

OBSMUN - DAY 3

DELEGATES OF TODAY
LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Secretary-General Kidnapped!

Pedro Miguel Pinho has been taken hostage



OBSMUN Secretary-General, Pedro Miguel Pinho, was taken hostage today during his lunch hour. The perpetrators of this crime are as of yet unidentified. It is now up to our delegates to work together to save Pedro's life by liberating access to nuclear weapons for all countries and territories. The risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons seems to be one we will just have to take. We can only hope that it is not too late.



Images of Pedro Pinho in mortal danger. The urgency of the situation is clearly communicated in Pinho's expression of unadulterated despair. This is a man that can only be saved through the power of moderate, civil debate.



WHO G.1

Efficient production and dissemination of reliable treatment and prevention measures against HIV

In WHO G.1 we observed discussion surrounding the Republic of Korea's clause on how to help prevent the spread of HIV. One of the subclauses involved reaching out to those at high risk of catching HIV, namely the LGBTQ+ community and drug users. An amendment had been proposed to strike out this section relating to educating those at high risk. Canada spoke against such an amendment and, due to an overwhelming majority, it did not pass. Canada then spoke in favour of the clause as a whole, mentioning the country's goal of ending HIV by 2030 and believing this clause to be the most effective way of doing so.

a motion was then made to move to voting procedure and the clause passed with an overwhelming majority.

Some gossip box highlights were: the request for the address of Korea's barber, harsh criticism of Mexico's music taste and the demand for a rap battle between the chairs and co-chairs.



WHO G.1 Committee Session VI

WHO G.2

Efficient production and dissemination of reliable treatment and prevention measures against HIV



WHO G.2 Committee Session I

Much like WHO G.1, when we arrived in WHO G.2 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was busy explaining the reasons why an amendment to their clause should not pass. The clause itself stated that people infected with HIV should be treated the same way criminals are by: condemning people who are accidentally infected with HIV to life in imprisonment, forcing assisted suicide to those who contracted HIV through sexual relations,

and deporting to HIV camps or prison centers those who were born with the virus. The amendment DPRK was against stated that the clause should be "Limited to the people of North Korea."

We heard many speeches for and against this amendment. France and India were two of the speeches we heard and both delegations were against the amendment, with India saying that it creates a stigma around HIV patients and France saying that they want to protect not only the citizens of their own country, but also those of the DPRK seeing as this is the United Nations and all nations matter.

DPRK argued against this saying that the clause is a precautionary prevention for the spread of HIV throughout all countries - so it should be seen as a helpful clause rather than a threat and therefore it should not be limited to the DPRK. The delegation of DPRK believes that putting the majority, in this case the healthy population, over the minority, being the people infected with HIV, is more important and morally correct seeing as their goal is to protect the healthy citizens rather than help the sick citizens. Italy and Austria were for the amendment to the clause with Austria stating that the amendment would be a protection for other countries against the clause itself, and Italy saying that since the DPRK claims that they have no HIV cases whatsoever, the clause

could not possibly create more stigma around the virus. The amendment passed and clapping was not in order. Immediately after, speeches for and against the clause began. The Democratic Republic of Congo was for the clause stating that if WHO did not allow the clause to pass, the DPRK had the ability to move to Human Rights, which could increase its chances of the clause passing, except without the amendment which would be detrimental to other countries. Both Italy and France were against the clause, stating that it is simply an excuse to violate human rights and that if the clause passed it would be a huge disappointment. Austria was for the clause, seeing as the amendment meant that the clause would not threaten its citizens. The clause was not passed, once again clapping was not in order.

Security Council

Closing the gender gap in social protection

After remorselessly agreeing to kill Pedro Pinho, Security Council continued to calmly debate their previous issue. The US presented an amendment to subclause b)ii), changing the wording to providing women with the opportunity of healthcare, but not giving out for free. The US threatened to use a veto if the clause did not pass, arguing that healthcare is crucial to the US economy and cannot be provided for



free, arguing that this would also decrease the quality of the service provided. Malta, however, countered the US' argument by stating that the amendment made the sub clause redundant since what stopped women from getting checkups was not a lack of places that provided them but financial limitations.



General Assembly

Maintaining international peace and ending ongoing international conflicts.

In General Assembly we got to witness debate over Latvia's clause which, among other things, argued for greater control over personal firearms as a measure for maintaining international peace. The delegation argued that weapons cause only mistrust and tension and that the excessive stockpile of weapons only prolongs conflicts. They also highlighted the fact that unregulated arms leads to the deaths of more civilians than

necessary. The delegation of Netherlands, however, questioned how the clause could prevent the initiation of wars. The delegations of Argentina and Japan asked similar questions, stating that they did not see the connection between personal firearms and international peace. The USA also spoke against the clause once again highlighting the fact that it did not tackle international peace and that national bans on the

possession of weapons, implanted ongoing international conflicts in no way, shape or form. Latvia, nevertheless, maintained its argument that the possession of unlicensed weapons by civilians made conflicts bloodier and longer. The delegation of Norway decided to speak in favour of Latvia's clause, arguing that the downscaling of national armaments was essential because international peace needs to be tackled at its source to be sustainable in the long term. Despite the compelling arguments, the clause did not pass, even after a motion to divide the house.



General Assembly Session I



General Assembly Session II

Interviews

Matheus Drehmer

I met Matheus Drehmer, chair of the Human Rights Committee and Deputy-Secretary General, before his first committee session with the General Assembly today. Despite the look of pure sleep deprivation in his eyes, Matheus very graciously agreed to an interview on his experience as organiser of this year's conference. He told me that he didn't really plan to organise an MUN, it all started when Pedro Pinho sent him a message out of nowhere: "He said do you want to come by and have lunch with me so I can think about the next MUN? I'm thinking of making you deputy secretary general. Let me know what you think."

Needless to say, Pedro made him an offer he couldn't refuse...



Matheus showed himself surprised by the offer, stating that: "I thought it was weird. I had been to one conference and I had been a chair so I had mixed feelings. I wasn't really sure what was going to happen." Still, the lunch went ahead and Pedro made the difficulties of organising such an event very clear.

Undaunted, Matheus accepted the invitation and joined the team.

When asked why he loved MUN, Matheus told me that he greatly enjoyed the opportunity to talk to different people from different places: "When we were in the opening ceremony, I was just walking outside super nervous and I heard so many different languages. It was such an exciting experience."

Matheus explained that the biggest challenge in bringing the event to life was coordinating with Natixis: "Natixis isn't a venue made for this kind of event, so sorting everything out was very challenging. Especially when it came to things like the catering area." He told me that the main

main lesson he got from this was: "Things aren't going to go to plan. You might think they will but they never will. Little mistakes are always going to pop up." However, Matheus told me that if he could go back in time to tell himself one thing before he started planning the conference it would be: "Be calm. Everything will be fine in the end."



Finally, he explained that his favourite thing about this year's conference was the fact that it was presential: "As nervous as I was, it was absolutely amazing to actually see everyone here and not just look at them through a screen. It was the best thing that happened this year."

Maria João Cerqueira

I had the pleasure to sit down with Maria Cerqueira, Head of Staff and Activities as well as a chair. It wasn't easy to track her down for this interview as she is always busy, ensuring that everything runs smoothly within the staff department. Just to show you how busy she is, her mobile phone rang five times throughout the interview, each time calling her for duty.

When asked why and when she decided she wanted to plan an MUN conference, Maria said she had the honour to be invited by Pedro Pinho, Secretary General, and Professora Leta Ferreira, MUN Director.

"They said they were impressed with my performance at OBSMUN 2022," said Maria carasmatically. She added,

"I knew I'd be very busy this year because of Form 12 and exams but I wanted to take the challenge because it has always been a dream of mine to be a part of the executive team at OBSMUN."



Cerqueiras proudly said that she has always liked MUN as she believes it is a great opportunity to nurture young minds and be creative. Furthermore, it allows young people to become critical thinkers and be able to view the world from different perspectives.

As a young child, Maria would watch a lot of political debates on TV every time there was an election, and she says it always intrigued her. So when she finally had the chance to start going to MUN conferences at the age of 13, she was very pleased - especially because she got to make those around her proud.

Maria Cerqueira was also asked about the challenges she faced during the organization of the event, and to this she said, "Way too many," followed by a chuckle. Cerqueira said that from the struggles she learnt, "That nothing ever works the way you were planning it in the first place, and that's the beauty of it."

Maria added that the mistakes along the way are what turned her into a more organized person,



and a more competent MUN executive member. She describes the issues along the way as a "blessing in disguise", and thanks her team for their support along the way.

If she could go back in time, Maria says she would spend more time with her chairs and delegates, as she loves teaching and she wishes for them to be better than she is at her job. Regardless, she is extremely proud of the chairs and delegates for all their hard work.

Maria's favorite thing about this year's conference is the feeling of friendship and the bonding happening between the staff and delegates. She enjoys meeting new people and building friendships with people she wouldn't be able to had MUN not taken place.

Pedro Pinho

Getting an interview with Pedro Pinho was hard. When he is not running around at 300 kilometres per hour on all three floors, he is acting as President of a committee and yet we were still able to get a five-minute interview out of him.

When asked about why he wanted to plan this conference, Pedro explained that his experience as Head of Logistics at last year's OBSMUN left him wanting more and just two months after the end of the event, he began looking into hosting another conference: "It was a very simple step for me, practically automatic."

Pedro explained he loves MUN because it is such a great experience for all involved, delegates and staff

alike: "For delegates, it's an amazing learning experience to speak in public and have to represent countries whose values you might not be aware of or aligned to. For the staff, it involves so much collaboration and communication. Members of the staff team need to develop quick-thinking skills and learn how to deal with complicated situations, like handling all our different suppliers."

Pedro Pinho told us about all of the challenges of planning a conference: "One of our biggest challenges was getting our staff adjusted to the space. Most of our team

did not get a chance to visit the venue until the day before the conference started." He also stressed how complicated communication can be since as Secretary General he needs to communicate with partners, sponsors, staff, delegates, suppliers, catering companies and MUN directors.

If he could go back in time to before the event and tell himself one thing it would be: "Calm down and speak slower so people can understand me the first time."

Pedro's favourite thing about

this year's conference was the reaction of delegates when they stepped into the venue: "Our venue is extraordinary and completely unique. It has so many different vivid representations of cities from all around the world. It was really nice to see the shock of delegates as they observed the venue."



Jack Graham

We also had the privilege to sit down with Jack Graham, also known as the delegation of The United States of America. Jack is a driven delegate who has been working hard prior to the OBSMUN conference during his delegate training.

When asked about what the highlight of his day has been, Graham said that he has enjoyed his clauses being passed, after tremendous dedication to the research of his committee's issue.

As he represents the USA, when asked which other country he would like to represent, Jack said that the DPRK would be in his interest due to their extreme beliefs and opinions which would be an interesting challenge for him.

A challenge that Jack has encountered along the way is finding a way to respond effectively and professionally when someone questions his



clause. "Trying not to panic and stay focused on my values is sometimes hard," said Jack.

Jack also added that he enjoys being a part of MUN conferences and that he would be delighted to return over and over again. He enjoys debating, researching and learning new things, but above all, he loves the unity and congregation that comes with MUN. It is evident from the way he speaks excitedly that Jack truly loves being here.



DISEC

Once we finally reached DISEC, the ongoing discussion revolved around how Secretary General Pedro Pinho would be saved from his abrupt kidnapping by a group of terrorists. Once all the delegates were asked to find a way to work together and make a decision on how to save Pedro, they all promptly got to work. The happy moods and excitement were evident as the delegations threw ideas for clauses from across the room, many of which sounded good, and scurried to find co-submitters. The first clause was presented by the delegation of Italy. Italy said that the delegates had the power to

"end an apocalypse" if Pedro Pinho was killed rather than enable all countries access to have access to nuclear weapons in order to save Pedro. Italy argued that there are countries, such as Iran, that should not have access to nuclear weapons as this could lead to serious repercussions. Qatar promptly asked Italy if the sub-clause 1b which stated that Pedro Pinho should be killed by a task force rather than by terrorists was necessary, and Italy replied by saying that if the terrorist killed Pedro this would give them power. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on certain views, the clause ended up passing - "killing" Pedro Pinho.

OBSMUN 2023

PHOTO GALLERY

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LEADERS OF TOMORROW



**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE
WHO
ATTENDED
OBSMUN 2023!**



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was.

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