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## National Model United Nations 1998

### Delegation of the Republic of South Africa

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## Foreword

Since the United Nations celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we represented

The Republic of Lithuania in 1995,  
The Syrian Arab Republic in 1996,  
The Kingdom of Norway in 1997 and  
The Republic of South Africa in 1998

at the National Model United Nations Conference, taking place annually at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

The educational goals were pretentious:

- (1) English as working language;
- (2) profound knowledge on tasks and structures of the United Nations Organization;
- (3) thorough knowledge and practice of the United Nations' "Rules of Procedure";
- (4) intensive studies on politics and history, economy and culture of the represented nation.

These aims could only be achieved through a profound preparation-phase of five months, which involved the active participation of all delegates.

Despite the fact that the preparation, realization and after-work of such a simulation is linked to a lot of work organizationally as well as concerning the contents of specific topics, beginning with the selection of the participants leading to the raising of necessary money, I enjoyed being part of it. I enjoyed watching students actively involved in the largest United Nations simulation worldwide, negotiating on concrete global issues. This "active learning" meant somewhat more than to deliver and receive pure knowledge.

Simulations, which are meant to be very close to reality, lead to competence in conduct, learning to "act", which is always demanded from graduating university students, yet is hardly ever really taught due to traditional organizational factors at the universities. The learning and practicing of negotiation strategies in English, to play the role of another government and to represent their interests, to take into consideration the foreign political positions of the "opponents" in a multilateral context; these are educational goals which can

only be realistically experienced in such an unique context of UN-simulations. The demand was always higher than the offer: Consciously the number of participants was limited to 18, to allow group-dynamic processes, so the delegation could grow to be a team. The direct insight in the US-American college-system, which was allowed through the negotiations with other delegations, as well as the occupation with other disciplines with which the students were confronted due to their diverse educational backgrounds and expertise, were part of the „hidden curriculum". In the interest of independent action during the negotiations in the committees the Faculty Advisors took a merely consultative stand.

Another highlight since 1996 was the offering of a two-day UN-study tour, to discuss current topics with international consultants in the UN Headquarters. An additional plus were the visits to the Permanent Missions to the UN. Not only did we visit the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, but also the Mission of the Nation represented by the students. I want to thank the numerous financial supporters of this project: The "Außenamt" (Foreign Department) and the Department of Economics at the Free University Berlin, the Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst, and the Foreign Ministry, the Berlin Chapter of the German United Nations Association as well as CON MOTO-Consulting and Lufthansa.

Without Peggy Wittke's personal engagement the successful realization of this project would have never been possible, for which I want to explicitly express my thanks. Many thanks also to actively involved students, of which I representatively want to mention Steffen Wagner and Sachka Stefanova at this place.

The Award „Honorable Mention" is proof for the so far successful efforts and the outstanding team-work of this year's Delegation, which represented the Republic of South Africa. I am sad to say goodbye to this project, and I wish my followers success as well as the necessary support especially from the Free University Berlin in the future.

Klaus Hübner

**Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation to the  
National Model United Nations Conference 1998**

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 1998*:

Mrs. Chopra, UN-Documentation, FU Berlin

con moto - Beratungsgruppe - ; Munich

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Bonn

Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, Berlin and Bonn

Foreign Ministry, Bonn

Free University of Berlin

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, New York

Lufthansa AG

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

Dr. Bernhard Neugebauer, Former Ambassador

Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, New York

UNi-Group of the United Nations Association of Germany, Berlin Branch

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 never ending support !

## 1. Introduction

This year the outcome of our participation in the *National Model United Nations* shall be mentioned in the beginning for its noteworthiness: The FU-Delegation received for the first time the Award „Honorable Mention“ (3<sup>rd</sup> place) out of 194 international universities. The ceremonies in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations will remain an unforgettable experience for all of us. The Delegation of the Republic of South Africa showed an excellent performance at the conference, but it also should be noted that all our Delegations so far have proved by their active and enthusiastic participation that students from Berlin are highly motivated and internationally competitive.

Our preparation consisted of our weekly seminar, and for the first time a joint simulation, „*Inflammable Waters*“, with the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). The DSE offers Training Programmes for diplomats of developing nations in Berlin. In the course of three days, 20 diplomats from Latin America, Africa and Asia and the NMUN-Delegation conducted an Emergency Session of the United Nations Security Council on the Middle East and worked on solutions for the ongoing water conflict in the region. The simulation was directed by the UNi-Group of the German UNA and proved extremely helpful in the preparation for the diplomatic tasks at the conference in New York. We strongly hope to continue this project in the future.

As in the past years our preparations were concluded in New York with the UN-Study Tour, which was organized by **Ms. Sharon McHale**, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). Exciting briefings at the UN Headquarters were given by high-ranking representatives of various committees in which the students were later to represent the Republic South Africa. Last minute questions were discussed with **Mr. Maurice J. Seaton**, Permanent Mission of South Africa, who also gave us important advise for the realistic representation at the conference. We visited the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, where **Dr. Günter Gruber**, Senior Press Officer, informed us about the ongoing discussion on the reform the United Nations. **H.E. Luigi Boselli**, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations, gave us interesting insight on the cooperation of the European Union and the United Nations and the fields of action of the EU Delegation.

The main part of this documentation is dedicated to the reports of the Delegation of the Republic of South Africa to the 1998 National Model United Nations.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the 1998 FU-Delegation and also to the National Collegiate Conference Association. The Award is a very special recognition of my efforts in the past four years, during which our participation at NMUN advanced from a student's initiative to an official seminar at the Freie Universitaet Berlin. I also like to thank Prof. Dr. Klaus Huefner who trusted in us, supported us and prepared the way for the official recognition at the Freie Universitaet Berlin.

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, Canada, 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 *Non-governmental-Organization* in 1995. The Board of Directors 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. Kofi Annan, as the official result of the *National Model United Nations*.

Peggy Wittke



### 3. The UN-Study Tour, April 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998

In close cooperation with the *World Federation of United Nations Associations* (WFUNA) we were able to offer an UN-Study Tour to the students. Coordinated with the different committees in which the students were to represent the Republic of South Africa at 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. Through the personal encounter with „real“ UN-Diplomats, the NMUN-Delegates had the special opportunity to gather information concerning the topics of the conference and to look „backstage“ of the United Nations. The very interesting and enthusiastic briefings which were followed by lively discussions illuminated impressively the various fields of activity of the United Nations.

#### UN-Study Tour Programme

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 10.30 - 11.30 Uhr | Briefing on Sustainable Development<br><b>Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna</b><br>Natural Resources Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs |
| 11.30 - 12.30 Uhr | Briefing on Social Development<br><b>Mr. Yao Ngoran</b> , Social Affairs Officer<br>Division for Social Policy and Development,<br>Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs       |
| 12.30 - 13.30 Uhr | Briefing on Human Rights<br><b>Ms. Maarit Kohonen</b> , Human Rights Officer<br><b>Mr. José Rosenberg</b> , Human Rights Officer  |

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10.30 - 11.30 Uhr | Briefing on Terrorism<br><b>Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber</b> , Department for Public Information<br>Guest: <b>Mr. Kensu Hogen</b> , Assistant Secretary-General for Public Affairs |
|-------------------|--|

11.30 - 12.30 Uhr	Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance <b>Mr. Johannes Seybold,</b> Policy Specialist for Resource Mobilization , UNDP
12.45 - 13.45 Uhr	Guided Tour United Nations Headquarters
15.00 - 16.00 Uhr	Briefing on UN Reform <b>Mr. Jacinto De Vera,</b> Chief Office of the Director, Division of Public Administration and Development Management

### 3.1 Briefing on Sustainable Development

*...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs...*

In 1992, more than 100 Heads of State met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Earth Summit was convened to address urgent problems of environmental protection and socio-economic development. The assembled leaders signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles; and adopted Agenda 21, a 300-page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED; to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with 53 members.

The Commission ensures the high visibility of sustainable development issues within the UN system and helps to improve the UN's coordination of environment and development activities. The CSD also encourages governments and international organizations to host workshops and conferences on different environmental and cross-sectoral issues. The results of these expert-level meetings enhance the work of CSD and help the Commission to work better with national governments and various non-governmental partners in promoting sustainable development worldwide.

The CSD has managed to establish itself as an acknowledged world forum for the Rio process. However, its resolutions are hampered by the fact that states are generally represented only by their environmental or development ministers. The assent given by these representatives often has a purely symbolic value, because the other departments back home are not bound by it. Despite this shortcoming, the commission secretariat has successfully coordinated the complex Rio process and has ensured that resolutions are of a high technical standard.

In our briefing the Swedish palioclimatologist **Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna** explained to us the history of Sustainable Development:

The past 25 years have witnessed major changes in the way the issues of economic growth, human development and environmental protection are approached. Two international conferences serve as landmarks. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, was the first major discussion of environmental issues at the international level. The agenda was immense, touching on virtually all aspects of natural resource use, but the focus (reflecting the concerns of the developed countries which proposed the Conference) was on the threat to the natural environment posed by economic growth and industrial pollution. In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development published its report *Our Common Future*, better known as the Brundtland Report. The report set out the concept of "sustainable development", an integrated approach to policy-and decision-making in which environmental protection and long-term economic growth are seen not as incompatible but as complementary, indeed mutually dependent: solving environmental problems requires resources which only economic growth can provide, while economic growth will falter if human health and natural resources are damaged by environmental degradation.

Publication of the Brundtland Report set in motion a process which culminated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. A comparison of the action plans produced by the Stockholm and Rio Conferences illustrates a major shift in our understanding of, and approach to, the problems of long-term human development. Where Stockholm adopted an issue-oriented approach to pollution and non-renewable resource depletion, Rio emphasized integrated strategies to promote human development through economic growth based on sustainable

management of the natural resource base. The UNCED action plan, Agenda 21, thus reaffirmed the Brundtland Report's central message: socio-economic development and environmental protection are intimately linked and effective policy-making must tackle them together.

Johannes Kiersch and Jens Weinmann

### **3.2 Briefing on Social Development**

During the Study Tour programme at the UN headquarters in New York City we had the pleasure to meet **Mr. Yao Ngoran**, Social Affairs Officer, who gave us a briefing on Social Development. He is involved with the Division of Social Policy and Development. The main objective is to formulate principles that can lead to action of policies. In other words to transfer general policies of the United Nations so that they can be implemented on the national level.

This division is also in charge of mobilizing political interest and raising awareness that could lead to different programmes and actions in various fields. Some of the examples are:

1994 : International Year of the Family

1996: International Year of Poverty Eradication

Social policies are designed for these specific topics and programmes of activities take place concerning the different issues of the years. 1999 will be the year of Older Persons and at this point the Division is trying to get in touch with various partners for a world programme action in the year 2000. This area is also to be understood as a guide and research division in the field of social development.

The Division also prepares various important reports and documents such as the World Social Situation Report. The women issue and the different conferences concerning this topic such as Mexico 1975, Nairobi 1985 and Beijing 1995 were also discussed during this briefing.

Mr. Yao Ngoran especially emphasized the role of the NGOs as a very important and active partner on this matter. Finally, we would like to say that Mr. Yao Ngoran gave us a very interesting definition of the word „development“ : for him „development“ should be understood as : getting the people to control their lives and improve them, and this should be built upon solidarity.

Pia Castro and Liv Jacobsen

### **3.3 Briefing on Human Rights**

During our third briefing in New York we had the opportunity to meet with two Commissioners for Human Rights, **Mr. José Rosenberg** and **Ms. Maarit Kohonen**. After giving a detailed overview of Human Rights activities in the UN, the commissioners also took the time to answer our questions and discuss current issues regarding Human Rights questions with our group.

#### *Structure and Historical Introduction*

The Centre for Human Rights with its Headquarters in Geneva comprises the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and five branches, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, presently Mrs. Mary Robinson. New York only hosts a small office in order to enforce the integration of Human Rights issues in the work of the entire UN. Each year the Commission on Human Rights, consisting of 53 member states, discusses violations of human rights. The Commission may order investigations by either a group of independent experts (Working Group) or an individual (Special Rapporteur), if serious Human Rights violations occur inside a country.

In this context, Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that Human Rights had become a victim of the Cold War and issues regarding this subject had been neglected for almost 50 years. However, taking into consideration the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and several conventions that followed this unique document, many achievements in Human Rights issues have been accomplished since the creation of the UN. After the end of the cold war, there has been a revival of Human Rights considerations as proven by the Vienna Conference of 1993. The Vienna declaration and program of action focused on the acceptance of new notions in Human Rights, particularly on the Right to Development and the universality of Human Rights. The Vienna declaration led also to the creation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and resulted in the proliferation of Human Rights opera-

tions in this field such as the creation of new Human Rights offices in Africa. The offices are mandated to fulfill promotional (education, training, etc.) as well as monitoring work. Moreover, an important role in the Human Rights system of the UN play special rapporteurs by directly addressing governments, victims and NGOs on Human Rights matters in the countries they are sent to.

#### *Women's and Children's Rights*

Following this introduction by Mr. Rosenberg, Ms. Kohonen gave an outline of the new thinking regarding Women's and Children's Rights. She pointed out that in this field the responsibility of Human Rights violations has shifted to non-state actors if a state does not create an atmosphere where a legal system can work. In this context, Ms. Kohonen emphasized the indivisibility of Human Rights which signifies that Cultural and Social Rights and especially Women's and Children's rights cannot be separated from achievements in Political and Civil Rights.

#### *Monitoring and implementation*

Monitoring of the treaties and conventions is assumed through reports from the member countries which are received by expert groups. In addition to this conventional kind of monitoring, there are also extra-conventional mechanism such as the possibility to send a special rapporteur who can only go to a country if invited by the government. Moreover, the High Commissioner for Human Rights works closely together with NGOs in order to exchange information on Human Rights violations.

Regarding the implementation and the enforcement of Human Rights, there have not been any mechanisms developed so far. However, by means of monitoring and dialogues with the concerned governments, many improvements in implementing Human Rights have been made.

This overview of the work regarding Human Rights issues emphasized the need for improvements in this field. There is not one single country with an excellent Human Right record, violations take place all over the world. During our discussion we learned that in Germany, Human Rights violations include religious intolerance, racial discrimination and the trafficking of women in Europe. Especially the implementation of Human Rights standards and the monitoring are still not developed enough to create an atmosphere where violation can be avoided.

Kathrin Lorenz, Christian Webersik and Renate Koßmehl

### 3.4 Briefing on Terrorism

Briefing our group on terrorism, **Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber**, who works for the Department of Public Information of the UN, stated, that international terrorism has reached all parts of the world (for instance even Japan and the US-Oklahoma City) and is spreading across all borders having innocent people as victims. Although, no country is immune, the international community disagrees on the definition of terrorism. For the Third World countries it is important to have aspects included in a possible definition: the discussion of the vast causes of terrorist activities, the difference between liberation movements and terrorism and the focus on state-sponsored terrorism (normally only terrorism by certain groups is punished).

The UN has not dealt with terrorism in general but only with aspects the countries agree upon, i.e. hijacking has been condemned as an act of terrorism. As general definition of terrorism one could say that terrorism is a form of political violence directed against democrats and the basic values of democracy. George Bush, former president of the USA characterized terrorists as "criminals who attack our surest institutions", emphasizing them as a danger threatening a country from outside. In 1972, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim tried to put terrorism on the agenda of the General Assembly session. But it was only accepted after severe alteration, including the roots of terrorism leading to a more general view of the topic. In 1993, Secretary General B. B. Ghali condemned terrorism on Cyprus but recognized the right of peoples to struggle for freedom and self-determination. The fact that Nelson Mandela was once considered a terrorist because he struggled for the freedom of his people shows that one should not accept only one definition of terrorism.

Mr. Abdeljaber explained that the first mentioning of terrorism in UN documents took place in 1948: Count Bernadotte was sent by the UN to Palestine to study the critical situation in the area. When he was assassinated the Security Council condemned this act in a resolution as terrorism.

During the Cold War ideological terrorism dominated the scene, sponsored by either camp which meant that the UN Security Council was handcuffed because any resolution accusing one superpower of sponsoring terrorist groups was vetoed.

In 1973 the case of an Israeli hijacking a civilian airplane to its own territory in order to find the Palestinian leader Habash en route from Baghdad to Lebanon was brought to the Security Council who condemned this as injuring Lebanese sovereignty but not as an act of terrorism. Moreover, the Security Council was only able to condemn hostage taking in general but could not point out special cases which would have been vetoed.

Only in 1992 the Security council could impose sanctions on Libya for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing which was a remarkable delay, but before the end of the Cold War such a resolution would have been vetoed by the Soviet Union.

After 1989 the roots of terrorism changed from ideological to ethnic or religious reasons (i.e. Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Chetchenia). At the end of his speech Mr. Abdeljaber emphasized that resisting dictatorship and human rights violation as well as fighting for freedom are not to be branded as international terrorism. He has stated that in his opinion no country can cope with terrorism alone and that no one is immune against it so that the UN is the right place to deal with terrorism linking the international community in fighting this severe threat.

Kathrin Lorenz and Matthias Diehl

### **3.5 Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance**

The 5<sup>th</sup> topic of our United Nations briefings was Humanitarian Assistance. From **Mr. Johannes Seybold**, Policy Specialist for Resource Mobilization, we learned about the main functions and structures of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), he also gave us input into the financial and organizational problems UNDP is currently dealing with.

Originally, UNDP was put into existence in order to coordinate the various multilateral development programs of the United Nations. The structure of the different UN institutions, coping with development issues, has become increasingly complex over the last decades. Today, in the eyes of Mr. Seybold, this structure is in need of a sensible reform.

UNDP cooperates with 175 different countries and with almost all of the UN's organizations. It is represented in 136 countries through regional offices. The organization's aim is



to help people in developing areas all over the world to help themselves and thus to kick start the process of "sustainable human development". The concrete work of UNDP is focused on two main areas, good governance and capacity-building.

UNDP asks and actively supports national governments to comply with the basic rules of good government. It demands transparency and accountability from the governments as well as the political participation of the public. In order to engage in a mission, UNDP has to be invited by the respective governments. It is increasingly asked to support numerous government programs. Among other things, UNDP helps to conduct free and fair elections, supervises the freedom of assembly and the independence of the judiciary and fosters more efficiently working resource management programs. UNDP always tries to facilitate the work of local grassroots non-governmental-organizations (NGOs). At an early stage, local NGOs are helped financially and logistically until they can work autonomously.

UNDP has approximately 5,000 employees and a annual budget of almost \$2 billion. The biggest chunk of the budget is derived from donations of the Member States. Mr. Seybold explicitly expressed the importance of permanent fund-raising and also showed his concern for the fact that many nations attach certain stipulations to their donations.

The European Union is the biggest sole donator to UNDP. Its contributions make up about 80% of the total budget every year. Over the last years, however, struggles to meet the Maastricht-criteria have led to dramatic cutbacks in EU contributions.

Tobias Kahler

### **3.6 Briefing on UN Reform**

**Mr. Jacinto De Vera**, Division of Public Administration and Development Management, gave an open and interesting briefing about the reform of the United Nations. He has been working for the UN for a long time, and was also a member of a working-group for the implementation of the reforms. So he was able to describe the problems of his daily work in a vivid way.

Hearing about the UN-reforms many people may think of the actual UN-Secretary-General Kofi Annan, but he isn't the real initiator. The first steps in this direction were made by his predecessor in office, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995 was the right occasion to think about the future of the organization in a changing world and about the necessary reforms. After the end of the Cold War, growing poverty in the world, an increasing number of HIV/AIDS-cases and environmental issues are problems to be solved. As well as new activities such as peacekeeping and peace-enforcing were set on the agenda. Regarding these new challenges on the one hand and the stagnating financial resources on the other hand the problem of the UN is obvious: "To do more with less", as Mr. De Vera put it.

The Reform of the UN effects two areas: the administrative and the institutional side. 5 working-groups appointed by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council discuss the institutional reform. Every Member-State has the possibility to participate in this Process. As the final result has an effect on different subcommittees and special organizations this Process takes much time. The working-groups discuss the following topics:

- Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council
- Agenda for Development
- Financial Situation of the United Nations
- Revision of the Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations
- Strengthening of the United Nations System

The aim of the administrative reform is to restructure the UN-Secretariat General to make the work more effective. An important change in the last year was the implementing of a Vice-Secretary General who made it possible for the Secretary General to deal with more political questions. In this context Mr. De Vera stressed the new thinking of the UN-employees: Today the organization regards itself as service-organization for the Member-States.

Stefanie Dobbert and Jan Bittner

#### **4. The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations**

It couldn't have been a nicer day, as the entire South African Delegation found itself on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor of the „Permanent Mission of Germany“ with a breathtaking view of the Empire State Building and the rest of the metropolis, directly in the heart of Manhattan. **Dr. Gün-ter Gruber**, Senior Press Officer of the Permanent Mission, welcomed us.

Dr. Gruber briefed us that the current emphasis of the work lies „in the reform process which is a pity“. He further led into detail on the present situation: of primary concern is the financial reform of the United Nations. The crucial point is that the United States refuse to pay their outstanding dues, and that every department saves wherever possible. Germany is the third largest contributor to the UN with almost 9% to the budget, and still only 128 Germans work at the UN secretariat instead of the 165 who could work there officially.

Especially the Middle- and Eastern European Nations suffer from the current assessed contribution scale, a new regulation of contributions is under heated discussion. Presently 35 Nations in the UN are not eligible to vote since they have not paid their dues. Even Germany wants to save resources, so do the USA.

Dr. Gruber continued to speak on the reform of the Security Council. Germany was a non-permanent member of the Security Council for a term of two years which ended 1996. Among permanent and non-permanent members there are many disagreements. That alone causes a lot of countries to say that the Security Council must be expanded. Most of all the countries of the „southern hemisphere“ shall and want to be more involved. Because of that the Security Council shall be expanded by two members of the „southern hemisphere“ and two global players, where Germany and Japan come in. There is not one nation which stood up and spoke against a permanent seat for Germany. But as for the others, voices were raised, also against Japan.

Interesting, though, is the Italian situation: Italy is a very important „UN-player“ with paying more contributions than Great Britain. Should Germany get a permanent seat in the Security Council Italy would be in the „4<sup>th</sup> league“ - a downfall. So Italy is not really against Germany being in the Security Council but an expansion of the Security Council in

general. To avoid unconventional thinking about members Germany founded a „like-minded-group“ which wants to find consensus between the P5, and which is in favor of Germany as a permanent member of the Security Council.

There are still some decisive issues about a reform of the Security Council. As for example Italy can only play this role because all other states can't find a real solution. Everybody wants to expand the Security Council but how it shall be done is a mystery as for example the US want to limit the number to 21 members but there should be no new non-permanent members if this solution is favored. Developing countries ask themselves why should they, in such confusion, be for an expansion at all. Another main issue is a bigger transparency of the Security Council's actions and discussions.

„Germany is an important country - our opinion counts.“ With these words Dr.Gruber opened the discussion, which we gladly accepted. Who would have thought about that....with all our interest we forgot where we were: above the roofs of New York City with a sight far off into the horizon. We were fortunate enough to still have enjoyed this view as the German Mission moves next year to another building and we were lucky to have learned something more in real atmosphere.

Valerie Weinzierl and Markus Fibinger

## **5. The Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations**

After welcoming us with a wholeheartedly “farewell“, the Ambassador and Head of EC Delegation **H.E. Luigi Boselli** stressed the long history of the European Commission at the United Nations. In 1974 the European Commission became the first none-state observer. The ambassador emphasized that his delegation is only linked to Brussels and acts exclusively on European Commission's instructions. The Delegation has three major departments:

1. The Political Department,
2. the Economic and Social Department, and
3. the Department for Public Affairs.

The New York office is independent from the national governments and doesn't take instructions from any external source. Today the EC is represented e.g. in the Commission on Sustainable Development or in the WTO and is treated as a full Member State with the right to speak in political discussions, but without the right to vote. The European Commission is also actively involved in the UN-Humanitarian Aid: the EC acts during human rights and electoral observations, the process of demining or as an emergency relief coordinator. Ambassador Boselli pointed out the steady engagement for Africa regarding financial and social aid and the promotion of human rights. He predicts an increasing political and economic power of the EC and an even more dynamic strength after the monetary union.

Finally, Ambassador Boselli invited us to apply for an internship. He praised the prestige of the Free University Berlin and the German interns he met so far. The interns play an important part of the Delegation and are fully integrated in the daily work. An intern can expect a "brotherly atmosphere", but unfortunately no money.

Gregor C. Blach

## 6. The Republic of South Africa: An Overview

**Official Name:**

Republic of South Africa/

**Political System:**

Republic

**Head of State:**

Nelson R. Mandela

**Borders:**

In the West Atlantic Ocean and Namibia, in the NW Botswana, in the N Zimbabwe, in the NE Mozambique, in the E Swasiland, Indian Ocean, in the S Indian Ocean; Surrounded: Lesotho

**Area:**

1.219.580 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

37,9 Mio. (1996) inhabitants (1995), 76,1 % African origin, 12,8 % European origin, 8,5 % Colored, 2,6 % Asian.

**Religion:**

78% Christians, 1,8 % Hindus, 1,2 Muslims, 148.000 Jews, 4 Mio other Faiths

**Capital:**

Pretoria 525.583 inhabitants, other major cities are: Kapstadt (Seat of the Government, 854.616) Durban (715.669), Johannesburg (712.507), Soweto (596.632)

**Official Languages:**

English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Nordsotho, Southsotho, Setswana, Swati, Tsonga, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu

**Currency:**

1 Rand ( R ) = 100 Cents

1 DM = 2,60 R

**Gross Domestic Product:**

1995 136.035 Mio. \$

**Foreign Debt:**

1996: 32 Mrd. \$

**Membership in International**

**Organizations:**

e.g.. UNO, OECD, WHO, WTO, UNESCO, UNICEF, SADC, OAU, Non-Aligned Movement, G77, Commonwealth, Lomé-Treaty

*Source: Fischer Weltalmanach '98, Munzinger Archiv/IH-Zeitarchiv*

## 7. The Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations

### *"The bridging role of South Africa"*

Our preparations in Berlin to learn about the goals and priorities of the foreign policy of the democratic government of South Africa were only so profound since we had the great support of **Ambassador Wolf J. Rothkegel**, South African Embassy in Berlin. The broad spectrum of background knowledge, all the historical, political and economical aspects concerning South Africa's development as well as the elucidation of controversial questions, which formed the public picture of South Africa yesterday and today, were supported with numerous materials from the Embassy, some were even sent directly from Pretoria.

After an interesting briefing by **Mr. Willem Geerlings**, First Secretary of the Berlin Branch of the Embassy of South Africa, the impression was clear: We were "to be" open-minded diplomats guided by the democratic developments in "our" nation and keen to make up to the motives and direction of the foreign policy, the challenge of a "new world order". The precise observation of the diplomatic style lead to the formation of the diplomatic style we would successfully "present" during our negotiations.

Once we had arrived in New York, just shortly before the official opening of the sessions, some of us still had „last minute questions“. Not alone for this reason was it a relief, but most of all a great pleasure to visit the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations. During our visit we repeated in detail South Africa's concrete strategies concerning the modalities of cooperation with other nations in the context of the UN as well as the positions of "our government" to our committees' agenda tops. Our host, **Mr. Maurice J. Seaton**, was therefore an essential impulse to our upcoming negotiations.

A big part of the discussion was about how South Africa's diplomacy implements it's goals and interests on the international podium. Mr. Seaton emphasized the importance of sub-regional organizations. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), consisting of 14 member states, plays an important role in this context, since it formulates the regional interests in regard to the global topics of the UN. Therefore informal meetings of the SADC take place before further steps in the African group are undertaken. The G 77 as "speaker" of the African nations is of vital significance for the putting through of South African interests, let alone since the G 77 (now having 132 members) is gaining negotiation strength in the general assembly. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is also of importance for the interests of developing countries. South Africa has already been president

of the NAM for three years and is presently a member of the "Troika", in which the former, the present and the future president are united.

The questions concerning the development-level of South Africa, which is obviously above that of other African nations and whether the foreign political goals are implemented as an "industrialized country", was also put to discussion. It was indicated that the economical factors (i.e. unemployment rate of 40%) definitely position South Africa as a developing country, which indicates that a close cooperation with other developing countries is essential when formulating foreign political goals. This is based on the conviction that the success of political processes in South Africa can only be secured by the simultaneous social-economic development. So South Africa's role in "building the bridge between north and south" is growing every day.

To represent a nation, whose foreign policy is guided by the principles of peace keeping, democracy, respect for human rights and sustainable development, is not only a question of pride, but also of responsibility. And this could only be transmitted by diplomats of a young democracy.

Sachka Stefanova and Valerie Weinzierl

## **8. The Republic of South Africa at the National Model United Nations Conference 1998**

### **8.1 South Africa in the General Assembly Plenary** represented by Jens Weinmann and Tobias Kahler

#### *The General Assembly*

The General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It consists of every member of the United Nations, in 1998 this list includes 185 member states. The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations; decisions of the General Assembly are non-binding and considered recommendations.

Due to the fact that every UN-Member State has one vote in the General Assembly, the developing countries can - depending on the topic under discussion - partially dominate this organ of the UN. This powerful position held by developing countries does not adequately represent the real structure of power in the international system.



Thus, many resolutions passed by the GA lacking the support of the Western countries will never be implemented.

With the end of isolation during the apartheid era, South Africa tried to become a speaker of third world interests and, at the same time, a mediator between the "third" and the "first" world. It was not an easy endeavor to combine these two goals during the course of the simulation. We closely cooperated with most of the African countries, especially with the member states of the *Southern African Development Community* (SADC). Not all of the countries were as eager as we were to build a broad consensus. As a result, instead of just passing two or three resolutions, the GA passed nearly a dozen, some containing contradictory contents.

This year's agenda-as supported by South Africa-was set as follows:

1. A Five-Year Review of the Rio Earth Summit
2. Internal Conflict as a Threat to International Peace and Security
3. State Sponsored Torture

Because of the time shortage we were only able to deal with the first two topics.

#### *A Five-Year Review of the Rio Earth Summit*

Despite the fact that all nations agreed on intensifying the efforts to protect the environment, the concepts and their suggested implementations differed largely between the Member States. We actually spent almost 80 per cent of the conference's rather limited time on the discussion about sustainable development. Indeed, for developing countries like South Africa, the approach to sustainable development includes different key issues than for an industrialized country. For South Africa, the eradication of poverty remains the overriding theme of sustainable development and depends on the full integration of people living in poverty into economic, social and political life. With our African partners we sponsored a resolution that focused on poverty and its consequences for the environment. That resolution passed with an overwhelming majority.

Although all resolutions concerning sustainable development in the "real" General Assembly have up to now passed by consensus, we were not able to apply this in our simulation. The main reason for this might be found in the lack of time, preventing particular countries

like South Africa from mediating and establishing a common policy of the industrialized world and the developing countries.

*Internal Conflict as a Threat to International Peace and Security*

The maintenance of international peace and security is a stated purpose of the United Nations. Today, threats to peace and security arise mainly from internal conflict rather than from interstate hostilities. Under which circumstances does an internal conflict hold implications for the international peace and allow multinational actions under the UN statutes? To which extent do humanitarian and security imperatives supersede the respect for the principle of national sovereignty? Those were the key questions we discussed during the remainder of the simulation.

It was our position that Africa has to take care of its own problems avoiding massive external influence. To us it was of utmost importance that an international intervention can only be implemented within a multilateral framework, that is within the SADC, the OAU and the UN, and can not be an unilateral act. We also emphasized the necessity for preventive diplomacy, extended UN-Fact Finding Missions and the urgency to fight the roots of internal conflicts, such as poverty, and to spread the ideas of "*good governance*" within the developing world. We were able to incorporate most of our ideas into different resolutions.

## **8.2 South Africa in the General Assembly Third Committee**

represented by Katrin Luger and Christian Webersik

*General Assembly Third Committee*

The Third Committee of the General Assembly consists of all United Nations Member States and is charged with addressing social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

This year's agenda was as follows:

1. Cultural Development: Society, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
2. Implementation of the Recommendations of the 1996 World Food Summit
3. Strengthening of Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance

First, the provisional agenda was changed by the states who were present. The Implementation of the Recommendations of the 1996 World Food Summit was set first, next was Strengthening of Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance and last was Cultural

Development: Society, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Republic of South Africa agreed with the order how the agenda was set although the Strengthening of Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance is of prime importance for the African continent. In the course of the negotiations it became obvious that only the first topic was being discussed due to time constraints. At the end, several draft resolutions were brought into voting procedure and were finally adopted by the General Assembly at the last day of the conference.

*Implementation of the Recommendations of the 1996 World Food Summit*

The Republic of South Africa supports one of major objectives stated in the *1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security*, that is the reduction of the number of undernourished people to half the present level by 2015. The African Continent suffers particularly from famine and poverty. The African intra-state conflicts represent a source of poverty, famine and loss of life mainly of women and children. South Africa, therefore, advocates conflict resolution and conflict prevention among conflict parties in countries such as the Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Angola. The Republic of South Africa offers to mediate whenever invited and agreed by all conflict parties.

Furthermore, democracy and human rights in cooperation with social and economic reforms are part of the key-pillars of a stable environment which is necessary to ensure food security and poverty eradication. South Africa makes a strong effort to focus on gender emancipation and recognizes the increasing importance of women responsible for nourishing the family, in particular in the rural areas.

South Africa does not want to impose its own interests onto other nations but hopes to cooperate with other African nations, the industrialized countries and regional organizations such as the SADC (Southern African Development Community) or the OAU (Organization of African Unity).

*The course of negotiations*

First, it was difficult to make contact with other African Nations which are represented in regional organizations like the SADC. Many African countries were allied in the so-called "African Block" which had very little to do with the existing regional organizations. Again, we had to realize that many countries, for example Namibia, were "out of character" and therefore, it was laborious to build up partnerships for successful negotiations with those countries. South Africa was in a neutral political position with room to negotiate and as a result it was able to support different resolutions. Most of the ten draft resolutions concerning

the first topic of the agenda have been passed during voting procedure by the attendant nations. One success for South Africa was the passing of a resolution which was originally brought to the floor by the Seychelles and got passed in the General Assembly Third Committee. A further resolution sponsored by the United States of America and Iran among others was not supported by us as it was not clear to us how a resolution could be sponsored by those countries as their political system and policies are contrary. This should be an example what kind of problems the South African delegation was facing as it was our task and pleasure to represent the “Rainbow-Nation”.

### **8.3 South Africa in the General Assembly Fourth Committee**

represented by Johannes Kiersch and Jan Matthias Diehl

#### *General Assembly Fourth Committee*

The Fourth Committee originally dealt mainly with issues of protectorate states and occupied territories. Due to the achievements of the decolonization movement, the Fourth Committee found itself with fewer and fewer items on its agenda. In 1993 it was merged with the Special Political Committee and now deals with Special Political and Decolonization matters.

During the 1998 NMUN conference the agenda of the General Assembly Fourth Committee was set as follows:

1. The Stabilization of the Palestinian Territories
2. The Situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan
3. United Nations Assistance for Non-Self-Governing Territories

Since the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has abated, the Republic of South Africa considered the topics 1 and 3 to be the most important ones, with a special stress on topic 1, because of the tremendous actuality of the problem. Thus, we were pleased to see the agenda 1 - 3 - 2 being set after a 30-minutes discussion.

#### *The Stabilization of the Palestinian Territories*

The Republic of South Africa strongly supports a political solution of the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. Although Israel is an important economical partner in the region, South Africa continues to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to reach autonomy and self-

determination, due to the history of South Africa and the friendly relations between the ANC and the PLO.

During the discussion we first tried to work together with the other African nations, which turned out to be not successful. Most of them searched for a more economical approach to the problem without considering the political background, which was not going far enough for South Africa. Thus we searched for other supporters for our more politically oriented ideas and finally ended up in a - rather uncommon - coalition with Malaysia, Philippines, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria.

In our draft resolution we followed a dual strategy. Firstly, we tried to further stabilize the Palestinian territories both economically and politically, e. g. by calling upon Israel to cease border closings and travel restrictions in order to achieve a free movement of people, vehicles and goods between Israel and Palestine. Secondly, we tried to improve the situation of Palestine with regard to foreign policy by „urging the General Assembly to reconsider the status of the Palestinian delegation to the United Nations at the soonest possible time“.

Since our draft resolution was the strongest pro - Palestinian paper which would clearly not find too many direct supporters, we focused during caucuses upon convincing other states not to vote against but rather abstain during the vote concerning our resolution. This strategy nearly worked - during the roll call vote of our resolution 37 states voted in favor, 37 against and 104 states abstained, which meant that the resolution failed by a tie vote.

Finally, this resolution was the only one of a total of 6 resolutions that did not pass. The adopted resolutions showed an interesting range from pro - Israeli papers, over the establishment of ad - hoc - committees up to economical resolutions without political positions. However, some of the resolutions had quite similar contents.

Since the debates, caucuses and the voting procedures concerning the first topic took all the three days of the conference, there was no more time to discuss the second and third topic of the agenda. Due to the controversy concerning the question of Palestine, we do not think that this is a very unrealistic situation. After all, we experienced three days of passionate debates, stressful caucuses, and interesting voting procedures.

## **8.4 South Africa in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

represented by Jan Bittner and Gregor C. Blach

### *The ECOSOC Plenary*

The Economic and Social Council is comprised of 54 members, elected for three-years. The ECOSOC was established in 1945 as the principal organ of the United Nations, under the General Assembly's authority, to promote

- (1) the conditions of economic and social development,
- (2) solutions for international economic, social, health problems, cultural and educational cooperation;
- (3) universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

During the 1998 NMUN conference the agenda of the ECOSOC was as follows:

1. The Protection and promotion of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms in the Context of HIV and AIDS
2. The Global Impact of Transnational Corporations
3. Humanity's Past and Future: Strengthening the UN Commitment to the World's Youth and Aging.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a tremendous problem for Sub-Saharan-Africa. In our country 6% of the population is already infected (UN figures). The South African delegation was very pleased to see this problem on top of the agenda after a three hours discussion.

### *HIV/AIDS*

In this discussion we pointed out the progress achieved by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its future challenges. As a new democracy we focused on the importance of the promotion of Human Rights. Educational programmes and awareness campaigns were key demands, that we claimed in our speeches. With regards to the discrimination concerns, we suggested the Commission on Human Rights review the issue of HIV/AIDS related human rights violations. The problem of HIV/AIDS not only effects our country, but all African states, therefore we set out to formulate an united African position which we presented to the plenary. To get a majority, we combined our position with the ideas of several Western countries and later passed them as resolution ECOSOC 1/3. During these hours of discussion we were surprised by the Chinese delegation, which in opposition to their government-policy, stressed the universality of Human Rights and the important role of Non-Governmental Organizations.

*Transnational Corporations*

The topic of Transnational Corporations (TNCs) is also a central issue for South Africa. In a time of globalization the challenge is to transform TNCs activity into progress for all the people. The framework for future regulations should be in which the United Nations and South Africa promote and strengthen the correspondent UN-agencies. The gap between developed and developing nations was obvious during these discussions. Consequently the resolutions containing the ideas of the developing world, representing the majority in the ECOSOC Plenary, were adopted, whereas the U.S.- sponsored resolution clearly failed.

*Subsidiary Bodies of the ECOSOC*

On the last day the ECOSOC Plenary had to vote on the resolutions and reports written by its subsidiary bodies. The voting procedure took place in the United Nations Headquarters. The main topic was to decide whether to amend the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* as proposed by the Commission on Human Rights or to keep its integrity. After three hours, a motion to adjourn the debate passed and so the discussion will be continued in 1999.

**Speech before the ECOSOC-Plenary**

Honorable Chair, distinguished Delegates,  
the Republic of South Africa wholeheartedly welcomes the discussion on Human Rights in the context of HIV/AIDS here at the ECOSOC-Plenary.

As you of course know, we are a young democracy. Since our great changes in 1994 and thanks to our president Mr. Mandela and the South African government we put Human Rights in the center of our national policy. Human Rights are so essential for our country. That is the reason why we have been amazed by the discussion here at the ECOSOC-Plenary.

Two countries which were accused for such a long time of violating Human Rights and often didn't work together with the international community, now made a great shift in their Human Right policy. Let me express my great feelings and welcome China and Cuba in the group of nations that feel so strong obliged to Human Rights.

For us, the South African delegation, it is encouraging to see how much pressure China puts on the resolutions to help NGOs investigate in their country and to stress out the Right of prisoners. That will be not only encouraging for us, but also for the millions in the chines prisoners camps.

The Delegation of South Africa thinks that this discussion here at the ECOSOC-Plenary is a great example how effective it can be to promote Human Rights by discussing it. The shift in the chines and Cuban Human Right policy is a great example how effective the United Nations can be.

South Africa hopes that this discussion will also encourage all the UN-hostile US-politicians to cooperate with the United Nations and to help strengthen this organization. So we are looking forward to see the United States of America pay its dues.

Thank you.

## **8.5 South Africa in the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**

represented by Kathrin Lorenz and Sachka Stefanova

### *The Commission on Human Rights*

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. It has 53 member states, elected for a term of 2 years, and meets each year in Geneva in order to discuss violations of Human Rights. As the UN is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* this year, the Commission on Human Rights focused on a review of this unique document. Consequently, there was no given agenda and the Commission's work had to be accomplished in an experimental way by dealing with different issues presented by the member states.

Before discussing the new challenges in Human Rights matters, the Commission had to clarify the question of whether the original document should be amended or whether we should draft a new treaty. The majority of the Member States were in favor of amending to the Universal Declaration in order to integrate the new issues in the original document. It was acknowledged, however, that opening this document might allow for changes that could result in weakening the universally achieved standards. Obviously, this decision calls for very careful procedure, as South Africa pointed out to many Member States during informal meetings.

### *Working groups*

After having decided upon amending to the original document, South Africa proposed to divide the Commission in three working groups in order to deal with as many new challenges issues as possible. Against the vote of many industrialized countries, our proposal to divide the CHR into the following the working groups was accepted:

1. Right to Development
2. Implementation
3. New Issues

### *Right to Development*

Obviously intimidated by the presence and power of the several industrialized nations, many developing countries let these countries take the lead in the working group on the Right to Development. Under the pressure of the industrialized countries, this working group spent a lot of time discussing topics that should have been included in the third working group (environment, women, etc.) in order to avoid dealing with issues directly linked to the Right to Development. Together with the only other SADC Member State present, Zimbabwe, South



Africa emphasized on the integration of developing nations into globalization of economies by means of investment, capital development assistance and technical support. Regarding this issue, the Delegates of the CHR highly appreciated the cooperation with the South African Delegates of the Working group on the Right to Development and the fruitful discussions we had.

The leading role of the industrialized countries and the impossibility to formulate a common policy for the majority of African nations made it hard to implement issues that are important for developing countries. The SADC was glad to at least find their main points integrated in the preamble of the working paper drafted late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning in cooperation with USA, Japan, Pakistan, Germany and others. In the operative clauses, a general focus on the Right to Development as well as the acknowledgment of poverty as main source for Human Rights violations were integrated. After a number of informal discussions, the outcome of the paper was in many points in accordance with South Africa's foreign policy.

#### *Implementation*

The working group on implementation came to a consensus over a working paper which integrated the important notions of indivisibility and universality of Human Rights. Again, the SADC played a very active role in implementing these issues. However, this success could only be accomplished by also acknowledging state sovereignty. Even though South Africa is not in favor of enforcing this concept, we felt that a compromise regarding this issue is better than no improvement at all. Besides, the notion of state sovereignty leaves room for various different interpretations.

#### *New Issues*

The third working group put an emphasis on integrating women's and children's rights into the original document. Facing problems on this matter with several countries, especially China, the outcome of the working paper also had to be a compromise: instead on integrating chapters on the Right of the Child and the Right of Women in the Universal Declaration, the working paper proposed that Human Rights should concern everybody, regardless of gender or age.

After slight changes, the working papers of the first two groups were presented to the entire body as resolutions. On neither one of them a consensus could be found. However, a great majority of the Member States agreed on them in acknowledging the accomplished improvements. Having largely contributed to the drafting of the resolutions, South Africa voted in

favor of both of them for we found, that these kind of small improvements are also necessary to path the way towards creating a Human Rights Culture all over the world.

The Delegates of South Africa were extremely thankful about the cooperation within the SADC, namely Zimbabwe, and about the cooperation within our Delegation. Even though the discussion had been adjourned in ECOSOC and no consensus within the CHR has been found, we are proud to have played a very active role during the discussions and to have created a bigger awareness for many issues by dividing the CHR in working groups according to the importance of the new challenges and by integrating main issues in the draft resolutions.

## **8.6 South Africa in the Working Group of Government Experts on the Right to Development**

represented by Maria Pia Castro and Markus Fibinger

### *The Group of Experts*

The *Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on the Right of Development* met at a very cozy small room with a big oval table and nice high chairs, unlike all other committees with only 20 members. The unique atmosphere of the working group was felt right the beginning and never ceased.

We didn't know that we were such a special group until we spoke to the other delegates of our delegation. One of the main differences was that being involved in such a small group, we could really practice our knowledge and had the opportunity to represent our ideas by being put on the speaker's list as many times as we wanted to. On the other hand, this meant that our research and ideas had to be more specific and comprehensive than in other committees. The other main difference in this group was that in the end we did not have to file a resolution but only a report to be brought and evaluated in the work for the Committee on Human Rights. We were experts in our field on the Right to Development and did not represent the governmental views of the Republic of South Africa. This special status brought to our group a very cordial and relaxed atmosphere of working together.

Our main issues for the agenda were:

1. Women in Development
2. Further Obstacles to the Realization on the Right to Development

### 3. A Review of the Declaration on the Right to Development

Unfortunately we were not able to push through our agenda setting as we had liked to, instead it was voted 3-1-2. Interesting was that at the end of the meeting every other Delegation apologized for not having supported our suggestion for the agenda, it would have saved us a lot of time and useless discussions.

As time passed the Expert Group realized that South Africa was beginning to play a very important role in decision makings and consensus finding. Another positive point that we would like to address is that among the Experts South Africa was considered a partner to most of the other countries and not an opponent.

#### *Negotiations*

That topic was perhaps one of the most difficult issues to be discussed, it took us more then two days to find a consensus for the final report . So we had already spent more then half of our valued time in addressing only one topic and not really getting to the most important issue of the working group - Women in Development.

While discussing this controversial issue we realized that South Africa played a leading role for the women in developing countries all around the world and had to push through with the ideas coming out of the country and speaking as an expert. The report then contained all of the ideas and suggestions given by us already in our position paper especially on the issues of „Violence against women“ and „Education“. Trying to get as much needed work done, meetings continued throughout the night as did discussions with some of our partners.

Friday was the last day and most stressful day we had , being aware and pressured by the director, chair and rapporteur to file our final report and having all topics being discussed, what really was not possible as we had spent too much time on the other topics.

Finally we would like to say that we were surprised to realize that the level of the working group was as high as we had expected. For everyone in the future we would like to recommend: join a working group if possible. To participate in such a group will offer you the possibility of practicing every diplomatic strategy that we had learned during our preparation. At the end we had the feeling that we had done something productive, that we have been heard, and that we found some friends.

We were very proud to represent a country which had won great respect on the international level - because such respect was shown to us during the five days of the 1998 NMUN-conference.

## **8.7 South Africa in the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank**

represented by Liv Jacobsen and Valerie Weinzierl

### *Preparations*

We were very happy when in November 1997 we found out, that we would be representing the Republic of South Africa in the “Joint Ministerial Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank“. Being economy students, we would finally be able to use our knowledge efficiently. However, we still had to prepare ourselves immensely, since the subjects we were to discuss were quite complex. We talked to experts from the World Bank, our professors and business managers about the following topics, our agenda:

1. Multilateral Debt Relief for Highly Indebted Developing Countries
2. Managing the Global Capital Market
3. Institutional Reform of IMF and World Bank.

The topics at the *National Model United Nations Conference* in New York were discussed exactly in this order. For strategic reasons we would have preferred to put “Institutional Reform” first, but the other nations obviously preferred this sequence. We were overruled.

### *Debt Relief*

Nevertheless, a discussion about debt relief promised to be interesting and also promised a harsh dispute between developing and industrial nations. South Africa was not as affected by this problematic as other African nations, because it hardly has any foreign debt. However, in this situation we were very well off, mediating the different positions. For the other African nations, we were „one of them“ and also quite powerful. For the industrialized nations we belonged to them as well, though being a rather weak partner.

So it was our aim to find a well balanced compromise between the two positions, which was not too simple, since in our committee the voting procedure was not only rather unusual but also rather “unfair”: Not “*one country, one vote*” was the basis but much rather “*one Dollar,*

*one vote*". The more money a nation places at the IMF's and the World Bank's disposal, the more the nation's vote is worth. This means that the greatest industrial nations, with a cumulated voting percentage of over 50% unequivocally dictate the politics performed by IMF and World Bank. All of Africa has merely 4% of the votes at its disposal, of which the Republic of South Africa, owning 0,94% of the votes, is the nation with the largest vote, making it the "voice of Africa".

To use our influence accordingly, once the first top was under discussion, we got up two hours earlier than the rest of our commission to - jointly with two other African nations - work out a thesis paper, which ended up being the basis for all resolutions that were drafted that day. What did we learn? "Get up early, and success is on your side!"

Throughout the day it became more and more obvious that not all delegates in our commission had come to New York with the same expertise. We must confess, that we, being economy students about to graduate, certainly had moments where the subjects did not seem all too clear. So it was not too astonishing that i.e. a 20-year old psychology-major, representing an industry nation, could not really submit as much to the discussions as a 25-year old who was about to receive his MBA in international relations. So it came, that nations like Paraguay and Malaysia took the lead in the negotiations and thereby strongly influenced the global economy politics. Yet, not only the knowledge of some, but also the strong desire of other delegates to "stand in the spotlight" initiated many interesting speeches and comments. Despite we decided to do our best staying "in character": friendly, calm and diplomatic, yet we never lost sight of our ambitions.

#### *Managing the Global Capital Market*

Due to the current financial-market crisis in Asia, the discussions on the second top, "Managing the Global Capital Market" were heated and controversial. Let alone for this reason, all delegates seemed especially interested in finding a substantial solution to the discussed problem. The most controversial issue was whether or not nations in crisis were to be given the opportunity to restrict capital flight by raising tariffs and taxes, to keep the worst from happening under the escalated circumstances. As soon as this discussion had heated up, we, jointly with Malaysia, Japan, the USA, Thailand and Namibia, drafted a success-promising resolution, which was passed after several debates and harmonizing approaches. What we learned here? "Cooperate with the best and brightest and formulate your issues so general that you can be sure of the support of the most powerful nations".

As a result, we are glad to be hosting an international conference on “crisis prevention” in Johannesburg within the next six months, a conference that cost us quite some effort to force through. We learned: “Loud words and persistence bring conferences to existence”.

After many hours of tough negotiations altogether five resolutions were passed in our “Joint Ministerial Meeting”, three of them held our nation’s name as sponsor. As we exhaustedly packed our business attire and our leftover business cards into our suitcases, we also packed a bundle of newly gained knowledge, understanding and unforgettable memories!

## **8.8 South Africa in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

represented by Stefanie Dobbert and Philipp Belter

### *The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established on December 30, 1964 by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) as one of its permanent intergovernmental organs. UNCTAD is primarily concerned with the promotion of international cooperation in trade and development issues between countries at different stages of development. Therefore, it is a primarily forum for discussions on economic policy among countries whether least developed, developed or in transition to market economics; and it is a principal instrument of the General Assembly for negotiations regarding relevant areas of international trade and related issues of international economic cooperation in a globalized and liberalized world.

Agenda topics of UNCTAD during the *NMUN-Conference 1998* dealt with integrating the developing world into the global market economy. In particular the topics were:

1. GSP-Promotion of Trade Equality as an instrument for Development in the Post-Uruguay Round World
2. An Assessment for the Effects of Regional Trade Agreements
3. The Promotion of Growth towards full and meaningful Employment.

By the end of the first conference’s day the agenda was set in the above mentioned order. Compared to the topics 2 and 3 of the agenda with more regional aspects, the Republic of

South Africa was of the opinion that it is in the primary interest of all countries that a mutually beneficial multilateral trading system should continue to be developed like represented by topic 1. Due to the agenda setting the delegation of the Republic of South Africa successfully promoted their prior interests.

#### *GSP*

Right after the agenda setting the Member States of UNCTAD started to coordinate their political and economic interests corresponding to their political or economic situation - so the African countries. The Republic of South Africa succeeded in bringing into consideration its interests and ideas to an African draft resolution.

South Africa's main interest was to support trade as a necessary and important part of a development strategy. Therefore, the negotiations of the Delegation of South Africa based on the decision that the GSP is an important development tool which should above all serve the poorest countries. The Uruguay Round on the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) forces changes and amendments of GSP schemes in a number of cases. Depending on international trade, South Africa fully supported the initiatives and efforts to revitalize the GSP and to introduce new elements. For example: The GSP schemes should reflect more the different levels of development of the beneficiary countries; the range of beneficiary countries under the GSP schemes should not be reduced; an expansion of product-coverage to include industrial goods - besides agricultural and textile products - should be promoted. GSP rules and criteria should be simple, transparent and clear and graduation for more developed countries should be reversible and have a temporary period.

#### *South Africa's Role*

Furthermore, South Africa - as a country which has features of both developed and developing world - pursued a bridge building-strategy in order to bring all Member States of UNCTAD together instead of working with the countries of the same geographic and economic situation only. The accessibility of this aim was hampered by the behavior of the delegations of Zambia and Namibia. They unexpectedly started to pursue a strategy of confrontation and block-building within the African group and towards the other Member States. To an increasing extent this influenced the content of the draft resolution of the African States in an unacceptable way for our Delegation. Due to this South Africa saw itself forced to give up its support of the African resolution. From this point on the Delegation of South Africa defined its participation in the conference as a mediator between the blocs.

The consequence of that was that a lot of resolutions were on the floor introduced partly by only one or two countries. Containing realistic discussion potential the resolutions were very similar in their core thoughts. To this point the chair drew the attention of the Delegations and demanded emphatically to bring the resolutions on the floor together or to withdraw them in the interest of a productive discussion. This intervention pointed out that South Africa was with its part of a mediator on the right way as well as the difficulty to coordinate even the same interests and ideas.

In spite of the combination of resolutions and the reductions of their number the voting procedure was very difficult, lengthy and took about 6,5 hours. The resolution representing the interests of South Africa was finally adopted with an overwhelming majority.

Because of time we couldn't discuss anymore about the second agenda topic, although also to this point South Africa had interesting and promising ideas.

The atmosphere of the session was very influenced by the sovereign and sympathetic way of the chair to lead the conference in spite of some developments during the discussion remembering of the times of the cold war. We were very impressed by the engagement of the students to represent and to bring through the interest of their country although partly the loudness predominated the knowledge. We feel the participation in NMUN as an unforgettable experience. We look forward if and who we will meet sooner or later on the diplomatic floor.



## 8.9 South Africa in the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

represented by Renate Koßmehl and Lutz Güllner

### *The OAU*

The OAU was founded in 1963. Its main objective was the promotion of peace and stability among the newly decolonized states on the African Continent. Today, the OAU has 53 members and is concentrating its activities on the following issues: coordination of inter-African and international cooperation; defense of the integrity and sovereignty of its member states (without being a defense alliance); abolition of all forms of colonialism.

The OAU is, however, neither a Specialized Agency nor a Related Organ of the United Nations. It has the status of an Intergovernmental Organization which is closely cooperating with the UN in a wide range of issues, particularly in those, where the OAU does not have sufficient financial resources.

The agenda items were proposed in the following order:

1. Mechanisms for Ensuring Human Security
2. Regional Security and Conflict Resolution
3. A Review of the 1992 New Agenda for Africa

In the discussion concerning the order of the agenda items, South Africa would have liked to see the second item, Regional Security and Conflict Resolution, on top of the agenda. Security issues play a crucial role in South Africa's interests: Economic growth and development in the region and on the entire continent can only be achieved within a stable environment. However, most of the Committee Members emphasized the need for a Mechanism that could ensure Human Security. South Africa could not win enough support within the committee to change the agenda in the intended order. After a relatively brief discussion of only 45 minutes the agenda was adopted as originally suggested.

### *Mechanisms for Ensuring Human Security*

Human Security covers a whole range of issues such as the environment, health, economic opportunities, food security, education etc. It was widely recognized that current threats to Human Security hinder economic, social and political development and act as destabilizing agents. Most of the Committee Members stressed the importance of a strengthened infrastructure which could provide the basis for a stable and sustainable development. While some Delegations - in a spirit comparable to that of the early pioneers on the American Continent -

suggested a dense network of railways, streets and waterways. South Africa remained somewhat reluctant to that idea since the whole question of finances was unclear.

The issue of development aid from abroad provoked another heated discussion. Some Member States, such as Nigeria and Libya, rejected categorically any financial aid and argued that this would mean a threat to their sovereignty and independence. South Africa, however, sees a positive point in it: financial aid - without conditionality - is one of the corner stones of the development on the African Continent. Our position could win a lot of support among Committee Members and was eventually included into the resolution.

The South African delegation could also win the support of the majority in the Committee to include the need for *good governance* in the resolution text. This can be seen as big diplomatic success, since for most African states *good governance* has still the connotation of modern colonialism. *Good Governance*, as seen by South Africa - a democratic way of governing the country with the possibility for the population to participate in the political process - was eventually accepted as an important objective in the OAU's activities.

#### *Regional Security and Conflict Prevention*

The *OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution* was established by the *OAU-Heads of State and Government Summit* in 1993 against the background of a number of crisis and military conflicts on the African Continent. The Mechanism has the main purpose to create an „African Peacekeeping Capacity“ that could - under the auspices of the relevant UN-Organs - contribute to the settlement of conflicts. The most recent events (conflicts in former Zaire, the Comores, Congo) emphasized the need for the project.

South Africa attaches great importance to the Mechanism and, therefore, took a prominent role in the conference in order to strengthen it. At the same time, it was our aim to avoid any institutional arrangement which would not meet the need for a close cooperation with the UN-organs, in particular the UN Security Council. This could have implied the danger to lose support within the international community. With regard to our already very high contribution to the voluntary Peace Funds, we also had to avoid any further financial commitment.

During the conference, we were successful in winning a majority of the Committee Members for our positions. South Africa was the sponsor of an important resolution on the subject which was adopted with a large majority in the committee. The main points of our position included in the resolution were: strengthening of the role of sub-regional organizations, recognition of the need for an early-warning system, close cooperation with the relevant UN-organs, appeal to the international community for new and additional funding, call for the

need of the ratification and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on the elimination of landmines, condemnation of the illicit transport of arms throughout the African Continent.

*Review of the 1992 New Agenda for Africa*

The New Agenda for the Development of Africa was adopted in 1992 by the GA. It had the aim to lay out a comprehensive program for a sustainable development in Africa. Its main objectives were to be achieved within a period of ten years. As scheduled, after five years the international community had to take stock of the achievements in order to find out where the efforts had to be intensified. Due to a lack of time, the agenda item was not discussed.

Overall, the South African delegation was very successful. We could win the support for all the positions that we considered as essential. The cooperation with all the Committee Members was extremely good - which was amazing if one considers the antagonism between South Africa and, for instance, Nigeria.

Remarkable was, however, the sometimes intimate atmosphere in the Committee. Delegates who addressed the Committee used either the formal „Honorable Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates!“, or the less formal „Fellow Delegates!“, or the even more intimate „Hello there!“, or the very relaxed and cool „Hi folks, how is everybody doin’?“. For us, as South African Diplomats who had been taught the „do’s“ and the „don’ts“ of the diplomatic life, this was an amazing experience but we generously overlooked it.

**Speech before the OAU**

Honorable Chair, distinguished Delegates,

South Africa warmly welcomes all the efforts, the energy and the enthusiasm everybody puts in the work in order to create more efficient mechanisms to conflict resolution. We are very glad that we have already a first draft resolution in front of us.

South Africa fully supports the idea of strengthening the role of women in general and especially in the field of conflict resolution. In our societies, women carry a lot of responsibility. They are the center of the families, which are the smallest elements to form our nation’s society. Women always knew how to solve conflicts in their families and in their village’s society in a peaceful manor through finding compromises that make all involved parties content.

We shall not ignore this valuable knowledge of the women, but let them contribute to a solution to Africa’s most urgent trouble. Therefore, South Africa asks every African nation to support this draft.

Thank You.



<b>Resolution:</b>
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**OAU/2/4****Conflict Resolution**

Sponsored also by South Africa

The OAU

Reaffirming Africa's determination to assume its responsibilities for peace, security and stability of the continent,

Recognizing the need for African solutions for African problems,

Reiterating the principles established in the 1993 Cairo Summit and its Declaration on the Establishment of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution,

Emphasizing the need for a closer cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU in all questions of African peace and security, particularly welcoming the report of the UN Secretary General on „Improving preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa“ (A/50/711),

1. Takes note of the various existing initiatives on the African continent aimed at enhancing the capacities for preventive action, peacemaking and, where appropriate, peacekeeping,
2. Encourages the integration of and cooperation between sub-regional organizations such as ECOWAS and SADC and the OAU Central Organ of the Mechanism of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, to provide a swift response to regional conflict,
3. Suggests as a framework for coordination between sub-regional organization and the Central Organ in order to ensure the utilization of available resources in the region of the following criteria:

- (a) sub-regional organizations work in coordination with the OAU Mechanism of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to provide a rapid response to conflicts when so necessary,
  - (b) openness to all African Nations in the participation of peacekeeping operations on the African continent,
  - (c) the need for the impartiality and adequate multilateral contribution of troops to peacekeeping initiative on the African continent,
4. Emphasizes the need for an effective Early Warning System to be established by the OAU and focused on a regional basis to identify potential and early stages of conflict to facilitate a rapid response when so necessary,
5. Expresses the need for international financial support for post-conflict peace-building to restore stability as an essential step toward discouraging the repetition of conflicts,
6. Deplores the continuing use of mercenaries in violation to the provisions of the OAU convention on Mercenarism and urges all Member States to comply with this convention,
7. Welcomes the continued use of election monitors from the OAU Mechanism of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to ensure free and fair elections for those Member States that request it.
8. Reiterates the fact that preventive diplomatic efforts will provide the most sustainable peace and this organization's commitment to achieving peaceful resolution of disputes, and realizing that preventive diplomacy saves more lives and resources in the long term than crisis management,
9. Encourages the remainder of the International Community that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Ottawa Convention on the Elimination of Landmines, and to coordinate efforts between Member States and the United Nations Development Program's Landmine Clearance Programme to restore peoples' safety after armed conflicts have ceased,

10. Appeals to the International Community for the provision of new and additional funding to the OAU Peace Fund, as well as the appropriation of logistical materials which strengthen the Mechanism's capacity to effectively respond to breaches of the peace on the African continent,

11. Deplores the illicit transport of arms throughout Africa and affirms the need for transparency as a confidence building measure.