

Content

Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic	3
Foreword	4
Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation to the National Model United Nations Conference 1996	6
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/>	
1. Introduction	7
2. The National Model United Nations Conference 1996	8
3. The UN-Study Tour	10
3.1 Secretariat Briefing on UNCTAD	11
3.2 Secretariat Briefing on Human Rights	12
3.3 Secretariat Briefing on HABITAT	13
3.4 Secretariat Briefing on the Agenda for Peace	14
3.5 Secretariat Briefing on UNIFEM	15
3.6 Secretariat Briefing on the Commission on Sustainable Development	17
4. The German Permanent Mission to the United Nations	18
5. The Syrian Arab Republic: An Overview	20
6. The Syrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations	21
7. The Syrian Arab Republic at the National Model United Nations Conference 1996	22
7.1 The Syrian Arab Republic in the General Assembly	22
7.2 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Second Committee of the General Assembly	23
7.3 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Third Committee of the General Assembly	26
7.4 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Forth Committee of the General Assembly	29
7.5 The Syrian Arab Republic at the „Conference on Human Settlement“ (Habitat II)	32
7.6 The Syrian Arab Republic in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	34
7.7 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Organization of the Islamic conference (OIC)	36
7.8 The Syrian Arab Republic in the World Health Organization (WHO)	38

National Model United Nations 1996
Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

Kai Baldow	Law	FU Berlin	GA, 2nd Committee
Tanja Baur	Political Science	FU Berlin	General Assembly
Michael Borg	Political Science	FU Berlin	Org. of the Islam. Conference
Peter Girke	Law	FU Berlin	GA, 2nd Committee
Rolandas Kazlauskas	Political Science	FU Berlin	GA, 2nd Committee
Ulrich Keunecke	Law	FU Berlin	GA, 4th Committee
Sabine Kittel	Economics	FU Berlin	UNEP
Beate Klemm	Political Science	FU Berlin	UNEP
Anita Kreutz	Law	FU Berlin	GA, 3rd Committee
Ferdinand Martens	Law	Viadrina Universität	GA, 3rd Committee
Franziska Rahner	Political Science	FU Berlin	General Assembly
Henning Riecke	Political Science	FU Berlin	GA, 4th Committee
Grit Schmalisch	Economics	FTW	Org. of the Islam. Conference
Clemens Schöll	Political Science	FU Berlin	HABITAT
Sachka Stefanova	Political Science	FU Berlin	HABITAT
Frank Wernecke	Political Science	FU Berlin	WHO
Holger Wettingfeld	Political Science	FU Berlin	WHO
Faculty Advisors			
Klaus Hüfner	Economics	FU Berlin	
Peggy Wittke	Law	FU Berlin	

Foreword

Encouraged by the great success of our first participation at the *National Model United Nations* in 1995, we decided to continue this project at the Free University of Berlin. For the participation at the *National Model United Nations 1996* we had so many interested students mostly from the Law, Political Science and the Economy Departments, that we had to introduce a formal application procedure that included a written statement and an interview with the applicants. Due to financial and logistical restraints we were only able to take 17 students along to New York. The experiences and impressions these students brought back from the conference are written down in this report. They show what the *National Model United Nations Conference* has to offer to the participants: the whole variety of the diplomatic life at the United Nations. The successes of international cooperation is part of this life as well as the many frustrations during never-ending negotiations. For these students, who will maybe become diplomats in the future, it was very important to learn to deal especially with the second phenomena. After all, it is a major part of the normal work at the United Nations. The conference indicates an important practical and educational supplement to the more theoretical teachings at the universities and thus closes the gap between theory and practice. The students experience realistic negotiation rounds and the necessity of compromises in international politics. The differences between national and international interests and realization of politics becomes evident.

We feel very fortunate that we were able to utilize valuable contacts, which were made during the conference in 1995, especially in the course of the preparations. The University of Munich under the direction of Dr. Dietmar Herz and Mrs. Sonja Laubach-Hintermeyer has taken part for years in the *National Model United Nations* and thus has collected many valuable experiences, which they shared with us. In February 1996 we were invited by the Munich Delegation for a simulation of the *World Health Organization*, which took place in Munich. For the participants it was a great opportunity to use their diplomatic skills and knowledge of the difficult *Rules of Procedure* for the first time in front of other students. Of course contacts were made quite quickly, especially since the Munich Delegation represented the UN-Member State Israel in New York, which certainly was of high interest for the Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Furthermore, we thank the *World Federation of United Nations Associations* (WFUNA) and especially Ms. Sharon McHale, *Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary-General*,

for the excellent organization of the UN Study-Tour. Ahead of the NMUN-Conference, the Berlin Delegation was given the unique possibility to look behind the scenes of the United Nations and discuss global issues with high-ranking UN-Diplomats. The experience of the „real UN-work“ was a valuable preparation for the students for the upcoming simulation of the United Nations at the *National Model United Nations*.

We also wish to acknowledge Dr. Bernhard Neugebauer, ret. Ambassador, who shared his vivid experiences at the United Nations with us and who documented by his support for our project his never-ending involvement in the United Nations. Dr. Hans Günter Lobmeyer, Free University of Berlin, also contributed as an Expert on the Syrian Arab Republic immensely to a comprehensive preparation.

A very special „Thank You“ goes to our university, the Free University of Berlin. Our participation at the *National Model United Nation 1996* was only possible because of the continuing support of our project. In spite of vigorous financial restraints, the Free University has again illuminated her special interest in a thorough education of students. We also feel very fortunate to have been sponsored by the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD).

Klaus Hüfner

Peggy Wittke

Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation to the National Model United Nations Conference 1996

We wish to thank the following persons, enterprises and institutions for their financial and/or ideological support of our participation at the *National Model United Nations 1996*

Autopia Reisebüro

Frau Chopra, UN-Documentation, FU Berlin

con moto - Beratungsgruppe - ; Munich

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

Free University of Berlin

German Mission to the United Nations

Dr. Hans Günter Lobmeyer, Pol.Science Department, Free University of Berlin

Sharon McHale. Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary-General, WFUNA, New York

Herr Dr. Bernhard Neugebauer, Former Ambassador

Syrian Mission to the United Nations

United Nations Association of Germany, Bonn

United Nations Association of Germany, Berlin Branch

Mrs. Annabelle Wiener, Deputy Secretary-General, WFUNA, New York

Special thanks to Geneviève Libonati for continuing support!

1. Introduction

We are very happy that for the second time we are able to publish a report on our participation at the *National Model United Nations*. The content of this report will not only be the documentation of the conference itself, but also a description of our other activities in New York in the course of the preparation for the *National Model United Nations Conference 1996*.

One of these activities was the UN Study-Tour, which was organized by **Ms. Sharon McHale**, *World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)*. While the Study Tour provided important information on the work of the United Nations, our visit at the German and Syrian Missions to the United Nations illustrated the fields of occupation of the UN-Member States. **His Excellency Ambassador Khalil Abou-Hadid**, *Minister Counsellor of the Syrian Mission to the United Nations*, provided interesting information on the Syrian Arab Republic and important references to diplomatic conduct. **Dr. Dr. Krause**, *Senior Press Officer of the German Mission*, pointed out the major topics of German concern in the United Nations and gave some very interesting instruction on negotiating techniques.

This report starts with an introduction on the principles and goals of the *National Model United Nations*, followed by a survey of the briefings of the UN Study-Tour and a summary of our visit to the German Mission to the United Nations.

For a better comprehension of the reports of the Delegates from their committees, a short overview about important key facts of the Syrian Arab Republic is given, followed by the documentation of our visit to the Syrian Mission to the United Nations. The final, but most significant part is dedicated to the reports of the Delegates.

Peggy Wittke

2. The National Model United Nations

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 were directed at students to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and the work and functioning of International Organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of the *Model United Nations-Programmes* has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programmes are also being offered at Highschools - in the United States more than 60.000 Highschool 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. For several years now, the BERMUN (Berlin Model United Nations) is being held at the John-F.-Kennedy-School in Zehlendorf.

The *National Model United Nations* is the largest simulation of the United Nations in the world today. Each year more than 1.800 students from North America, Kanada, Asia and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for six days at the Grand Hyatt, New York and the United Nations itself. The *National Model United Nations* is sponsored by the *National Collegiate Conference Association, Inc.*, a non-profit organization which works closely with the United Nations and was granted the status of a *Nongovernmental-Organization* in 1995. The Board of Directors, since 1995 including the German professor Dr. Dietmar Herz from the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute of the University of Munich, coordinates and supervises the simulation. The conference is administered by a 55-member Secretariat which is composed of graduate and undergraduate students who are elected annually. Head of the Secretariat is the *General-Secretary*, supported by a *Director-General* and a *Chief of Staff*.

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

During the six 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 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 who at the same time have to be open minded towards compromises, always taking into consideration the special interests of the represented nation. 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 interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other delegates he immediately realizes his failures and, most important, his success.

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

Peggy Wittke

3. The UN-Study Tour

In addition to the participation at the *National Model United Nations Conference*, we were able to offer an UN-Study Tour to the students, which was arranged by the *World Federation of United Nations Associations* (WFUNA). Coordinated with the different committees in which the students were to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in the conference, the briefings took place in the course of two days at the United Nations Headquarters. High-ranking UN-Diplomats talked about their work and answered patiently the numerous questions of the students. The UN-Study Tour gave a significant possibility to gather information concerning the topics of the conference. Also the students had the unique opportunity to look „backstage“ at the United Nations and benefit from the personal encounter with UN-Diplomats. The very interesting and enthusiastic briefings which were followed by lively discussions illuminated impressively the various fields of activity of the United Nations. Of course the lunch at the *Delegates Cafeteria* among the UN-Diplomats was another highlight of the UN-Study Tour.

UN-Study Tour Programme

Thursday, March 28th, 1996

10.15 - 11.00 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on UNCTAD Mr. Georg Kell , Economic Affairs Officer UN Conference on Trade and Development
11.15 - 12.00 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on Human Rights Dr. Purificacion Valera Quisumbing , Chief UN Centre for Human Rights, New York
13.15 - 14.00 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on HABITAT Mrs. Aliye Celik , Officer-in-Charge UN Centre for Human Settlements, New York

Friday, March 29th, 1996

10.00 - 10.45 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on Agenda for Peace Dr. Jürgen Dedring , Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, New York
11.00 - 11.45 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on UNIFEM Ms. Sarah Burd-Sharps , Programme Officer, Africa Section UN Development Fund for Women, New York
13.00 - 13.45 a.m.	Secretariat Briefing on Sustainable Development Mr. Andrey Vasilyev , First Officer Division for Sustainable Development, DPCSD, New York

3.1 Secretariat Briefing on UNCTAD

This appointment marked the beginning of the two day Study Tour of six departments of the United Nations. The delegation of the FU Berlin was welcomed by **Mr. Georg Kell**, the *Economic Affairs Officer at the UNCTAD* (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

UNCTAD IX.

The core of Mr. Kell's briefing, as well as the following discussion, was the content and impact of the UNCTAD IX Conference in South Africa in May 1996. The conference will be addressing "*Globalization and Liberalization*". Mr. Kell explained UNCTAD's main problem after the end of the Cold War. Following the last *GATT-Conference* and the foundation of the *WTO* (World Trade Organization), most of the industrialized countries considered UNCTAD unnecessary. It has become extremely difficult to maintain the economic interests of the underdeveloped countries, by means of critical analyses and possible alternative forms of development.

Today UNCTAD, founded in 1964, counts 188 member states. Its foundation was predominantly initiated by the developing countries. Despite the intention of these countries, it has never become an independent world trade organization, remaining a permanent Special Organ of the General Assembly. During the 1970s, the conference dominated the worldwide debate on trade and development with its concept of a "*New*

World Economy Order". During the 1980s, this promising project failed; on one hand, because of the political and economic resistance of the industrialized countries; on the other, because of the *Neo-Liberalism* with its dogma of liberalization. As a result UNCTAD's political reputation declined steadily.

Globalization and liberalization

The intention of UNCTAD IX is not to modify the frame of the world economy, but to make globalization and liberalization utilizable for the 48 *Least Developed Countries*, primarily African states. The main purpose of UNCTAD is a strong support of these countries with an emphasis on the reorganization of legislation and tax laws to make them - hopefully - more attractive to foreign investors.

For UNCTAD's political survival, the *General-Secretary* of UNCTAD, Rubens Ripero, is not only sponsoring the reduction of the nine UNCTAD departments to four, but is mainly interested in the cooperation with the WTO. In the future, UNCTAD should undertake the types of tasks that the WTO is not accountable for, essentially as a forum for discussions, where NGOs also have the possibility to influence ongoing developments.

Frank Wernecke and Holger Wettingfeld

3.2 Secretariat Briefing on Human Rights

At this briefing, the introduction to the *UN Centre for Human Rights* itself was of rather secondary interest for us than the actual person we met as a result of it. Through her verve and capacity for enthusiasm, **Dr. Purificacion Valera Quisumbing** formed in our eyes a contrast to the often resigned looking employees of the United Nations.

The *Chief of the Centre for Human Rights* in New York and *Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* first surprised us with the size of the budget available for UN-Human Rights work: just 0.1% of the entire UN-budget! In spite of the meagre financial support, she nevertheless positively assessed development emphasizing the significance of the issues of Human Rights in general. The increased attention of the public as a result of the 1993 *Vienna Conference on Human Rights*, at which the appointing of a *High Commissioner for Human Rights* was decided upon, is regarded as a particular success by her.

Children's Rights

The main focus of her work at the moment is the development of rights for children. A great challenge is posed here by the implementation of the 1989 *Convention for Children's Rights* which has in the meantime, with the exception of six countries, been ratified world-wide. Further issues dealt with at the briefing were the work of the *Commission for Human Rights*, the *International War Crimes Tribunal*, the working with nongovernmental-organizations and the *Right to Development*. In this context, the actual question of concern is whether the latter is to be understood as an individual right or as a group right.

Thus, in the area of Human Rights many more challenges are to be faced - a reason for Dr. Quisumbing to appeal to us with the warning "for every right there is a corresponding responsibility", for concerning ourselves with Human Rights and for standing up for them, whether this is, for example, through working with organizations such as *amnesty international* or even through an internship with the *UN Centre for Human Rights* in New York.

Anita Kreutz and Beate Klemm

3.3 Secretariat Briefing on HABITAT

The *United Nations Centre for Human Settlements* (UNCHS - HABITAT) was established as a standing committee of the *Economic and Social Council* of the United Nations in 1978, two years after the *First World Conference for Human Settlements* (1976 in Canada). HABITAT is responsible for the formulation und implementation of the human settlements programmes of the United Nations. HABITAT serves as a *think tank* within the UN system, utilizing its research and technical analysis capacity to assist governments in improving the development and management of human settlements. HABITAT's operational activities combine technical advice, applied research, training and information.

HABITAT II

Mrs. Aliye Celik, *Officer-in-Charge at the UN Center for Human Settlements* (New York), focused her lecture on the preparatory activities for the *Second World Conference for Human Settlements* (HABITAT II), which is to be held in Istanbul in June 1996. The two main subjects of the Conference are *Sustainable Human*

Settlements in an Urbanizing World and Adequate Shelter For All, concerning especially problems resulting from the rapid urban population growth and their solutions. As Mrs. Aliye Celik emphasized, the issues of concern are shared by all countries of the world. Therefore, the Conference will be the best forum for exchanging opinions and experiences with successful approaches to poverty reduction, managing the urban environment, providing access to land and water, and so on.

The Global Plan of Action

The HABITAT Agenda, which is to be adopted by the Conference, will comprise a *Statement of Principals and Commitments* and a *Global Plan of Action*. This document will address key issues facing the world's towns and cities during the next two decades. Mrs. Aliye Celik pointed out the problem arising from the possible declaration of the Right to Housing as a Human Right in the HABITAT Agenda. The question is whether housing for all is a realistic development goal. Mrs. Aliye Celik surmised that the participants of the Conference would adopt in the HABITAT Agenda the principle: housing is a Human Right but the Right to Housing is a human need.

Sachka Stefanova

3.4 Secretariat Briefing on Agenda for Peace

It was the highest meeting the Security Council of the United Nations has ever seen when all the Presidents of the Member States came together in the beginning of 1992 to discuss the world situation. The future lay in front of them like a white sheet of paper to be filled. On this occasion the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was asked to prepare a document that outlines the most important issues concerning the maintenance of peace and security in the world. Within 1992, Boutros-Ghali introduced the document named „*Agenda for Peace*“ which is on everyone's lips since that time.

The Senior Humanitarian Officer Dr. Jürgen Deding, working in the UN-Secretariat, discussed with our group what the *Agenda for Peace* is about and which elements are still missing for its successful implementation.

Preventive Diplomacy

Reflecting stages of possible intervention, the *Agenda for Peace* is divided into four different parts: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Due to questions raised by our group, Dr. Deding concentrated on the

area of preventive diplomacy. He pointed out that especially within this field he would have wished to see more radical ideas to be attached to the concept.

He gave a short updated glance on the situation in several countries and directed our attention towards the situation in Rwanda and Burundi. By quoting a report that has been published only recently, he stated that the information that could have prevented the genocide in Rwanda was available beforehand. The initiative raised by Boutros-Ghali to prevent the same thing from happening in Burundi, indicates that there are ways to implement the concept of preventive diplomacy. Nevertheless, Dr. Dedring criticized the fact, that preventive deployment, which is one element within the concept of preventive diplomacy, can only be carried out if the parties to the conflict agree to the intervention. As the example of Macedonia shows, preventive deployment can be a very successful instrument. It was the first time in the history of the United Nations that troops were sent beforehand.

UN Standing Force

Concerning the issue of troops Mr. Dedring indicated that Boutros-Ghali's suggestion of an *UN standing force* is still being discussed by the Member States. Most of the Member States, though, favor the idea of „*Earmarked Contingents*“ within the national armies.

Beyond the *Agenda for Peace*, Dr. Dedring reported about the *Supplement to the Agenda for Peace* which is a follow-up document by the Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, published in the beginning of 1995. In this document, Mr. Boutros-Ghali summarizes the successes, the failures and the problems concerning the implementation of the *Agenda for Peace*. In addition, he addressed the fairly new issue of the humanitarian impact of sanctions which has taken shape in the meantime. There are different proposals to get the impact of sanctions under control and furthermore to straighten the whole process of its application.

Franziska Rahner and Tanja Baur

3.5 Secretariat Briefing on UNIFEM

One of the interesting lectures from our "study tour" programme was given by **Ms. Sarah Burd-Sharps**, concerning the role and work of the UNIFEM.

The idea of UNIFEM itself was born in Mexico City as a result of the *First World Conference on Women* held in Mexico City 1975. The *United Nations Development Fund for Women* was established in 1976 as the Voluntary Fund for the *Decade for Women*, 1976-1985, with the aim of bringing women's concerns into the United Nations and onto the UN development agenda. In 1985 the Fund's name was changed to UNIFEM and it became a Specialized Agency within the UN family.

Aims of UNIFEM

UNIFEM promotes the economic and political empowerment of women in developing countries. It works to ensure the participation of women in all levels of development planning and practice. UNIFEM also acts as a catalyst within the UN system for efforts to link the needs and concerns of women to all critical issues on the national, regional, and global agenda.

Furthermore, Ms. Sarah Burd-Sharps pointed out the emerging problems: that women constitute 70 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor; work two-thirds of the world's working hours, but earn only one-tenth of the world's income; and own less than one-tenth of the world's property.

To fulfill the aims of improving the situation of women all over the world as well as increasing the capacity of women and women's organizations to influence the direction of social development and to participate actively in the political and economical decision-making process on the national, regional and global levels, UNIFEM focuses on activities such as projects, seminars, and workshops, which are held throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Fourth World Conference on Women

UNIFEM played a crucial role in the preparations for the *Fourth World Conference on Women* in Beijing (Sept. 1995). The preparatory activities were more essential than the Conference itself in the opinion of Ms. Sarah Burd-Sharps, because the national governments were asked to prepare reports and collect up-to-date information on issues related to the subject of the conference. In this way the governments and non-governmental organizations have considered and taken into account the current problems of women .

Since the conference the main UNIFEM priorities have been centered around two key concerns: achieving women's economic and political empowerment by means of reducing and eliminating the feminization of poverty, and, secondly, the building on women's leadership and capacities.

Ms. Sarah Burd-Sharps emphasized that UNIFEM actually is a tiny organization, which has to cope with the concerns and problems of half of the world. Yet the UNIFEM's budget amounts to US\$ 40.000 annually. This amount is not even sufficient for the weekly nutrition of the refugees from Ruanda.

Sachka Stefanova

3.6 Secretariat Briefing on Sustainable Development

The *Commission on Sustainable Development* (CSD) was founded in 1993 as a result of the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* (UNCED). The commission is composed of 53 members and is a subsidiary of ECOSOC. **Mr. Andrey Vasilyev**, *First Officer of the Division for Sustainable Development*, pointed out that the major task of the commission lies in the supervision and promotion of the transformation process of the „*Agenda 21*“. The „*Agenda 21*“ was signed in 1992 at the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), as well as the *Convention on Climate Change*, the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *Declaration on Forests*. The intention of the Rio-Conference is the promotion of a global sustainable development which meets the essential ecological requirements. The annual meetings of the CSD are conducted at the United Nations, the Forth Session since the establishment took place from April 18th - May 3rd 1996 in New York City. In the course of the First Session in 1993, the Commission determined the relevant topics to be discussed at the following annual sessions. These topics are divided *in cross-sectoral issues*, which appear on the agenda each year, and *sectoral issues*, which are only discussed during one session. The cross-sectoral issues contain trade and environment, consumption and production patterns, finance and transfer of technology. At the 1996 Session of the Commission, the sectoral issues *Ocean* and *Atmosphere* were on the agenda. In the years before topics like health, settlements, water and dangerous waste were debated.

Participation of NGOs

The Commission on Sustainable Development has a special significance in the coordination of the international cooperation, like for instance the comprisement of *nongovernmental organizations* (NGOs). More than 100 NGOs from the environment and energy sector take part in the sessions of the CSD; since 1994 they also have the

right to speak during the formal negotiations. Mr. Andrey Vasilyev emphasized that the work of the CSD is based on the principles of partnership and cooperation while striving to combine different national strategies in search of solutions for the environmental problems. The CSD therefore is functioning more like a „*think tank*“, giving the member states a forum to exchange their ideas. According to Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, this is why the Commission on Sustainable Development today enjoys an exceptional role in the United Nations system concerning the combination of the interests of the member states and the legitimate concerns of *nongovernmental organizations*.

Peggy Wittke

4. The German Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Our visit at the *German Permanent Mission to the United Nations* completed our impressions of the work at the United Nations. **Dr. Dr. Rolf Krause**, *Senior Press Officer* at the German Mission, gave a thorough description of the activities of the 90 members of the mission-staff. Starting off with a short introduction of the history of the United Nations while also considering the special situation of the divided Germany, he placed the major emphasis on the question of a reform of the United Nations.

The Enemy-Clauses

One of the essential concerns of German Diplomats is the abolishment of the „*Enemy-Clauses*“ in Articles 53 and 107 of the UN-Charta. According to Article 53, 2nd paragraph, Germany as an enemy of a signatory state of the UN-Charta during the Second World War, today still belongs to the „hostile nations“. Through the inclusion of the „*Enemy-Clauses*“ the Victor Powers secured their liberty of action toward the defeated states of the Second World War without being bound by the provisions of the UN-Charta. Article 53 allows in its first paragraph the imposing of coercive measures against the resumption of a policy of aggression by an enemy state without the authorization of the Security Council. Article 107 of the UN-Charta contains the right of the Victor Powers to disregard the provisions of the charta - especially Articles 1 and 2 - while taking measures against an enemy state. Since all of the former enemy states are today members of the United Nations, for which it is according to the UN-Charta essential that they are „peaceful nations“, these clausulas are considered obsolete. An

alteration of the Charta, though, is only possible with a two thirds majority, which equals 122 Member States (Article 108 UN-Charta), including the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Reform of the Security Council

Another field of action for the German Mission is the participation in the frequent debate of a reform of the Security Council. Dr. Dr. Krause pointed out that a consensus exists between Member States at least concerning the enlargement of the membership of the Security Council by permanent as well as non-permanent members. Because of their extraordinary political importance in the international community today, Japan and Germany are two of the first applicants for a seat in the new Security Council. However, certain endeavours exist, for instance in Italy, to prevent a German permanent membership in the Security Council. Still unsolved are questions like reelection of members and the veto-right of the permanent members. Regarding the multitude of these open questions, Dr. Dr. Krause views a substantial reform of the Security Council in this century as highly unrealistic.

Negotiation techniques in the United Nations

Of high interest to the future NMUN-delegates was Dr. Dr. Krause's explanation of the negotiation techniques in the United Nations. The publishment of new ideas and proposals requires according to Dr. Dr. Krause a particular proceeding. First of all, it seems advisable to investigate the interests of the involved nations and of the relevant committes, in which the proposals are to be presented. Only after the thorough evaluation of the results of this investigation the proposals should be made public. Existing controversies between partners have to be withheld or at least not carried out in public.

Moreover, Dr. Dr. Krause surprised the students with a profound knowledge of the Syrian Arab Republic, which of course gave reason to many questions, which he answered thoroughly.

At the end, we left the German Mission well prepared for the upcoming NMUN-Conference, appreciating the manifold information Dr. Dr. Krause had provided for us very much. We therefore hope to arrange further meetings for Berlin Delegations at the German Mission to the United Nations.

Peggy Wittke

5. The Syrian Arab Republic: An Overview

Official Title:

al-Jumhuriya al-Arabiya al-Suriya /
Syrian Arab Republic

Independence:

April 17th, 1946

Political System:

Republic

Head of State:

Hafez al-Assad (since March 2nd,
1971)

Borders:

North with Turkey, East with Iraq,
South with Jordan and Israel, West
with Libanon and the
Mediterranean Sea

Area:

185.180 km²

Population:

12.960.000 inhabitants (1992), 88%
Arabs, 6% Kurds and Armenians,
Turkmenians, Tscherkessians

Religion:

75% Sunnis, 12% Alawites, 12%
Christians

Capital:

Damascus 4.500.000 inhabitants
(1992), other major cities are:
Aleppo (1.200.000), Homs
(469.000), Hasakeh (700.000) und
Latakia (247.000)

Official Language:

Arabic

Currency:

Syrian Pound (Syr£) = 100 Piaster,
1994 1,00 DM = 7,0045 syr£
(Buying) 7,0360 syr£(Selling)

Gross Domestic Product:

1992: 371 Mrd. syr£

Foreign Debt:

US\$ 16,05 billion. (as of end 1990)

Membership in International

Organizations:

UN and UN-Special Agencies
(except GATT), Org. of Islamic
Conference, OAPEEC, Arab
Common Market, Cooperation-
Treaties with the European Union

Source: Munzinger Archiv/IH.Länder aktuell (36/95)

6. The Syrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations

The NMUN-Delegation of the Free University of Berlin seized the opportunity to check their positions in a meeting with **His Excellency Ambassador Khalil Abou-Hadid**, *Minister Counsellor* of the UN mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, on Tuesday, April 2, 1996. The meeting took place in a convenient atmosphere, the host provided coffee and tea.

The Briefing was very stimulating, especially regarding the procedural matters, while the information we received made us acquainted with the official Syrian positions. The security arrangements were relatively tight, but not beyond standard. Ambassador Khalil Abou-Hadid responded to a lot of questions, never losing diplomatic countenance and distance, even when the Briefing sometimes turned to a pushy inquiry. He confirmed the information of our WHO representatives that there is only a small number of people in Syria who are HIV positive, their number, however, had increased from four to over 250. These infected persons are immigrants or foreigners who soon would be expelled from the country. Concerning the Syrian position on nuclear non-proliferation, he referred to the country's support for the Non-proliferation Treaty. Very interesting were his guidelines about the way how to treat the Israeli delegation. Having expected - after a precedent Briefing two of our delegates had in the mission - that we were not allowed to exchange a „How are you“ with them on the floor, we learned from Ambassador Khalil Abou-Hadid, that a routine, but not heartily behavior would be normal. Thus, our visit provided an important preparation for a realistic representation of the Syrian Arab Republic at the *National Model United Nations*.

Henning Riecke

7. The Syrian Arab Republic at the National Model United Nations Conference 1996

7.1 The Syrian Arab Republic in the General Assembly represented by Franziska Rahner and Tanja Baur

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. The General Assembly may discuss all matters that fall within the competence given by the Charter of the United Nations, especially questions of peace and security, as long as it is not discussed by the Security Council.

During the 1996 NMUN-Conference the agenda of the General Assembly (GA) included three topics:

1. Review of the International Bill of Rights
2. The Implementation of an Agenda for Development
3. Agenda for Peace: the Promotion of Preventive Diplomacy

Within the context of the agenda setting at the very beginning, the Syrian Delegation had a clear goal. An agreement on the economic measures contained in the *Agenda for Development* was an indispensable precondition for any further negotiation on *Preventive Diplomacy*. Consequently, the *Agenda for Development* had to come first on the agenda. Since the Syrian Delegation, together with most of the developing countries, was voting in favour of putting the *Review of the International Bill of Human Rights* at the end of the agenda, this topic was placed on the last place. For temporal reasons, this topic was not negotiated during the conference.

Agenda for Development

Syria considered the economic development of all states as an essential precondition for peace and stability in the world. Within this context, Syria attached special importance to the technology-transfer mentioned by the Secretary-General in the *Agenda for Development*. Likewise, the Syrian Delegation considered the idea of a „*Peace Dividend*“ as a very promising starting point, taking into account that the implementation should not lead to an incision of the sovereignty of any Member State of the United Nations.

Since sufficient water supply is internationally recognized as a precondition for economic development, the Syrian Delegation tabled together with other Arab States a resolution containing the question of water supply for all countries in the region. From the viewpoint of the Syrian Delegation, the responsibility of the international community especially for the implementation of international law was of utmost importance, since all states, including Turkey, are obliged to respect existing international law. By reason of a very unrealistic constellation of interests within the Arab Delegations, this resolution was very much watered down. The resolution passed with nearly 90 % of the votes, but had lost its original sense.

Preventive Diplomacy

Under the agenda topic *Preventive Diplomacy* 15 (more or less irrelevant) resolutions were passed by the General Assembly. For reasons which were unintelligible for the Syrian Delegation none of the resolutions covered central topics, like confidence-building measures. On the contrary, new Special Agencies and Departments within the framework of the United Nations were invented. In the opinion of the Syrian Delegation, this direction is neither in the sense of the instrument of *Preventive Diplomacy* nor conducive for a more efficient use of already existing capacities of the United Nations.

7.2 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Second Committee of the General Assembly

represented by Kai Baldow, Peter Girke, Rolandas Kazlauskas

The Second Committee of the General Assembly

The Second Committee is one of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly and is principally responsible for economic and financial matters. Economics has become one of the primary factors in determining world power, and for that reason, it is a sensitive topic for all nations. In the center of discussion this year was the conflict between money-giving developed nations and the developing countries. What could be effective compromises for changes of the global trade relations and mechanisms?

Therefore, the three topics on the agenda were:

1. Reassessing Systems of Global Trade Relations
2. Reevaluating the Bretton-Woods-Institutions as Mechanisms for Development

3. Reviewing the Relationship between Economic and Human Rights

In agreement with other Middle East countries the Syrian Arab Republic voted for the order 2/1/3, that was accepted by a large majority. If possible, the third topic should be avoided, and concerning the other topics Syria was hoping for at least partly positive resolutions.

The Bretton-Woods-Institutions

The result of the *Bretton Woods Conference* in 1944 was the initiation of the three pillars of today's world trade policy: the *International Monetary Fund* (IMF), the *Worldbank* and the *GATT* (since 1995: WTO). Main topic of the NMUN-Conference 1996 was the reform of the IMF and the Worldbank.

The IMF shall promote free trade and interchangeable currencies by resolving a short term balance of trade problems: the mission of the Worldbank is to provide longer-term funds for investment in productive endeavors. So far, the Worldbank has focused primarily on assisting lesser developed countries.

The role of these two institutions in the North-South conflict is controversial. Syria, like a lot of other Middle East countries and developing countries in general, criticizes, that the IMF and the Worldbank stick too close to the idea of a strictly free market and that the needs of less developed countries are not considered in an appropriate way. More influence on intern decision-making of IMF and Worldbank should be given to the developing countries.

In agreement with a large number of G 77 countries, Syria felt the strong need to stress certain points:

- to intensify regional cooperation without abandonment of any national sovereignty
- to extend the period of time for the repayment of debts
- the possibility for developing countries to pay back the debts in their own currency
- to reform the intern voting procedure of the IMF, because the actual procedure in fact gives no influence to the developing countries

To reach these aims the G 77-countries had to proceed very prudently - there were even differences between the developing countries themselves. And of course the positions of the industrialized nations had to be considered in order to make possible some effective results. Some European countries showed the will to cooperate, less did the United States, the German and the Japanese Delegations.

Final results, unfortunately, were only some softly formulated recommendations and statements of „Good Will“, but no basic decisions for important and needed reforms of

the IMF and the Worldbank. At least one resolution sponsored by Syria was accepted, another one (which dealt with the reform of the IMF- voting procedure) failed - by only one (!) missing vote of altogether 97 votes.

Nevertheless - from Syria's point of view the 2nd Committee conference succeeded at least to that extent, that the industrialized countries do know now the positions and the claims of the developing nations. Reforms are possible only in favour of and in cooperation with the developing countries, but not against them.

Reassessing Systems of Global Trade Relations

Global trade relations are of increasing importance. How to deal with them was the main issue of the second topic on the agenda. The *World Trade Organisation* and its instruments such as *Most Favored Nation Status* (MFN) or *Generalized System of Preferences* (GSP) were the subject of the debate. Trade regionalisation and regional integration as well as their impact on global trade also were discussed.

The Syrian Arab Republic is not a member of the WTO. This fact determined its passive position in the main debate. Syria's main interest consisted therefore in keeping its important position in the Middle East and to strengthen its effort to play a leading role in the economic field also. Main issue for Syria was the defense of its sovereignty also in economic decisions. Consequently, Syria supported the enforcement of regional economic cooperation, especially between Arab countries, as an alternative to „urgent“ globalisation. Together with other countries of the Arab world the Syrian Delegation developed many important suggestions which were included in some resolutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic also supported developing countries in their efforts to attract the attention of the world community to the questions of development. It criticized the domination of the industrialized countries in the international economic organizations and worked out propositions how to reach an equitable distribution of power in these organizations.

7.3 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Third Committee of the General Assembly

represented by Anita Kreutz and Ferdinand Martens

„Please come to order delegates!“ shouts our chairman, Ben, at us. Again, it's one of these moments when it is hard to establish the necessary order. So he adds a short „Now!“ to his sentence, then it becomes silent.

It was not very easy for our chair to control the over 200 different opinions in our committee. The Third Committee in general deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters. First, there was the question in which order to proceed in the agenda. The following three topics had to be arranged by us:

1. Child Labor
2. Violence against Women
3. Racial Discrimination

Dr. Fayssal, *First Secretary* of the Syrian Arab Republic's Permanent Mission to the UN, whom we consulted before the conference, recommended to put „*Racial Discrimination*“ at the end. His diplomatic justification: Syria regards the topic as an important one but has no problems with it. Thus, other more important issues should be debated first. Putting through this proposal was easier than we thought. To our surprise we discovered that most other countries shared this opinion with us. Obviously, there must have been some recent changes in the foreign policies of these countries, a phenomenon that we observed more than once during the course of the debate. Anyway, a majority of the committee quickly agreed to discuss „*Child Labor*“ and „*Violence against Women*“ first. The reason for this quick decision might be the fact that our speaker's time was very short (30 seconds), which made it impossible for many delegates to present a coherent thought.

„Motion to open the speakers list“ claims the delegate from Uganda and the chair accepts it. Immediately a whole forest of placards rises. Everyone wants to be on the speaker's list. Motto: „Speak or die!“ Luck was with us and we were number seven on the list. However, this did not mean that we could begin the debate immediately. Before, the speaker's time had to be fixed in a long and tiring process which seemed to be the most favorite thing to do for many delegates. The rest of the evening we haggled over half minutes, so that debate could not start until the next day.

Child Labor

Next day we had the opportunity to present our ideas to the committee. The heart of our speech was a comment about the dramatic situation of children in the occupied territories of the Golan (Syrians do not like the word „Golan Hights“ since it is an Israeli military term) and the barbaric methods of the foreign military forces there. Our remarks found wide acceptance among the Arab block. Nevertheless, most „brother countries“ refused to support us officially, due to the peace process in the Middle East. As a result, we had to fight alone for our ideas.

*Speech before the Third Committee****Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,***

Children are a priority in the National Policy of Syria because they are our future. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the Convention on the Rights of the Child that we ratified on the 13th of June 1993 was a good first step for a world wide child protection.

However, we are alarmed at the reports of the wide scale increase of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in many countries. The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns these crimes. Fortunately, they are not to be found in our country. Syria spares no effort to protect children from all forms of exploitation.

Yet, Syria is not able to protect all Syrian children from exploitation, since the children living under the yoke of Israeli occupation in the Syrian Arab Golan are suffering the most abhorrent kinds of exploitation and violence.

Israel is violating fundamental Human Rights, as well as the International Conventions that regulate and safeguard the right of civilians under occupation.

Mr. Chairman, Delegates!

Let me finish my speech with the words of His Excellency President Hafez al-Assad: „We want our children to enjoy a happy childhood, to lead a healthy life where they can reap the fruits of knowledge and learning.“

In this sense we hope to work together in good cooperation.

I Thank you.

Soon after that, delegates started to work out proposals by using the existing non-papers. We concentrated on working with a group that had most Arab countries in it and that was working on one of the major draft resolutions. We contributed a part that pointed out the connection between occupation (everywhere!) and its devastating effects on the economy which fosters the exploitation of children in these regions. The provision (better known as „The Occupation Clause“) was, as expected, heavily opposed by the Israeli delegation. For us some kind of diplomatic competition started in which we had to persuade those who opposed our proposition on the one hand, and to reclaim those countries which were already influenced by Israel on the other hand. In the end, it looked as if our efforts were fruitful. The resolution went into voting procedure with the „Occupation Clause“ in it. Then, Israel tried to divide out the parts from the preambulatory and the operative. This attempt was futile. We already thought that we had made it. At that moment a delegate who had a better knowledge of the *Rules of Procedure* motioned to divide out only the part in the operative. This motion found the necessary majority. The only thing left from our ideas were the parts in the preambulatory. Yet, even this part did not make it until the final voting in the General Assembly since this resolution was not selected by our directors.

Violence against Women

The discussion of the first topic took so long that we could not start with the second one until the middle of the last day. Again, we concentrated on the violation of Human Rights in occupied territories, which make especially women victims of violence and suppression. This time, however, we had some difficulties to incorporate these ideas into any of the proposals, since they failed already during the first topic. Israel's opposition and the resulting obstacles were already well known. Hence, many feared that the resolution might fail. Again, we were not able to succeed with our concepts.

Nevertheless, we consider the conference to have been a success. Where else would we have had the opportunity to apply all this knowledge that we gathered during our preparation in such a realistic way? To be a real diplomat for four days was fun, too. So it was a real „learning experience“ for us. However, this also applies to the fact that we found some delegates to be „out of character“ with their countries true policies. Who would have expected that Eritrea plays an even greater role in world politics than the United States? In this sense: „Syria motions to close the debate, Mr. Chairman.“, but only until next year!

Speech before the Third Committee held by Ferdinand Martens (speaking time 1,5 minutes)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates,

throughout history, Arab women have played a great role, which we greatly cherish. Their cause is an essential issue that the Syrian Arab Republic has placed in the forefront of its priorities so that women and men can constitute the basis for every national action.

The issue of violence against women has gained much interest during the recent debates at the Third Committee and the Beijing conference. However, in my country, violence against women is a limited phenomenon due to the values, customs and traditions that guarantee social control over such aspects.

Yet, Syrian women in the occupied Golan and women in South Lebanon and other occupied Arab territories suffer from the most abhorrent kind of violence: FOREIGN OCCUPATION!

At the Beijing Conference, as well as many other UN conferences and at the final declaration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations occupation has been recognized as a basic obstacle to women's enjoyment to human rights.

Syria seeks full support for the solidarity with Arab women who suffer under Israeli occupation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

let me finish my statement with the words of his Excellency President Hafez al-Assad who said: „The cause of women is an international issue that deserves the greatest attention on part of all people and governments.“

Thank you!

7.4 The Syrian Arab Republic in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

represented by Henning Riecke and Ulrich Keunecke

The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

In 1993, the General Assembly combined with the Resolution 47/233 the Fourth Committee, which until then dealt mainly with problems arising within the Trusteeship System, with the Special Political Committee to initiate a new field of activity. The Special Political Committee was established in 1965 and was engaged with different topics as peace-keeping and migration, but also with conflicts such as in South Africa and Palestine. With the combination, the Fourth Committee changed its official name to *General Assembly Fourth Committee on Special Political and Decolonization Matters*. The first topic which the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly (GA 4th)

discussed in its opening session was the agenda. The topics Director Shawn Olds put together in an provisional agenda were:

1. Relationship between the UN and the Regional Organizations
2. Situation in Bosnia Herzegowina
3. Situation in North Korea referring to the presumes Nuclear Arms Program

The position of the Syrian Delegation referring the agenda was easily defined. None of the topics touched the vital security interests of the country. Only in a discussion about the defense politics of North Korea, Syria as a nuclear threshold country and an important trading partner probably would have run into isolation. In this respect it was our interest to leave the North Korea topic in its place, hoping that it could be adjourned without being discussed and to start with the complexe and time-consuming issue of the *Relationship between the UN and the Regional Organizations*. Although there were different votes in favour of changing the suggested agenda, a two-third majority voted in favour of leaving it as proposed.

Relationship between the UN and the Regional Organizations

This first topic gave the Syrian Arab Republic the possibility to present its own resolution. This resolution based on the Syrian position not to touch the higher responsibility of the UN in case that a Regional Organization relieves the UN of the operational assignments of *peace-keeping* projects. Second, it was motivated by having fond unpleasant memories of the decision problems between the UN and NATO concerning a solution in Bosnia. Therefore the resolution contained clear statements about the essence of a UN-Security Council mandate, that delegates the operational control of an operation to the Regional Organization. Other resolutions were presented by the USA in cooperation with most of the western countries, by Jemen in cooperation with a part of the Arab League and Algeria. Especially the American students were under quite a bit of pressure to actively write resolutions because of their Faculty Advisors sitting as silent observers in the back giving grades to every single student. The results were eleven different resolutions with very similar contents.

It was really difficult to make a resolution pass the committee. It was necessary to formulate and reformulate again, to integrate suggestions and to canvass for the necessary 25 votes. Finally, the committee rejected our resolution because of three reasons: First, due to a mistake of the director of the committee, the delegates had a copy of our resolution only 14 hours after it was submitted by the Syrian Delegation. Therefore we lost the possibility to present the resolution to single delegates and to find

a majority by a good lobbying. Second, the clear statements in favour of an UN-competence provoked vehement protests. Certainly the operational pragmatism was given a positive mention, but it was difficult to outgrow these resentments. It was further an important point that a lot of delegations, for example the USA, refused to support a resolution from Syria. The international isolation was the most difficult problem for our delegation. In order to the Ethiopian tactics to delay the voting procedure for the eleven documents by roll calls, the end of this topic was really nerve-racking.

Situation in Bosnia Herzegovina

During the negotiations of the topic *Bosnia Herzegovina*, the Syrian Delegation was reserved and used another strategy: Instead of appearing as an author of a resolution, we tried to integrate our ideas into other draft resolutions. So we were able to avoid a renewed failure of a draft resolution presented by Syria. Further, an energetic discussion bearded the danger that Syria would have been drawn on personal or financial contributions - a situation that Syria had to avoid. In contrast to the first topic - certainly due to the new experiences made with this topic - the draft resolution covered a wide range of subjects referring to security politics, humanitarian aspects and recovery.

Recovery also was the main point of a draft resolution of Sudan which was supported by Syria. We were able to integrate several ideas, among other things thanks to the nations that marshalled contingents for the IFOR-troops to make the resolution more acceptable for them. This time the resolution passed, as most of the resolutions. Due to the fact that in our conference room the Head Delegate meeting was scheduled at 6 p.m, the voting procedure was pressed for time. Several draft resolutions were copied quite late so that among others the Syrian Delegation could only read them superficially.

The chairmanship by Assistant Director Richard Engel was characterized by a good atmosphere, a hands-on direction of the negotiations and a strong compliance with the *Rules of Procedure*. Even though due to the inactivity of the chairman to join similar resolutions, substantial results were prevented. The chairman announced the resolutions just by numbers, but not the sponsors (by which they were discussed on the floor). This made it quite difficult to know which countries were finally receiving the votes for their resolutions. The suppression of the Syrian draft resolution referring to topic 1 still remains unexcusable.

The most important experience was, that for an isolated state strong negotiation-positions can be really contra-productive. But it is the obvious thing to negotiate quietly in the corridors to get the others to agree.

7.5 The Syrian Arab Republic at the Conference on Human Settlement (Habitat II)

represented by Sachka Stefanova and Clemens Schöll

Habitat II

The *United Nations Centre for Human Settlements* - UNCHS or HABITAT - was established in 1978 and has its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Primary task of HABITAT is the advancement of shelter for the poor globally and the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system.

The Habitat II-Conference was planned to be held from June 3. - 14. 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey. Since our simulation started more than two month before, it was not always easy to find out the positions of the states. To take in account the results of Habitat I would also have not been a really good idea, because that summit was held 20 years ago in Vancouver, Canada.

The position of Syria at the Habitat II-conference came out to be a quite comfortable one: There are state-run housing programmes as well as regional developing zones in rural areas; free education in primary schools and free medical aid is - at least officially - available in the cities as well as in the countryside. In recent years, efforts to support private investors had been taken.

Diminishing water supply, one of the most important problems for Syria in the years to come, is mainly caused by Israel and Turkey. So we could call for the Israelian withdrawal from the Golan Heights as well as for negotiations on equal water distribution, which Turkey resits to take part in up to now.

During our briefing by the Syrian Ambassador Khalil Abou-Hadid another important point was revealed: Syria was aware of the idea of treating refugees like normal citizens of their host countries and integrating them, but in Syria's view it would be more important to stress their special status and to force their home countries to take them back - if they are willing to - as soon as possible. Still, as Ambassador Abou-Hadid also pointed out, Syria would not vote against the conference report.

„Global Plan of Action“

The conference itself began with a little surprise: Ingrid Busson, Director of Habitat II, told the delegates that there would be a possibility to establish the report with a two-thirds majority, but everybody should cooperate to implement the document by consensus. To reach this aim, working groups should formulate measures on the different topics *"Shelter Provision and Affordable Housing"*, *„Creating Sustainable Human Settlements"*, and *„Poverty Reduction"*. This meant not only to divide our delegation to reach our two most important aims but also to try to get a close cooperation with the member states of the Arab League (which was not always easy, e.g. Egypt seemed not to have realized its leading role in the Arab world and was indifferent to our suggestions and initiatives) to keep the spirit and direction of the document according to our interests.

Looking at the final document, the 32-page *"Global Plan of Action"*, our strategy proved to be successful: Passages concerning the treatment of refugees are exactly on the Syrian position, e.g. : *"In the case of migration, the world community should be called upon to acknowledge externally displaced people or refugees. It is strongly suggested that the countries of origin of displaced people accept those individuals back into the community."* On another page we managed to change a headline calling for integration to call for *"Repatriation and Reintegration"*. Even in cases where this is not possible, Syria promoted to provide at least affordable housing for the refugees.

Sustainable Human Settlements

Under the topic *"Sustainable Human Settlements"* we managed to place *"Water resource management"* directly after the introduction and to remind that access to water is a universal human right, followed by some other statements resulting from this fact. By formulating the paragraph about *"Preservation of Cultural Heritage"* we erected some barriers against western influence or dominance.

In general, Syria can be satisfied with the outcome of Habitat II. For us as delegates, the fact that we were working in a consensus committee made the work sometimes a little boring. This was not only because most of the results were of low importance for Syria, and our success to place some right words at the right place was not recognized by most of the other states, but also because states like Israel, but also Turkey or the USA showed nearly no hostility against our suggestions or against our state itself.

7.6 The Syrian Arab Republic in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

represented by Sabine Kittel and Beate Klemm

The United Nations Environment Programme

In 1972 the *United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* in Stockholm established this Special Organization based in Nairobi. This body of experts is subordinated to the ECOSOC and serves as an initiator of international environmental cooperation. It is responsible for the coordination of all environmental measures taken by UN organs and collaborates with other International Organizations. The UNEP offers expertise and works as a catalyst for environmental policies by encouraging national governments to take specific environmental measures. The tasks of UNEP range from taking stock of environmental problems through to the practical implementation of environmental measures and their financing via the *Global Environment Facility* (GEF).

Climate Change: Perspectives Against Global Warming

The increasing global warming as a consequence of the „*Greenhouse Effect*“ leads to dramatic implications such as the melting of glaciers and polar caps and the thermal expansion of the oceans. Already existing regional environmental problems e.g. draught, desertification or soil erosion may worsen. For many countries a sustainable economic development could therefore become impossible. The issue of climate change should have been debated by considering three of its possible social and political effects: 1. environmental refugees, 2. small islands and the effects of a rising sea-level and 3. potential for the increased spread of diseases. However, the issue was only debated on a general level by the delegates and resulted in five resolutions which only reflected upon already existing treaties. Although the causes of atmospheric artificial warming are widely recognized, the effects are, however, relatively unknown. The delegates demanded to reinforce all attempts to search for multilateral solutions to combat global warming. Furthermore, they suggested the creation of a *Permanent Committee on Trade and Environment* (PCTE) by the World Trade Organization. The listing of specific targets and measures based on the *Climate Convention of Rio* was not achieved. The western industrialized nations, led by the USA, promoted their idea of establishing national programmes to educate people about the benefits of renewable and alternative sources of energy. Our delegation saw this as an attempt by the

industrialised nations to divert from their responsibility for the increasing global warming.

Towards a Sustainable Global Water Supply

This topic has to be regarded in the light of several aspects: soil gradation, water supply, water management and the quality of inland water and ground water. The question concerning water affects Syria directly and was therefore the most important item on the agenda of our delegation. As Syria was the only state from the Middle East represented at the conference, it was very difficult for us to convince the other delegations of the outstanding significance of the question of water supply to the peace process in our region.

The problems in dealing with water were not perceived to their full extent by the participants. We failed to achieve our goal of calling for an international conference which should have been able to initiate an ensuing „*Water Convention*”. The danger of future violent conflicts over water and water monopoly and the possibilities that preventative diplomacy can provide in this context failed to be appreciated. Nevertheless, regional treaties were initiated with which the rights to the use of water and land can be regulated.

Assessing the Results

Due to the lack of time, the last point for negotiation, *The Carrying Capacity of the Earth*, could not be negotiated. However, with the first two points the issues of negotiation that were important for Syria were dealt with. Ultimately, we were disappointed by the abundance of resolutions which so frequently repeated themselves. A condensing of the resolutions, more specific decisions and a detailed consideration of the issues would have been desirable. Finally, what was notable was that of all delegations, it was the US Delegation that introduced a multitude of resolutions on the efficiency of UN systems that were also repeatedly brought up during the conference. In the whirlwind of enthusiasm, or perhaps also under the pressure of having to introduce their own draft resolutions, many delegates completely failed to keep in mind the bureaucratic and financial consequences of their work which would have resulted, had this not been a game.

7.7 The Syrian Arab Republic at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

represented by **Michael Borg and Grit Schmalisch**

The Organization of the Islamic Conference

The *Organization of the Islamic Conference* (OIC), established in March 1970, is an important group of nearly 50 states (of which 43 member states were present at the simulation). Apart from the Supreme body of the organization, the *Conference of Heads of States* (triannually), there is also the conference of Foreign Ministers (annually). Major aims of the OIC - among others - are to promote Islamic solidarity among states, to consolidate cooperation among member states in the economic, social, scientific fields, to support the struggle of the people of Palestine, and to help them to regain their rights and liberate their land.

The OIC is also active on the political level but many issues are contentious among single states and diverse groups of states. This became evident during the course of the simulation of a *Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs*. Three topics were addressed by the Conference:

1. The Question of Palestine,
2. The Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and
3. Muslim Cooperation for Economic Development.

First coalitions of states came into being when the agenda setting was discussed: Led by African states, one group wanted further Muslim cooperation to be discussed, whereas a second group dominated by Arab states wanted to deal with the Palestine issue first. After a long debate a majority voted for the agenda in the order mentioned above - the voting behaviour clearly reflected the OIC's reality.

The Question of Palestine

This rather vague topic dealt with the problem of how the OIC should address the so-called "peace-process" and its repercussions. Facing a more or less „pro-Israeli“ mood among some member states, Syria had to try to block any complying resolution and, moreover, had to get the issue of the occupied and annexed Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, the still occupied Gaza Strip and Westbank as well as the unsolved question of Southern Lebanon into any resolution and to call for the return of all these lands by Israel.

After formal debate and long talks in which even single words were discussed intensively, and countless informal caucussing sessions, in which diplomatic abilities and a lot of convincing had been necessary, a long resolution passed with a overwhelming majority.

The resolution called for coordinated, comprehensive material and financial aid by Muslim states for the PNA (Palestinian National Authority), criticizes Israel's violations of international law and human rights and the ongoing occupations and demands a realisation of all relevant UN-Security Council resolutions. The world community is called upon to safeguard and control the present stage of the so-called "peace-process".

After the last Israeli election and the present deadlock of the "peace-talks" Syria's abstention proved to be correct and the criticism clairvoyant: the resolution was too complying and reconciliatory.

The Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is of special importance for the Islamic world as Muslims are the main victims of war and atrocities. It seems to be a "War against Islam", and the West has been accused of not wanting a Muslim state in Europe. The OIC established a *Contact-Group on Bosnia* that tried to lobby the UN-Security Council.

With the *Dayton Agreements* the situation changed and the Foreign Ministers present in New York brought the OIC in line with that new situation: The resolution called for support in administrative, economic and military fields and aid for reconstruction. The establishment of the *International War Criminal Tribunal* was welcomed and financial assistance promised. The role of the NATO in the implementation process of the Agreements was also accepted by a majority.

For Syria the war in former Yugoslavia has never been a "War against Islam" but a war of power politics. Thus, Syria took a cautious and balanced position and avoided single-sided statements. Financial and military aid, regardless of form, were rejected.

Muslim Cooperation for Economic Development

Although solidarity among Islamic states is one of the major aims in the OIC-Charter it is a rather "hot potato". Any further discussion and debate about economic cooperation ran counter to the interests of certain 'richer' states. Due to the lack of time a long and controversial debate could not evolve so that in the end a working paper without fundamental contents was presented.

Although one can argue about the sense and the influence or power such resolution might have in general, the last one concerning economic development was clearly a paper tiger as the topic addressed a too hot issue.

7.8 The Syrian Arab Republic in the World Health Organization (WHO)

represented by Frank Wernecke and Holger Wettingfeld

The World Health Organization

The *World Health Organization*, founded in 1948, is one of 16 autonomous UN Special Organizations, connected to the United Nations by the *Economic and Social Council* (ECOSOC). The function of the WHO is „the attainment by all peoples of highest possible level of health“ (WHO: Institutional Description, 1995). The constitution of the organization defines this broad notion of health inclusively as a consistently high state of physical, mental, and social well-being that transcends simple freedom from disease. To fulfill this intention the WHO depends on the contributions of its 177 members. Due to the irregular payments of some of them, the WHO, like the UNO, suffers from increasing financial problems.

The WHO acts primarily in three areas:

- Maintenance of a global warning service to control and register epidemics.
- Concrete local aid; priority has the support of public health care services in developing countries.
- Worldwide support of medical research.

Facing the global AIDS dilemma, all three topics discussed in the WHO during the National Model United Nations 1996 were related to this subject:

1. Role of the *New Joint Programme on AIDS* (UNAIDS) and the New Role of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS.
2. Status of International Efforts for the Implementation of AIDS Reduction Strategies: Prevention vs. Treatment.
3. Social Implications on AIDS: Immigration and Women.

On the first night of the conference the delegates discussed the order of the agenda. Contrary to the position of the Syrian Arab Republic and a number of other countries, which preferred to maintain the given order, the majority of the delegates voted to

change the order as follows: (1) UNAIDS, (2) Social Implications, and (3) Status of International Efforts.

Basis of the negotiations for Syria was the specific national situation in this context. The AIDS pandemic, by virtue of its magnitude, is considered a major threat to humanity. Therefore Syria is willing to support the WHO's efforts in combating this pandemic. Considering the political development in the eastern Mediterranean area, Syria is concerned about the worldwide expansion of the AIDS epidemic, yet the Syrian government has been able to prevent a spread to the Syrian people. The official quota of AIDS infections is close to zero percent. Nevertheless, there is a minimal number of infected persons (about 256 cases), who are exclusively foreigners, and will be transferred to their countries of origin.

UNAIDS

The *New Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS* (UNAIDS), established on January 1st, 1996, is an attempt to maximize the efficiency of UNICEF, UNDP, UNPF, UNESCO, World Bank, and WHO in the combat against AIDS. The purpose of the program is the consolidation of experiences, efforts, and resources. Negotiating resolutions Syria supported this development. Throughout the discussions of all three topics, it was Syria's strategy to influence development and formulations of the draft papers, and to be cautious with official statements. Syria's main interest was the maintenance of the national sovereignty for AIDS prevention. This could be achieved by forming coalitions with various countries, which had the same concerns.

However, Syria was not able to gain acceptance for making the WHO and its *Global Programme on AIDS* (GPA) a "*primus inter pares*" within the UNAIDS efforts. The majority of the countries voted for a simple integration. Nevertheless, the resolutions of topic (1) passed with consensus.

Social Implications on AIDS

Discussing the social implications on AIDS, Syria cooperated with several countries, which had an own position on human rights, based on their culture and traditions. Syrian intervention made it possible to change formulations, which were merely based on Western traditions, to an agreeable form. Furthermore, Syria and several other countries initiated a resolution to improve social conditions for women and refugees, safeguarding their cultural and traditional identity.

The final forms of the resolutions were accepted by the vast majority of the delegates. Due to the limited time of the conference, it was not possible to discuss the third topic.

Finally it should be pointed out that the conference took place within a cooperative atmosphere. All participants wanted to greatly contribute to the fight against AIDS. Therefore all delegates had the intention to reach a broad consensus and did not use the issue of AIDS as a platform for political conflicts.