

COMMUNICATOR

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Meeting the Board of Directors Spotlight: The Head of Social and Organisational Affairs

Sterre Blaauw

Edith Oljelund's main role at MUNISH is to liaise with the chosen charity as well as raise awareness and funds. After a lot of consideration, this year's chosen charity is Save The Children (STC). STC goes to remote corners, villages, and cities where it is challenging to be a child. They ask children, families, and wider communities what children need to be healthy, safe, and learning. They listen to their experiences, insights, and ideas. They offer help for children, by offering them food, healthcare, or just someone to talk to, and making their life in harsh living conditions just a little bit easier. Edith Oljelund explains the choice of the charity, and how she contributes to the 34th MUNISH conference.

Sterre Blaauw Interviews Head of Social and Organisational Affairs Edith Oljelund

Why did you choose Save the Children as the charity for MUNISH this year?

Edith Oljelund



“During the MUNISH weekend, it is evident how truly privileged we are. Something so special like a MUNISH conference is not something that everyone in the world gets to experience. Especially on a weekend like this, it is important to realise how privileged we are as young individuals, and take a moment to acknowledge that not every child in today's society is able to experience this. Therefore, I think it is important to lay even more emphasis on the fact that children around the world are struggling with world conflict, and to think about them during this conference.”

How do you think Save the Children relates to this year's chosen theme "Multilateralism: Building Pathways to Peace and Security" and why do you think it's important?

"As is in the name, Save the Children focuses on children's rights, and I think that children are such an important group of people to keep in mind in conflict situations. They are our future, and they will determine how the world looks. Their future needs to be emphasised in the process of achieving peace and security."

Why did you choose to apply for Head of Social and Organisational Affairs in the first place?

"Last year I was part of the Student Council at the International School of The Hague as the Inclusivity and Environmental representative. I chose that role because I really enjoy advocating for people who are less able to advocate for themselves. When choosing which role on the Board of Directors to choose, this job gave me an opportunity to again be an advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves which I think in today's world is so important."

What is your favourite part about MUNISH?

"I really enjoy seeing everyone's outfits and seeing everyone come together to create something super fun that is enjoyed by so many people and to truly see friendships blossom in such a short period of time."

What makes you most excited about this specific MUNISH?

"I am excited to be part of the Board of Directors. I think hearing everyone's speech at the opening and closing ceremonies is also very exciting, as this conference has all been so important and sentimental to all of us, and we really have put our heart and soul into this conference this year."

What is one piece of advice that you would give to all the delegates taking part in MUNISH for the first time this year?

"Although MUNISH is a serious event, you can develop a lot of confidence and make so many new friendships and I think really putting effort into that is also so important."

Marginalised women in Afghanistan

*HRC opinion piece
by Evi van den Berg*

The Taliban is made up of many former Mujahideen fighters that came together to make Afghanistan an Islamic state, they ruled from 1996 to 2001, since then they have become notorious for their human rights abuses, specifically toward women. Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada is the leader of the Taliban and has led since 2016 for 8 years so far.

Loss of rights for the Afghan Women

In Afghanistan there has been an ongoing conflict regarding women's rights. On the 15th of August 2021, the Taliban returned to power. The regime subjected the women and girls to the most severe removal of human rights, stealing their voice and depriving them of their dignity. The Taliban refuses women and girls their right to education, working, publicly speaking, political involvement, healthcare delivered by men, leaving the house without a male chaperone and showing their skin in public.

Punishments

If the Afghan women do not abide by the rules stated, they face varying punishments,

for example verbal warnings, fines, detentions and in extreme cases physical punishments. Beatings and humiliation in public are the punishments to keep them from denying the old and new laws that are set in place.

A Possible Solution

Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands recently initiated steps to hold the Taliban accountable at the International Court of Justice for systemic violations against women and girls in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban's return to power effectively erased women from daily life in Afghanistan, the coalition argues that this constitutes gender-based oppression, potentially qualifying as crimes against humanity. By proceeding with this case the countries strive to hold the Taliban accountable for the gender based discrimination they have caused. This is done while also emphasising Afghanistan's continual failure to uphold international rights norms.

Guest Speaker Input

The guest speaker, Karen Burbach, addressing the HRC, believes that the women and girls in Afghanistan who are currently being marginalised deserve nothing less than the full enjoyment of their human rights. She believes that how they are being treated is entirely unacceptable and on a scale of ten can be considered a 9.9 in severity. She says that the voices of women and girls are crucial as they make up half of the world's population. Therefore women and girls must have a voice to ensure their rights are protected so they can contribute to the decisions made worldwide and continue to improve the state of the world.

In this day and age, when global issues are constantly growing, and as the involvement of various stakeholders from numerous nations increases, it may be easy to question the effectiveness of a United Nations. Why do so many schools and institutions develop models of these events, when it seems like they do not work? At MUNISH, there is a grand assembly of a large range of committees where discussions, such as the viability of the reintegration of displaced Palestinians, protecting the integrity of democratic elections, the opioid crisis, and many more, are held. These discussions are not merely theoretical exercises; they are powerful tools for building awareness, fostering collaboration and encouraging young people to become proactive global citizens.

MUN has evolved significantly over its existence. Initially, MUN was designed primarily as an educational simulation to help students understand the working of the United Nations and the complexities of international diplomacy. The first MUN was actually a model of its predecessor, the League of Nations, at the University of Oxford back in 1921. Today, MUN conferences have expanded in scope and diversity, symbolising the importance of tackling a broader range of issues that reflect both historical and current global challenges.

One of the key reasons MUNISH remains vital is its role in preparing the next generation for real-world challenges. In today's interconnected world, it is no longer enough to understand issues only from a national perspective. MUNISH encourages students to examine topics from multiple viewpoints, negotiate with delegates representing other nations, and work towards a common ground. This skill, considering various perspectives before creating a conclusion, is invaluable when cooperation is essential to address challenges that affect us all, from climate change to human rights. Through MUNISH, students develop not only knowledge about global affairs but also critical thinking, diplomacy, and empathy. Additionally, MUNISH brings to light the significance of grassroots movements and youth participation in international dialogue. Young people, more than ever before, are informed, connected and engaged. By providing them a platform to speak, MUNISH empowers students to believe in their voices, ideas, and their capacity to influence change.

Is MUNISH still relevant?

Zarah-Kenza Holleyman

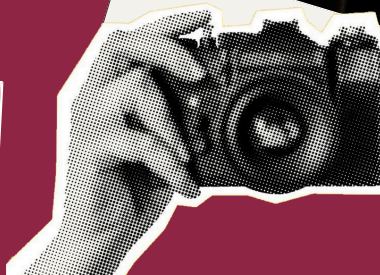


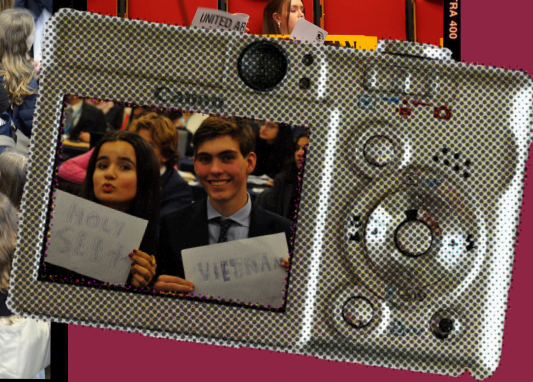
*Varun Sachar
2021/2024*



MUNISHA!!!

DAY 3 IN PHOTOS





Observing Special Conference 1

Victor Hugo Duarte Amorim

The second day of the Special Conference 1 at MUNISH witnessed spirited debates and key resolutions aimed at tackling various important issues. This conference, chaired by Sebastian Andersen and co-chaired by Kim Schnebbelie, is one of the more diverse conferences at this event, as they deal with piracy, energy independency, and countering hybrid warfare.

In SPC1, on the second day the topic was reducing dependency on energy supplies from politically unstable regions. The first resolution discussed was submitted by Burundi, and co-submitted by twenty-three other countries, such as the delegation of Bolivia, who stated “The resolution will help states become independent with their energy supplies”. While many other states supported the original resolution, it was opposed by the Libyan delegation, as she described how the Libyan Economy is dependent on oil. “We must advocate for a gradual, negotiated strategy to shift the global reliance on fossil fuels without hurting member states,” the delegate argued. The delegation of Togo disagreed with Libya, since it pointed to one of the clauses, showing how the plan would be a long-term endeavour, not a rapid shift.

The delegation of Bahrain added the amendment to the resolution; “Calls for the expansion of nuclear energy programs where appropriate and safe low-carbon stable energy alternative to fossil fuels, subject to rigorous safety standards and international oversight.” This amendment is prescient to the topic of independence through energy, as recent strides in the development of nuclear power have brought about the ability to create miniature nuclear reactors for small towns and regions affordably.

The Netherlands definitely supports the amendment to transition to greater nuclear power within Burundi’s resolution. However, the delegation of Amnesty International disagreed; “We are aware of multiple risks associated with the use of Nuclear Energy.” In the end, the conference sided with Amnesty International.

The resolution submitted by Burundi, debated for over four hours on the second day, passed by an overwhelming majority in SPC1. It calls for increased support in developing energy projects and infrastructure, invites private sector companies to invest in the energy sector, and encourages investment from international development banks.

The second resolution discussed in the SPC1 chamber, discusses the hybrid methods of warfare. It was submitted by the People’s Republic of China, and co-submitted by nineteen other members. An amendment proposed by Indonesia called for a national cyber defence framework to be developed to safeguard against hybrid threats. The delegate of the Russian Federation disagreed vehemently with the resolution, as a global framework may create vulnerabilities in every state’s defence systems should bad actors find one in one nation.

The Israeli delegation also disagreed with the amendment, as the other clauses within the resolution called for the creation of better cybersecurity measures in all nations. The delegations seem to have made an effective case, as the amendment to the first degree was rejected with a comfortable margin.

After entering open debate, the delegation of Vietnam decided to amend the sixth clause of the amendment, strongly encouraging “the creation of a conference that would gather all relevant nations.” The delegate proposed to strike the word “relevant” from the clause, using an interesting analogy to convince the conference.

“The use of the word ‘relevant’ is the antithesis to the nature of the UN. Take this banana. Imagine on the banana, that there is a rubber band separating the relevant section of the banana to the irrelevant section of the banana. If a rubber band is wound up too tightly around the banana, it will split in half. This is a great analogy for the UN as a whole.” This rousing analogy speech led to a standing ovation by SPC1. In response to a question about the relevance of the banana, the Vietnamese delegate responded; “This banana was likely grown by a nation in the UN. It shows the importance of the UN and how every nation relates to every other. Everything is relevant to the UN!”



Job Kievvoet

The resolution submitted by the People’s Republic of China, debated for two hours, passed with an even greater majority, with only two votes against the resolution. It calls for the establishment of a Hybrid Warfare Response Fund managed by the UN to allocate funds to member states with greater cyber vulnerabilities.

In between the open conferences held regarding the two resolutions, SPC1 heard a speech by the UK ambassador to the Netherlands, discussing the importance of energy independence and changing energy sources to combat the upcoming climate crisis. The ambassador started by emphasizing the importance of multilateral discussions, such as the discussions that will happen in COP29, in resolving global issues.

She pointed to the weaponization of energy for the uses of conflict by the Russian Federation as an affront against multilateralism that the UK specifically stands against and the world must rectify in turn. Sanctions against eighteen Russian secret oil tankers were used as an example of the UK fighting against fossil fuels and for energy independence. The UK is also proposing a revamp of Nuclear power generation to 24GW in the near future. The ambassador stressed the importance that all forms of renewable and sustainable energy production be used to combat climate change effectively.

An audience member asked what the ambassador thinks of the reports of the chief executive of COP29 facilitating fossil fuel deals; she responded by speaking of the good COP29 can do as well, emphasizing the importance of having a global forum to discuss the most important issues, such as climate change. MUNISH is grateful for having her speak at the event.

SPC1 was an interesting conference to observe on the second day. While still observing all MUNISH rules, the delegates were somewhat louder and more informal than in other conferences. However, this also led to several interesting moments. And beyond this, the debates that were sparked within the conference led to the passing of significant resolutions. With reference to the Viet delegate, over the past two days, observing the events in the SPC “tasted like peace and freedom.”





How does GA1 run?

Pippa Uijtewaal



As we enter the third and final day of the 34th annual MUNISH conference, the committees start to wrap up their final topics. So, let's review what was arguably the most effective committee of this year.

The committee of international security and disarmament is unique. When observing their open debate you must be blind to not notice the level of enthusiasm from the delegates. When questioning their chair on why he thought this was, he said “I honestly think that I was very lucky with the delegates, they're very excited. I think they're excited because the topics that we are discussing are very exciting and interesting.”

Not only are the delegates enthusiastic and professional, the chairs are too. There are, of course, delegates who make small mistakes; using personal pronouns, cross-talk, or not standing while asking a question or making a point of information. These mistakes may be annoying to a chair since they must keep on repeating themselves, yet unlike in many other committees delegates are not interrupted by chairs during their speech. In GA1, the delegates are politely reminded of their mistake after completing their speech.

Despite the participants giving their all in this conference, there are times when it does not run smoothly. In GA1, it is necessary to have at least two admin groups at all times since GA1 takes place in the MDA, one of the top three biggest locations at ISH. Some admin groups are not very organised among themselves, which is most likely the cause of several issues such as: microphones not being passed to delegates, notes to the chairs being screened, or even going as far as to ignore delegates who are trying to pass a note. These occurrences are occasional, however, as the admin staff is generally well-coordinated. These actions are also handled professionally by both the delegates and chairs, which is a difficult task.

With a hard-working committee such as GA1, it is crucial to discuss actual important issues. The delegation of China, Alexandra van Hal, believes that “the topics that we are currently discussing are some of the most important issues facing the UN today. Being professional and active during debates within your committee will result in enjoying and taking a lot of knowledge away from MUNISH, which should be the goal of everyone participating.”

Based on discussions I've had with the delegates, what makes GA1 so much more outstanding than other committees is that they are willing to put themselves out there. They want to learn and aren't afraid to make mistakes, so they may be proud of what they have accomplished.

Amelie Hugo

Overlooking The Approval Process

An Interview with the Approval Panel

An incredibly important part of MUNISH, the approval panel can sometimes be overlooked. This interview with heads Luka Spaanjaars and Scarlett Boles-Ryan aims to give readers insight on what the approval panel does, some of their personal opinions, and specifications of resolutions.

Amelie Hugo Interviews Heads of Approval Panel, Scarlett Boles-Ryan & Luka Spaanjaars

What exactly does the approval panel do?

Scarlett: Basically, for every committee except for ad-hoc committees, their resolutions are approved. We go through multiple resolutions that go through these non-ad hoc committees because obviously the point of MUN is to debate different resolutions that come from different sides and have countries collaborate and build a consensus on a resolution around an issue that a committee is discussing. We are the final check before that resolution is then debated. So first, the delegate obviously brings the resolution to the chair, then the chair quickly checks it, but then they send it on to us, and we have then get it in the registered resolution on the THIMUN website. And then we go through the resolution, making sure there's no punctuation errors or grammar errors, capitalising anything that's an issue and making sure there's no explicit content in it.

How long does this process usually take?

Luka: It depends on how much the chair has gone through it. Honestly, it's really uneven. You'd hope to have it done in 10 minutes, hopefully less. But I'd say the average one takes 10 to 15 minutes just because sometimes there are mistakes, but also you just want to double, triple check it because, if mistakes are made, unfortunately it is on us. So it is a tedious process. It can take a while, but I'd say around five to 10 minutes.

What does a resolution need to be approved?

Scarlett: We have a whole checklist of how it should look. There's a lot of nitpicky, tiny issues that need to be checked. So for example, if the resolution has member states in it, we have to capitalise the M and the S for both of those. And we are very specific with both preambulatory and operative clauses. Preambulatory clauses are more the passive things that are saying the state recognizes something about an issue or is alarmed by something. So those are italicised, those verbs like 'alarmed by' or 'recognizes'. And then below that we have the operative clauses that are more action verbs. Then not to give too many details, there are a lot of small things that we have to check in a resolution, but it's just things like not having commas in subclauses or sub-subclauses. We don't capitalise sub-clauses or sub subclauses. There's only one period, at the end of the resolution. There are a lot of things happening that we have to check.

Is it an individual job or do you work as a team?

Luka: I'd say we kind of work as a team, but when it comes to actually looking over the physical resolution itself, you do one-on-one with the delegate, but the improved panel system is very much a team thing. We have the two of us, and then we have Nick helping us. And when it is busy, one person takes the role of actually going through the resolutions and actually checking in. The other one, which in this case was me, was helping the directors get set up. Directing delegates to them and just making sure it runs smoothly. I wouldn't say that you could do this just as an individual.

**Scarlett Boles-Ryan
& Luka Spaanjaars**



What have been your favourite resolutions so far?

Luka: There are some funny ones that people submit. The funny ones, you're not meant to like them, but sometimes they're just so creatively thought of, you're just like, wow, that's actually kind of funny. Also, some are interesting, I read a fascinating one yesterday about the Israeli Palestine war. It was about children that are affected by it, and the delegate wrote it really well. It was something that I could see myself wanting to debate on.

Scarlett: There's a lot from GA3 discussing AI, and I find their resolutions were quite interesting to talk about; how different countries would approach something so new and never heard of before in this world. It's quite interesting to discuss AI, especially in such a setting as this, with all these youth leaders. I guess you could say because it's just such a new concept to both countries and people alike.



bit.ly/munish2024

See all the
resolutions
of this year's
MUNISH!

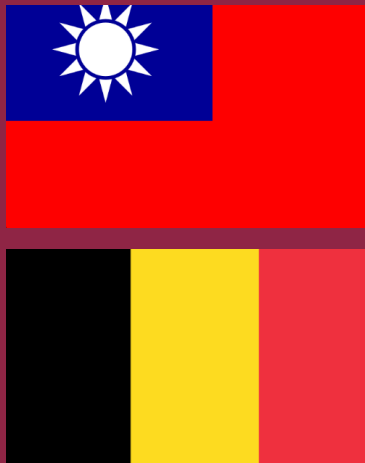
Sudoku Puzzle

8	3		1					5
7		5		6	3	2	4	
4		1	5		9			8
	1	3	2	4			8	
9			7					
	7		9			1		
	4			5	2		6	
				9		4		
	6		4	1	8		9	

*Need a break
from the words?*

*Test your
numerical
skills!*

The Diversity of MUNISH



Stella Lin - Taiwan & Belgium



Shourya Sangwan - Indian & Dutch



*Sem Nobbe &
Stan Barendse - Dutch*



*Nisma Maelle & Manou
Koisse - Cameroon*



Giulia Bauer - Germany



Loreta Vundere - Latvia



Marcello Ghindi - Italy



*Regal Abdelwhed &
Sarah Maged - Egypt*

Press Team 2024

Signing Out!

Pippa Uijtewaal

Dear all, we have had the pleasure of providing you with entertainment for the 34th annual MUNISH. However, all good things must come to an end, including this year's press team.

We wanted to acknowledge the two people who are the reason why the issues for the communicator were of the highest quality: Yana Verschuren and Mees Uijtewaal, our heads of press. Without their support and organisation we would not have been able to figure anything out. Unfortunately, this is their last MUNISH conference as they are graduating in 2025, we're glad that they gave it their all. Along with them, an essential facilitator with the Press Team has been Mrs. Whitfield. Her help with printing, organising ourselves, and general support has been invaluable. We thank her personally for her hard work and leadership.

We wanted to acknowledge everyone else on the press team, who helped us achieve everything that we did:



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Lastly, we wanted to thank the readers for reading *The Communicator*, 34th edition. See you next year!

This is the MUNISH Press Team 2024 signing out!

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