grand Ballroom our work in the committee began. As we simulated the 'real' WHO's Executive Board with less than 30 board members, we were part of a relatively small committee. In the Hilton's Nassau West conference room, which would become our home for the next couple of days, our diplomatic experience started off with introducing ourselves to our fellow Delegates and exchanging business cards. We also tried to find out which agenda setting the other Delegations preferred. For us as a small island nation facing rising sea levels and other negative impacts of climate change, naturally, the first topic was of particular concern. Luckily, most other Delegations felt the same way, so that at the first night the agenda was set in the order topic I, topic III, topic II.

The next day, we could finally start to deliver and listen to speeches on the topic and to get into discussions about our ideas during informal session. Our goals were to promote the exchange of research and technology, to raise awareness of the public health effects of climate change, to integrate environmental and health issues into other policy areas and to improve funding assistance for those countries especially affected by climate change. During the next couple of days, the ideas every Delegation had in the beginning slowly turned into concrete proposals and plans for the implementation of new mechanisms.

Eventually, five working papers emerged, all dealing with different aspects of this complex topic. While some focused on technology exchange and risk assessment, others pursued social media campaigns and educational measures. Through the time-consuming process of merging similar working papers, we created three final working papers. After they had been examined by the chair, they were finally accepted as draft resolutions WHO/1/1, WHO/1/2 and WHO/1/3 respectively. For us, splitting up proved to be a very useful tactic, as it enabled us to contribute Malta ideas and thoughts to both draft resolutions WHO/1/1 und WHO/1/3. For instance, we worked with the Delegations of Bahrain, New Zealand, Kuwait and others to put the abstract idea of raising awareness of the link between climate change and health into a concrete measure that later found its way into resolutions:

*The World Health Organization,*

[...]

*Calls for the creation of a biannual international conference to be named Empowering Communities through Education on Climate Adaptive Measures Conference to promote awareness on climate change and its detrimental effects on public health by:*

- a. Employing trained WHO personnel, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and health experts in the formation and bi-annual update of the global set of guidelines to inform and educate the populace of given regions about the important connection between climate change and its effects on public health;*
- b. Endorsing youth participants to further spread the objectives and outcomes of the conference in their respective communities to address the needs of the elderly, children, illiterate and other disadvantaged groups, as well as schools for the purpose of promoting debate amongst students;*
- c. Inviting medical professionals, students, and relevant NGOs to engage in an exchange of knowledge and ideas to better address the negative effects of climate change upon individual health;*
- d. Providing training programs and forums for medical professionals to better address the negative effects of climate change regarding individual and public health;*
- e. Encouraging financial support needed to be provided by the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub and voluntary donations;*

Continuing with the simulation, then the doors were closed and we moved into voting procedure. Two of the three draft resolutions were adopted unanimously as the work of the body and the third one passed with an overwhelming majority of 23 countries in favor and only two abstentions. All committee members applauded and we felt proud of having achieved such an outcome, while at the same time we were all quite exhausted after days of discussions, drafting resolutions and delivering speeches. However, motivated by our Assistant Director Dakota Foster, who told us that during his time as a Delegate his committee managed it to submit a working paper on the second topic with a remaining time of less than two hours, we got to work again and together managed it to even submit several working papers outlining what measures should be taken to improve the coordination of health services in cases of disease outbreaks and other health emergencies. With that, however, the committee work ended. We enjoyed it very much to work together with other students from different cultural backgrounds trying to find solutions to the pressing health issues of today. At the end, as the icing of the cake, we even received the Outstanding Position Paper Award for all our preparations that had resulted in our position paper.

## 6.7 Malta at the International Atomic Energy Agency

represented by Anne Sophie Hanz and Julian Hettihewa

### Committee Short Overview

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an independent intergovernmental organization of the UN, which was created with the adoption of its statute on October 23rd 1956. There are several aims of the IAEA, such as nuclear security, international cooperation in the field of nuclear technology and most prominently non-proliferation and peaceful use of such technology. The IAEA is structured in a General Conference, which is its highest policy body, the General Conference and the Board of Governors. Today it has 167 Member States and is laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize.



### Committee Report

As the topics and concerns of the Agency are as diverse as its Member States, and time was limited to four days, the topics open for discussion were the following:

- I. Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East
- II. Improving Science and Technology Activities through Technical Cooperation
- III. Nuclear Waste Management

Due to Malta's location in the Mediterranean, the most important topic to us was Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East. As Malta's Prime Minister, Joseph



Muscat said: “There can be no peace and security in the Mediterranean without peace and security in the Middle East.” Another concern of Malta’s foreign policy was always the protection of the sea, which is why nuclear waste management was also one of the top priorities for us.

However, the first day of the conference took us by surprise: the majority of the States agreed to tackle topic number two first. Still, this was no backlash but an incentive to advocate Malta’s position in the best way we could. As cooperation needs the involvement of many different actors with different ideas and ideals to work on one common aim, it also requires a mediator. That is the reason why Malta’s first task was to assemble all Member States of the European Union, establishing a platform in order to raise the impact of Malta’s agenda as a whole. We not only managed to prove our qualities as a leader since Malta holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, but were also able to support one another on different resolutions.

In total we worked on three different working papers. One was concerned with a deeper involvement of the IAEA when it comes to health, food and agriculture. Another tackled the issue of financing the Agency, regarding that paper we could support it with a perambulatory clause, which states that one of the Agency’s top priorities is the protection of the sea. Finally, on the third working paper, we wanted to establish one database streamlining all the existing ones to increase the cooperation between Member States. This paper can especially be seen as the embodiment of one of Malta’s greatest strengths: Building bridges between nations.

Nevertheless, we have to say that each and every day of the conference was full of tough negotiations and debates. Don’t get us wrong, there were also joyful moments, for example when we were able to give a speech to the IAEA committee. In the end, this still did not come close to the moment when all of our tension and stress was relieved. All our draft resolutions were adopted in the voting procedure!

All of the points mentioned above are proof that our hard work preparing and participating in the conference paid off. We did not only debate, but also found solutions, built bridges, and most importantly met many kind, open minded individuals on the way!

## The Trip in Pictures











Photo Credit: National Model United Nations

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Special thanks to Ali Amer Taha for lending us his camera allowing us to document NMUN2017.





**Participation of Freie Universität Berlin in the  
National Model United Nations conferences 1995-2017**

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"

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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"



Malta (2017), “Distinguished Delegation”, Six “Outstanding Position Paper” Awards



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**The NMUN 2017 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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