



UN-FORUM

National Model United Nations 2005

Report of the Participation of the Freie Universität Berlin,

representing the Republic of Guatemala,

17 – 26 March 2005, New York City



*“We are convinced of the need for a stronger collective capacity
to prevent and resolve conflicts.”*

Mr. Oscar Berger

President of the Republic of Guatemala

New York, September 2004

GERMAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter

CHAIR

Axel Berg * Prof. Dr. Claudia von Braunmühl * Reinhard Führer * Bernhard Gertz * Wolf-Rainer Hermel * Prof. Dr. Klaus Hüfner * Maybrit Illner * Prof. Dr. Eckart Klein * Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig * Dr. Kurt Kutzler * Wolfgang Lüder * Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mlynek * Matthias Platzeck * Prof. Dr. Albrecht Randelzhofer * Volker Rühe * Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble * Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan * Dr. Hajo Vergau * Hans Wall * Klaus Wowereit

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Christine Kalb, President * Ralf Freiberg, Vice-President * Sachka Stefanova, Vice-President * Peggy Wittke, Vice-President * Klaus Strakos, Treasurer

Christian Dietrich * Dr. Bardo Fassbender * Henni Hensen * Dr. Andreas Köhler * Timo Mahn * Oliver Maibaum * Hendrik Muschal * Dr. Carmen Thiele * Irene Weinz * Dr. Norman Weiß * Matthias Wellmann

SECRETARIAT

Management: Sachka Stefanova, Am Karlsbad 4-5, 10785 Berlin, Tel. (+4930) 261-91-19 * Fax: (+4930) 264 54 14 * email: dgvn-berlin@t-online.de

IMPRESSUM

Publisher: German United Nations Association, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter
Editors: Edgar Krassowski, Anita Kreutz and Peggy Wittke
Layout: Edgar Krassowski and Anita Kreutz
Photos: Samuel Aebi, Patrick Uhrmeister, Sabine Wilke et al.
Print: druckhaus köthen

The different reports reflect the author's opinion, not necessarily the opinion of the publisher.

Charge per copy: 3,00 Euro. Additional copies can be ordered at the Secretariat.

October 2005
Copies: 300
ISBN: 3-927 192-26-0

Information of the Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter of the
GERMAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

National Model United Nations 2005

***Report of the Freie Universität Berlin,
representing the Republic of Guatemala,
17 – 26 March 2005, New York***

published by

Anita Kreutz,
Edgar Krassowski,
and
Peggy Wittke

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

National Model United Nations 2005
The Delegation of the Republic of Guatemala



Chagall Window in the United Nations Headquarters

Max Büge, Patrick Uhrmeister, Tine Verstergaard Jacobsen, Ann-Kristin Otto, Lucienne Damm, Mara Gobina, Catherine Dubreuil, Timo Mahn, Dominik Wehgartner, Christian Wussow, Edgar Krassowski, Samuel Aebi, Andreas Stolpe, Laura Grünewald, Sabine Domke, Carmen Dege, Kevin Radev, Çiğdem İpek, Mareike Schüller, Sabine Wilke (from left front to right back)

¡Vamos Guatemala!

Table of Content

Foreword.....	5
1. The National Model United Nations Conference.....	8
2. The Berlin NMUN 2005 Delegation.....	10
3. The Preparation of the Delegation in Berlin	17
3.1. Presentation by Prof. Dr. Christian Tomuschat: The Work of the Truth Commission in Guatemala.....	17
3.2. Visit to the Guatemalan Embassy in Berlin	19
3.3. Between Diplomats – One Day at the Federal Foreign Office	21
3.3.1. Briefing on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.....	21
3.3.2. Briefing on the Situation in Guatemala	22
3.3.3. Briefing on the Fight Against Organized Crime and Corruption.....	23
3.4. Baden-Württemberg Model United Nations in Tübingen	24
3.5. Coordination Above All – NMUN 2005 and the Power of Task Forces.....	27
3.6. Vamos! Love at First Sight	28
4. The United Nations Study Tour: 17 – 23 March 2005.....	29
4.1. Kofi, Coffee and the Art of Diplomacy.....	30
4.1.1. Briefing on the United Nations in the New Millennium.....	31
4.1.2. Briefing on Sustainable Development	32
4.1.3. Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance	34
4.1.4. Briefing on Children in Armed Conflict.....	36
4.1.5. Briefing on Refugees.....	37
4.1.6. Briefing on the Legal Aspects of Peacekeeping Operations	39
4.1.7. Briefing on Terrorism.....	40
4.1.8. Briefing on Iraq	42
4.1.9. Briefing on Indigenous People	44
4.1.10. Briefing on the United Nations Reform.....	45
4.1.11. Briefing on Economic Development	47
4.1.12. Briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction.....	49
4.2. Visit to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York	51
4.3. Visit to the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations in New York	53
5. The Republic of Guatemala – an Overview	55
6. The Republic of Guatemala at the NMUN 2005 Conference	57

6.1. Guatemala at the General Assembly Plenary	59
6.2. Guatemala in the General Assembly Sixth Committee	60
6.3. Guatemala in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	65
6.4. Guatemala in the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).....	67
6.5. Guatemala in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)	70
6.6. Guatemala at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)	72
6.7. Guatemala in the World Health Organization (WHO)	74
6.8. Guatemala in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).....	77
6.9. Guatemala in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).....	79
6.10. Guatemala in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).....	81
6.11. Guatemala in the Organization of American States (OAS)	84
7. “Honorable Mention” Awarded to the Berlin NMUN 2005 Delegation	90
8. Press Releases	92
8.1. Diplomats for a Day	92
8.2. The United Nations between Power and Powerlessness	93
8.3. From the Auditorium to the United Nations General Assembly	94

Foreword

In a time of great efforts to reform the United Nations, in which the organization newly defines its goals and rethinks its structure in order to face the challenges of the 21st century, it was a special pleasure for the Delegation of the *Freie Universität Berlin* to participate at the National Model United Nations 2005 conference in New York this March. The impact of the High-Level Panel report on the reform process was always present for the students. It had been released only a few months before the conference started. The central question asked by the General Secretary of the United Nations to the High-Level Panel on how an effective mechanism can be installed within the United Nations in order to meet the new global challenges was also relevant for the students during their NMUN preparation and at the conference itself.

With great dedication and enthusiasm the Delegation of the *Freie Universität Berlin* represented the Republic of Guatemala this year. The representatives from Berlin gave a self-confident and persuasive performance of *their country* and promoted "*the need for a stronger collective capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts*", just like *their President*, Mr. Oscar Berger, at the United Nations in September 2004. Very helpful for their preparation were the good bilateral relations between Guatemala and Germany, which are enhanced by Germany's contributions to the peacekeeping and conflict prevention process in Guatemala as well as Germany's position as Guatemala's most important trade partner in Europe. The Delegation from the *Freie Universität Berlin* was awarded an "Honorable Mention" for their performance at the conference.

This year's Delegation was composed of 20 Berlin university students from various faculties including Political Science, Law, Economics, International Relations, Sociology, Psychology, Mathematics and Computer Science. It should be noted that the Delegates were of many different nationalities. The interdisciplinary and intercultural working atmosphere was of great benefit to all.

Scientific and organizational guidance to the Delegation was provided by Ms. Peggy Wittke and Ms. Anita Kreutz, working and teaching at the Faculty of Law of the *Freie Universität Berlin*, as well as from Professor David Frolick from the Political Science Department of the North Central College in Illinois, who took a sabbatical in Berlin. Through an intensive six-month-program the students learned about the history, culture and the economic and political situation of Guatemala and were introduced to the system of the United Nations. They received training in rhetoric, negotiation techniques, strategy planning, diplomatic behaviour, drafting resolutions, and the procedural rules of the conference. In two simulations in Berlin and Tübingen the Delegates were able to enhance their newly gained knowledge with some practical experience. On a three day study tour at the United Nations in New York, they had the opportunity to discuss different fields of international politics with diplomats at the United Nations.

I would like to thank all those who supported the preparation of our Delegation for this year's National Model United Nations conference. We owe great thanks to the German Federal Foreign Office for their continuous aid and valuable insights into foreign policy issues. Furthermore, I would like to mention the German Academic Exchange Service for

supporting us financially for so many years now, as well as the International Affairs Division of the *Freie Universität Berlin* for funding and promoting our participation. I am especially grateful for the financial support of the program by former NMUN Delegates and the financial contribution provided by the Political Science Department of the *Freie Universität Berlin* for the first time this year. For the preparation of the Delegates we express our gratitude to Mr. Nelson Olivero, Mr. Rodríguez Contreras and Ms. Karin Beeck, who invited the Delegation to the Embassy of Guatemala in Berlin for a whole afternoon. We owe thanks to Mr. José Alberto Briz Gutiérrez from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations in New York for patiently answering the questions of our students, to Professor Dr. Tomuschat, the former head of the Guatemalan Truth Commission, to Dr. Katharina Spiess from Amnesty International and to Ms. Annika Wandscher from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. Finally, special thanks goes to Ms. Swati Dave from the United Nations Department of Public Information for organizing a complex and informative study tour in New York, which was one of the highlights of this year's NMUN Program.

For yet another year the NMUN conference was of outstanding benefit for all the students who were able to participate. Our Delegates left from New York with impressions and experiences that will accompany them throughout their future careers.

Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig

**Sponsors of the Berlin Delegation at the
National Model United Nations Conference 2005**

We thank the following persons, companies and institutions for their financial and/or academic support of our participation at the *National Model United Nations 2005*:

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Bonn
UNA-Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter
Freie Universität Berlin
The Faculty of Political Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin
Ms. Swati Dave, United Nations Department of Public Information, New York
Embassy of the Republic of Guatemala, Berlin
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations, New York
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, New York
Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations, New York
Mr. Erik Kurzweil, Director of the Visitors Centre, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Ms. Sabine Koch, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Dr. Katharina Spiess, Amnesty International
Prof. Dr. Christian Tomuschat
Ms. Annika Wandscher
Dr. Hans-Joachim Vergau, Ambassador (ret.), Berlin
Dr. Werner Pfennig, Freie Universität Berlin
Ms. Elke Löschorh, International Affairs Division, Freie Universität Berlin
Dr. Wedigo de Vivanco, International Affairs Division, Freie Universität Berlin
Lufthansa City Center, AP Travel Service Pankow, Berlin
United Nations-Depository Library, Freie Universität Berlin
UNi-Group of UNA-Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg Chapter
Ms. Pera Wells, World Federation of United Nations Associations, New York
Ms. Henriette Litta
Ms. Verena Loch
Mr. Alexander Pfennig
Mr. Felix Marklein
Mr. Tobias Kunow

Special thanks to Geneviève Libonati for never ending support!

1. The National Model United Nations Conference

The *National Model United Nations* (NMUN) was founded in 1946 as a successor to the *Model League of Nations* which originated in 1923. These programs were directed at students to offer thorough and detailed information on the United Nations system and the work and function of International Organizations by means of an authentic simulation. The popularity of the *Model United Nations* programs has risen constantly over the years. Meanwhile, these programs are also being offered at high schools - in the United States more than 200.000 high school and college students take part in the simulations annually. The great acceptance of *Model United Nations* is not limited to the United States: today *Model United Nations* take place in more than 25 countries throughout the world including Germany. The Freie Universität Berlin organizes, together with different cooperation partners like the Federal Foreign Office and UNA-Germany, various Model United Nations conferences throughout the year in Berlin.

The *National Model United Nations* is today the largest simulation of the United Nations in the world. Each year more than 3.400 students from North America, Canada, Asia and Europe take part in the conference, which is held for five days at the Hilton Hotel, New York and the United Nations Headquarters. 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 *Secretary-General*, supported by a *Director-General* and a *Chief of Staff*.

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

During the five days of the conference the Delegates of the various committees strive to work out proposals and draft resolutions. At that point it becomes clear that the knowledge, which has to be obtained, cannot be limited to the country or Non-Governmental Organization represented, but has to include information on "friends and foes" as well, in order to get into contact with the proper partners during negotiations. The participating students are expected to behave as active diplomats, who have to formulate their positions and try to enforce them, but at the same time have to be open-minded towards compromises, always taking into consideration the special interests of the represented nation or Non-Governmental Organization. This marks one of the major attractions of the *National Model United Nations* conference: each Delegate has to

participate in the negotiations by ensuring that his nation's / Non-Governmental Organization's interests are taken into account. By the reaction of the other Delegates 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 Headquarters. 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



Faculty Advisors Anita Kreutz and Peggy Wittke

2. The Berlin NMUN 2005 Delegation

Samuel Aebi, born on 7 October 1980 in Bern, was raised in Switzerland and Montreal, Canada. Since 2002 he is studying Law at the Freie Universität Berlin. During the NMUN 2005 conference Samuel Aebi represented together with Mara Gobina the Republic of Guatemala in the *Commission on Human Rights (CHR)*.



Max Büge was born on 13 May 1979. After a volunteer service in Belgium, followed by an internship in a development agency in Thailand, he began his studies of Political Science in Berlin. Within the framework of the French German study programme he studied international trade at the Institute of Political Science of Paris, graduating last summer. His focal themes are international trade law, political economy, theory of political transformation and international relations with focus on the Middle East. Currently, Max Büge writes the thesis for his German diploma at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Berlin. Together with Christian Wussow he represented Guatemala in the *General Assembly (Plenary)*.

Lucienne Damm, born on 5 August 1982, studies Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin, with a focus on international relations, development- and environmental studies. Last summer, she completed an internship at the German Parliament, focussing on development cooperation. Since 2004, she works as a part time research assistant at the Centre for Transatlantic Foreign and Security Policy Studies of the Otto-Suhr-Institute. In the NMUN 2005 program Lucienne Damm participated to learn more about the alleged “perfect” employment opportunities and working conditions at the United Nations. At the conference, Lucienne Damm represented Guatemala together with Dominik Wehgartner in the *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*.





Carmen Dege, born on 29 October 1981, studies Political Science and Psychology at the Freie Universität Berlin with focus on international relations, peace- and conflict-studies and cultural and political psychology. Prior to her studies, Carmen Dege worked for six months in Israel. She actively participates at the editorial work of the digital newspaper “European Mirror” and develops projects of the workshop for innovative sustainable concepts. At the NMUN 2005, Carmen Dege represented Guatemala in the *Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)* as the Mayan Otilia Lux de Coti.

Sabine Domke, born on 24 August 1979 in Aachen, is enrolled in the Masters Program International Relations at the Freie Universität Berlin / University of Potsdam and currently writes on her final thesis. In 2003 she obtained a Dutch Master’s degree in International Business Studies. Through various internships and jobs, she has gained international and practical experience, among others in Japan and New Zealand. Based on her experience at the Vienna Model United Nations 2003 and her intention to work for an International Organization, Sabine Domke applied for the NMUN 2005. At the conference, she represented Guatemala together with Tine Jacobsen in the *World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*.



Catherine Dubreuil, born on 20 May 1983 in Vienna (Austria) as an American and French citizen, is enrolled at the Political Science Department of the University of Lyon and currently studies as Erasmus-fellow at the Freie Universität Berlin. During the academic year 2005/06 she intends to enrol in an International Business graduate program. Growing up in Vienna in an international environment, Catherine Dubreuil gained interest in United Nations activities at an early age. Her professional aim is to promote human rights in the framework of the United Nations. At NMUN 2005, Catherine Dubreuil represented Guatemala together with Laura Grünewald in the **UNESCO**.

Mara Gobina, born on 21 July 1975 in Münster, Germany, is studying Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin and is currently in her final year. Previously, she has studied Islamic Studies for one year and taken intensive Arabic courses during that time. Mara Gobina has concluded several internships in Latvia and Palestine. The regional focus of her studies lies in the Middle East, where she has been organizing projects for several years. At the NMUN 2005, Mara Gobina represented Guatemala together with Samuel Aebi in the *Commission on Human Rights (CHR)*.



Laura Amely Grünwald, born on 18 September 1982, in Berlin, is studying Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin and, during the academic year of 2005/2006, in Buenos Aires (Argentina). She gained intercultural experiences as an exchange student in Vancouver, Washington (USA), working on tropical fruit plantations in Queensland (Australia) and as reporter in Córdoba (Argentina). Through NMUN, she gained a lasting impression of the universality as well as the partial deficiency of the United Nations system. She is now hoping to gain some more practical diplomatic experience through an internship at a German Embassy in Latin America. At the NMUN 2005, Laura Grünwald represented Guatemala in the *UNESCO* together with Catherine Dubreuil.

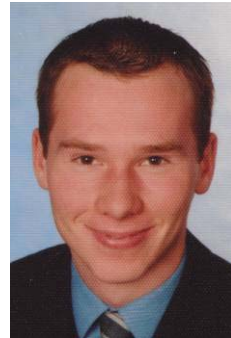
Çiğdem İpek, born in Berlin in 1979, is enrolled in the Department of Social Sciences at the Humboldt-University in Berlin. 2002 – 2003 she spent an academic exchange year (DAAD) at the New School University in New York. Since 2004 she works as a part-time programme-assistant at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) and is involved in activities as a scholarship holder of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation. She participated in the NMUN Program to have an extraordinary learning by doing experience. At NMUN 2005 Çiğdem İpek represented Guatemala with Andreas Stolpe in the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*.





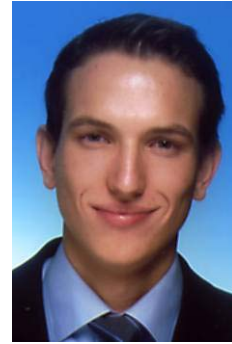
Edgar Krassowski, born on 25 June 1978, studied Law in Gdansk (Poland) and acquired an LL.M. Degree at the Freie Universität Berlin. Since last year, he is working on his PhD and works on assignment basis for a German-Polish law firm. Recently he completed an internship at a British law firm. Since the beginning of his LL.M. studies, Edgar Krassowski has participated in numerous simulations organised by the Free University. He was a member of the NMUN 2004 Delegation of the Free University. At NMUN 2005 Edgar Krassowski, together with Patrick Uhrmeister, represented Guatemala in the *General Assembly (6th Committee)*. He was the Head Delegate of the Berlin Delegation.

Timo Mahn, born on 30 September 1981 in Berlin, studies Political Science at the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie Universität Berlin with special focus on the United Nations, International Relations, and the fight against corruption. During the winter term of 2003/04 he completed his B.A. studies. As a member of the UNi-Gruppe of the DGVN, Timo Mahn took part in numerous United Nations simulations, as participant as well as co-organizer. He spent time abroad in the US and Canada. Currently, Timo Mahn works as student assistant for a member of the German Parliament and seeks a professional career with the United Nations. At NMUN 2005, he represented Guatemala in the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)* in a team with Kevin Radev.



Ann-Kristin Otto, born on 2 April 1981, is studying Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin and has studied Politics and Latin American Studies in Madrid. She works part-time at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) on European Foreign and Security Policy. After finishing her diploma, she seeks to complete a Master's program abroad. Having taken part in MUN conferences in High School, Ann-Kristin Otto found it very interesting to gain MUN experiences at the university level. According to her regional interest, she found it extremely motivating to represent with Guatemala a Latin-American country. At the NMUN 2005 Ann-Kristin Otto represented Guatemala in the *Organization of American States (OAS)*.

Kevin Kyrill Radev was born on 6 March 1982 in Dresden. He was raised bilingually – in German and Bulgarian – spent his childhood in Sofia / Bulgaria and lives in Germany since 1991. Since 2002 he studies Economics, at present at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He participated at the NMUN 2005 in order to learn more about some of his major fields of interest like international politics, law of nations and diplomacy. Additionally, he wanted to obtain invaluable insights into the United Nations and to have interdisciplinary exchange of ideas with international students. At the NMUN 2005 Kevin Kyrill Radev represented Guatemala together with Timo Mahn in the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*.



Mareike Schüller born in 1980 in Hanau, started to study Political Science in October 2000 at the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg. For the academic year 2002/2003, she enrolled at the University of Sydney in Sydney/Australia. Back in Germany, she began to study at the Freie Universität Berlin, where she currently prepares her final thesis. After finishing her university degree, Mareike Schüller plans to work in the field of Public Relations. 2003 she first got in contact with Model United Nations while participating at the Harvard University's World Model United Nations conference held in Heidelberg. At NMUN 2005 Mareike Schüller represented Guatemala together with Sabine Wilke at the *World Health Organization (WHO)*.

Andreas Stolpe was born on 10 March 1983 in Berlin and studies Business Administration at the Free University in of Berlin. He is currently employed as a student assistant at the European Business School ESCP-EAP in Berlin. In the summer of 2004 he completed an internship at the German Federal Foreign Office. After he already participated at the NMUN conference in 2004, Andreas Stolpe represented Guatemala at NMUN 2005, together with his partner Çiğdem İpek, in the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*.





Patrick Uhrmeister was born on 17 March 1981. Currently he is studying Law at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. He was brought up in Egypt, Canada as well as Germany and has lived a fair portion of his life abroad. The NMUN 2005 delivered him the unique and challenging possibility to closely experience the works of diplomacy. After university he is hoping to gain a position within an International Organization or at the State Department. During the NMUN 2005 conference Patrick Uhrmeister represented together with Edgar Krassowski the Republic of Guatemala in the *General Assembly (6th Committee)*.

Tine Vestergaard Jacobsen, born in 1981 in Aarhus (Denmark), studies Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her choice to study in Germany was primarily due to her fascination of its colourful and lively capital. Prior to her studies, Tine Jacobsen spent longer periods of time in West Africa, primarily Ghana, where she had been as an exchange student (1998 – 1999). She hopes to get more involved with this region in her working life. At the NMUN, Tine Jacobsen represented Guatemala in the *World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)* together with Sabine Domke. She chose this committee because of the new and positive perspectives for development offered by communication technologies.



Dominik Wehgartner was born on 3 May 1983, in Berlin. He studies Mathematics and Philosophy in his second year at the Freie Universität Berlin. At NMUN Dominik Wehgartner represented Guatemala together with Lucienne Damm in the *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*.

Sabine Wilke, born on 3 September 1982, is a student of Political Science at the Freie Universität of Berlin. After her undergraduate studies in Bonn, she spent a year at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence, France. She also worked for three-months as an intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. The possibility to take a look behind the "diplomatic curtain" of the United Nations and to intensively study one country's role in international politics were key motivational factors for her participation in the NMUN. At NMUN 2005 Sabine Wilke represented Guatemala together with Mareike Schüller in the *World Health Organization (WHO)*.



Christian Wussow, born on 27 January 1981 in Staaken near Berlin, finished his bachelor degree in Political Sciences and Modern History at the Technical University of Dresden. Since the summer of 2004, he studies Political Sciences (diploma) at the Freie Universität Berlin. In preparation for the NMUN conference Christian Wussow participated in simulations of the United Nations in Berlin and Tübingen. At the NMUN 2005 Christian Wussow together with Max Büge represented Guatemala in the *General Assembly (Plenary)*.



*The Head Delegate
of the Berlin Delegation,
Edgar Krassowski and
his Deputy,
Sabine Domke*

3. The Preparation of the Delegation in Berlin

In order to act as authentically as possible at a conference like the National Model United Nations in New York, participants do not only need to develop diplomatic skills but they also have to be very well informed about the country they are representing. Therefore, our Delegation met for four hours a week and attended several complementary meetings before going to New York.

Besides an introduction to the system of the United Nations and training in rhetoric, rules of procedure, and resolution writing it were negotiating techniques that interested our group the most. Before we could be called “Guatemalan” everyone in our group had to prepare a presentation about Guatemala. Thanks to these presentations we did not only learn about the historical, economical and cultural aspects of Guatemala but also about its national political interests, always keeping a diplomats point of view in mind. Together we discussed our position in the different committees. At the end of the preparation we knew our national priorities which we planned to successfully argue for in New York. The preparation in Berlin ended with a final discussion about our joint strategy at the conference that now included a lot of knowledge and ideas besides a “¡Vamos Guatemala!”.

Additionally, the preparation included two simulations in Berlin and Tübingen as well as several guest speakers. Prof. Dr. Kunig answered our questions on International Law, Annika Wandscher gave us an introduction to the International Economic Mechanisms and Dr. Katharina Spieß from Amnesty International Germany talked to us about the International Human Rights System. Of special interest for us was the presentation about the United Nations Truth Commission in Guatemala by Prof. Dr. Tomuschat, head of this commission. Our visit to the Guatemalan Embassy and the Foreign Ministry taught us once more how to behave as diplomats. It added very much to our preparation.

Mareike Schüller

3.1. Presentation by Prof. Dr. Christian Tomuschat: The Work of the Truth Commission in Guatemala

As a part of our preparations for the NMUN conference we had the great opportunity to meet a very interesting person: **Prof. Dr. Christian Tomuschat**. Professor Tomuschat served as the United Nations independent expert on human rights in Guatemala from 1990-1993. From 1997-1999, he **lead** the national Truth Commission in Guatemala, which was established to investigate and document the human rights violations and hostilities which occurred during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala.

His first mission to Guatemala, as Professor Tomuschat explained, took place at a time when the civil war was still virulent and provided him with an insight both into the situation in the country and the background of the conflict. He then turned to the main part of his presentation and spoke about the work of the “Historical Clarification Commission”. The Commission started its work in 1997 – a few months after the signing of the Peace Accords between the Guatemalan Government and the guerrilla. The purpose of the Commission was outlined by one of the Peace Agreements - the Agreement of Oslo, which stressed that its work is supposed to contribute to the national

reconciliation process and lay the basis for a peaceful coexistence of all ethnic groups in Guatemala. Therefore, the Commission was asked to prepare a report, which would document the whole scale of human rights violations that had occurred during the civil war and furthermore, to recommend concrete measures to secure peace and support national unity in Guatemala.

According to Professor Tomuschat, the high expectations which the Commission was confronted with represented a serious challenge to it. The Commission merely consisted of three persons and its timeframe was limited to a period of six months. Furthermore, the Commission's mandate derived from the Peace Accords was quite limited. Thus, although every single person was supposed to have the chance to approach the commission and make a statement, the commission did not have the right to request people to testify. In other words, its work depended on the willingness of the people that would come and give evidence of the human rights violations they had faced. Therefore, almost everyone who testified in front of the Commission could be considered a victim. Only in very few cases perpetrators of crimes came to give evidence. Furthermore, the Commission was not authorized to undertake searches and confiscate documents. It could merely solicit archival material, but could not demand it. As expected, the Government made use of these restrictions by either claiming that specific documents did not exist or simply by refusing to hand them out.

In spite of these obstacles, the Commission finally managed to set up an incomplete, but nevertheless detailed and expressive report within 18 months. This report was presented to the public on the 25 February 1999 in the national theatre in Guatemala City. As one of the most striking facts the report concluded that among more than 42.000 human rights violations examined, 93% fell under the responsibility of the State. Not more than 3% could be attributed to the guerrilla groups. The report further concluded that 83% of all identified victims were Mayas and belonged to the indigenous population. The total number of people killed or disappeared was estimated to be more than 200.000 – 2% of the entire population. Finally, the report stated that the Government had committed genocide in certain parts of the country in the years 1981-1983. This statement received especially high public attention, as it shed new light on the Government's policies, which always presented its operations as mere counter-insurgency campaigns.

A frequently criticized aspect of the Commission's work relates to the question of individualized responsibility. The Peace Accords ruled that responsibility for past crimes should not be individualized. The Commission's interpretation was that people who have committed crimes should not be named in the report. Human rights organizations, however, criticized this position. The Commission stressed that it is not authorized to administer justice by means of judicial power. If the Commission had mentioned names, it would have been obliged to respect the procedures of criminal law which would have turned the whole process into a time-consuming and complex undertaking.

Some final questions remained: What did the report bring about? What happened with the recommendations made by the Commission? Have they been implemented? Professor Tomuschat gave an ambivalent answer. As a first important step to reconciliation, the Commission had requested that the president of Guatemala acknowledges the facts described in the report, asks the victims for forgiveness and publicly assumes State

responsibility for the human rights violations committed by its security forces. This has been fulfilled by the current president of Guatemala, Oscar Berger, shortly after he started his term of office in December 2003. The other recommendations, which are asking for concrete measures, have only been partly implemented or have not been considered at all. For example, the Commission demanded that cases of major crimes, which are crimes under international law, should be investigated and their perpetrators prosecuted. Lawsuits of this kind, however, remain exceptional in Guatemala. The Commission's demand for financial compensation for the victims who have suffered the most from the civil war has not yet been implemented either. Although a National Reparations Programme has been created in July 2004, the congress of Guatemala has so far refused to pass a corresponding law in order to allocate sufficient funds to it. Instead, in August 2004, it has ordered the compensation of certain militias responsible for serious human rights violations and crimes during the civil war. What is to be concluded? –On the one hand, President Berger has shown more goodwill than his predecessors. On the other, many promising initiatives have successfully been blocked by certain individuals and parties. Sombre perspectives for Guatemala?

Mara Gobina

3.2. Visit to the Guatemalan Embassy in Berlin



A visit to the Guatemalan Embassy in Berlin, February 2005

Carmen Dege, Tine Verstergaard Jacobsen, Patrick Uhrmeister, Dominik Wehgartner, Rodriguez Contreras, Karin Beeck, Nelson Olivero, Anita Kreutz, Ann-Kristin Otto, Catherine Dubreuil, Lucienne Damm, Samuel Aebi, Mareike Schüller, Sabine Wilke, Andreas Stolpe, Çiğdem İpek, Timo Mahn, Laura Grünwald, Edgar Krassowski, Kevin Radev, Max Büge (from front left to back right).

On one afternoon in February 2005, we had the honour to visit the Guatemalan Embassy in Berlin. No less than three employees of the Embassy spent three hours of their time on answering our questions and treating us with coffee, original pastry and presents afterwards. This very generous gesture set high standards for Guatemalan diplomatic manners and left us with the ambitious task to simulate them accordingly.

The session began with the presentation of a video of Guatemalan tourist attractions. It introduced the country from quite a different, more colourful and appealing perspective than our internet and literature research had done up to that point. It might have evoked some silent precautions in some of us because the pictures contrasted the known social, economic and political problems of Guatemala. Professor Tomuschats eye-witness report of political mismanagement and continuous human rights violations was still fresh in our memory. On that afternoon, we were encountered with a different and more positive reality of Guatemala, which undoubtedly exists as well.

All three representatives of the Embassy, **Mr. Nelson Olivero, Mr. Rodriguez Contreras and Ms. Karin Bееk** told us with great commitment and engagement about the new political profile of their country owing to the leadership of President Oscar Berger. Nonetheless, our questions did still reflect general doubts about the genuine character of change in Guatemalan policy priorities. In the end, the authenticity of change is ultimately measured by the actual transformation of priorities and the policy outcomes. What are the specific strategies to eradicate poverty and to integrate marginalized groups, especially the indigenous people? How does the Guatemalan Government want to promote development? Which of the issues enjoy higher priority? It was encouraging to hear how the diplomats continuously referred to the 1996 Peace Accords and how they thereby emphasized the importance of decentralization and civil participation. The session left one question open. We did not come closer to an answer on how we can separate concrete priorities of the Guatemalan Government from its good intentions and declarations.

Guatemala's attitude towards international cooperation was obviously another major point of our interest. It is no secret that many developing countries, and especially those recovering from conflict, value their national sovereignty very high. But we were confirmed in our assumptions that Guatemala shows great openness to extensive international cooperation, especially within a regional framework.

After two highly interesting hours, we ended the session with a semi-official photo in front of the Guatemalan flag. Once again it was revealed how challenging it can be to become familiar with western business style...



A warm thanks to the Embassy of Guatemala!

Tine Jacobsen

3.3. Between Diplomats – One Day at the Federal Foreign Office

An afternoon at the Federal Foreign Office on 24 February 2005 was part of our preparations for the NMUN conference. After the short film: The Federal Foreign Office – 24 hours on the job, the Delegation was welcomed by **Mr. Erik Kurzweil**, Head of the Visitors Centre. Mr. Kurzweil outlined the structure, organization and functions of the Foreign Office and provided us with detail answers to our questions.

3.3.1. Briefing on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations

The introduction was followed by a presentation by **Ms. Dr. Stefanie Zeidler**. Ms. Zeidler from the Department for Global Issues, the United Nations, Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in the Foreign Ministry is currently working as deputy director of the department responsible for human rights, the protection of minorities, UNICEF and democratization. Ms. Zeidler informed us about the various activities of her department. She is responsible for the cooperation with the Multinational Organizations dealing with human rights. Within the United Nations her work focuses mainly on the Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York and the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Ms. Zeidler briefed us that the Foreign Office in Berlin takes part in the Human Rights work of the United Nations through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations. The Permanent Mission reports to Berlin on the state of the negotiations on a regular basis. The Foreign Office gives directives on the further proceedings. In that way new Human Rights Treaties are being formulated, existing ones improved. Ms. Zeidler named, among others: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on Children's Rights.

According to Ms. Zeidler the German Position is closely linked to the European position. The goal is to achieve more political leverage on the international diplomatic scene through a coordinated strategy and a common decision making process. This policy draws a lot of critique from various Non-Governmental Organizations. They disapprove of the Pan-European position as not being progressive enough and expect a more proactive role of the Federal Republic of Germany. Ms. Zeidler, however, stressed that the German position is strengthened through the extensive cooperation with its European partners. She does not see an alternative.

Ms. Zeidler was at the time preparing for the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. She described these sessions as long and intricate proceedings – “a lot of paper”. There are up to one hundred resolutions passed every year. Many of them basically resemble the resolutions passed in the preceding year.

The tasks of the Commission on Human Rights cover many areas, one of them being the development and improvement of the international human rights standards. Additionally, it watches over the implementation of the different human rights treaties and their protocols. It also has the possibility to establish its own special mechanisms, such as rapporteurs and special representatives who deal with certain areas of interest or specific

countries. Monitoring constitutes a crucial part of the Commissions work. The Commission on Human Rights passes specific country resolutions on a regular basis, calling on Governments to fulfil certain conditions. The Commission does not have a mechanism to enforce the implementation of these resolutions at its disposal. It relies on the cooperation of the States. Ms. Zeidler is of the opinion that the inadequate implementation of decisions reached by the Commission is a big problem. Furthermore, the strong political orientation of the Commission makes it already difficult to agree on specific country resolutions in an efficient and timely manner.

To conclude, Ms. Zeidler responded to the recent criticism of the inefficiency of the Commission. In many points she could understand this criticism as the Commissions work is in fact very time consuming and often centred around specific formulations. According to Ms. Zeidler the strengthening of the Commission would be a solution to these problems. To that purpose, one has to equip the Commission with sufficient financial means and adequate political tools.

Samuel Aebi

3.3.2. Briefing on the Situation in Guatemala

Subsequently, our Delegation had the opportunity to talk to **Ms. Gabriele Weber**. Ms. Weber is the Deputy Director of the Latin America Unit of the Political Division in the Foreign Office. The meeting was especially rewarding for us since Ms. Weber has worked in the German Embassy in Guatemala City and thus was able to give us a first-hand account of living and working conditions in Guatemala. In her presentation she put special emphasis on the human rights situation and the consolidation process after the 36 year long-Civil-War.

Ms. Weber started by pointing out the ambiguity of Guatemala's present political and social situation: On the one hand the country stands for a very culture-rich ethnical variety. On the other hand an enormous social gap exists between the poor indigenous people, which represent nearly sixty percent of the inhabitants of Guatemala, and the small rather prosperous group of the Ladinos. This becomes especially visible in the low average wages, the poor education and training opportunities for the indigenous and the wide-spread poverty. Forty percent of the population - many of whom are indigenous - rely on rural economy and agriculture, where their average income is not more than US \$ 2.5 a day, which is hardly sufficient to support their families.

As Ms. Weber stated, the reconciliation with the victims of the civil war is undoubtedly one of the elementary political and social challenges for the Guatemalan Government. Among the estimated 150,000 to 200,000 dead and the 50,000 disappeared people Mayan victims were the most numerous. Since President Berger took office in 2004, there have been a number of initiatives that addressed the human rights crimes during the civil war. However concrete assistance, such as financial compensation, is yet to be realized (for further details see the report about the briefing by Professor Tomuschat).

The current human rights situation is characterized by the following problem: While systematic human rights violations by the State cannot be proved, violations have shifted to uncontrollable structures and actors. The weak judicial system cannot do anything

against this dynamic, which leads to a declining confidence in the police and judiciary within the population.

Thus, the political and institutional consolidation process is closely linked with the peace process and represents the second serious challenge for the Guatemalan Government. Adding to this is the fact that the consolidation process must be carried out in a most difficult environment, characterized by corruption, the lack of transparency and in particular by a judiciary, incapable to fulfil its obligations. The consequence is that the State can only insufficiently exercise its domestic functions. In particular, it cannot effectively fight the atmosphere of impunity. In addition, further action is needed with respect to the provision of healthcare, education, and the improvement of civil participation.

The bilateral relations between Guatemala and Germany were described by Ms. Weber as good and undisturbed. It was very interesting to find out that the largest community of German origin in Latin America lives in Guatemala, approximately 4000 people. In the European Union, Germany represents the most important trade partner for Guatemala. Cooperation between the two countries mainly takes place on the level of development policy. Due to the insufficient security situation, Germany only has a minor economic interest in Guatemala. The annual financial volume of the development cooperation adds up to almost US \$ 15 Mio, which is mainly used for peacekeeping and conflict prevention projects, educational programmes (such as the promotion of bilingual education) and the improvement of the water supply in Guatemala.

We greatly appreciated the discussion with Ms. Weber and would like to thank her for this informative and comprehensive briefing.

Lucienne Damm

3.3.3. Briefing on the Fight Against Organized Crime and Corruption

The last briefing on our afternoon at the Foreign Office was held by **Dr. Werner Köhler** on the fight against organized crime and corruption. Dr. Köhler works in the Task Force on Organized Crime and Drugs of the Division for Global Issues in the Foreign Office. In his briefing, he presented the framework, in which the United Nations and its Member States as well as Non-Governmental Organizations work on this issue.

The fundamental and short introduction was followed by a general overview of those bodies and organs of the United Nations which deal with the topic. At this point, Dr. Köhler mentioned the General Assembly. Every year the General Assembly enacts resolutions concerning the fight against corruption as well as the drug problem and conducts negotiations on these topics within the third committee which is responsible for social, humanitarian and cultural issues. In addition, Dr. Köhler emphasized the importance of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in dealing with the topic. ECOSOC committees, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) develop resolutions which have to be approved by the respective plenary sessions of the ECOSOC and the General Assembly. Contrary to resolutions passed by the General Assembly, these resolutions are not legally binding. Furthermore Dr. Köhler pointed out the existence of special

conventions such as the meeting of the world ministers on organized crime in Naples in 1994 or the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 1998, through which the United Nations negotiated over these issues.

This institutional and structural insight was followed by a list and explanation of the most important conventions the United Nations have passed in this field. In connection with the drug problem Dr. Köhler mentioned three conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) and the Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). All three of them vitally aim at confining the possession, consumption and trade of drugs and further focus on fighting drug smuggling via international cooperation. In the field of crime-prevention Dr. Köhler familiarized us with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). UNTOC has been in force since 29 September 2003. Up to date, it has been signed by 147 Member States and ratified by 99 signatories. UNCAC has been passed on 31 October 2003 and signed by 118 Member States. However, up to date only 15 States have ratified the convention, while at least 30 ratifications are needed for the convention to come into force.

Dr. Köhler drew our attention on the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC, with headquarter in Vienna, 21 national offices worldwide and an annual budget of US \$ 100 Mio., deals with drugs and crime issues in many different ways. In addition to providing scientific analyses and normative expertise, to assist States in the process of ratifying conventions, UNODC initiates numerous projects and technical field cooperation to strengthen the Member States in their fight against drugs and crime.

At the end of his briefing, Dr. Köhler underlined the necessity and importance of a United Nations reform for the improvement of the fight against organized crime. He supported both, the idea of developing and passing a convention against money laundering as well as the creation of rules for cooperation in the field of criminal prosecution and extradition. He recommended that a special international institution be created in this regard.

Christian Wussow

3.4. Baden-Württemberg Model United Nations in Tübingen



On the first weekend of March, the NMUN Delegation from the Eberhard Karls

University had invited all other German NMUN Delegations to Tübingen for a practice simulation. We appreciated the invitation to participate in this event so shortly before our journey to New York, and to get another chance to practise all the necessary rules as well as to get to know other NMUN Delegations. Therefore, on a cold and snowy morning, nine of the twenty members of our Delegation embarked on the long journey.

After having reached Tübingen and having solved the matter of whether we were actually visiting Bavaria or Baden-Württemberg, the whole group moved into a hostel – our field trip-feeling was almost perfect! In the afternoon we explored the picturesque town until we were to meet the Tübingen Delegation for dinner. On this occasion, we had the opportunity to get personally acquainted with the mightiest Delegation at NMUN: Tübingen had been assigned the hard task of representing the United States of America! Therefore, we used dinner time for a first personal contact with the “Americans”.



The Berlin Delegation in the snow, Tübingen, March 2005

The next two days we concentrated on the actual conference. To ensure an equal representation of all Delegations, all participants were divided up into two committees: While the General Assembly started discussing United Nations reform, the crisis in Sudan, and transnational organized crime, the ECOSOC focused on human rights, poverty reduction and the compatibility of trade and the environment. We all had to represent different countries: Only Timo could rest with the Republic of Guatemala, while the others had to take up the part of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, France, China, Belize and Germany. Every one of us had to rely on themselves and, if necessary, work against the others – something that was not quite in line with the ¡Vamos! spirit that we had probed.

The chance to repeat the rules of procedure, hold speeches in front of an audience (and beneath the strict eyes of Anita ;-)), lead negotiations in English and meet other NMUN-Delegations was incredibly useful and a great practice for New York. Furthermore, we practised building regional alliances in both committees. Our strategy proved to be successful. On the first day the Latin American countries formed a strong coalition in both committees. On the second day, we could even win the cooperation of the USA in the General Assembly, which, considering the upcoming conference in New York was a huge success.



The Berlin Delegation at work, Tübingen, March 2005

Finally, this cold winter weekend was not only used for negotiations: On Saturday night, the US Delegates had organized a fundraising party (similar to ours) in the basement of a student house, which we found only after searching the small streets of Tübingen for a long time. Their plan for the party was as clear as it was clever: Turn up the heating and keep the windows shut, so that it will soon get very hot, people get very thirsty and slowly get closer to each other. Their strategy proved to be successful as well.

All in all, the simulation in Tübingen not only served as a great opportunity to practise the rules of procedure and the writing of resolutions. These were important experiences that we shared with the other Guatemalan Delegates as soon as we got back home to Berlin, and which turned out to be crucial at the conference in New York. Moreover, though, the three days in Tübingen and the 12 hour car ride were a good occasion to meet many of the Delegates in our team outside of the University – which surely strengthened our ¡Vamos! spirit!

Laura Grünewald and Ann-Kristin Otto

3.5. Coordination Above All – NMUN 2005 and the Power of Task Forces

Looking for sponsors, organizing a fundraising party, designing T-Shirts for the group and contacting the press: there was a lot to do for all of us besides preparing for the conference – and all of that had to be coordinated. In order to tackle these tasks we created four different Task Forces. For each of these groups one person was in charge so as to ensure that everyone knew exactly what he would be responsible for. Besides, these Task Forces communicated regularly and collected new ideas.

The Task Force “Financing” coordinated everybody’s efforts to contact enterprises, collected the responses and gathered information on potential new contact addresses. Unfortunately, we did not receive any funding via that method. The Task Force also asked former NMUN participants for their support and received a great amount of friendly feedback. Thank you for all your help and voluntary contributions.

The second Task Force “Press” contacted several newspapers and radio stations in Berlin as well as Internet services such as “Deutsche Welle Online”. We also reached out to national media such as the public television channel ARD that holds a studio in New York. Despite our offer to write a daily diary live from New York, the media showed little interest in the project. Our work still led to three press appearances: Our Head Delegate Edgar Krassowski shared his experiences from the NMUN conference in the WDR TV show “Planet Wissen” about the “60 years of the United Nations”, Ann-Kristin Otto was portrayed on an Internet platform of a project on youth and politics and “Deutsche Welle Online” published an interview with Sabine Wilke about the group’s preparation for NMUN (see the press review below).



Our corporate identity was created by a third Task Force bearing the same name. As we wanted to present our Delegation in New York in a professional manner, the Task Force designed T-Shirts, business cards and letterhead paper for the conference. In the end, we even had a shared desktop background on our laptops. The Guatemalan blue and white, the Mayan head and the slogan „¡Vamos Guatemala!” became our common identity.



Finally, to combine the necessary with the enjoyable, the Task Force “Party” organized a cocktail party prior to the conference. We rented a club in Berlin, distributed flyers and put together everything needed to make good cocktails *à la Guatemala*. Eventually, a surprisingly big crowd filled the location. Our friends and guests drank cocktails for the good cause and danced with us until dawn, just three days before our take-off for New York.

Despite all hurdles and letdowns, the mission: Task Forces can only be described as a big success and a helpful experience for all of us. Needless to say, „Task Force” remains the unbeatable word of the year for each member of the Berlin Delegation to NMUN 2005.

Sabine Wilke

3.6. Vamos! Love at First Sight

What would have happened to us, how would we have ever made it to New York without our precious “Vamos!” Like with all really successful ideas, you wonder what things would have been without them. But how did we find our omni-present leitmotif? The first encounter happened during our research on the policy of the Berger administration. It was only a matter of time before we found the promising and modern programme “Vamos – unidos por un país mayor”. For our group, this Government programme was not only the guide line of the main characteristics of the current Government’s engagement which provided us with the necessary information on how to represent Guatemala credibly. Rather, it also served as a source for our corporate identity. As Guatemalan diplomats, we had found our mantra: New York was the objective we had set for ourselves - “Vamos!” was our key to achieve this goal. Apart from spontaneous shouts and joint euphoric choirs, this motto was to be found on our team-shirts, business cards, conference-paper and the screens of our laptops. “Vamos!” had many meanings and symbolized different things for everyone. Yet, what it probably expressed best was “One for all and all for one.” This is why recollecting our time and work together will always involve a vivid and sentimental reminiscence of this little word.

Çiğdem İpek

4. The United Nations Study Tour: 17 – 23 March 2005

In close cooperation with the *United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI)* we were able to offer a United Nations Study Tour to our participating students. Coordinated with the different committees in which the students were to represent the Republic of Guatemala at the conference, the briefing took place in the course of three days at the United Nations Headquarters, as well as at the Permanent Mission of Germany and Guatemala.

*Swati Dave
and
Peggy Witke
planning the
program of the
Study Tour*



United Nations Study Tour Program

17 March 2005

09.30 - 10.30 h	Guided Tour
10.45 - 11.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on the United Nations in the New Millennium - <i>Patricia Seghers</i>
11.45 - 12.45 h	Secretariat Briefing on Sustainable Development - <i>Massimo Toschi and Dr. Thora Herrmann</i>
12.45 - 14.00 h	LUNCH
14.30 - 15.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance - <i>Oliver Ulich</i>
15.30 - 16.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Children in Armed Conflict - <i>Alec Wargau</i>

18 March 2005

10.30 - 11.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Refugees - <i>Yusuf Hassan</i>
11.30 - 12.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Peacekeeping - <i>Markus Pallek</i>
12.30 - 14.00 h	LUNCH
14.30 - 15.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Terrorism - <i>Katarina Grenfell</i>
15.30 - 16.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Iraq - <i>Hamid Abdeljaber</i>

21 March 2005

10.30 - 11.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Indigenous People - <i>Hui Lu</i>
11.30 - 12.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on United Nations Reform - <i>Sebastian Einsiedel</i>
12.30 - 14.15 h	LUNCH
14.30 - 15.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Economic Development - <i>Pingfan Hong and Oumar Dialloul</i>
15.30 - 16.30 h	Secretariat Briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction - <i>Kerstin Bihlmaier</i>

22 March 2005

14.00 - 15.00 h	Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations <i>Dirk Rothenberg</i>
-----------------	--

23 March 2005

10.00 - 12.00 h	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the United Nations <i>José Alberto Briz Gutiérrez</i>
-----------------	--

4.1. Kofi, Coffee and the Art of Diplomacy

Three Days of Study Tour in the Heart of the United Nations

A bagel in our left hand, a coffee in the right, rushing across midtown in western business attire at the break of dawn, we tried hard not to spill our breakfast over ourselves or the New Yorkers passing by. That is how we - diplomats to be - used the route from the hotel to the United Nations Headquarters to practise our diplomatic skills and multitasking.



Passing the laundry service “Piece Keeping” and the Permanent Mission of Germany, heading straight towards the tied-up pistol and the flag posts and finally passing security with our backstage passes- a day of the study tour started nicely for our Delegation. Once arrived in the holy ground of the world community, we quickly felt at home and at ease. The atmosphere was relaxed and one could spot many colourful dresses in the hallway besides the usual dark suits. In the cafeteria, the view over the East River was nothing short of breathtaking. The United Nations bookstore supplied the real United Nations fan with everything from coffee mugs to t-shirts, playing cards all in United Nations blue and white.

The main focus of our study tour consisted of the briefings. High-ranking United Nations diplomats talked to us about their work and patiently answered our numerous questions. Through these personal encounters we had the special opportunity to gather information concerning the topics of the conference and to take a “backstage look” at the United Nations. The atmosphere in the conference rooms, listening to the mixture of languages in the air and taking a closer look at the architecture of the building provided additional insight into the project behind those two letters. Not surprisingly, many of us met interesting people during coffee break, in the elevators or the hallways and got a personal impression of what the United Nations mean to its employees.

Sabine Wilke



*The Emblem of
the United Nations,
General Assembly Hall,
United Nations
Headquarters*

4.1.1. Briefing on the United Nations in the New Millennium

The first briefing to be heard in the course of our study tour was delivered by **Ms. Patricia Seghers** on the role of the United Nations in the new millennium. Ms. Seghers works at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as a United Nations briefing assistant. In her speech, she addressed the outcomes of the Millennium Summit in 2000 and gave an outlook on the future role of the United Nations in the 21st century.



Right at the beginning of her briefing, Ms. Seghers described the year 2005 as a crucial year for the United Nations. With the opening of the 60th General Assembly session on 13 September Member States would be asked to seriously evaluate the role of the organization, making 2005 almost as important as the year of the foundation of the United Nations in 1945.

In the following main part of her briefing, Ms. Seghers spoke about fundamental questions concerning the relevance of the United Nations, which had been raised at the Millennium Summit. On that occasion, the Member States defined the process of globalization and its positive and negative consequences as the central challenge of the 21st century, affecting all regions and States in different ways. To ensure that globalization benefits every human being, the Member States had committed themselves to time-bound targets, the Millennium Development Goals, which would have to be met by 2015 and were supposed to address some of the most urgent humanitarian issues such as poverty eradication, education, gender equality and the fight against infectious diseases.

After this general overview of the Millennium Summit outcomes, Ms. Seghers referred to the recent Secretary General's report on the evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals, which was to be introduced to the General Assembly plenary on the following Monday. "In Larger Freedom" was supposed to contain concrete suggestions on how to achieve the goals stated within the Millennium Declaration, as well as to provide comments on how to effectively reform the bodies of the United Nations. According to Ms. Seghers, the report had been anxiously awaited, since the Secretary General had already expressed his concern about reaching the Millennium Development Goals in 2003: Back then, the events in Iraq had led him to refer to the current situation as a "fork in the road" for the United Nations. According to Kofi Annan, the main problem would be the differences among Member States in their perception of present threats to the international community, ranging from terrorism on the one hand to poverty and infectious diseases on the other. A priority of the Secretary General was therefore to

stress the strong link between soft and hard threats, implying also that these threats would have to be addressed together in order to be able to fight them successfully.

At this point, the short briefing was followed by a lively discussion between Ms. Seghers and the members of both the Berlin and Würzburg Delegations. The first question, posed by Andreas Stolpe, referred to the progress made with the implementation so far, and whether Ms. Seghers thought that the goals would be met on time. Ms. Seghers answered that there were in fact some obvious positive developments to be observed, such as the increased enrolment in primary schools in Africa and Latin America. Nevertheless, there had also been severe setbacks such as the devastating effects brought about by the Tsunami catastrophe in December 2004, where thousands of people that had reached a decent standard of living within the last decade were pushed back into poverty. Ms. Seghers further mentioned, as negative developments, the ongoing process of environmental degradation, as well as the regional conflicts. To conclude, the Member States were still motivated and working hard towards achieving the goals, but did not always agree on their national priorities in terms of international threats.

Timo Mahn then asked Ms. Seghers how important the role of the United States was regarding the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, especially since the newly appointed US ambassador to the United Nations, seemed to be rather opposed to the project. The answer of Ms. Seghers proved to be short and diplomatic, stating that the USA indeed plays a crucial role not only for the success of the Millennium Development Goals, but also for the functioning of the United Nations as a whole.

Finally, Carmen Dege posed the question of whether the Millennium Development Goals themselves had undergone any fundamental change or had been rated differently since their creation in 2000. On this subject, Ms. Seghers stated that within the period from 2000-2003, some of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals had not been thoroughly implemented. Therefore, in 2003 Kofi Annan had held several speeches to get the United Nations Member States “back on track” and called on the *High Level Panel* to develop fresh ideas on this matter.

Ms. Seghers gave a very informative and comprehensive briefing on the role of the United Nations in the new millennium. She precisely stated positive and negative developments with regard to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. We were very grateful to have had a first hand opportunity to listen to an insider’s view of the United Nations.

Laura Grünewald

4.1.2. Briefing on Sustainable Development

In our second briefing on the first day of our Study Tour we had the privilege to be welcomed by two experts in the field of sustainable development, **Dr. Thora Herrmann** and **Mr. Massimo Toschi**.

Both work for the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in the United Nations Secretariat’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The DSD provides leadership and is an authoritative source of expertise on sustainable development within

the United Nations system. As the substantive secretariat to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), it promotes sustainable development through technical cooperation and capacity building at international, regional and national levels. The context for the Division's work is the implementation of the Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Within the DSD, Ms. Herrmann and Mr. Toschi are employed in the "Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States" branch.

Our briefing with Ms. Herrmann and Mr. Toschi was extraordinary and unconventional. First of all, they sponsored our active participation by inviting us to ask questions and to interrupt them whenever we wanted. After that, Mr. Toschi explained that they did not want to talk only about sustainable development, but also about us! Foreseeing that some of us might want to work for the United Nations one day or do an internship in New York, they provided us with useful information on how to achieve these goals. Moreover, they virtually opened their doors to us by inviting us to their offices if we needed any information or simply wanted to talk to them. Some of us did that and enjoyed the experts' open attitude and collaborative spirit. Giving us such outstanding opportunities deserves special thanks from our group. Dear Ms. Herrmann and dear Mr. Toschi: Thank you so much!



During the briefing, the two experts laid down their opinion on what sustainable development is, and which factors really ensure sustainability within all kinds of development processes. According to their point of view, the sustainable development approach is the only one that can effectively fight poverty. Not only does it deal with environmental issues and the protection of natural resources, but includes social and cultural aspects as well. In order to reach sustainable solutions, it is indispensable to integrate all stakeholders, i.e. all persons or groups involved, in the working and decision making process. Further, a *sine qua non* for the success of sustainable solutions is the implementation in the legislation. Without legally binding agreements, integral development cannot be attained. Ms. Herrmann illustrated and highlighted these fundamental thoughts by an example from her experience from living with the indigenous population of the Andean mountains in Chile.

During our conversation, another very interesting question arose: What approaches can one find within the United Nations system that look for the coordination of different departments working on crosscutting issues such as sustainable development? The two experts revealed that, in reality, no comprehensive approach exists and that, on the

contrary, lacking communication between different agencies of the United Nations constitutes a significant problem. There are many different rivalling perspectives on sustainable development and coordination remains weak.

These are only some of the many topics discussed in our lively briefing with Ms. Herrmann and Mr. Toschi. Although it did not provide us with the amount of overall information about the role of sustainable development at the United Nations some of our group had hoped for, the briefing was very productive and informative. Sustainable indeed! On behalf of the Delegation from the Freie Universität Berlin I would like to thank Ms. Herrmann and Mr. Toschi for their engagement, their enthusiasm and especially for giving us an insight to their work, which went far beyond our expectations.

Dominik Wehgartner

4.1.3. Briefing on Humanitarian Assistance

After lunch, our Delegation had the pleasure to meet **Mr. Oliver Ulich** who works for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The main task of OCHA is to create a coordination structure in order to provide humanitarian assistance in emergency situations. Normally, the national authorities organize emergency relief themselves. Only in cases where they are incapable to handle the situation, the United Nations offers its support.

Mr. Ulich pointed out that the provision of humanitarian assistance is often fairly chaotic, as various sub-organizations of the United Nations and many Non- Governmental Organizations are involved. It is the task of OCHA to create a coordination structure and to identify those agencies which have the best ability to deal with the situation.



OCHA has no regular budget. All contributions given to it are voluntary donations. Hence, for every emergency situation, fundraising needs to be done. Before OCHA consults the Governments of the donor countries, it asks all involved agencies what financial means they need in order to carry out the assistance. Mr. Ulich stressed that the fundraising often takes several months which in numerous cases leads to the loss of many lives.

Moreover, OCHA has to negotiate with the Governments or the leaders of the affected territories to gain access to the emergency site. Especially during internal or anti-western conflicts, the negotiations are difficult and often take a lot of time. Sometimes rebel checkpoints restrict access to the emergency area and in many cases money has to be provided to them in order to be let through.

After this general overview of OCHA, Mr. Ulich talked about OCHA's engagement in Sudan. He described the situation in Sudan as one of the bloodiest civil wars in history with about 1.8 million displaced people in Darfur alone. Since March/April of 2004, OCHA attempts to provide humanitarian assistance in that region. However, the responses from the Security Council to the situation in Sudan are mixed. No comprehensive solutions have been found so far. Neither the option of sanctions nor the suggestion that the case of Sudan should be referred to the International Criminal Court has so far gained a majority. As there is no compromise, the arbitration has moved on to capital-to-capital negotiations. According to Mr. Ulich, it is important to station more peacekeepers of the United Nations in Sudan, as even small military groups create a safer feeling among the population. Nevertheless, he recognized that the situation in Sudan is no easy challenge to overcome. (The Security Council later passed Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005 referring the case of Sudan to the International Criminal Court).

In the case of the 2004 tsunami, Mr. Ulich mentioned that the massive amount of donations has set new standards. For OCHA it is important to convince people and Governments that this should be an example for future emergency relief. OCHA coordinated the funding for the immediate assistance. However, it does not have the responsibility for long-term support. While providing humanitarian assistance, OCHA worked together with a greater number of Non-Governmental Organizations than usual: While OCHA normally coordinates the work of about 20 Non-Governmental Organizations, this time their number amounted to over a 100. In numerous Indonesian villages, all state authorities had been killed in the disaster. Therefore, OCHA was the only organization capable of catering for all the necessary coordination.

Finally, Mr. Ulich shortly addressed the question of sustainability of humanitarian assistance. Food assistance might reduce local food production; field hospitals are removed from affected regions after a short period of time.

We would like to thank Mr. Ulich for this very informative briefing on the work of OCHA and the challenges and dilemmas which the organization has to overcome in emergency situations.

Mareike Schüller



4.1.4. Briefing on Children in Armed Conflict

“On all continents - Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East - wherever there is conflict, children are disproportionately affected.”

Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict

The last briefing on the first day of our Study Tour at the United Nations was held by **Mr. Alec Wargau** from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Office, led by Mr. Olara Otunnu, coordinates since its creation in 1997 the measures for the protection of children in times of war as well as for the healing and social reintegration of children in the aftermath of conflicts. The fundamental pillars of Mr. Otunnu's work are raising awareness to the fate of war-affected children, convening key actors within and outside the United Nations as well as coordinating humanitarian and diplomatic efforts to unblock difficult political situations. The Office does not operate programs directly, but works with agencies of the United Nations such as UNICEF and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Wargau, underlined the various dimensions of the Special Representative's work. Protecting children in armed conflict does not only include the disarmament of child soldiers but also the fight against sexual slavery and against health dangers.

Many children are recruited from refugee camps, the majority of them being orphans or internally displaced. The unit they fight in often substitutes the lost family. A strong feeling of belonging to their co-combatants makes it difficult to convince them to start leading a civilian life. Furthermore, children are highly popular among the recruiters. They are small, obedient and can be kept under control with the help of drugs and violence. As far as the demobilisation of child soldiers is concerned, the work of the United Nations constitutes a race against time. Many children turn 18 during long conflicts and are therefore no longer subject to underage protection.

Speaking from his own experience, Mr. Wargau told us, that field representatives of the United Nations combating child abuse in armed conflicts suffer severe restraints due to the lack of security, access and cooperation within the conflict areas. Local Non-Governmental and church Organizations cooperate with the armed groups to get information on how many children do they employ. The long and difficult process of reconciliation which follows armed conflicts and civil wars includes the re-integration of child soldiers into civilian life and the fight with the impunity of war crimes against children. Mr. Wargau emphasized the need to mainstream children's rights in post-conflict management. A working peace agreement with sufficient regard to children is an important tool in this context. The Special Representative and his office have also worked closely with local Non-Governmental Organizations operating on the ground, and supported them in their efforts to specifically



address the concerns of children in their respective programs. On a global scale, the Office of the Special Representative concentrates on mainstreaming efforts within the United Nations system as well as on working with regional organizations, the Non-Governmental Organization community, and the media. As a positive outcome, the agenda concerning war-affected children has been implemented into the work of the Commission on Human Rights.

Another major challenge is the targeting of children recruiters. They are mostly non-state actors such as, for example, armed revolutionary groups and are therefore hard to track down and to negotiate with. The Security Council is currently working on a resolution to target such groups and to end their impunity. According to Mr. Wargau, a monitoring and reporting mechanism to track down on the recruitment of child soldiers and other children's rights violations would prove to be a very useful instrument.

Nevertheless, achievements have been made. Child protection provisions are now incorporated into peacekeeping mandates and into the training and reporting processes of the peacekeeping troops. Besides, the Special Representative continues to emphasize the importance of cultural norms that have traditionally provided for the protection of children in times of war. These norms should complement and reinforce the existing international legal standards.

Sabine Wilke

4.1.5. Briefing on Refugees

On the second day of our study tour at the United Nations Headquarters, **Mr. Yusuf Hassan**, the spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a comprehensive briefing on the refugee situation and on the role the UNHCR plays with regard to their resettlement and reintegration.



Before talking about the involvement of the United Nations in the refugee situation, our speaker gave a historical briefing, showing that in the context of the large number of people fleeing to escape armed conflicts in different regions, no protection existed for asylum-seekers before the 20th century and no global protection was available for displaced persons. The biggest displacement rate occurred during

World War II, when around 65 million people were displaced in Europe, and China itself displaced a large number of people, due to the Japanese conflict.

Mr. Hassan then talked about the role of the United Nations Refugee Convention, implemented in 1951. Our speaker underlined two aspects of the Convention: First, the Convention's mission was limited only to refugees in Europe after World War II – it achieved its main goals in only three years, but has been extended afterwards. Second, the Convention stresses the principle of non-returning in the event of possible persecution. Mr. Hassan pointed out that the mandate of the Convention has not changed over the years and that originally, the convention was conceived as a compromise between the refugees and their placement States. However, the goals achieved through the Convention created challenges in such countries as Australia, which due to the immigration problems even called for a revision of the Convention.

Displacement represents one of the major problems that the world faces today. The UNHCR has managed to assist up to 25 million people around the world by 1996, while having focused mainly on resettlement issues at the beginning of its existence. When UNHCR began its work in 1951 it had 34 staff members and a yearly budget of \$300,000. Now the Office operates globally in 114 countries with 268 offices, having 5200 employees and an annual budget of more than a billion US-Dollars.

The UNHCR has lately been criticised for its mainly humanitarian support and for chiefly concentrating on the relief work. It has been urged to focus more on the refugee issues, those being its key competence. However, Mr. Hassan emphasised that the UNHCR has helped people finding resettlement in countries able to offer them a constant and stable placement, providing special programmes for old or disabled people or for those faced with gender-based violence.

Our speaker explained that the UNHCR currently focuses on internally displaced people. It provides basic assistance for those refugees that return to their completely destroyed countries, as soon as peace has been restored. The Office's work also concentrates on the rights of asylum seekers, until they are accepted as refugees. Special help is also provided for stateless people, as for instance for the almost 10 million people who became stateless after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

When asked if refugee problems are not primarily political problems and if they therefore do not require a political solution, our speaker pointed out that most people leave their countries because of security reasons and not to seek jobs. That means, that the refugee problems are closely related to issues of peace and security. While Europe complains about a relatively small number of refugees, poor countries like Pakistan are still able to host them. Besides, the number of refugees is facing a decrease and the belief that the world is swamped with refugees is not true. Mr. Hassan also drew our attention to the distinction that needs to be made between refugees and immigrants.

While asked about the reasons for the closure of the Guatemalan office in 2003, the speaker explained that most of the displacement problems had been solved. Due to the limited resources, offices are only opened in places urgently in need of support.

Andreas Stolpe

4.1.6. Briefing on the Legal Aspects of Peacekeeping Operations

In the second briefing of the day, we had the pleasure to hear **Mr. Markus Pallek** from the Office of Legal Affairs, subsection Office of the Legal Counsel, who talked about the legal aspects of Peacekeeping Operations – one of the main tasks of his office.



Mr. Pallek started his presentation by giving us a short overview of Peacekeeping – a form of conflict prevention not mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council decides upon the deployment of a Peacekeeping mission. The General Assembly has to decide about its financing. The military personnel for a mission are voluntarily provided by Member States. Peacekeeping Operations are led by the so called “head of mission”, usually a Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Peacekeeping missions are described as falling into four categories, drawn from the Report on possible reform measures in the field of Peacekeeping Operations prepared by Lakdhar Brahimi (2000): (1) Traditional Peacekeeping under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, with the use of force allowed only in situations of immediate self-defence, (2) Peacekeeping Operations that may use armed force beyond mere self-defence, (3) Peacekeeping Operations on the basis of Chapter VII, and (4) Peace-Building Operations with a mandate extended to include post-conflict rebuilding tasks. He went on to describe the legal construction of Peacekeeping Operations and explained that their legal framework is generally widely determined by the constantly changing practical experience.

The legal framework and the status of a Peacekeeping mission are set by the political mandate formed by the Security Council. Further important sources are the so called “status of forces agreements (SOFA)” and the “status of mission agreements (SOMA)”. These are agreements between the United Nations and the country in which the operation is to be conducted, in some cases also with its neighbouring States. They determine the privileges and immunities of the mission personnel, the status of the head of the mission, taxation and customs matters, the status of the mission premises and many other aspects. Yet another important legal element of any Peacekeeping Operation are the so called Rules of Engagement. They lay down the conditions for the use of force within the limits set out by the Security Council mandate and state that any exercise of force should be in conformity with humanitarian standards and the international law. Finally, since the Convention on the Safety and Security of the United Nations and Associated Personnel entered into force in 1999, its principles are to be included in the SOFAs and SOMAs. Little known to the public, is the fact that there are currently efforts to overcome the deficits of this Convention – foremost in its operative hindsight – by means of a joint General Assembly and Security Council declaration.

Mr. Pallek noted that modern Peacekeeping Operations are based on Chapter VII of the Charter and thus authorize the use of force. That gave rise to the question of applicability of international humanitarian law. For members of the civilian contingent of a Peacekeeping mission this question has been addressed through the passing of a binding internal rule, the so called "Secretary-General's Bulletin". The Bulletin does not apply to Member State provided military personnel as the troop-contributing countries are directly bound by international humanitarian law.

After this very interesting outline on the legal aspects of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Pallek was at our disposal for further questions. The issues discussed were, among others, the genocide in Sudan and the slow broadening of a mission's mandate, the so called "mission creep". Mr. Pallek's reference to the Peace-Building Commission was especially relevant to Guatemala, as it was proposed in the High-Level-Panel report as a mechanism for post-conflict situations. Mr. Pallek was to leave after one and a half hours last but not least to continue the discussion with some of our legal students.

Timo Mahn



4.1.7. Briefing on Terrorism

Ms. Katarina Grenfell from the Office of the Legal Counsel introduced us to the topic of international terrorism. She first stressed the importance of defining terrorism. Only then can consensus on how to fight this phenomenon be reached. However, consensus on an internationally accepted definition of terrorism has not yet been reached.

Therefore, the question of how to deal with terrorism was raised. Should the international community just seek to understand terrorism, or rather implement measures to fight the threat? How can the phenomenon be defined? Furthermore, it seems necessary to analyse and obtain a good overview of the root causes of terrorism in order to be able to fight this threat efficiently.

Ms. Grenfell paid special attention to the question which elements should be included in the definition of terrorism. One of the most recent attempts to define terrorism taken from the High Level Panel Report excluded national liberation movements from the definition. No agreement has yet been reached on this aspect. Furthermore, the concept of State

terrorism is also very controversial. The question was posed if it can possibly be treated equally to non-state terrorism. According to our speaker a further obstacle in reaching a common definition is the question whether a right to resistance in times of occupation exists.

Ms. Grenfell underlined that human rights were finally getting more attention in the fight against terrorism. In this context, she referred to the speech held by the Secretary General Kofi Annan during the March 2005 High Level Conference on terrorism in Madrid, in which he called for the enforcement of human rights protection. The difficult balance between human rights and the fight against terrorism may be illustrated by the fate of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay who, according to the American Government, are not regarded as prisoners of war and therefore are not subject to the Geneva Conventions.

Ms. Grenfell stressed that the United Nations and its agencies have developed a wide range of international legal instruments aimed at enabling the international community to take action to suppress terrorism and to bring those responsible to justice. Twelve United Nations anti-terrorism conventions exist, which however only apply in situations of international conflict and thus exclude any internal military action.



Ms. Grenfell gave us a short summary of the historical development of the fight against terrorism undertaken within the United Nations system. The main focus of her presentation was set on the developments after September 11th 2001. She summarised the numerous recent legal developments while at the same time underlining the elements that have not undergone any change.

Two weeks after the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the Security

Council adopted resolution 1373. It calls on Member States to contain the financing of terrorism, to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts and to deny safe haven to those who finance, plan, support or commit them. The Council also established the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) to monitor the resolution's implementation. Member States have been asked to regularly report to the Council on their progress in the implementation of the measures mentioned above. Ms. Grenfell stressed that as this resolution was adopted while acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter it directly binds all of the United Nations Member States.

Progress has also been made in the area of nuclear terrorism. The Legal Committee of the General Assembly is currently elaborating on two conventions: a convention for the

suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, as well as a comprehensive convention on the elimination of terrorism.

Ms. Grenfell stressed that today it is more than ever necessary to improve the United Nations system and to increase the efforts in prevention as well as to address the root causes of terrorism, instead of merely dealing with its results. Therefore Ms. Grenfell concluded by raising the following question: “Could better access to resources be the key to stopping terrorism?”

Catherine Dubreuil

4.1.8. Briefing on Iraq

The last briefing on the second day of the Study Tour was devoted to Iraq. Thanks to our eminent speaker, **Mr. Hamid Abdeljaber** of the United Nations Office of Communications and Public Information, the event will undoubtedly remain in our memory of for a long time.

Mr. Abdeljaber commenced his briefing with a reference to the attack on the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad on August 19th 2003. Mr. Abdeljaber showed us large colour photographs of his colleagues, Ms. Reham Al-Farra, Ms. Nadia Younes and Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, victims of the attack. He honoured the memory of his colleagues and emphasised the fact that the personnel of the United Nations was made up of exceptional people – men and women ready to pay the highest price in striving to realise the goals of the United Nations.

After this impressive introduction, Mr. Abdeljaber, with the help of a large map of Iraq, went on to talk about the country’s history. He stressed the importance of Iraq’s rich and varied cultural heritage and told us about the development of the first calendar, of mathematics, and of writing, all of which had represented Iraq’s important contribution to human civilisation at large. Mr. Abdeljaber also remarked that as early as by the year A.D. 750 Baghdad had already become one of the world’s most important cities. Nonetheless, Mr. Abdeljaber observed, Iraq had had a history of violence and brutal dictatorship as well. Due to those reasons the Iraqi Governments had never enjoyed great esteem. He underlined this with an example from the second Gulf war in which nearly all Government institutions and agencies, except for the Oil Ministry and the Iraqi Oil Company, had been destroyed. Even the country’s museums and libraries were not guarded from the start by the American troops.

Our speaker continued by referring to the sanctions imposed in 1990 by the Security Council. They remained in force in the course of the subsequent thirteen years and had had practically no influence on the country’s Government. The disarmament regime introduced in 1991 by the Security Council had not been successful as well, on the



contrary the country's weapon-building potential further continued its growth. At this stage our speaker stressed, the many State scholarships placed at the disposal of young scientists.

The civilian population had, however, been greatly affected by the Security Council resolutions. By 1995 five hundred thousand children had died due to malnutrition, at the same time Iraq had possessed the second largest oil reserves in the world. Due to this situation it had then been decided to adopt the "Oil for Food" Resolution, which had come into force a year later. It had proposed the so-called food basket to be distributed monthly among Iraq's civilians. That measure, however, had also proved inadequate. The failure to alleviate the hardships of life in Iraq had, on the other hand, enabled the country's Government to use it as convenient propaganda material against the sanction imposers.

Mr. Abdeljaber explained further, that in November 2002, the question of disarming Iraq had been re-addressed by the United Nations. In its Resolution 1411 the Security Council had given the inspectors of the United Nations full mandate to investigate and monitor the weapon situation in Iraq. On 5 February 2003, United Nations Inspector Hans Blix had appealed to the Security Council of the United Nations: "Give me more time." His request, however, had not been granted. The second Gulf war had begun – without the mandate of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Our speaker noted that the majority of the Iraqis had indeed been happy to see Saddam Hussein's regime toppled. The military aspect of the operation had proved the easiest issue to handle, but many other vitally important matters had emerged and were to cause a variety of virtually insurmountable problems. For example the Iraqi army had been dissolved without much active resistance, but due to that move two million people had lost the material basis for further existence. Mr. Abdeljaber also spoke of the current situation in Iraq. He made it clear that the form of democracy adopted in Iraq and the empowerment of its population had to come from and be determined by the indigenous society itself. The entire Iraqi society, all its important social groups and political orientations, had to be involved in drawing-up and adopting the country's new constitution. Every reasonable endeavour had to be made, Mr. Abdeljaber insisted, to ensure the success of Iraq's transition from an oppressive and authoritarian State to a fully acceptable member of the international community. He added that Iraq's stability was, naturally enough, a matter of crucial importance both to its neighbouring countries and to the whole world.

Answering the question about the future of US-Iraq relations, Mr. Abdeljaber expressed his hope that there would eventually be a form of rationalised relationship between the two countries. He ventured an opinion that the situation in that respect would gradually improve (supposedly, however, with a continuing US military presence in Iraq).

Mr. Abdeljaber's briefing was an instructive and interesting experience to the entire Delegation. Both the observations and remarks he offered and his committed approach to the issues discussed left a lasting impression of a dedicated, experienced United Nations diplomat.

Edgar Krassowski

4.1.9. Briefing on Indigenous People

The third day of our Study Tour started with a lecture by **Ms. Hui Lu** who introduced us to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She then took a retrospective look at the long “story of success” between the United Nations and the Indigenous Peoples. She noted that the Indigenous Peoples first sought political participation back in 1924 at the League of Nations.



Our speaker told us that there is no distinctive definition of indigenous peoples. However a common understanding exists, which is drawn from mainly two sources. The first, often-cited description of indigenous people is derived from the study by the United Nations Special Rapporteur J. Martínez Cobo (1984) that defines indigenous peoples as

“those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems.”

The second source, the “working definition” of the United Nations, comes from the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO No. 169) which had not yet entered into force. It emphasizes that indigenous peoples’ social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from more dominant sections of society. That leads directly to their undeniable right of self-determination.

Ms. Lu explained that the Permanent Forum was created by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2000 to raise awareness about indigenous issues and to provide expert advice to the system of the United Nations – especially concerning economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights of indigenous peoples. Since 2002, the forum gathers annually for two weeks in May. The first session was dedicated to the topic “Indigenous Children”, the second focused on “Indigenous Women” whereas the third session in 2005 basically dealt with the issue of “Millennium Development Goals”. The committee consists of 16

members who are elected for a term of three years, eight nominated by Governments and eight recommended by indigenous peoples. Ms. Lu emphasized that there is no difference between members sent by Governments and members sent by indigenous peoples. They are all experts and they decide on each topic by consensus.

Our speaker underlined the structure of the Forum since it enables indigenous people to present their views as full-fledged members of a United Nations body. Therefore it is groundbreaking and carries the potential of setting new international standards. However, throughout the world, the indigenous peoples are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable. Ms. Lu mentioned that indigenous peoples represent more than five percent of the world population, but fifteen percent of the world's poor. She continued to list further facts that describe the discrimination of indigenous peoples: they are often excluded from decision-making processes, their cultures are suppressed and their identities denied. Since an appropriate educational system hardly exists, indigenous students frequently drop out of schools. Furthermore, they are deprived of their ancestral lands because of mining and industry, dam and road projects and their cultural knowledge is often subject to commercial piracy. Ms. Lu posed the question: how should State and non-state actors recognize the indigenous peoples' right of self-determination and include them in decision-making processes concerning them if those processes of integration might cause a redistribution of political and economic power?

Ms. Lu pointed out that there are an estimated 300 to 500 million indigenous people in more than 70 countries around the world, representing over 5,000 languages and cultures on every continent. They live in a closely dependent relationship to their environment and often state that they have guardianship of the earth which they consider their terrestrial mother, the giver of all life. Therefore indigenous communities may serve as stewards of sustainable development and pay a significant contribution to nation-building processes especially in foremost colonized regions.

In terms of 40 years of partnership between the system of the United Nations and indigenous peoples, Ms. Lu spoke about a "story of success". She stressed that decisive steps on the long road to self-determination have already been made. Still, much remains to be done. For example the Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been negotiating the Draft for almost ten years whereas only two out of 45 articles have been agreed upon. Nevertheless, Ms. Lu expressed her hope in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in new networks built out of civil society, Non-Governmental Organizations and United Nations bodies that might find a more effective way to lobby Governments and to bring indigenous points of views to the world's attention.

Carmen Dege

4.1.10. Briefing on the United Nations Reform

In the second briefing of this day, **Mr. Sebastian von Einsiedel** gave us the chance to get involved in the ongoing debate about the recommendations brought forward by the *United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change*. Mr. von Einsiedel, having assisted the High-Level Panel as a Research Officer,

was able to deliver an interesting and detailed first hand account of its work and its closing report. His briefing coincided with the presentation of the *In Larger Freedom* report of the Secretary General, responding to the recommendations of the High-Level Panel, which was simultaneously introduced to the General Assembly on that very day.

The High-Level Panel consisting of 16 international high ranking members was set up by the Secretary General Kofi Annan in the fall of 2003 as a response to the Iraq intervention and the growing divisions within the United Nations. The three main tasks of the High-Level Panel were to examine today's security threats, assess how these threats have been responded to in the past, and to propose new actions to address these and future threats to peace and security. During the first sessions it became evident that perceptions concerning the nature of threats differed dramatically between the South, i.e. the developing world and the North, i.e. the industrial nations. While the developing world is primarily concerned about socio-economic, environmental and health threats, the industrial nations consider these as development issues and not security threats and focus on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) instead.



Those different perceptions were, however, bridged by stating that all threats are closely interlinked. By agreeing on a broad definition of “threats to peace and security”, events producing large-scale death, such as poverty and diseases, were also included in the definition.

Mr. von Einsiedel told us that altogether 101 recommendations were agreed upon in the closing report of the High-Level Panel. All recommendations are in accordance with the following four principles which provided the essential guidelines for reaching a common agreement on collective action: (1) The United Nations do not always hold the key to solutions and are themselves just a part of a larger cluster of organizations. (2) Policy reforms are more important than institutional reforms. (3) Proposals should include bold but still realistic reforms, therefore no abolition of the veto right. (4) All proposals should be aimed at strengthening the preventive framework.

With regard to the final report of the High-Level Panel Mr. von Einsiedel highlighted selected recommendations such as those concerning peacekeeping, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Concluding his briefing Mr. von Einsiedel elaborately answered questions concerning the two proposals for the Security Council reform. Such a reform has been on the international agenda since the beginning of the 1990s. Accordingly a subcommittee was established in 1993. This subcommittee – informally named the “never-ending working group on the Security Council Reform” – finally proved to be ineffective even though a proposal – the Rasali-Proposal – was drafted.

The two new proposals by the High-Level Panel concerning the Security Council form a new approach. They envisage 24 Security Council members. The first recommendation proposes six new permanent members (two from Latin America, two from Africa, two from Asia and one additional from the European Union). In case of the second proposal a new kind of membership, the so called semi-permanent membership, is to be created. These semi-permanent members should serve a 4 year term with the possibility of re-election, which is designed to fulfil an incentive function for Member States to increase their involvement. In addition the High-Level Panel underlines in its recommendations the need to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the Security Council. Furthermore the High-Level Panel stressed that the Security Council should not shift its priorities towards questions of development, and thus gradually reduce the authority of the ECOSOC.

To summarize, the briefing by Mr. von Einsiedel was characterized by his profound knowledge of the matter, and thus proved to be another unique opportunity to obtain a deeper insight into the work of the United Nations Secretariat.



Patrick Uhrmeister

4.1.11. Briefing on Economic Development

In the afternoon of the third day of our study-tour we had the opportunity to hear a secretariat briefing on economic development by **Mr. Pingfan Hong** and his colleague **Mr. Oumar Diallo**. Mr. Pingfan Hong is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the Development Policy Analysis Division, of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The mission of DESA is to serve as a central interface between global policies in economic, social and environmental areas and in national action. DESA mainly collects, generates and evaluates a broad series of data, promotes negotiations of Member States

in several intergovernmental fields and assists in assembling national capacities. The responsibilities of DESA include preparing background material for the General Assembly and other committees, releasing publications for the general public and maintaining data of about 150 countries.



First Mr. Hong introduced us to the Development Policy and Planning Office (DPPO) which prepares policy papers and statements. It is particularly devoted to providing advice on development policy. It supports the Secretary-General and the Inter-Governmental sphere and ensures the further progress of the positive results of the Millennium Summit. Mr. Hong critically discussed the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and their most important effects to date. After having stated that the Millennium Summit in the year 2000 has been the most important meeting in the recent years, he criticized the United Nations for not having the resources to implement everything decided upon, leading to a gap between what has been set on the agenda and what is actually being implemented. However, he also underlined that the United Nations have set a number of important standards and offered guidance to many developing countries through programs such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

According to Mr. Hong economic issues of high importance are the large fluctuation of the US Dollar vis-à-vis other currencies, the imbalance in world economy and the area of energy and raw materials. We were given an overview on the economic prospects of Africa. Because of the increasing demand for exports of raw materials, the fastest growing economies are very often the ones based on oil. At the same time the countries suffering the most in this region are the ones characterized by political instability. Important achievements have been made in Africa, such as taking control of the regional inflation, finding internal policy solutions, improving the sense of transparency and accountability, diversifying production and export and increasing Africa's share of the world economy. Our speaker stressed that the outlook for 2005 for Africa's economic

development implied political risks, high prices for oil and a higher level of foreign assistance, i.e. in the fight against AIDS.

In the second part of his speech Mr. Hong emphasized the aspect of imbalance in the global economy. In an open and globalised economy countries are capable of spending more than they produce. Observing the US economy it becomes evident that the Dollar still is the reserve currency for transaction processes for many countries. Many of the developing countries are left with insufficient funds for their investments, which makes the gap between the rich and the poor countries even wider. In order to reverse the global imbalance rooted in the asymmetrical flow in the international economy, the surplus countries need to reconsider their economic systems. Since China's economy is developing very fast with a population of 1.3 billion people, many Western countries tend to blame China for their own job losses. The structure of the Chinese economy consists of two important elements: low labour costs and high household savings. According to Pingfan Hong, the modernized institutions that were gained through Chinese reforms are also beneficial for the world as a whole.

Closing off the briefing, Mr. Hong addressed the issue of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals once again. He emphasised that especially the task to reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from poverty by 2015 is of vital importance for international security and stability. Although many donor countries embraced the achievement of the goals by providing resources, the majority of African countries are likely to fail according to their economic trend. Three main points can be cited as difficulties in meeting the goals: (1) Poor Governments, corruption, (2) Poverty trap (too poor for investment) and (3) Geographical conditions.

Finally, Mr. Hong stressed the urgent need for actions that further promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. I am sure that he had the support of the whole Delegation when he suggested that donor countries should open their markets to developing countries and support them in their efforts for investment.

Çiğdem İpek

4.1.12. Briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction

Our Study Tour ended with a briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction by **Ms. Kerstin Bihlmaier**. It was quite noteworthy that while Ms. Bihlmaier was a member of the 2002 NMUN Delegation of the *Freie Universität Berlin*, she now works in the Weapons of Mass Destruction branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations. She is particularly concerned with NBC weapons (nuclear, biological and chemical weapons) and the threat posed by terrorist acts committed by individuals.

To begin with Ms. Bihlmaier presented her department to us. It is concerned with topics such as conventional weapons, Weapons of Mass Destruction and outer space warfare. She excelled in communicating to us the utmost importance of disarmament. Our speaker mentioned that a mere 2.5 % of the annual global military expenditures of \$ 800 billion would be sufficient to cover the annual costs of \$ 21 billion for appropriate AIDS control mechanisms. About \$ 50 billion would be enough to provide clean and safe energy worldwide for an entire year.

Then we were told about the fundamental NBC weapons regimes. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which came into force in 1997, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) which became effective in 1975 and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), enacted in 1968 and prolonged indefinitely in 1995. Our speaker told us that among these treaties only the BWC does not contain a verification mechanism, although in 2001 considerable effort was put into enacting one. The treaty is rather a confidence-building mechanism aimed at global information and data exchange and the reduction of global ambiguities connected with biological weapons.

Due to the importance of the issue, the rest of the briefing was devoted to the NPT. The treaty distinguishes between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear States. The first group consists of the five permanent Member States of the Security Council (P5), who are obliged to abstain from any use or merely the threat of use of nuclear weapons, bind themselves to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons or fissile material and assure that they will not support any country in the research and development of nuclear weapons. The Non-Nuclear States, on the other hand, are obliged to abstain from developing or acquiring nuclear weapons or fissile material. Further elaborating on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Ms. Bihlmaier mentioned that all Member States have the duty to cooperate in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. According to the NPT the P5 are irreversibly obliged to disarmament, although they have not been very active in this regard as they still have approximately 20,000 units of nuclear weapons.

In the following Ms. Bihlmaier introduced us to the control mechanisms for the compliance with the NPT. On the national level it shall be enforced via nuclear safeguards, on the international level via export controls. The most important surveillance body is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). On the one hand it can apply traditional measures like monitoring, inspections and training of national officials. These shall guarantee compliance of the Member States with the safeguard agreements. On the other hand the 1997 additional protocol to the NPT, which has been signed by only 62 of the 188 Member States, can be applied by the IAEA in order to detect undeclared nuclear weapons or fissile material. It shall guarantee the compliance with NPT-standards. Our speaker stressed that even under this stringent control regime the IAEA still needs the approval of the country subject to the inspection, in order to enter any of its facilities. If this approval is denied, the international community has to take action. Potential instruments that might be used are for example the withdrawal of



technical assistance by the IAEA or the seizure of the United Nations Security Council of the matter, which may thereupon authorize sanctions or the use of force.

In the last part of the briefing Ms. Bihlmaier referred to the conduct of North Korea as a member of the NPT. North Korea joined the treaty in 1985 and ratified its safeguard agreements in 1992. However, in January 2003 the country announced an unprecedented withdrawal from the NPT after having admitted to the maintenance of a uranium-enrichment program. Therefore, the next NPT conference in mid 2005 will give priority treatment to North Korea as well as to Iran.

After this very detailed briefing Ms. Bihlmaier was at our disposal for questions. She replied to our queries about the possibilities of a more comprehensive convention replacing the NPT as well as about the chances of convincing countries like India, Israel or Pakistan of ratifying the NPT.

Kevin Radev



*The Berlin Delegation together with the Delegation of the University of Würzburg
Chagall-Window, United Nations Headquarters, NY*

4.2. Visit to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York

Same as last year, a visit to the “German House” was part of our program. At our arrival it became obvious that many German Delegations took the opportunity to get to know “their” representation at the United Nations. The briefing was held by **Mr. Dirk Rotenberg**. In the introduction he briefly presented the institutions in the “German House”: the German General Consulate and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations. A total of 15 diplomats, one of them Mr. Rotenberg, work for the Permanent Mission.

In his briefing Mr. Rotenberg talked about the role of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. He pointed out how significant the last two years have been for Germany (2003/2004), as it occupied a non-permanent seat on the Security Council. Referring to the work at the United Nations, he emphasized the importance of

creating alliances with other Member States. He warned us not to underestimate the influence of Non-Governmental Organizations on the decision making process at the United Nations. In regard to the European Union Mr. Rotenberg stressed the importance of a common foreign policy. As far as the General Assembly is concerned, efforts have already been made to speak with one voice. This does not only offer the advantage of harmonizing EU-policies, it also conveys larger bargaining power on the common position. To close off his lecture, Mr. Rotenberg directed our attention to the topics currently discussed at the Security Council: weapons of mass destruction, the so called "failed States" and the diverging perceptions on human rights. Our speaker pointed out the critique coming from some States that standards applied to human rights violations vary between the members of the Security Council and other States (the so called "double standards").

A vivid discussion followed the lecture. In answering the question concerning the various interests of the developing and the advanced countries, the speaker pointed out the differences in the perception of threats. Whereas industrial countries, such as Germany or the United States, are primarily worried about threats arising from weapons of mass destruction, developing countries are preoccupied with the struggle to survive despite poverty, epidemics and displacement. He drew attention to the fact that the members of the Security Council, hence the ones deciding on intervention, mainly come from „the North“, whereas most mandates of the blue helmets are exercised in "the South".

Following the various questions from the plenum, Mr. Rotenberg gave us some information on the reform of the Security Council. We were especially interested to find out what kind of strategies Germany plans to apply in order to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council. Our speaker pointed out that Germany must cooperate with like-minded partner States. Such a cooperation already exists with Brazil, India and Japan. Furthermore, the weight of the financial contributions to the United Nations has to be highlighted and the promises made with regard to the payment of development aid need to be realised.

With regard to the question if it is at all sensible for Germany to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council, our speaker stressed that as this matter is constantly raised, it is important for Germany to promote the advantages of its membership. Mr. Rotenberg underlined that in his view the German participation would be beneficial to the United Nations as it would contribute to a better decision making within the Security Council. Our speaker explained that the fear of additional duties frequently raised in Germany is partially justified. Additional costs are to be expected and commitments that are unpopular domestically might become necessary, for example regarding the deployment of German troops.

To conclude the session, Mr. Rotenberg gave us a short overview on the everyday life of a German diplomat and the recruitment practice of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We wish to cordially thank Mr. Rotenberg for giving us the possibility to discuss the current German foreign policy.

Sabine Domke

4.3. Visit to the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations in New York



On Wednesday, 23 March, our Delegation was invited to visit the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations. It was a rainy morning when we were to meet **Mr. José Alberto Briz Gutiérrez**, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Guatemalan Mission. After a warm welcome in the elegant building of the Mission, our group squeezed into Mr. Briz' office, which was certainly not built to host groups like ours. Fortunately we somehow managed and then experienced one of the most interesting briefings of the entire Study Tour.

Mr. Briz limited his speech to introducing the Permanent Mission to us, which is medium-sized in comparison to other missions to the United Nations. There are nine Guatemalan employees, led by Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klée. Mr. Briz, responsible for the Second Committee of the General Assembly on Economic and Financial Issues as well as for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is the Deputy Permanent Representative and thus the second at rank at the Guatemalan Permanent Mission. After a short introduction of himself and his career path, our speaker gave us the opportunity to use the two hours available to ask all the questions we had on our minds.

Our questions concentrated on Guatemala's specific position on issues we would have to deal with throughout the conference. Kevin Radev asked the first question about international initiatives on the debt problem. How would Guatemala position itself in such negotiations, since it is not directly affected? The representative explained that in such situations, Guatemala would of course not start an initiative. However, it is an important policy to support highly indebted countries, as many of those come from the Latin American region. Being a member of the G-77, Guatemala demonstrates solidarity with highly indebted countries.

The following question, coming from Max Büge, concerned the reform of the United Nations, in particular the institutional reform of the Security Council and the ECOSOC.

Mr. Briz stated that Guatemala would support any initiative aiming at the strengthening of the United Nations. In particular, the General Assembly, as the only fully democratic and representative body of the United Nations, needs to be strengthened. He emphasized that the ECOSOC needs a political recovery of power as well. It needs to be provided with instruments that enable it to react quickly and efficiently to global economic and social problems. Concerning the Security Council reform - currently the dominant debate at the United Nations - Guatemala supports the expansion of permanent seats without veto power. Our speaker added that in the long run, the veto power would need to disappear. However, Guatemala concentrates its efforts on working on initiatives to strengthen the General Assembly. Raising the issue again, our second General Assembly Plenary representative, Christian Wussow, asked the diplomat which country Guatemala would support in getting a permanent seat. The answer was cautiously presented: Guatemala has not officially expressed its support to Brazil, since Mexico has not yet clearly stated its position. He made clear that Guatemala would support the Latin American country which has the clearest aspirations.

Regarding the World Health Organization, Sabine Wilke asked our speaker, if Guatemala, in dealing with the HIV/AIDS problem, could and would choose between prevention and treatment. The answer was that in general such a distinction should not be made. However, the biggest problem for Guatemala is the lack of awareness throughout large parts of its population. Therefore, the new Government has to concentrate its efforts on prevention through educating its people on HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Being asked about the problem of corruption by Timo Mahn and Andreas Stolpe, our speaker provided us with a detailed answer. Guatemala does feel the pressure coming from the international community; however, one should not underestimate the difficulties linked with the fight against corruption. The lack of foreign direct investment, a relatively weak economy, speculative investment and the need for further economic and social development are all entangled elements in the fight against corruption. But achievements have been made, such as improving the functioning of the legal system. The new Government of Oscar Berger does try to fight corruption, feels deeply committed to do so and welcomes all international initiatives on the issue.

Tine Vestergaard and Carmen Dege asked their questions about the indigenous issues in Guatemala. Mr. Briz pointed out that they enjoy the attention of the Government. Issues such as land rights and bilingual education are a part of Berger's reform programme for Guatemala. Mara followed, by asking the representative about the problem of internally displaced people. The answer was surprisingly sharp, as Mr. Briz clearly stated: "Guatemala does not have a problem with internally displaced people. There are no such people in Guatemala!"

There were several other questions and after the two hours had rapidly passed, we would have still been able to ask for more information. Without exaggeration, we all agreed that this briefing was the most interesting of all and that it helped us to better tackle our mission to come.

Ann-Kristin Otto

5. The Republic of Guatemala – an Overview

Basic Facts:

Area: 108,890 sq km

Bordering Countries: Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico

Population: 14,655,189 (July 2005)

Ethnic Groups: Mestizo 55%, Amerindian 43%, whites and others 2%

Religion: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs

Languages: Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized)

Government: constitutional republic (democratic)

President: Oscar Berger (since 14 January 2004)

Capital: Guatemala City

Independence: 15 September 1821 (from Spain)



Unemployment rate: 7.5% (2003)

Inflation rate: 7.2% (2004)

GDP: (purchasing power parity) \$59.47 billion (2004)

Export partners: US 55.5%, El Salvador 10.5%, Nicaragua 3.5% (2003)

Import partners: US 33.3%, South Korea 8.9%, Mexico 8.7%, El Salvador 6.2%, China 4.5% (2003)

Currency: quetzal (GTQ), US dollar (USD), others allowed

Membership at the United Nations: founding member (1945)

Engagement of the United Nations in Guatemala: 1994 – 2004 United Nations Verification Mission (MINUGUA)

Source: CIA Fact book online

Historical Background:

The Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala during the first millennium A.D. After being a Spanish colony for almost three centuries, Guatemala gained its independence in 1821.



In the course of the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian Governments and a 36-year long guerrilla civil war. In 1996, the Government signed a series of peace agreements formally ending the conflict, which had left about 200,000 people dead and turned 1 million people into refugees.

Economic Overview:

Guatemala is the largest and most populous of the Central American countries with a GDP per capita roughly a half of that of countries like Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. The agricultural sector accounts for about one-fourth of the GDP, two-thirds of the exports, and half of the labour force. Coffee, sugar, and bananas are the main products. The signing of the peace accords in 1996, which ended 36 years of civil war, removed a major obstacle to foreign investment. However, widespread political violence and corruption scandals continue to dampen investors' confidence. The distribution of income remains highly unequal, with roughly 75% of the population living below the poverty line. Other ongoing challenges include increasing Government revenues, negotiating further assistance from international donors, upgrading both Government and private financial operations, curtailing drug trafficking, and narrowing the trade deficit.

Guatemala at the United Nations:

Multilateral organizations like the United Nations are an important forum for Guatemala as they foster the coordination with other developing countries and facilitate the articulation of common political and economic interests before the industrialized nations. These countries often have a very different perspective on international issues, in particular when it comes to the negotiation of economic matters. Within the sub-organizations of the United Nations, Guatemala represents the political position of the low developed countries and works towards an improved regional cooperation with the other Central- and South American countries. Poverty reduction, economic development and infrastructural measures, the reduction of foreign debt, and the improvement of health care and education are the core issues of Guatemalan policy within the United Nations.

*Ann-Kristin Otto
Lucienne Damm*

A collage of 18 photographs showing students in various settings. The images include: a woman on a phone, a city skyline, a man holding a 'GUATEMALA' sign, the Statue of Liberty, a man in a military uniform, a man at a podium, a group of students, a woman in a Security Council setting, a man at a podium, a group of students, a man at a podium, a group of students, a man at a podium, a group of students, a man at a podium, a group of students, a man at a podium, a group of students.

NMUN – the Journey is the Reward

By the time we departed for New York we had learned so much about the background, content and organization of the National Model United Nations conference that we would have been able to run interviews ourselves. Yet many times in life you do not know what to expect until it really happens. Maybe this is why our impressions during the conference could be described by adjectives such as “surreal” and “unique”.

After a long period of preparation in Berlin we had abstract ideas of how we would apply what we had learned. But who could have imagined a night at Bubba Gump’s? Or what it would be like to rush to a Delegation’s meeting at midnight to see the rest of the bunch, their faces, despite the level of your own exhaustion. Even if their eyes lacked some of that sparkle, there was no room for whining here, well, maybe a small sigh. We were still under the spell of our common Guatemalan spirit: “Vamos!” However, there was one occasion when the unity was interrupted by rivalry and mean competition, namely when we tried to play a game of charade. This incident did not reoccur though. And when there was need for comfort, you would find it here, on the 6th floor of the Hilton, surrounded by rustling draft resolutions, buzzing laptops and the obligatory and soothing smell of Halal Kebab.

The cooperation in the committees and the collaboration with other Delegations turned out to be a very exciting task, which we had prepared ourselves for effectively and that we have captured in our committee-reports. Summing up, we have met interesting people and learned a great deal: about the NMUN, the other participants and ourselves; the honourable Delegation of the Republic of Guatemala.



Çiğdem İpek

6.1. Guatemala at the General Assembly Plenary

represented by Max Büge and Christian Wussow



Max Büge and Christian Wussow represented as Delegates of the Republic of Guatemala the National Model United Nations-Team of the Freie Universität Berlin in the simulated United Nations General Assembly Plenary. Since every Member State of the United Nations is represented in the General Assembly Plenary, this body was one of the big committees imitated during the simulation. Far more than 300 Delegates of different regional origin, nationality, mother tongue, religion, negotiating mentality and professional background were an exiting encounter and promised a complex situation and as well as a challenge in the negotiations. Nothing less than the reform of the United Nations system figured on the agenda.

The negotiating strategy of the two Delegates basically grounded on three pillars: (1) a thorough and well-founded preparation, (2) a culture of conversation based on dialogue, exchange and deliberation and finally (3) a special focus on the cooperation with other representatives of Latin-American countries.

The start of the conference was turbulent. As soon as the first round of debate had been opened, the participants articulated their motivation. Furthermore, it became clear that most of us had not ever before taken part in a United Nations' simulation of such size. The goal to get to know each other, indiscriminate descriptions of one's positions, the bargaining for one's own views and partly marketing strategies to portray arguments created a cosmopolitan mixture of the atmosphere of both a bazaar and a fish market in Hamburg. Yet, along with the development of the conference work processes structured

themselves, we clarified positions and announced meetings. The main emphasis of the work of our two Guatemalan Delegates was focused on the reform of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The task was to represent the position of the Republic of Guatemala as realistically as possible. This implied multilateral approaches as well as normative ideas on the development of international relations and the effort to strengthen the United Nations on the institutional level.



Quickly, a close cooperation developed between the representatives of Brazil, Peru and Honduras. Due to this constellation it became possible to efficiently coordinate the cooperation with Delegates of other Latin-American countries. Simultaneously, we had the opportunity to do the important splits between negotiating with both Delegates of industrialized nations and less developed countries in an effective way. The conference was shaped by patient but also passionate negotiations. The haggling over meanings, sentences and commas in the working papers, which were the groundwork for the later resolutions, as well as the enriching contacts with other colleagues, marked the course of the conference. In the end, something became apparent which no one would have had expected at the beginning: the multidimensional productivity became visible in the shape of exchange. Numerous draft-resolutions were created and presented to the chair, which logistically was barely able to cope with all the papers. The voting procedures became the final showdown, when, due to time constraints, this part of the simulation almost failed. In the end, this part of the conference developed to be the ultimate apex in the simulated General Assembly Plenary: three of the resolutions, which had been brought in by Guatemala, were approved and passed by an overwhelming majority.

After the end of the conference, what remains is the belief that, on the one hand, the community of peoples created a big task for itself by establishing the United Nations. On the other hand, this implies the unique possibility that a better world will arise out of the normative basis.

6.2. Guatemala in the General Assembly Sixth Committee

represented by Edgar Krassowski and Patrick Uhrmeister

The General Assembly Sixth Committee is one of the seven main committees established by the United Nations General Assembly. The membership is the same as in the General Assembly Plenary but international law experts play an important consultative role. The main focus of the General Assembly 6th lies in the development of international law and in its codification. The General Assembly Plenary Delegates all international legal issues to the General Assembly Sixth Committee which works on substantial recommendations.

The proposals of the General Assembly 6th have to be adopted by the General Assembly Plenary in order for them to take effect.

During this year's National Model United Nations conference the following provisional agenda was proposed: (1) Legal Aspects of War and Occupation, (2) International Law, Democracy and the NEO and (3) International Efforts Regarding Cloning. At the beginning of the first session of the Committee the adoption of the agenda was discussed. As representatives of Guatemala we found the sequence of the topics on the provisional agenda as best reflecting our own position. After the first informal consultations with other Delegations three alternative proposals for the agenda setting emerged. According to the NMUN rules which state that in case of non-adoption of the agenda on the first evening of the conference, the provisional agenda shall take effect; our original strategy was to attempt to prolong the agenda discussion. Contrary to our predictions a quick agreement on the agenda took place and we could start discussing the first substantive topic of the Committee – The Legal Aspects of War and Occupation. In the course of the following day it quickly became clear that only this topic of the agenda would be covered.



As soon as the Committee started the substantive debate many regional working groups were created. Our strategy was to work on our own interregional draft resolution proposal in cooperation with as many countries as possible. Our main concern was for the draft resolution proposal to reflect the interests of Guatemala and thus to be as close as possible to our position paper. According to our expectations many countries which shared views similar to ours quickly showed their will to cooperate. Unlike most of the other working groups, which were strongly dominated and unilaterally led by some Delegations, in our group all the States had the real opportunity to bring in their own ideas and to contribute to the joint effort, which many countries genuinely appreciated. Together with a group of motivated and trustworthy partner States such as India, Nauru and Switzerland we quickly agreed on a draft resolution proposal which included all of our own suggestions. As soon as this common position was developed we tried through intensive lobbying to integrate as many other draft resolution proposals as possible into ours so as to have the largest achievable support at our disposal.

Through further laborious negotiations we were finally able to present, in cooperation with the other States, our common draft resolution proposal without diluting Guatemala's own policy points. After modifying the so created draft resolution proposal according to

the suggestions of the Chair we officially submitted it in its final form and the practical lobbying work began. On the last day of the conference and in the process of a long voting procedure all the submitted draft resolutions were voted upon. To our satisfaction our own draft resolution was adopted by the General Assembly 6th Committee with a broad majority (Yes: 64, No: 42, Abstentions: 34) and on the following day with an even greater majority (Yes: 83, No: 38, Abstentions: 33) by the General Assembly Plenary.



Parallel to the conference a *Guest Speaker Program* took place where each committee was visited by a high-ranking personality. In the General Assembly 6th Committee **Ms. Christina Palandini** from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) gave a compelling speech about the ICRC history and its field of work.

To summarise, our work within the General Assembly Sixth Committee was extremely successful and proved to be a great opportunity to witness the United Nations system from within. Taking on the role of a United Nations diplomat proved to be both exciting and educational. Some Delegations however seemed to lack the desirable diplomatic conduct, which would have considerably increased the realism of the simulation. In addition some of the adopted resolutions still provided ample room for improvement with regard to their content, so as to fulfil the requirements they would have encountered in real life.

The highlight of the conference undoubtedly was the opportunity to speak in the General Assembly plenum in favour of the resolutions we supported which we both had the privilege to do. Being able to address the other Delegates in the Grand Hall of the United Nations General Assembly, made us truly feel like real United Nations diplomats.

Committee: General Assembly Sixth Committee

Subject: Legal aspects of war and occupation

The General Assembly 6th Committee:

Upholding the principle of state sovereignty,

Underlining the importance of complete adherence to the principles outlined in the *United Nations Charter*,

Emphasizing the necessity to reinforce the United Nations System and to promote international peace and security,

Reaffirming the importance of the Security Council in conflict resolution, reforms should be considered in accordance with regional representation,

Acknowledging that the use of force shall be an absolute last resort in accordance with the principles laid out in the *United Nations Charter*,

Reaffirming the right of individual and collective self-defense granted by Article 51 of the *United Nations Charter*,

Recognising that military intervention can only be authorized by a mandate of the United Nations Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the *United Nations Charter*,

Confirming the right to conduct humanitarian intervention in accordance with Article 39 of the *United Nations Charter* in situations recognized by the United Nations Security Council as a threat to international peace and security,

Stressing the importance of national assessments, providing for national participation, and addressing national needs of the occupied country while reaching decisions related to occupation,

Recalling the clear guidelines in the *Geneva Conventions* on the treatment of civilians, wounded combatants and prisoners of war,

Upholding the principles outlined in the *International Bill of Human Rights of 1966*, which includes the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*,

Encouraging all Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the *Antipersonnel Land Mines Ban Treaty* so as to protect civilians not only during conflict but also in the aftermath of war,

Recognising the need for strengthening regional cooperation in order to provide lasting solutions to ongoing or emerging conflicts,

Emphasizing the need for the inclusion of socio-cultural specificities and particularities to influence the way the occupation is conducted and to ensure sustainability,

Understanding that sustainable peace can only be possible when the society concerned establishes its own governing institutions and laws,

Reaffirming the vital importance of the United Nations and multilateral decision-making,

Recalling the continuous success of ongoing United Nations peacekeeping missions such as the United Nations Mission in Support in East Timor and the United Nations Mission in Haiti,

1. Emphasizes the temporary nature of occupation;
2. Strongly underlines the need for the earliest possible transfer of authority to a national Government so as to end the period of occupation, as soon as security, humanitarian stability and state sovereignty can be assured;
3. Emphasizes the responsibility of occupying forces towards the reestablishment of a stable government through multilateral assistance;
4. Stresses that mediation and negotiation throughout occupation should only be conducted under the supervision of the United Nations;
5. Recommends regional cooperation between Member States within the occupied region and the involvement of NGO and IGO so as to provide resources for the reconstruction process;

6. Underlines that in the event of insufficient regional cooperation, the United Nations shall assume the responsibility for providing the occupied territory with further assistance;
7. Declares that the phase of occupation begins with the transition of power from a national government to an external military administration;
8. Encourages all States to create Codes of Conduct during the period of occupation with the aim of reducing the risk of abuse by any occupying power and to provide for stability and the rule of law during occupation;
9. Takes note of the fact that the Codes of Conduct will supplement the *Geneva Convention* and all its additional protocols and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*;
10. Requests all Member States to provide for the inclusion in such Codes of Conduct the following provisions to prohibit the occupying powers from:
 - a. annexing the occupied territory,
 - b. creating internal political and administrative divisions of the occupied territory,
 - c. depriving the occupied people of natural resources,
 - d. transferring their population to the occupied territory;
11. Requests that the occupying forces provide for:
 - a) the implementation of multilateral programs for the training of a national police force,
 - b) the immediate creation of a functioning and transparent judiciary system,
 - c) establish an institutional infrastructure that will provide the people with a fair and balanced method to create a self determined form of national government and the creation of a central code of laws,
 - d) the development of the occupied population including economic and social progress as well as the rebuilding of basic infrastructure;
12. Appeals to the occupying power to allow transparency and access to humanitarian NGO's under the auspices of the United Nations to ensure the preservation of basic human rights as defended by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *Geneva Conventions*;
13. Emphasizes the need for local representation to influence the decisions of the interim administration;
14. Directs the occupying forces to supply the occupied population with adequate food, water, energy resources, sanitation and health care;
15. Urges all Member States to respect the right of self-determination in the occupied territory and therefore maintaining the unique cultural identity and to adhere to the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural in the Event of Armed Conflict*;
16. Notes that occupying forces must adhere to international law and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as well as the 4th *Geneva Convention of 1949*;
17. Stresses the need for continuing support of United Nations peacekeeping missions by providing humanitarian aid and other forms of assistance during times of occupation;
18. Affirms that the Security Council maintains the decision of whether the occupying force must withdraw at the request of the sovereign government of that occupied or partially occupied territory.

6.3. Guatemala in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

represented by Çiğdem İpek and Andreas Stolpe

The prospect of representing the Republic of Guatemala in a major committee such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was as you would expect very exciting.

According to the United Nations Charter the ECOSOC is one of the United Nations six principle organs. It has the capacity to prepare reports and formulate recommendations on economic and social issues of global significance, given the approval by the General Assembly. The ECOSOC members are selected by the General Assembly; each year new elections take place by means of which 18 new Member States are chosen for a term of three years. Many subsidiary bodies fall under the authority of the ECOSOC, which we were going to experience during the last day of our conference.



The preparation for the NMUN 2005 had been demanding and very fruitful. Thanks to our faculty advisor Anita Kreutz we had researched and practised, written and spoken, asked questions, revised our positions and understood what it meant to be professional Delegates. We were all well prepared, but could only guess what really awaited us at the conference. Therefore, we were glad to find the other members of the ECOSOC just as motivated and open for collaboration, and enjoying the experience without the pressure to be rewarded.

The first day started with the introduction of the committee topics: (1) Re-examination of the Implementation of the Convention Against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), (2) The International Cooperation Against Transnational Organized Crime and (3) The Promotion of Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability. In order to have a good start and to get our sequence of the topics we engaged in the agenda setting from the very beginning. Thus we managed to find other Delegations with common ground for further cooperation, which made the lobbying later on much easier. Since we found the majority for our agenda setting (2/3/1) we were more than good-spirited for the negotiations.

On the first agenda topic, we formed a group with other Latin American States as we had many similar concerns and interests. The cooperation with Ecuador and Panama turned out to be most effective. Unfortunately, a number of Latin American countries were not present at the conference. This meant a loss of potential partners, not just with regard to the voting. However, we managed to win support for our draft resolution (ECOSOC/1/6) from Australia, several European, Asian, African and American States, as well as from Non-Governmental Organizations. The only countries we did not get in the boat were the Arabic States.

We were very happy with the broad support we found; what we could promote as Guatemala was the idea of regional cooperation as we had decided upon within our Delegation. However, that almost spread faster than we wanted, which showed us just how ideas can be taken and put in other proposals if you do not pay attention and act fast. We managed to promote regional cooperation as the key approach and stressed it during our speeches of which we had three, since we asked to be set on the speaker's list several times and were lucky in terms of our ranking. Also, we underlined the need for fiscal and technical assistance in order to enable States to implement international standards more successfully. We actually won the support of many donor countries that acknowledged the lack of capacities and resources and supported us during negotiations. During voting procedures, all of which took place by roll call and cost a lot of time, our draft resolution gained the biggest support. Unfortunately, we did not manage to discuss the second and the third topic since it was already Friday and we needed to prepare ourselves for the final meeting on Saturday.

Most of our colleagues had already delivered their last speeches in their committees and looked forward to the well-deserved Delegate dance on Saturday. Meanwhile there was another day of work left for the members of both, the General Assembly Plenary and the ECOSOC that were to take part in the final voting procedures. The agenda for the ECOSOC included: (1) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), (2) World Health Organization (WHO), (3) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), (4) Economic and Social Commission on Western Asia (ESCWA), (5) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), (6) United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), (7) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), (8) United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), (9) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



In order to be well prepared for the voting procedures, which took place in the first part of the session, we consulted our fellow Delegates. They did not only brief us on their work in their committees, informing us on their resolutions and reports, but also supported us during the session, instead of taking time off and a well-deserved break. We highly welcomed having a little encouragement from our own Guatemalan experts,

whose very presence and participation truly helped us during this rough day. Therefore, we would like to cordially express our gratitude to our co-Delegates for their thoughtful assistance and team spirit!

The second task of the day was a discussion on “The Promotion of Good Governance and Long-Term Conflict Resolution in the Sudan through the Principles of Positive Peace”. Due to time restrictions we were not able to distribute any copies. This meant that we gathered around laptops and typed our suggestions together. We succeeded in drawing attention to our specific background as Guatemala, having benefited from assistance of the United Nations ourselves. Thus we underlined our experience concerning long-term conflicts, which we were also able to present to the whole plenary in one of the rare speeches. As our draft resolution was considered the very last second before session closed, we were very happy and relieved to see our work included. Because the session took longer than planned we had to rush to make it to the Closing Ceremony and meet our friends in the General Assembly. One thing we did not expect was for our Delegation to be announced to receive an award, which of course left us all surprised and thrilled! Looking back, the conference has been a great learning experience for all of us. One of the moments that made it appear like a simulation was when all of the draft resolutions in the ECOSOC passed - nevertheless the process of creating them together was very much what we expected real diplomacy to be like. Receiving our award was a very happy moment, especially right after the last day of “work”. Aside from the use of unnecessary motions and some repetitive speeches, it was a great pleasure to be part of the ECOSOC committee in 2005 and to work together with so many interesting and engaged people.

6.4. Guatemala in the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

represented by Samuel Aebi and Mara Gobina

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was created in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It consists of States selected from all regions of the world every three years by the ECOSOC. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights meets each year in March/April for a six-week session in Geneva. Its mandate covers the conception of suggestions, recommendations and reports for the advancement of human rights standards as well as for the concrete improvement of human rights protection.

With its 53 Member States and various established Non-Governmental Organizations, e.g. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, the CHR belongs to the medium-sized committees at the NMUN conference. The size of the committee turned out to be rather pleasant. For one, it was possible to get to know many different positions and to work in various working groups on very specific topics. At the same time, though, the commission sessions never became impersonal mass meetings in which faces could not be associated with the countries represented and the voting procedures held up indefinitely. The voting procedures took time, but in comparison to the General Assembly or the ECOSOC for instance, they stayed within limits. Consequently, a quick occasional nap never was possible – fortunately or unfortunately.

There were three topics on the agenda up for discussion in the course of the conference: (1) Safeguarding the Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples, (2) Female Infanticide and the Impact of Development for the Girl Child, and (3) Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Involuntary Labour. Our primary goal was to include the first topic as the first item on the agenda. We argued from the beginning that the exact status of internally displaced peoples had not been incorporated into the international legal system. Since they never cross international borders, they are not covered by international refugee protection. Accordingly, it was time for an improvement in international efforts to protect internally displaced peoples. For strategic reasons we did not yet emphasize our concrete concept of such efforts. At first, we were only concerned with setting priorities and presenting them convincingly enough. As the second item on the agenda we suggested to discuss Female Infanticide and justified this with Guatemala's strong commitment to the rights of women and children. However, we were ready to compromise on this topic since the third item on the agenda – forced labour and modern forms of slavery – was closely linked to our national priorities, in particular children's rights and the fight against poverty. Finally, the agenda we preferred was approved. Only the second point was exchanged with the third. Thus the first day came to an end.



The second day began with the two authors of this article getting ready to put their combat plan into action. We split up, each one of us taking on different tasks in a mutual arrangement. Prepared for the first item on the agenda, Samuel started to work on a fundamental resolution that would include the definition of internally displaced peoples, and to gather the necessary support through lobbying efforts. Mara started work on a detailed resolution to be based on Samuel's resolution. In accordance with our arrangement we divided the countries represented in the committee among us. Mara was responsible for the regional partners – thus the Latin American States – while Samuel tried to win the sympathies of all the others. Our division of tasks functioned smoothly and proved to be extremely successful, particularly since in the course of the conference everyone had developed their own "sphere of influence". It did not take long for us to become well known as the "the Guatemalan Delegation". The positive effect of not only promoting our own resolution, but also other resolutions and the fact that we would not only stay in our own "sphere of influence" became apparent. We made sure we appeared as a team – not as individual actors with their own agendas. Nevertheless, the underlying division of tasks was very helpful and can only be recommended.

The working climate dominating in the committee was not only a surprise to us, but to other Delegates as well. In some ways it was very constructive and pleasant, while at

other times, it was the complete opposite. It was disturbing that some participants, it seemed, came to the conference to hold long monologues learnt by heart and forgot that the conference primarily involved successful discussion, negotiation and the balancing of interests. It was interesting to see how fast they manoeuvred themselves offside. After initial co-operation attempts, it quickly crystallized who had the will to work together in a group and who had no interest in making any compromise and proceeded by themselves. Only resolutions that saw the light of day by means of a collective effort had any chance to succeed in the end. As representatives of Guatemala we followed another strategy. The visit to the Guatemalan Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York on the last day before the conference confirmed our general understanding of the position and policy of Guatemala. This meant not taking any radical stands in the CHR. In view of the critical human rights situation in Guatemala, and additionally because of our large economic and political dependency we were instructed to remain cautious. We had to make sure that the general economic, political, social and cultural interests of Guatemala would be included in the final resolutions. We had to show and prove our willingness to cooperate. We were ready to compromise on details, but held on to the main priorities in our strategy.



Although the agenda included three topics we only discussed the one concerning refugees and internally displaced peoples. How could the human rights protection for these groups be improved? In our position paper we already focused on the protection of internally displaced peoples. It was clear that this topic was of international interest and could easily divert from other human rights problems, including our own. Naturally we never openly admitted this. But if one does not want to draw negative attention, it is best to emphasize the positive international initiatives one can bring forward. Thus we committed ourselves to working with the international community to create a better mechanism for the protection of internally displaced peoples in accordance with the Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement. Realizing that the resolutions had to be very detailed in order to be meaningful, on the one hand, we supported the Latin American States with their work on a resolution, which concentrated on the first phase of the problems leading to displacement and put a strong emphasis on the fight against poverty. On the other hand, we worked with such States as Great Britain and Germany on a second resolution, which was to focus on the phase of displacement as well as on the third phase, the return and reintegration. In both resolutions we were able to include a number of our own national priorities, e.g. an increase in international financial assistance, the reinforcement of international and regional co-operation, the improvement

of education, the protection of the rights of women and children etc. A further point was to ensure national sovereignty. Guatemala has its own internally displaced peoples problem, which it periodically denies. In order not to be obliged by our own resolution to perform anything against our own interest, we had to make sure that the principle of national sovereignty was explicitly mentioned and guaranteed in all the resolutions. We succeeded in reaching that goal and both our resolutions were approved by a large majority. We even managed to pass the first resolution by acclamation. Altogether we were very happy with our achievement.

6.5. Guatemala in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

represented by Carmen Dege

The Permanent Forum was created by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2000 to raise awareness about indigenous issues and to provide expert advice to the United Nations system concerning economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights of indigenous peoples. The committee consists of 16 members, eight nominated by Governments and eight recommended by indigenous people. There is no difference between the members since they are all experts and decide on each topic by consensus. The Republic of Guatemala has nominated Otilia Lux de Coti, and renewed her mandate in 2005.

At the National Model United Nations, the provisional agenda put forth three main topics: (1) Inclusion of Indigenous People in Government and Political Processes, (2) Barriers of Development and (3) Regional Cooperation and Land Rights. Otilia Lux strongly emphasized to start the discussion with the second topic –barriers of development – with a special focus on sustainable development, human rights issues and education. As cultural and property rights are a precondition for development she suggested to incorporate them in the debate. Concerning the first topic – the inclusion of indigenous people in political processes – the Republic of Guatemala reminded the other experts that several regional and international conventions, in particular the ILO Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Convention No. 169 from 1989, have already stressed the importance of indigenous participation. Thereby, Guatemala encouraged the other Member States to take advantage of the forum as an expert committee that carries the potential of setting new international standards and coming up with concrete action-plans. With eight votes in favour and seven against, the agenda was adopted as follows: (1) barriers of development, (2) political inclusion, (3) regional cooperation and land rights.

Guatemala suggested establishing working groups on sustainable development, human rights, health care and education which was met by universal approval. Otilia Lux actively participated in the first three and proposed a friendly amendment to the working group on education. The Republic of Guatemala was signatory on each working draft segment. Since Guatemala has already made experiences with integrating its indigenous population, Otilia Lux was able to refer to the Guatemalan peace agreement as a modern model of shaping a multiethnic society.

In order to enable indigenous people to live up to their potential, Otilia Lux strongly called upon the responsibility of both the international community and each Member State to construct a framework that allows them to realize their economic capacities.



Incentives need to be given by means of grass-root projects in the field of labour-intensive agriculture and non-farm activities such as handicrafts, as well as first- or second-hand equipment for micro and small enterprises. In that respect, indigenous peoples should take advantage of the United Nations Year of the Micro-credit 2005. Guatemala succeeded in including this proposal into the working paper of the committee. The entire forum was very outspoken about the necessity of supporting educational programmes and discussed the creation of an international fund that promotes the financing of bilingual and intercultural education, cultural exchange and regional cooperation projects. Guatemala's position was to emphasize both the promotion of specific skills as well as the bridging of

the divide between the cultures of indigenous peoples and dominant societies by developing a mutual understanding. Otilia Lux argues that respect is an essential precondition for a multiethnic society that combats xenophobia, racism and discrimination. In terms of improving health care conditions, all members agreed on the idea of local care centres to be coordinated by the World Health Organization. There was, however, a long discussion about whether to take into consideration a closer cooperation between more western medicine and indigenous health systems.

The working group on human rights actively discussed the question of whether to include in the first operative clause the recognition of indigenous peoples as independent peoples that have the right to freely pursue their political, socio-economic and cultural development.

The forum put Guatemala in charge of drawing up the working draft segments on sustainable development and human rights. Norway brought in a draft working paper on health issues and Peru composed the draft working paper on education. After two days of work the forum voted on three topics by acclamation and on sustainable development with fourteen votes in favour and one abstention.

In her speech right after the voting procedure, Otilia de Lux thanked every Delegation for the precious amount of work and encouraged them to use the forum as a tool of moral force. She invited everyone to continue with the second topic on political participation and suggested to split up in working groups. This way the forum managed to come up

with another working paper that explicitly included the indigenous peoples' right of self-determination and the highly recommended option of multiple citizenships in order to guarantee nomadic freedom across ancestral lands. Additionally, it was of Guatemala's top priority to underline the importance of completing the adoption process of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Working Group on the Draft Declaration. Thus, the forum requested the Member States in its report to renew the Working Group's mandate until its task is fulfilled.

Concluding three days of session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at NMUN was composed by Delegations that stayed in character and cooperated across borders very well. The Republic of Guatemala mainly worked together with the Delegations of Norway, Peru, the United States of America and Mexico. Due to the small number of members, the working climate became quite informal and the work itself was strongly content-oriented. Otilia Lux highly appreciated the possibility to explain her views comprehensively and to approach all members directly. The speaker's time was set to three minutes and Guatemala normally seized the opportunity of speaking to the forum four or five times a day.

However, the NMUN rules defined the UNPFII as a committee of Member States rather than of experts. Therefore, it was very difficult to, on the one hand, decide in consensus and, on the other, represent Member States such as China, Russia and several African States which interpreted their role in a considerably restrictive way. In the light of Guatemala's history and peace agreement, Otilia Lux de Coti regretted that the forum did not come up with more concrete and progressive ideas that could have helped to implement national policies and set new international standards.

6.6. Guatemala at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

represented by Sabine Domke and Tine Vestergaard Jacobsen



Frankly speaking, we were a bit nervous as we entered the enormous ballroom, where our Committee was located. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) with

its more than 400 participants was the second largest Committee at the NMUN. In the real world, the WSIS is a new type of Summit held under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The first WSIS was held in Geneva in December 2003. The second phase is to be held in Tunis in November 2005. The WSIS is to be seen as an attempt to undertake a progressive approach towards the achievements of the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals*. Through enhancing the use of Information and Communication Technologies, the developing countries themselves shall actively participate in the development process, pursue responsibility and thereby ensure its sustainability. All Member States of the United Nations, numerous Non-Governmental Organizations and private actors are represented at the WSIS. This explains the vast dimension of the committee at the NMUN.

The first session on Tuesday night began quickly after we had managed to obtain a seat close to the dais. The Chairman – who happened to be a resident of Berlin – was a very competent NMUN veteran. It was obvious from the beginning that in our committee there would not be any ambiguity about the rules of procedure. Almost the whole first session proceeded in caucus. All Delegations jumped from their seats to seek possible partners and allies. Unfortunately, the manners of certain Delegates undermined the authenticity of the conference diplomacy. Some of them even climbed on their chairs from where they yelled and screamed to gather the Delegations of their region. Others ran hectically through the room without any specific destination. Thereby, the first session was mainly devoted to general orientation rather than to substantive discussion.

On the first evening we voted upon the agenda and were pleased to see our preferred setting adopted. It looked as follows: (1) Narrowing the Digital Divide, (2) Cultural Identity in the Information Society and (3) Transparency of Governance through Information and Communication Technologies. Yet it was clear from the beginning that we would hardly be able to proceed past the first agenda topic within the few days of the conference. In due course, we were not even near to finishing discussing topic number one. With some foresight however, all the interests connected to the other agenda points had been included into various draft reports under the broadly formulated first agenda item. It was an obvious advantage that the WSIS was to draft a report and not a resolution. Instead of engaging in discussions on small details and formulations, we could work more freely and creatively.

During our conference preparations, we had identified certain priority issues for Guatemala. We quickly joined a group which fitted our interests best and discussed how to foster the development of information and communication technology infrastructure. Our concern was to describe a mechanism, which would ensure financial aid for countries with weak civil societies. Otherwise, they stand the risk of being precluded from access to international funds, where aid is distributed on a competitive basis.

In the light of Guatemala's past, another priority topic for us was the post-conflict nation-building process. We took the initiative to establish a working group in that field, which was supported by about 15 Delegations from countries with a similar historic background. From that point on, a dynamic and creative working atmosphere was shaped. Excitement for the project became breathtaking.

The sessions on financial mechanisms were marked by tough negotiations. The aim was to secure financial pledges from the developed States, without compromising the sovereignty of the developing countries. Moreover, attempts were made to draft concrete plans for the implementation of already existing agreements. The Guatemalan interests could be integrated into the report, which was eventually approved by both the committee and the General Assembly.

The visit of our guest speaker was an interesting interruption to the negotiations. **Mr. Andy Carvin**, the director of the Digital Divide Network (a Non-Governmental Organization working in the field of regional capacity-building for Information and Communication Technologies) talked passionately about the opportunities for democratization and civil society participation through the usage of new Information and



Communication Technologies. His interesting elaborations were followed by a large number of questions. Obviously satisfied with the broad feedback, he took the time to give detailed answers.

Inspired by this new input, the negotiations continued productively. However, on the last day it turned out that the dais did not have enough resources to review all 19 report segments. Hence, only eight of them were presented for the final voting. Therefore, a lot of hard work got lost, including the paper on Information and Communication Technology capacities in post-conflict States.

In total, we experienced immense learning effects within a very short time. However, we learned more about developing negotiation skills and practicing diplomatic behaviour than on how a conference at the United Nations really works. Many Delegations came to New York with high expectations and ambitions. This made the careful expression of respect as much a part of the communication as the substantial negotiations themselves, which seemed to be an authentic aspect of United Nations diplomacy.

6.7. Guatemala in the World Health Organization (WHO)

represented by Mareike Schüller and Sabine Wilke

How can we make sure that everybody in the world can afford proper medication? What does it mean to eradicate a disease by means of vaccination? How can we spend the money to fight the HIV virus effectively?

Those questions should not only concern medical experts and the pharmaceutical industry. Since health means life, the achievement of secure global health care is one of the fundamental challenges of our time. Therefore, the World Health Organization is not a forum for experts on medical questions. It is a highly politicized arena, where various diverging interests and a multitude of possible solutions must be reconciled to achieve a

common goal: to make the world a safer place by assuring health for every man, woman and child.



The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations specialized agency for health. It was founded on 7 April 1948 with the purpose of improving global health standards. The main goal of the WHO, outlined in its constitution, is to ensure that all people attain the highest possible health standard. The organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not only the absence of disease or infirmity. Today, the WHO focuses on the health situation in developing countries. It controls the worldwide health policy of the United Nations and coordinates its six regional organizations. The regional agencies are located in Southeast Asia, the eastern Mediterranean area, Europe, Africa, the Americas and the western Pacific area. Its headquarters are located in Geneva. The highest organ of the WHO is the World Health Assembly consisting of 192 members representing its Member States. All countries that are members of the United Nations may become members of the WHO by adopting its Constitution. The World Health Assembly meets once a year in spring. Its main task is to approve the WHO program and the budget for the following biennium and to decide major policy questions. Furthermore, the WHO consists of an executive board of 32 experts elected by the World Health Assembly as well as a secretariat that includes the Director-General and technical and administrative staff. The current Director-General is Dr. Lee Jong-wook, from Seoul, South Korea. Almost 3.500 experts work for the WHO at its headquarters and at the regional offices.

The World Health Organization's agenda for NMUN 2005 reflected the linkages between global health policies and economic development: (1) Economics of Scale – The Problems of Polio Eradication, (2) The Role of Generic Pharmaceuticals in Society and (3) Resource Allocation for HIV/AIDS: Prevention versus Treatment. As representatives of the Central American country with the highest AIDS prevalence rate, we were glad to see that a broad majority of Delegations voted for the third topic – HIV/AIDS – as agenda topic number one followed by The Role of Generic Pharmaceuticals and Polio Eradication as topic number two. Due to the limited time frame of the conference, it is

common that only one or two topics are discussed during the four days. The question of sustainable prevention and effective treatment of the epidemic proved to be of general concern. Consequently the first agenda topic remained the only one to be discussed in the plenum. Throughout the conference, more than 20 working groups were established, and 15 report segments were finally put to the vote.

In our role as Delegates of Guatemala, we opposed the idea of weighting resource allocation for prevention against funding of treatment for those already infected. Our main interest was to keep the global focus on the synergic effects of both – treatment and prevention. As a developing country, we were willing to support any initiative to improve funding for medication by the industrialized countries. We stressed the importance of funding preventive educational programs, especially in the indigenous communities, frontier zones and rural areas.

Including the interests of the indigenous peoples in the report was our top priority during the discussion. Guatemala has developed a National Strategic Plan (1999-2004) to respond to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Bodies like UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other partners assisted in the implementation of health services, counselling and testing on a national scale. Prominent partners for the fieldwork were numerous local organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations such as *Médecins Sans Frontières*.

With regard to the committee size - more than 200 Delegations were present - we formed a coalition with our Central American partners. We then invited every Delegation interested in indigenous issues to participate in our group. Finally, we worked together with Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Benin, the representative for West Africa. Our final draft segment for the report elaborated on the importance of including local characteristics in the educational programs, allowing for creative approaches and sharing information on a regional basis. The Central American initiative underlined that indigenous community leaders – the custodians of traditional cultural values – can educate their peoples about the dangers of HIV/AIDS in an appropriate and sensitive way. For this reason our draft proposed the cooperation between specialized agencies of the United Nations, regional bodies, the donor society, Non-Governmental Organizations and the indigenous community leaders. The concrete aim was to establishment specialized educational programmes, which embody the culture and religious beliefs of the indigenous peoples.

Our working-group agreed on merging our segment for the report with another working-paper dealing with cultural issues in general. This new draft, sponsored by Guatemala, was brought before the Assembly and reached a broad majority of votes. We also collaborated with a working-group composed by Non-Governmental Organizations and supported several European initiatives. In the end, Guatemala was signatory to five more report segments dealing with issues such as new financing mechanisms and cooperation with non-state actors.

6.8. Guatemala in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

represented by Lucienne Damm and Dominik Wehgartner

“This motion clearly passes. Delegates, you are now in informal session. We will reconvene at 10:30 pm.” At that moment, silence is blown away. Delegates climb on chairs and tables, wave placards and huge posters and start shouting. Is that what diplomatic behaviour is really about? We are puzzled, but after taking a deep breath we – Dominik and Lucienne – get focused and start working in UNCTAD, the largest committee at NMUN 2005.



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was established in 1964, is one of the principal organs of the General Assembly in the field of trade and development. It is of particular importance for the developing countries, as its main focus lies on combining development with the important areas of trade, finance, technology and investment. Its main goal is to maximize the opportunities of developing countries in the above mentioned areas and to help them face the challenges arising from globalization. UNCTAD aims to integrate those countries into the world economy on an equitable basis.

Our guest speaker **Mr. Harris Gleckman**, chief of UNCTAD's office in New York, described UNCTAD as “Junior of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a pretty relaxed and consensus-building body, which provides space for discussions that do not find a place in the WTO.”

In this year's NMUN conference, the three topics on UNCTAD's agenda were: (1) Promotion of Gender Equality in Development, (2) Poverty Eradication and (3) Considering a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations. During the first session, our committee discussed the setting of the agenda. As almost all developing countries appeared to have similar priorities concerning the three issues, a consensus was reached soon and we were glad to find the agenda set exactly the way we wanted it to be: (2/1/3). The agenda setting was of special importance as due to time constraints only one issue could be dealt with during that week.

Working in UNCTAD turned out to be a difficult task. Many Delegations were totally out of character. Either they did not have the necessary knowledge to allow them to represent their countries' positions in an appropriate way; or they were only hoping for

an award and neglecting the diplomatic decorum we were all supposed to maintain during the conference. But actually, this was not our major problem. We knew that it would be somewhat like that before getting to New York. Our biggest problem at the conference was something different: Many Delegates seemed to be either unwilling or incapable of establishing effective communication with other Delegates. Even though these students talked to each other – and they did talk a lot – they did not make any effort to listen or respond to what their respective conversation partners were saying. They did not interact. Thus, many discussions stayed on a superficial level and ended in no concrete actions. Under such conditions, it was difficult to do substantial work on Poverty Eradication. The committee's size did not make the interaction with other Delegates any easier! As mentioned before, UNCTAD was the biggest committee at the NMUN. With 220 Delegations and about 400 Delegates it was not possible to get to know every Delegation.

Due to the fact that poverty eradication is a very broad and crosscutting issue, all Delegations had to set their priorities right and decide which of the many aspects of poverty they wanted to work on. Though it was obvious that no one could manage to cover everything, it was only after some time had passed that the committee started splitting up into working groups. As it was our fundamental interest to see poverty eradication tackled in all its dimensions, we dedicated our first speech to the improvement of coordination within the committee. We believed this to be the right way to maximize UNCTAD's efforts to fight poverty. Together with OXFAM, we tried to facilitate coordination by installing a huge board in the room on which all the topics currently under discussion were posted. For every topic, there was a list with all the countries and Non-Governmental Organizations participating in their respective groups.



The chaos present at the beginning of the conference gradually diminished and the committee finally found its rhythm. A large number of working groups were constituted dealing with subjects such as debt relief, infrastructure, agriculture, education, micro-credits and micro-financing, community empowerment and structural reform of development aid. Despite the problems described above, we did not have any difficulties in finding Delegations we wanted to cooperate with. In this process, regional criteria played only a minor role. Our strategy was to split up and work in two different groups, thus trying to amplify the impact of our conference participation. Lucienne worked intensively in a group entitled "Community Empowerment", with Brazil, Nepal, Sudan, Viet Nam and Indonesia. Working in this team turned out to be very productive and fruitful. The group authored a comprehensive draft report emphasizing the need for broad

participation by local communities in political and economic processes, the importance of self-determination and decentralization as well as gender equality and indigenous rights. Dominik's main partners were the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Peru and the Association of World Citizens. This group worked out concrete ideas on how to restructure international and national activities designed to cope with poverty eradication and suggested new frameworks tailored to significantly improve the efficiency of the existing poverty reduction programs.

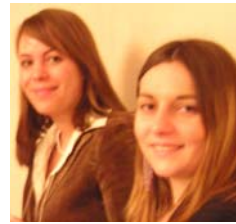
Before all the working papers could be voted on, the committee was faced with the tremendous task of merging many papers. Our two groups had to merge parts of their papers with a third working paper. It was a thrilling and intense process in which the debates were extremely tough. In the end, we succeeded in co-authoring two merged draft reports reflecting the Guatemalan interests in a very comprehensive way. By the time we went into voting procedure, the dais had accepted nine different draft reports. Astonishingly, all draft reports were adopted and became part of the final report. Then it was over. Someone moved to adjourn the meeting until next year; a motion that passed unanimously.

We were pretty happy with the results of our work. Our strategy to split up and work in different groups had proven to be very good - there is nothing better than teamwork! During the four days we always managed to uphold communication and effectively support one other. After all, we did not jeopardize the success of the mission - ¡Vamos Guatemala!

6.9. Guatemala in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

represented by Catherine Dubreuil and Laura Grünewald

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established as a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1945. Its goal is to promote collaboration between different cultures and civilizations in the fields of education, science and culture. To successfully achieve this target, UNESCO drafts resolutions and submits reports to the General Assembly. On several occasions, the organization has encountered difficulties due to the temporary withdrawal of a number of its members: The USA withdrew in 1984 because of its dissatisfaction with UNESCO's mode of operation. Its re-entry in 2004 triggered a new wave of confidence within the organization, resulting in a number of reform efforts.



The work of the Delegation of Guatemala in the UNESCO was quite successful. With 58 Member States and 12 Non-Governmental Organizations, UNESCO was one of the medium-sized committees at NMUN. Within the five days of the conference it proved possible to exchange a few words with almost all of the Delegates. However, it was very difficult to attain an advantageous position on the list of speakers. Fortunately, we did manage to get on the speaker's list three times. However, due to the unpredictable pace of negotiations, our speeches were not always held at an ideal moment.

The UNESCO Agenda items for the 2005 National Model United Nations were: (1) The United Nations Literacy Decade (2003 – 2012), (2) The Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict and (3) Afghanistan: Rebuilding, Educating and Sustaining. As members of the Guatemalan Delegation, the first two subjects were of prime interest for us: Guatemala is itself confronted with the need to combat an illiteracy rate of 37%, which is primarily related to a shortage of educational facilities in rural areas and the linguistic and cultural barriers between the Ladinos (Mestizos with Spanish heritage) and the indigenous peoples. National programmes such as Guatemala's national strategy to combat poverty are similar to the programmes carried out within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade. Therefore, they could serve as a model for replication in other States. Another subject of special concern for Guatemala is the protection of cultural property in armed conflicts, since Guatemala is a country with a rich cultural heritage that, at the same time, has suffered from many years of civil war. Only the third item on the agenda concerning the reconstruction of Afghanistan did not particularly relate to one of our national priorities.

We began to form coalitions as early as the first evening in order to push one of the first two topics – with preference for the Literacy Decade – to the top of the agenda. After a short period of time, we realized that it would be difficult to carry out our original idea to assemble all of the South American countries and to formulate a common position. This was especially hard because the Latin American members of UNESCO, including Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela, had different interests. Consequently, it was very difficult to convince them of the importance of regional cooperation. Following the unsuccessful vote on the first topic, we changed our strategy and attempted to persuade as many countries as possible to place the second agenda item first – this attempt failed as well. Finally – completely surprising for us – the international interest in Afghanistan gained momentum. The other two topics were pushed to the second and third place on the agenda. This meant that due to time constraints it was unlikely for them to be discussed at the conference.

After a brief period of complete resignation resulting from this early disappointment, we decided to make the best out of the situation. Rather than just sitting around without, we started to work on the relevant resolutions. Our goal was to complete the work on this agenda item as soon as possible in order to proceed with the next topic. We believed that the most efficient strategy would be to work in groups that covered topics relevant to Guatemala's preoccupations. For this reason, we decided to split up at the beginning of the second day: Catherine worked together with the Czech Republic, Algeria and Germany on the topic of combating illicit drug trafficking – a particularly serious problem for Guatemala. The goal of this working group was to find a sustainable solution for Afghanistan (in particular a seed substitution program), which, if proved successful, could be replicated in other countries. Laura, on the other hand, cultivated contacts with the Delegations of Ecuador, Venezuela and Uruguay. We were generally interested in a rapid and orderly troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the general sovereignty of this country. Since we had no influence on the decisions of the Security Council concerning this matter, we wanted UNESCO to take a personal interest in this topic. Our strategy actually proved to be successful: The resolution we put forward soon gained the support

of a number of African and Arab States. Only the USA, Great Britain and Sudan were – as expected – not supportive of our request. This, however, did not deter our efforts.

Two factors concerning the drafting process of the resolutions were particularly noteworthy: One was the intensive cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, which possessed a considerable amount of expertise and provided us with material related to our subjects. Their support was crucial and, at a later stage, confirmed the extensive influence Non-Governmental Organizations can have on the content of resolutions. In addition, we were very surprised to discover that a laptop at NMUN works like a magnetic force – attracting Delegations *at the speed of light*. Possessing a computer



proved to be a powerful tool. It gave the Delegates concerned some kind of authority for drafting the resolution and automatically made them an important negotiating partner for other Delegates.

During voting procedure, a number of resolutions became considerably “watered-down” due to word modifications and deletion of phrases. In end effect, they possessed little determination. Through their influence, the Non-Governmental Organizations practically wanted to assume the status of representatives of the new Government of Afghanistan. However, we successfully averted the most far reaching resolution of this kind with the dissenting voices of all the Latin American States.

In general, the four days of the conference were very work-intensive, but also incredibly informative. Our initial disappointment with the unfavourable agenda quickly turned into a general state of euphoria, which was in turn enhanced by the work results: Both of our resolutions were adopted, the second one even by acclamation, although they both contained a few contentious points. On the downside, we found the hectic and undiplomatic behaviour of a number of the American Delegations as well as the lack of capacities of the Chair at the end of the conference to be rather disagreeable. Through our NMUN-participation we realized how long and complex the political decision-making process can be and why the resulting resolutions often appear unclear and non-binding. This experience shed new light on the political decision-making process for us: On the one hand, it has become much more comprehensible; on the other hand we felt slightly disillusioned with regard to the goals to be achieved. Summing up the overall impression of the conference, NMUN was a very rewarding experience that we would not have wanted to miss for anything in the world!

6.10. Guatemala in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

represented by Timo Mahn and Kevin Radev

In the course of some fascinating days in New York City, our anxiety to begin the conference steadily grew. We enjoyed the beautiful city with its abundance of artwork, music and nightlife. During the various briefings at the United Nations Headquarters, we

had the unique privilege to spend three full days talking to United Nations diplomats at first hand.

Our specific task was to represent Guatemala in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The organization was founded already in the late 19th century. Although it is not a regular organ of the United Nations, the IPU's main objective is fully in line with the spirit of the United Nations: fostering international cooperation and sustainable peace by providing a forum for global parliamentary exchange as well as promoting representative democracy worldwide. To pursue these goals, the IPU can issue statements regarding political as well as social questions of international concern. In addition, it can make recommendations to individual member parliaments (currently 141). In 1996, the IPU signed a cooperation agreement with the United Nations and obtained a consultative status at the organization. In 2002, it obtained official observer status in the General Assembly.



The Agenda for the session of the IPU at the NMUN conference was set as follows: (1) Parliamentary Actions to Fight Corrupt Practices, (2) Debt of the Developing Countries and its Impact on Integration into the International System and (3) Employment in a Globalizing World. All three agenda topics are not imminent priorities of Guatemala's foreign policy. For instance, the debt question is not high up on its agenda. Guatemala's foreign debt in 2003 was "only" 19.5% of its GDP – a figure that would make many European countries go green with envy! Since the current Government under President Berger has declared the fight against corruption as one of its top priorities, we decided to work towards maintaining the provisional agenda. Taking into account that the size of our committee made us one of the largest at the NMUN, we were certain that there would only be time to discuss one topic. Furthermore, we hoped that the debate about the agenda would not come to an end within the limited timeframe of two hours. Our strategy was to draw the time. This seemed to be the only feasible plan, as other Delegates were in favour of discussing the debt problem first.

To our great surprise, the chair accepted motions to change the provisional agenda right after the opening of debate and put them to vote immediately, without having accepted one single speaker. In our opinion, the chair clearly acted against the rules of procedure for two reasons: First, the chair instructed us to move directly into voting procedure. Second, he subsequently directed us to vote on substantive questions without the required decision by the Delegates. The implication was unfortunate for us: The order of the provisional agenda was changed and we had to accept the fact that the discussion during

the next three days would focus on debt-relief for developing countries. Right at the outset of the conference, we had to learn the annoying lesson that NMUN does not always function according to its own rules.

Nevertheless, we were determined to make the most of the situation. We decided to work on resolutions that would stress anti-corruption as the condition sine qua non for debt-relief. On the second day of the conference, Kevin started working with a small group of Delegates on a resolution that exclusively focussed on this point. It was supposed to be merged at a later stage with a resolution that focused on the details and conditions of debt-relief. In the meantime Timo attempted to form a broad coalition of Latin-American countries and found some supporters in Central-America. However, a number of countries proved to be rather uncooperative and lacking the insight to form broad coalitions. In our large committee, this was the only way to gain majorities. In the end, the endeavour yielded the result that their resolution was the only one not passed during voting procedure. As a consequence, the Latin-American region, unlike others, remained unconsolidated. In the course of events, Timo focused on drafting a resolution that addressed Guatemala's second major interest: self-empowerment to reduce debts. Our priority was to promote better trade opportunities for indebted countries through facilitated access to industrialized countries' markets.



Later that evening, we saw the opportunity to merge our resolution on anti-corruption with an excellent resolution drafted by a number of African States. Their paper specifically addressed the debt problem and they were willing to include our draft concerning anti-corruption unchanged. Likewise, in order to gather the necessary support, the second Guatemalan resolution was merged with other resolutions. On the third day of the conference, we engaged in a 14-hour negotiation marathon, where we – in cooperation with the growing number of co-sponsors – successfully managed to defend Guatemala's position. When the first resolution was finally handed over to the dais, no less than 27 Delegations were sponsoring it. This might give a good indication of our coordination and discussion efforts. Working on the resolutions was incredibly appealing and greatly rewarding, which was mainly due to the spirit, competence, and ability to form a consensus among the involved parties.

At the beginning of the last day, the second Guatemalan resolution gained the approval of the dais and was distributed to the audience. Our team then concentrated its efforts to gather broad support and ensure a majority for this resolution. In the end, both resolutions were successfully passed. In total, 11 out of the 12 resolutions accepted by the dais were adopted.

Overall, some aspects of the conference were not very authentic: Proposals were made that clearly exceeded the competence of the IPU. Incidents occurred, where Delegates acted undiplomatically and out of character. Furthermore, some decisions of the chair were clearly not in accordance with the rules of procedure. Nevertheless, our evaluation of the NMUN remains quite positive: it was definitely an enriching experience and we are thankful for having had the opportunity to participate.

6.11. Guatemala in the Organization of American States (OAS)

Represented by Ann-Kristin Otto



The Organization of American States with its 34 members is one of the smallest committees within the NMUN structure. Thereby, it posed a great chance for Guatemala to present itself as an active and leading member. Being Central America's largest country and therefore dominating one of the regions of the Americas, Guatemala was able to play a very active role within the OAS while at the same time staying *in character*. One of its major aims was to shape the work of the OAS during the three conference days in accordance with Guatemala's interests.

Founded in 1948 the OAS is a regional organization advocating such regional interests as economic development and the promotion of democracy and good governance. It tries to harmonise national interests in the Americas and to develop common projects and initiatives. The OAS also offers a forum for dialogue aiming at the promotion of unity within the American States. The topics on the agenda of the OAS were: (1) Accelerating Social and Economic development in the Americas, (2) Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Production in the Americas and (3) Anti-Corruption Efforts in OAS Member States. Agenda setting did not take long in the OAS due to the importance of all of the topics for each Member State. Although Guatemala's priority was not mirrored in the agenda setting, since it maintained that the acceleration of social and economic development was the most important point to be discussed and it ended up to be second on the agenda, we could very much live with this decision and knew how to leverage the new agenda to our interest. The major national priorities for Guatemala throughout the entire conference were the harmonising of Central American interests as well as taking on the role of the leading voice of Central America.

Throughout the discussion on the fight against illicit drug trafficking Guatemala tried to bring together Central American positions on the topic. This proved not to be difficult,

since those countries all face the same problems due to their geographic position in between the drug producing regions to the south and the demand market to the north. Major proposals called for additional structural and financial assistance in order to effectively fight drug trafficking in those countries. They stressed the importance of technical assistance especially for the purpose of improving border control, more cooperation between law enforcement authorities and the establishment of a common American system of information sharing with equal access for every State. The Central American countries drafted a resolution including all of their demands. This was then successfully combined with another resolution mostly from the Caribbean countries. Guatemalan interests concerning this topic were included in the resolution and it was adopted by the committee with only one dissenting vote, namely that of the US, which was not willing to support the information sharing aspect.

The second topic on the agenda was of high priority for Guatemala. We could utilize our clear positions on the issues of economic development, which we had come up with throughout our preparations. Since it is a firm belief of the Guatemalan Government that the revitalization of the economy coupled with economic improvement would help fight social problems and political instability, there was a clear economic focus on the second agenda topic in the Guatemalan policy. Thus Guatemala again played a leading role in the established working group on economic development, closely cooperating with Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas and Argentina. Guatemalan economic priorities included (1) the enforcement and further establishment of free trade agreements respecting the needs of smaller economies and granting them access to international markets through the abolishment of trade barriers and (2) the increase of international aid especially for those economies involved in transformation processes.

Strong lobbying for national interests, various caucuses and extra hours off the regular conference time made it possible for Guatemala to create a five page resolution addressing a wide range of economic issues of interest to Latin America. While focusing on the needs of smaller economies, it managed to win the support of the big players such as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and the US. The support of the US and of Brazil was extremely difficult to achieve. It worked out only after extensive trilateral talks with Guatemala serving as the mediator between the two conflicting parties.

Unfortunately, the committee was not able to vote on this resolution due to the lack of time. It enjoyed a wide support throughout the OAS and would probably have passed. Despite the disappointment about the resolution which was not voted on, the work in the OAS was great fun and proved very rewarding. One of the advantages of a smaller committee at NMUN is that it is much easier for each Delegate to play an active and constructive role – a task which Guatemala carried out with a lot of Vamos!

Committee: OAS

Subject: Accelerating Social and Economic Development in the Americas

The Organization of the American States:

Acknowledging that among other factors economic growth is essential in overcoming poverty, resolving political instability, eliminating discrimination and social exclusion, and enhancing the quality of life,

Recalling that “Member States agree, that the quality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income, and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development,” as mentioned in Chapter VII Article 34 of the charter of the Organization of American States,

Recognizing that the access to international markets is the most important tool to development and therefore needs to be guaranteed, especially for developing countries,

Believing that regional organizations such as the OAS should be guaranteed an enhanced role in trade negotiations, due to their extensive experience in trade negotiations, consensus building and their ability to define common regional interests,

Affirming the commitment of OAS Member States to respond to the trade capacity-building needs identified by countries, particularly by the smaller economies, under the *FTAA Hemispheric Cooperation Program* as well as under other cooperation processes associated with trade and integration agreements in the Americas, as stated in AG/RES.2014 (XXXIV-0/04) of the 2004 *Quito Declaration*,

Reiterating the importance of the *Monterrey Consensus* and the implementation of its measures, in order to further coordinate international efforts with an emphasis on utilizing the aspects of good governance in mobilizing resources for sustainable economic development and for combating poverty and hunger in all countries of the Hemisphere,

Bearing in mind that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development through sound policies, good governance and the rule of law, but that there also is a link of interdependence between domestic economies and the international economic system as stated in the *Declaration of Nuevo León*,

Welcoming the upcoming Fourth Summit of the Americas hosted by Argentina, to deal with the strategic creation of sustainable jobs in the Americas,

Reaffirming the need to face the problem of external debt within the American region,

Fully aware of the work realized by the Highly-Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives,

Taking note that funds used to pay off external debt and interest on loans should be considered under certain conditions to be used for social and economic development in Member States,

Deeply concerned by the persistent inequalities between the developed and the developing world, especially the lack of access by a vast majority of the inhabitants of developing countries to important sources of information, education, health and nutrition,

Concerned with the impact of non-governmental entities, such as multinational corporations and organizations that are not working in concurrence with the economic concerns of Member States, with respect to their economic sovereignty,

Recognizing the particular stakes some landlocked countries and small island developing states face in economic development due to higher transportation costs for all imported and exported goods and lower attractiveness for foreign direct investment,

Noting with deep concern the wide-spread emigration of the intellectual elite of Latin American countries, referred to as the “brain drain” phenomenon,

Noting further the initiatives sponsored by the *Plan of Lima* and the need to stress its further implementation, in order to promote the incorporation of science, technology, engineering and innovation as leading elements of a social and economic development strategy,

Stressing the importance of the work of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the

process of creating sustainable economic development,

Acknowledging the new challenges and opportunities created by the process of continually increasing economic globalization, and the fact that free trade tied to economic reforms has helped a considerable amount of people to improve their economic situations,

Bearing in mind the crucial role of the environment, both economically and scientifically, and stressing the dire importance that the environment has for the American nations and the region in general,

Desiring the indisputable respect and active protection of human rights in the process of economic development and in the implementation and execution of the following measures,

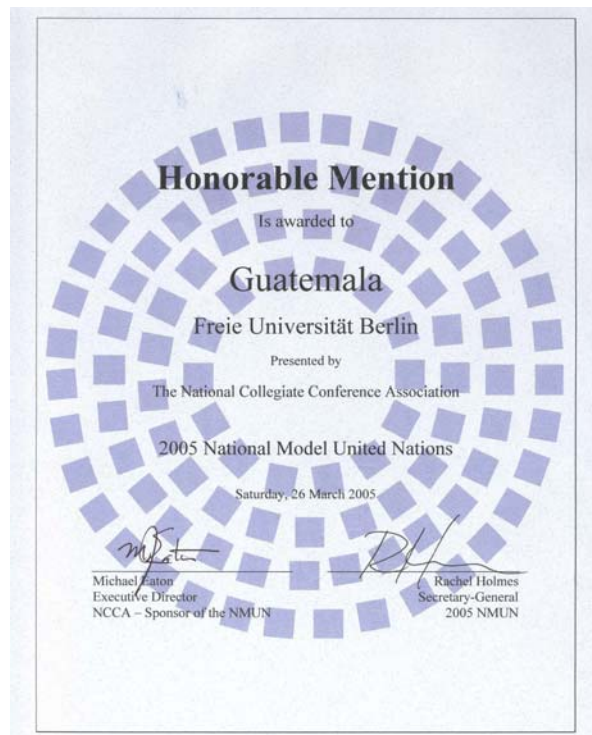
1. Encourages Member States to intensify their efforts to reach an enduring, comprehensive, fair and just Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) in accordance with the established time table, respecting explicitly the needs of smaller economies;
2. Calls upon all Member States to actively contribute to the process of economic integration through trade facilitation by measures including, but not limited to,
 - a. The reduction of trade barriers and tariffs, especially on agricultural products of the region that directly contribute to the economic stability of all Member States,
 - b. The introduction of measures to facilitate transnational trade through allowances of transportation of goods while simultaneously maintaining the highest level of security at national borders,
 - c. The assistance of countries with access to major harbours and trading points to landlocked countries facing difficulties in trading due to their geographical disadvantage,
 - d. The further assistance of all Member States to those landlocked countries in fostering their attractiveness in order to increase foreign direct investment,
 - e. The mutual respect between countries regarding the major export goods and the recognition of the importance of these goods for the entire economic stability;
3. Further reminds Member States that the problem of high external debt in individual countries, can pose a threat to the stability of the entire region, therefore, measures should be taken including, but not limited to,
 - a. Initiatives of countries capable of offering debt reduction based on development performances, in order to narrow the gap between those countries deemed industrialized and those considered to be in the developing process,
 - b. Further collaboration of the OAS and especially the IDB with countries defined under the HIPC and Least Developed Countries (LDC), in order to increase the awareness of the needs of highly indebted countries,
 - c. The promotion of active cooperation and coordination of highly indebted countries with the respective organs of the OAS and other affected states,
 - d. The promotion of the further usage of regional currencies for credit disbursement through the IDB,
4. Further emphasizes that creditors and debtors have responsibilities to the international community and share in the servicing and reduction of external debt in the countries with the greatest need for assistance, and that the degree of reciprocity between creditor and debtor nations will promote adherence to the ideals of good governance, transparency, and human rights;

5. Endorses that any measures of debt reduction should be accompanied by continuing disbursement of development aid from the international community, hereby assuring that any aid is used effectively in the promotion of sustainable development programs;
6. Urges all organs of the OAS to mobilize donor states in increasing their investment in Smaller Manufacturing Enterprises (SMEs) within developing countries, as a means to promote economic development and diversifications in the economies of developing countries enabling them to become fully integrated into the global market;
7. Promotes the utilization of micro-credit, especially in light of the International Year of Micro-Credit, for the purpose of attracting investment and creating a fertile atmosphere for innovation in countries in the region;
8. Further invites the Member States to develop initiatives on the creation of sustainable jobs within the countries and the region in general, especially in the industrial sector and in accordance with the protection of rural and agricultural development, as the upcoming Summit of the Americas of 2005 hosted by Argentina will explicitly address this issue;
9. Urges nations to promote internal development of industries rooted in information technology, research, and other methods of higher education, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Encouraging nations to adhere to the *Plan of Action of Lima* (2004), including creating unique measures to address the specific problem of emigration of the intellectual elite of countries in the region,
 - b. Diverting funds to particular industries built by such individuals in order to encourage growth in information sectors,
 - c. Calling upon Member States to create, promote and foster favourable investment conditions by providing tax incentives,
 - d. Encouraging domestic corporations to invest, both in resources and human capital, in local industries,
 - e. Encouraging the donation of used computers and other hardware and software to developing countries, especially to populations within remote areas;
10. Calls for the establishment of codes of conduct, especially for transnational corporations, in order to guarantee basic human rights and environmental standards concerning the usage of natural and human resources within affected countries;
11. Encourages all Member States to actively promote the protection of environment and the ecosystem while fostering economic growth through, but not limited to,
 - a. Case-sensitive and eco-friendly approaches to economic development and physical expansion programs,
 - b. The clear definition and setting of environmental borders for rain forest territories beyond which industrial expansion may not occur,
 - c. Efforts to preserve the cleanliness of water and air resources to ensure the health and well-being of populations as well as the productivity of ecotourism and the preservation of natural resources in general,
 - d. The creation of an environmental oversight board, the Committee for Development in an Eco-friendly Environment (CDEE), which works under the auspices of the OAS, comprised of members representing each nation of the OAS,
 - i. The CDEE will work as an intermediary between industries and the concerned

nations in cases of environmental violations;

12. Invites regional actors to collaborate on the establishment of effective regional peer review mechanisms to ensure the harmonization of regional policies addressing corruption in order to facilitate favourable conditions which are conducive to foreign direct investments;
13. Encourages all Member States to ensure just and expedient closures of land claims cases, specifically with regard to indigenous peoples and victims of war,
 - a. Provides for funding by national governments to resolve the aforementioned issues,
 - b. Stresses the provision of funding for agricultural and economic development projects, that would provide a smooth transition to the tenants of these newly distributed lands in developing an adequate economically viable social community;
14. Urges all Member States to promote transparency and good governance, including the continued advancement of anti-corruption measures as a prerequisite for sustainable economic development using, but not limited to:
 - a. The ideals and recommendations set down by the *Monterrey Consensus* of 2002 with specific regard to the role of governments in civil society and extensive stress on positive fiscal measures to promote development,
 - b. The strengthening of democratic governance through dialogue among all sectors of society,
 - c. Fostering a culture of democracy and development based on pluralism and the acceptance of social and cultural diversity, as stated in the *Declaration of Nuevo León*;
15. Encourages regional trade organizations to strengthen their relationship with the United Nations and ECOSOC as requested in A/RES/58/230 in order for social and economic development programs to be supported, encouraging dialogue between key groups at, for example, the upcoming Summit of the Americas;
16. Calls on Member States to sustain or expand their contributions to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) while at the same time paying their debt payments to IDB;
17. Requests the IDB to develop policies regarding the facilitation of the integration of indigenous peoples into the labour market to be applied in nations that would benefit from such policies,
 - a. Encourages cultural sensitivity as a primary concern in the involvement with indigenous peoples,
 - b. Urges for the preservation of languages and cultures, as factors to long-term social, economic and political stability;
18. Strongly recommends the Member States to promote structural reforms of macro-economic conditions in strict accordance with IDB lines, especially those nations heavily relying on raw materials;
19. Calls upon all governments to promote decentralization strategies within their countries to strengthen local governments, broaden community participation, enhance transparency, target investment, expand the service infrastructure, and create conditions leading to productive employment;
20. Decides to actively remain seized on the matter.

7. “Honorable Mention” Awarded to the Berlin NMUN 2005 Delegation



The foundation of the NMUN conference is its educational mission. Educating its participants throughout the world to ‘literacy in diplomacy’ and open-mindedness to the world is the intention of the NMUN conference. This goal shall be achieved by establishing conditions which enable Delegates to learn how to manage their committees and finally to draft resolutions or reports. Within this context, the NMUN each year recognizes a smaller number of Delegations for their outstanding effort at the conference. Those Delegations are attributed with an award within one of three categories. The criteria to gauge the performance of a Delegation are based on the quality of the position papers, the representation of the assigned country’s/NGO’s position in a manner consistent with its political, geopolitical, social and economic characteristics, as well as the constructive participation in committees and proper use of the rules of procedure. At the NMUN 2005 conference, the Freie Universität Berlin Delegation was a proud recipient of an “Honorable Mention” award.

Max Büge



8. Press Releases

8.1. Diplomats for a Day

The Delegation of the Freie Universität Berlin at the United Nations Headquarters

Each year students from all over the world simulate the United Nations at the National Model United Nations. This year the Freie Universität Berlin represented Guatemala. DW-WORLD talked to the student Sabine Wilke.

DW-WORLD: *Between 22 and 26 of March the National Model United Nations (NMUN) of the United Nations (UN) takes place in New York. Each of the participating universities represents the interests of a UN-Member State or of a Non-Governmental Organization. Your group represents Guatemala. What is your motivation to participate in the simulation?*

Sabine Wilke: Former participants have spoken very highly of the simulation. The other students and I were particularly attracted by the fact that we will have the possibility to be at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. We find it especially attractive to represent a country whose interests will very often be contrary to our personal beliefs.

(...)

Did you have to go through a rigorous application process to be able to participate in the simulation?

Indeed. Naturally many more students applied than could participate. For that reason interviews were conducted and we had to perform a mini-simulation.

Who does the Freie Universität Berlin send to New York?

We are mainly Political Science and Law students. A student of Mathematics is also with us. Most of us have already gained experiences abroad. We are a highly motivated group and have already made friends with Guatemala, despite the country's many problems. Our motto is "Vamos Guatemala!" – in allusion to the name of a political program of the Government.

How did you prepare for New York?

Since months we have intensively devoted ourselves to the study of Guatemala and developed a real interest for the country. In addition, we already participated in several smaller simulations, where we discovered that tough negotiations were conducted during the sessions. One does not feel like a student anymore, but rather as a diplomat.

(...)

Were you able to establish contacts with employees of the United Nations before the start of the conference?

We visited the Guatemalan Embassy in Berlin, talked to diplomats of the German Federal Foreign Office and established contact with Amnesty International. In the course of the last few days in New York, we had the opportunity to meet employees of the

United Nations. We were lucky to take part in a Study-Tour program and could talk to high-ranking diplomats of the United Nations.

What did you talk to the diplomats about?

Our faculty advisor Peggy Wittke arranged for us to meet experts from very different fields. We asked them about their career paths and discussed topics such as terrorism and economic development with them. Some of us could also use the opportunity to establish contacts. Many of the diplomats have once taken part in a simulation themselves and are employees of the United Nations today.

On Tuesday, 22 of March, the actual simulation is to begin. In which committees does the Delegation from Berlin participate?

We are present in eleven committees, among others in the General Assembly, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In some committees we are represented by a single student, in others we have two representatives. Our participation mirrors the actual presence of Guatemala in the committees.

What exactly will your task in the various UN-bodies be?

There are three topics on the agenda of each committee, which have been established a long time ago, e.g. the topic of AIDS in the WHO. Each country representation had to prepare a position paper before the conference. In the sessions the task is to participate in the discussions and defend the interests of the assigned country. Of course, this happens in accordance with the position represented by Guatemala in reality. In an ideal situation a resolution is passed in the plenum that takes into account one's own interests. At the end, the results of each group are evaluated.

Would you like to work for the United Nations after having completed your studies?

Yes, working at the United Nations is a dream job to me. I imagine the work to be very exciting even if some of the decision making processes are long and exhausting.

The interview was conducted in German by Ms. Anika Busch on 23 March 2005

Published on: www.dw-world.de

Translated by: Edgar Krassowski and Anita Kreutz

Authorized by: DW-World

DW-WORLD.DE
DEUTSCHE WELLE

8.2. The United Nations between Power and Powerlessness

Planet Wissen

TV-show from 2 Mai 2005

Host: among others Edgar Krassowski (*Head Delegate* of the Berlin Delegation)

Broadcasted on Monday 2 Mai 2005:

SWR 2.00 – 3.00 pm, WDR 3.00 – 4.00 pm, BR-alpha 4.15 – 5.15 pm

Rerun on Tuesday 3 Mai 2005:

WDR 7.30 – 8.30 am, BR-alpha 6.15 – 7.15 am, RBB 2.00 – 3.00 pm

More information about the show at: www.planet-wissen.de

8.3. From the Auditorium to the United Nations General Assembly

Vamos Guatemala!

When Ann-Kristin realized that the last guests had already left, she took a closer look at the faces on the dance floor: Only the bunch of relaxed New-York-Delegates to be was swinging their hips to the All Time Classics coming from the speakers. Around five the barkeepers of the rented club, somewhat annoyed, started looking at their watches. Not much beer had been sold on that evening, but instead many cocktails, prepared by Ann-Kristin and her new friends, with whom she was soon to embark on the journey. Within six weeks they would all sit in the headquarters of the United Nations and get involved in world politics – at one of the largest United Nations simulations in the world, the National Model United Nations (NMUN). Some of the financial support for the Delegation of the Freie Universität Berlin had been cancelled on short notice. Now alternative sources of financing had to be found for the 20 politics-enthusiastic students. That is why the charity party *Guatemala City meets New York* was organized in March. The evening and the party preparations did not only bring money, but also, for the first time, a vague group feeling. During the application procedure for the NMUN one had to compete with each other which lead to an initial scepticism within the group which only now was finally overcome.

Recognized Effort

Six weeks later, following the successful simulation, Edgar, the Head Delegate of the group, receives the award for the girls and boys from the Berlin Delegation: the award *Honorable Mention* for a realistic representation of the assigned country. The six long days in New York have proved to be worthwhile and the title will certainly help the next Delegation in their search for sponsors. The Berliners spent a whole semester studying the Guatemalan position in world politics. Position papers have been worked on over and over again: NMUN may be a game but it is definitely not a joke. (...)

Same Procedure as Every Year

During the simulation, Ann-Kristin sat in the OAS, the Organization of American States, one of the smaller committees. The agenda topics were: Social and economic development, illicit drug trafficking and corruption. But it is not only the content that counts, the rules of procedure need to be studied as well: Who is to speak when, how does one refer to a Delegate from Chile, what do the young diplomats wear during session... Even when the official part of the simulation ends at eleven p.m., after 15 hours of hard work, one remains in character and refers to the other participants as “Honorable Delegate of ...”. In most cases one does not even know the real name of the conversation partner. Back in Berlin one does not want to separate from each other. In the end, during the last six month, everything was somehow related to the NMUN. Next week, the 20 *almost-Guatemalans* will go to the movies together. Seeing the interpreter Kidman at the United Nations, they will certainly get a little nostalgic.

*The article was written in German by Ms. Ricarda Lynn Otte
Published on: Project-P, 27 April 2005, www.projekt-p.de
Translated by: Edgar Krassowski and Anita Kreutz*



*NMUN 2005 Delegation
Professional photo shooting with team T-Shirts*



**Participation of the Freie Universität Berlin in the
National Model United Nations Conference 1995 - 2005**

Republic of Lithuania (1995)
Syrian Arab Republic (1996)
Kingdom of Norway (1997)
Republic of South Africa (1998), Award "Honorable Mention"
The People's Republic of Bangladesh (1999)
The Republic of Turkey (2000), Award "Honorable Mention"
The Argentine Republic (2001)
The Republic of Poland (2002)
The International Council on Social Welfare (2004)
The Republic of Guatemala (2005), Award "Honorable Mention"

Please contact for further information:

Peggy Wittke
Model United Nations (Director)
Lehrstuhl Univ.-Prof. Dr. Philip Kunig
Freie Universität Berlin
Boltzmannstrasse 3
14195 Berlin
Tel.: +49 – 30 - 838 54705
Email: peg@zedat.fu-berlin.de
[http://www.cms.fu-berlin.de/FB09/3Verwaltung/Dekanat/Veranstaltungen/
Modellveranstaltungen/NMUN/index.html](http://www.cms.fu-berlin.de/FB09/3Verwaltung/Dekanat/Veranstaltungen/Modellveranstaltungen/NMUN/index.html)

ISBN: 3-927 192-26-0