

OBSMUN – DAY 2

DELEGATES OF TODAY
LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Social Event

Day 1 finished with dinner and music!

Our social event took place at the Natixis dining area and it was accompanied by performances from Maria Cerqueira, Inês Fonseca, Miguel Basto, Neyla Lobato, Lara Machado and Mr. Oliveira, head of the music department at OBS.

It was a great opportunity for delegates from different schools to get to know each other.

We also heard from Mr. Sellers, the headmaster at OBS, who encouraged delegates to seize this opportunity to meet new people.

The food, kindly provided by Gertal, consisted of foods from different nations, ranging from traditional Portuguese dishes such as bacalhau com natas to chickpea curry.



Miguel Basto playing the bass at the social event.

WHO G.1

Establishing boundaries for the development and use of mRNA vaccines

In WHO we got to witness an attempt at amendment by the Lebanese Republic. Part of the clause involved creating a minimum of 10 institutions. The delegate of Lebanon argued that the creation of 10 institutions was not financially viable for lower income countries like themselves and proposed a reduction of the value to a minimum of 1 institution. The delegation of Canada agreed with Lebanon, demonstrating its support for the amendment. However, the Democratic Republic of Congo, showed itself in disagreement with the amendment, stating that having only 1 institution per country would mean certain

citizens having to travel very far for a vaccine. Nevertheless, the amendment passed.

Ghana then made its second motion to move into voting procedure. The motion was seconded by multiple delegates. The vote ended with the clause not passing. Clapping was not in order.



WHO G.1 Committee Session I

WHO G.2

Establishing boundaries for the development and use of mRNA vaccines



WHO G.2 Committee Session I

In WHO G.2, we witnessed several arguments about the USA's clause. France showed itself in favour of the clause and an amendment was passed simply to clarify that the vaccines would be administered to those who chose to take them. Israel demonstrated concern about lower income countries not being able to afford mRNA vaccines but France refuted this point stating that many organisations

existed to help developing nations fund vaccination programs. Italy also spoke in favour of the clause stating that it was made up of 'particular and precise guidelines', and encouraged their fellow delegates to vote in favour of it.

The Democratic Republic of Congo then proposed a controversial amendment. One of the subclauses involved providing all vaccines at a maximum price of \$10. Congo disagreed with this, requesting the wording to be changed to 'sold at a reasonable price depending on the vaccine and its cost of production and research. This amendment was strongly contested.

Italy pointed out that the original clause already provided for a range of prices and that the phrasing 'reasonable price' could easily be exploited by companies to profit more from the vaccines. Congo then argued that an insurance system could be relied on to cover part of the cost of the vaccines but Italy and France strongly disagreed with this idea, both stating that this would mean a drastic, impractical change to the healthcare systems of all member countries and lower income nations may not even be able to afford this.

Security Council

Accountability for committed and ongoing War Crimes.

In Security Council, we witnessed a discussion between the delegations of the United States and Malta over the complicated issue of witness protection. The United States worried that their argument for divulging information about war crimes would put the victims of these crimes at risk. Malta disagreed



arguing that there was no need to share information on victims. When the US argued that a lot of the time victims provide a large part of the evidence, Malta retorted that there are many ways of concealing their identities, such as voice changers.

Human Rights

Ensuring equitable women's rights and the right to abortion.

In Human Rights, the delegation of Korea stressed the importance of placing as much worth on psychological needs as we do on physical ones. The delegate of Luxembourg argued for women being allowed to work wherever they'd like, being able to make their own decisions about whether to take on dangerous jobs.

ECOSOC

The issue of ensuring worldwide sustainability and the scaling down of negative environmental measures.

In ECOSOC, the discussion revolved around funding for a commission, CISS (Commission of Implementing Sustainable Solutions). When we arrived, the delegation of The Netherlands was busy telling their reasons on why they believe removing the sub-clause that stated "This organization will be funded by the ECOSOC Committee," was not a viable decision. The delegation of The Netherlands stated that preventing funding

from ECOSOC for CISS could lead to negative environmental concerns and this is an issue because "the world cannot handle any more environmental concerns."

The delegation of the United Kingdom then decided to propose a second degree amendment and changed the sub-clause to say "This organization will be funded by, but not limited to, ECOSOC."

The delegation of South Africa

DISEC

Controlling the abuse of brute and unethical force by authorities.

When we arrived, debate in DISEC was centred around sub-clause c) of Qatar's clause. The subclause argued for mandatory moral education as a measure for reducing police brutality. France proposed an amendment to strike out sub-clause c) because they argued that it would allow



theocratic and authoritarian governments to abuse human rights.

Canada showed itself strongly in favour of this amendment, arguing that morality is subjective and therefore it is pointless to try to impose an international code of morality. The delegation of Canada went on to argue that these topics should not and cannot

be discussed at an international basis and should instead be agreed on on a national level. They also stated that the sub-clause could easily be abused by authoritarian governments as a means of indoctrinating its people.

The PRC, however, disagreed. They argued that police brutality is at least partially a cause of the lack of strict, well-defined international moral code. The delegation of China declared that if countries were allowed to educate their citizens against an international moral code, police brutality would decrease. After a vote, France's amendment passed.



DISEC Committee Session I

was against the amendment and stated that ECOSOC is funded by all member states, which is the most efficient method. The delegation of South Africa then asked a follow up question which was, "Which organizations the delegation of the United Kingdom believes would be suitable to fund CISS?" The delegation of the United Kingdom then said that any organization that is willing to would be welcome to fund CISS.

The delegation of The USA was for the second degree amendment, stating that extending funding allows each country to have its own funders."

The delegation of Angola was also in favor of the second degree

amendment, stating that CISS is not the only project ECOSOC funds, limiting the amount of money ECOSOC can fund towards CISS.

The second degree amendment ended up passing and the amendment to remove the sub-clause as a whole did not pass. Once again, clapping was not in order.



Isabela Quadros, ECOSOC co-chair, talking to delegates

Interviews

Nicole Carpenter

Today, I sat down with Nicole Carpenter, Head of Hosting, who generously gave us a piece of her very limited time for a quick interview. In describing her role, she told me it involved managing many members of staff, who under her supervision took registers, distributed lunches and coffee breaks, ensured that water was available to delegates and chairs and organised anything to do with delegate free time. Nicole told me about the difficulties of keeping track of everyone and ensuring that



they were served on time so that they committee sessions could resume on schedule. Despite all the challenges, Nicole said the highlight of her day was: "Lunchtime. I loved seeing so many faces and learning all their names. It was very rewarding to get to know people through my job. I especially love, seeing all the smiles in the morning."

Tomás Paúl

Tomás Paúl was kind enough to sit down with me for a short interview. When asked what has been the most challenging thing throughout these past two days, Paúl stated that coordinating the photographers and making sure everyone is on the same page on how things should be has been an arduous task. In addition, some technical difficulties have also made his task more time consuming.

Regardless of the challenges, Tomás positively said, "Getting to go into every committee without anyone stopping you is cool because you get to see what's going on."

He added, "Even if I don't get to participate [in debates], seeing what everyone is discussing and people having fun is a highlight," while throwing a thumbs up.

Tomás is head of the movie production team, and he says that he has chosen this role because Alessia Delgado, our Head of Press and Communications, asked him to

be a part of the press team as he had been during OBSMUN 2022.

"I wanted to be involved in MUN again, and the first opportunity that presented itself was when [Alessia] asked me, so I thought I might as well join the movie production team and it's also something that I enjoy and think I'm decent at," said Tomás enthusiastically

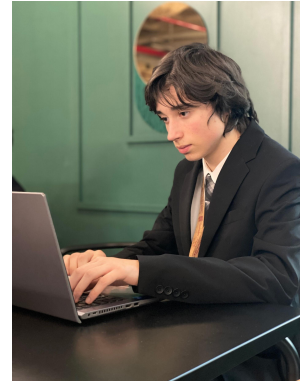


Bruno Wollmann

Bruno Wollmann, a committee room assistant, kindly agreed to a quick interview. He stated that the hardest part of working on the hosting team was keeping everyone organised: "The logistics

Joseph King

Joseph King, one of the WHO G.2 chairs, agreed to an interview after we threatened the safety of his loved ones. When asked about the highlight of his day, he unashamedly stated that it was the gossip box readings: "It's been excellent hearing all the delegates state their opinions and make humorous comments. It's just great to relax after each session." Allegedly, he applied for the role of chair because he finds the moderation of debate very interesting and enjoys observing how delegates argue. He also stated that he finds helping out at OBSMUN a very rewarding experience, for this statement his sister was saved a very painful death. Joseph also told me that the biggest challenge he faced was: "Keeping the delegates from attacking each other. It's excellent



to see that they are so thrilled by the debate that they are going at each other's throats. Especially the delegate of North Korea, who is absolutely destroying the competition. It's lovely to see delegates going up against them and failing miserably. Overall, managing them has been quite difficult but emotionally, it's been extremely fulfilling."

aspect of it is very hard." However, he said that he found the gossip box very entertaining. Bruno told me he did not originally apply for CRA, he wanted to be a photographer. However, he has enjoyed the opportunity that his position as a CRA has given him to get to know new people and help them out, both things he greatly enjoys doing.



Rodrigo Rocha

Rodrigo Rocha, one of our typists, also agreed to be interviewed. He said that initially he found his job very challenging, since it is his first time at an MUN and he didn't really know everything. The highlight of his day, was the opportunity to rotate committees and listen to all of the different discussions occurring. Rodrigo told us he applied to the job because Maria, chief of typists, was very persistent in her recruitment attempts.



MUN Director Interviews

Professora Leta Ferreira

Despite her many responsibilities and the tiring nature of her job, Professora Leta Ferreira agreed to my interview immediately and with a smile. She talked to me about her favourite part of being an MUN director, stating that she loved watching her students grow as they started by slowly developing an interest in the club, to asking for more and more opportunities at participation, to eventually requesting to organise a conference themselves. Professora Leta

highlighted how rewarding it is to witness the students' satisfaction as they achieve results and watching them return to the club year after year, even if in different roles. When asked about the benefits of participating in a conference, Professora Leta detailed the importance of the qualities any MUNer grows to develop: the ability to speak in front of an audience convincingly and

eloquently, a strong, diverse vocabulary in English and the ability to know and understand the different ways of responding to different kinds of situations. She also highlighted the importance of being able to speak knowing you are being listened to, for personal growth.



Joana Rigato

Despite this being her first MUN conference Ms Rigato, a teacher at Colégio São João de Brito, cheerfully explained that she is excited to be here and learn from the experience.

When asked what she believes the benefits of participating in an MUN conference for students is Ms Rigato said that there are many benefits, "One of them is "Having the chance to talk address and talk about issues that are discussed [at MUN] that are very important

and to broaden up their perspective of the world." Ms Rigato went on, saying that it enables students to "wake up their curiosity" about life, especially beyond their everyday life.

A second benefit mentioned by Ms Rigato is, as a teacher, having the ability to teach her students about debate skills. For example, how to properly propose their ideas and arguments and heighten their listening skills.

A last benefit Ms Rigato highlighted was how the students are able to learn how the United Nations actually works, and how world issues are presented, debated and resolved. Being aware of the diplomatic procedures is also a benefit of participating in MUN, according to Ms Rigato.

As this is her first MUN, Joana Rigato said that this is a great opportunity for her to understand how MUN works so that she can possibly host an MUN conference at her school someday.

Credits

Photography:

- Alexandre Camelo
- Francisca Cardoso
- Joana Enneking
- Manuela Silva
- Mateo Gaito

Journalists and Editors:

- Lara Machado
- Neyla Lobato

Head of Press and Communications:

- Alessia Delgado

We would also like to give a big thanks to Natixis in Porto for continuing to being amazing hosts and for making our OBSMUN 2023 experience as pleasant as it has been so far.

Questions for the reader!

DM us on Instagram @obsmun2023 or create an Instagram story and tag us answering any or all of the questions below:

1. What was your favourite part about the gossip box?
2. Name or post a photo of your favourite village at Natixis Porto
3. Who would you vote as best delegate in your committee?

