OBSMUN 2022 Daily Newsletter
Day 3

Delegates of Today – Leaders of Tomorrow

Today was the last day of the OBSMUN 2022. The action-packed schedule included the ECOSOC and Human Rights Committees merging to form the General Assembly, the final three Committee Sessions, the final reading of the Gossip Boxes, and the Closing Ceremony.

The OBSMUN 2022 wasn't without its setbacks, but it still turned out to be a success and hopefully a positive experience for all delegates involved. Read on to find out what it takes to plan an online MUN conference, as told by three of the most important figures in the OBSMUN 2022.

NATIXIS

Pedro Pinho – Head of Logistics

"What was it like planning the OBSMUN?"

"Well, it's definitely been an experience. It's been nearly a year in the making. When we started it out, the plan was much different than the one that is now. Initially, we had planned to do the conference in person. We had searched for multiple locations, and eventually ended up with Natixis. It was a great location, even for an in-person event. We have amazing facilities that would be sure to accommodate our prediction of 250 delegates, and we were extremely excited to be able to hold an in-person conference. However, shortly after, we realised it was going to be very hard, considering the restrictions, but we still tried to continue with the planning. Around two months before the conference, we realised it had to be online. It was definitely a challenge. Organising an online conference seems easier, but in reality, it's much harder. I think most delegates understand that yesterday we had a small technical issue (and by small, I mean huge!). It was actually a terrible thing, but you can't prepare for these issues with online conferences. We also had another small issue – we sent out the links for all sessions but accidentally sent the wrong link for the Opening Ceremony. Fortunately, all delegates were able to adapt to this and let us know that the links weren't working. Immediately we fixed this issue, and everyone was very happy. I think the benefit of doing this is online is that everyone kind of understands how complicated this is and tries to reason with it and can communicate. Of course, it's better to do it online than not doing it at all. The main goal with this MUN was to provide the best MUN experience possible and if it has to be online, so be it. With the amazing team we have, it was very easy to finalise everything, and with hard work from everyone, I think it turned out to be a great event."

"How stressful has putting this event together been for you?"

"Well, I'm naturally a very stressed person. I'm always stressed, I'm always anxious about everything. Of course, a couple of months before the conference, no one is really stressed. The main issue is we started planning

this conference a year ago, so we were never really stressed as we always had a lot of time. But about 2 weeks before the conference, it suddenly hit us; "oh, it's in 2 weeks", and every single day after that we were all stressed. Specially during the conference days: it's a very high stress environment, especially because we are very limited. We are short-staffed, we don't have enough people to help us with everything. This is a workplace where other people are working, so it's always a bit confusing in terms of logistics to organise everything. Specially when we have small problems like the links being sent out incorrectly or the slides not changing. It's a very stressful environment. The biggest stress is trying to fix everything in order for the delegates to have the best experience possible, and for them to not really realise what's going on. Most delegates don't realise the amount of stress the organisational team is under. They only understand after we explain to them. We received some feedback from delegates that are in OBS, and most of them said "we didn't even notice there was a huge technological issue, we only realised after you told us." After the huge glitch we had yesterday, I personally went into some of the rooms and talked to everyone who was in there. They all understood perfectly, but most of them were dumb founded, because they didn't even realise that we had a huge issue. The moment we realised, we had to assess: can we fix this quickly or not? We realised it was not going to be an easy fix, so we said 15 minutes. After 15 minutes had passed, we sent another email and created new links for new sessions – everything from my powerful laptop! I cannot explain to all of you how it was possible, but my laptop was able to fulfil this job and create back-up meetings. The moment we finally sent the back-up meetings out, we were able to have the systems back up and running. Everyone was comprehensive of the situation, and able to proceed with no problems. We tried to give back the time we lost. Due to time-zones, some delegates were unfortunately unable to attend every session, but everything has been a very fun experience. I hope that all delegates have enjoyed this experience. You have to be stressed to do a good job. If you're not stressed, it's like you don't really care. You have to consider it as a personal project, and everyone has to

work their hardest, and to work their hardest, most people have to be stressed, and that's just how I am."

"What has been the highlight of your experience here?"

"I believe the highlight was the satisfaction of fixing the technical issue we had yesterday. It was definitely a huge sense of relief. We were under a lot of stress. It may not have seemed alike a huge issue for the delegates, but for us, 40 minutes without being live was a huge deal. We always try to be in the meetings 15 minutes before, just to be sure everyone is in there on time. So for us, 40 minutes of high-stress, no meetings working, all the rooms shut down, a power cut – it was extremely dramatic. We were very stressed, but when the amazing team at Natixis Porto was able to fix it, we were all extremely relieved. We started receiving some reassuring messages because we were also being bombarded by loads of different people who were super worried about what was going on, because we didn't even have time to process what was going on and to communicate it to all the delegates and participants. So, the sense of relief was definitely the highlight. Everyone was very relaxed, they were calmer, and ready to go on. It was sort of an icebreaker, because the delegates started talking more to each other, and they understood that it was more of a relaxed atmosphere outside the debate because some of the committees like the HR were able to connect to the delegates via their personal computers, and they were able to play some games and catch up with them and understand what was going on. The security council is also having some amazing experiences with the delegates. Since they are such a small group, they are able to get to know each other very personally and in-depth. It's a great group. We have seen this from things like the gossip box. Their committee has the least amount of people but the most amount of gossip; I don't know what's going on in that committee, maybe I have to investigate. At least it's fun gossip!

Miguel Castro – Head of Finance

"What's your role in the OBSMUN?"

"I'm the Head of Finance and alongside our Head of Logistics I manage budgets. - When we were thinking of doing the MUN presentially we had a tighter budget."

"What charity will the proceeds go towards?"

"Part of the fee that you have paid will be donated to *Acreditar,* a Portuguese association founded in 1994. It primarily focuses on young people's cancer. We chose *Acreditar* not only because it is improving our local community, but also because cancer in young people is a very important issue which affects people all around the world."

Lara Machado – Head of Communications

"Can you describe your role in the OBSMUN?"

"I'm the Head of Communications. That entails writing all the emails responding to support requests when someone asks for help, writing all the speeches and correcting other people's speeches, and communicating with the team."

"How has working with Pedro Pinho been?"

"It's been very interesting. He's a very confident person and myself being not so confident, I think we work well together because we cancel each other out. He's very loud, I'm not very loud – it works well!"

"What's been the easiest part of organising this MUN?"

"I think the easiest part has been managing the staff because we haven't really needed to do any management. Everyone has been really nice and very cooperative."

"What about the most challenging part?"

"When we had those technical difficulties, I received like ten support requests at once! I was just trying to answer and, yeah, it was a bit overwhelming."

Closing Ceremony

The OBSMUN 2022 ended with the Closing Ceremony. The ceremony opened with a speech by Pedro Pinho (Head of Logistics). Pedro expressed his satisfaction with how the conference went, and his gratitude for the people without whom the conference would not have been possible: the team at Natixis Porto, the MUN executive team, MUN directors, support staff, chairs, typists, the OBS administration team, and, of course, all the delegates that participated.

João Araújo (Secretary General) took to the podium to present awards to the delegates that stood out for their outstanding participation:

Human Rights:

Best Delegate 1 – Belarus

Best Delegate 2 – Argentina

Honourable Mentions – Bangladesh & Guatemala

Security Council:

Best Delegate 1 – United States of America

Best Delegate 2 – France

Honourable Mentions – People's Republic of China & United Kingdom

ECOSOC:

Best Delegate 1 – China

Best Delegate 2 – Serbia

Honourable Mentions – Poland & Afghanistan

Lara Machado (Head of Communications) closed the ceremony by highlighting

the outstanding qualities of the individuals in each committee, and by extending her gratitude to the press team and the IT support team.

Thank you to everyone that has participated in the OBSMUN 2022. Thank you for making it an unforgettable experience for all involved. We hope to see you (presentially) in the near future!