



NEWSLETTER

8 SEPTEMBER 2019

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A planet 50-50 for women in diplomacy

The UN efforts to promote gender equality in peace processes

By Luiza Stradiotto

In 2015, the campaign “Planet 50/50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality” was launched as a way to tackle the issues surrounding the problem of women and girls having less opportunities than men do. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the campaign aims at encouraging gender parity in positions of leadership and decision-making, as well as ending discrimination and gender-based violence.

When Mr. António Guterres assumed the position of UN Secretary-General in 2017, he has made one of his top priorities achieving gender balance in all rank positions inside the organization. For the first time in the UN history, the Senior Management Group, which functions like the “cabinet” of Mr. Guterres, is 50-50: there are 23 women and 21 men.

This is an achievement for the UN itself, but there is still a long way to solve all the problems women face in environments traditionally occupied by men. For Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez, the UN Senior Adviser on Policy, the main challenge to make the UN staff 50-50 is to change a deep-rooted culture that has marginalized women for so long, be it because of bureaucracy or due to the wish of Member States - but that does not mean it will not happen.

Concerning women in the field, we have seen the largest number of women as personnel in Peacekeeping Operations, although most of them are civilian or employed in lower ranks. Reports have shown that the dynamic changes when women are more involved: peace agreements last longer, there are more reforms in the political and economic structure of the country, and civilians feel safer from sexual abuse and exploitation. Women play an essential role in the peace building process, and this goal of gender balance must be incorporated in all security sectors.

FAMUN 2019 has also made a commitment to have gender balance in the Secretariat. When asked, Maria Eduarda Jareta, Chair of the Second Committee - Harmony with Nature, said that seeing women in positions of leadership can inspire younger girls and motivate them to reach their goals. Maria Eduarda Cazula, a Global Communications Officers, affirmed that when young women take part in MUNs, it stimulate gender balance in simulations and is a step to change our “sexist view of the world”. Flávia Leal, Secretary of the Second Committee - Harmony with Nature, defended that this recognition of women’s efforts is necessary, for they are just as capable as any men. Samantha Muniz, Director of the Security Council - Children and Armed Conflict, said that we need to keep deconstructing traditional positions.

The goal of gender balance needs to be present in every sphere. We cannot exclude women from diplomacy any less than we can exclude them from peace and security processes. Let us keep fighting for equal rights and representation, and occupy our places as actors of peace and justice.



Maria Eduarda Cazula and Flávia Mattos (center) with female members of Secretariat and delegates

Photographer: Gisele Bertinato

Children as the seeds of peace

The road to zero violence against children by 2030

By João Duran

Different from the traditional warfare between States, modern conflicts utilize fewer resources and are less expensive. Using light weapons and with fewer combat training required, militias finance themselves through thefts and illegal activities in the irregular market. Unfortunately, as soldiers, children are cheap, making them a lucrative and convenient way militias have to maintain civil conflicts. Girls are even more vulnerable; recently, they have become the main target of terrorist groups to be used as suicide bombers. Therefore, protecting children from conflicts can be an efficient mechanism to suffocate combatant groups, making conflicts expensive and harder to maintain.

To end all forms of violence against and torture of children is one of the targets under the SDG 16: to promote peace, justice and strong institutions. In order to reach this target, it is necessary to work upon the enhancement of the notion of positive peace. In this sense, peace is determined not only by the absence of conflicts, but by a broader combination of factors relates to the promotion of human rights, security and development. Peace can only be guaranteed by ending poverty, inequalities and preventing diseases. Assuring these elements during childhood can be an effective path to promote not only a dignified life, but also a nonviolent environment.

On Friday, the Ph.D. candidate, Ms. Giovanna Ayres, spoke with the Security Council to address the topic “Children and Armed Conflict”. When interviewed, Ms. Ayres explained that it is extremely important to avoid children of being engaged to military life. The difficult part is that, in many cases, children see the military life as a path to achieve better life conditions and status. However, this perception ignores the horrors children have to face in armed conflicts.

The UN is an important actor to address this challenge, especially UNICEF. Since 1989, the document United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets a range of legal precedents on the rights of children, working as a comprehensive, vast and complete statement of children rights. In addition to this convention, the so called Option Protocols also aim at setting an agenda for States to deal specifically with the “involvement of children in armed conflicts” and the “sale of children, child prostitution and pornography”.

Violence is caused by social disarrangements, usually fed by elements of the past. If we work to solve disorders, injustices, oppressions and inequalities, we can construct a better social arrangement in the future, with strong institutions to protect not only children but all people’s rights. These efforts cannot be made by States acting alone. The zero violence target will only be achieved if States work together in a multilateral context instead of making decisions unilaterally.



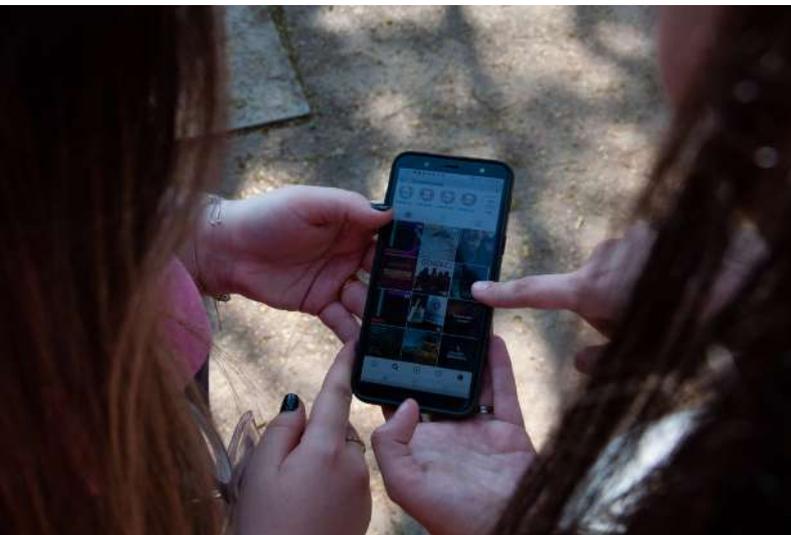
Photographer: André Amalfi

Members of UNSC 2 Children and Armed Conflict (from left to right): Gabriel Vedovello; Marcos Queiroz; Samantha Muniz; João Vitor; and Vitória Steff

What happens behind closed doors?

How media covers the negotiation process in the UN

By *Mattheus Lopes*



Delegates Livia de Almeida la Selva and Victória Capovilla Juliato using FAMUN's social media. Photographer: André Amalfi



Global Communications Officers during the Stakeouts. Photographer: André Amalfi

Since its foundation in 1945, media has had a crucial role in promoting the UN values. Media is firstly responsible for raising awareness about UN issues and sharing the knowledge produced by the organization. It also contributes to share the stories of inspiring individuals that have devoted their lives to the institution's missions. Not to mention media's role in terms of accountability: it keeps track of what the UN has been done, especially when it comes to the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

On the other hand, much of the media coverage about the UN tends to highlight its failures or internal scandals. Maybe one of the most polemic case was in 2018, when Blue Helmets were accused of raping and exploiting children in Africa. Undoubtedly, the media has the duty of denouncing violations of human rights perpetrated by UN peacekeepers. However, as put by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, an important think tank based in New York, "news outlets also tend to judge the UN for what it does not do, rather than for what it achieve". Due to that, public opinion many times is not aware of the day-to-day accomplishments of the UN.

It is rare to see the UN at front page with positive feedback, and when it does, it does not last long. Undeniably, the majority of big media companies are driven by market interests. But when profit is the only premise, high quality journalism fails.

What tends to be forgotten by the media is that the UN does not deal with problems easy to be solved. International matters must be deeply discussed, which requires an ongoing coverage from the media - something many are not willing to perform, since many are only interested in reporting issues when they are in the worst scenario.

That is the case of the coverage of the Security Council. Its agenda items usually are at front pages and the Council's work gets more attention than other UN organs. However, the media tends to focus on failures of the Council, instead of covering the entire negotiation process. One example was the current upheaval in the dispute between India and Pakistan over the regions of Jammu and Kashmir: the news focused on rapid facts instead of effectively presenting the historical process of this conflict.

In a debate with FAMUN Global Communication Officers (GCOs) about how to improve media coverage of FAMUN delegates, the Officers covering the GA Committees mentioned the difficulty of finding an effective way of spreading the news about the topics. The GCOs in the Security Council highlighted how hard it is to cover private meetings and the struggle to get concrete information about what is happening behind closed doors. To try to solve that, FAMUN has held four stakeouts to ask questions to the delegates; and each day, a different topic is highlighted in our Newsletter, so all UN topics can get a fair coverage.

HIGH SCHOOL Committees and Councils

UNGA 3C (International Drug Control)

By Mattheus Lopes

The Third Committee discussed the effects of drug abuse among the youth. The preoccupation with those under eighteen and how they were affected by illicit substances was of great urgency, given their role in building societies. In addition, the representatives discussed education as a tool to prevent drug abuse. They also discussed drug culture that has been highlighted to the extreme and carried by an opulent lifestyle, luring the youth, who are still in early stages of life. Therefore, it causes ominous impacts that come as an aftermath of drug usage, trafficking and exploitation that renders adolescents and infants.

Another topic discussed was the judiciary systems in each country. In some countries, the penalty for carrying drugs can be death penalty, which can profoundly affect adolescents. On the other hand, many countries are dealing with the drug problem by focusing on prevention. Australia's representative presented that the UN have faced many setbacks concerning the discussion of drug control. The representative of Portugal stated that the country's judiciary system approved the legalization of some substances, and focused on assistance and counseling to minors, instead of criminalizing the possession of drugs. Prevention was a main topic discussed by the Committee and they will have the task to achieve consensus despite their different ideologies.

UNGA 2C (Harmony with Nature)

By Isabela Oliveira

The four topics of the resolution were decided: protection of fauna and flora; patterns of production and society; pollution; and the rights of nature. When asked about the last topic, JUSCANZ and UE were in favor of attributing rights to Nature. The delegate of Australia stressed that to protect nature is to assure human life on Earth. Although the rights of Nature are crucial for the existence of human beings, the delegates highlighted that they are working to achieve equality between Nature's rights and human rights.

UNSC 1 (Women, Peace and Security)

By Bárbara Marques

Peru believes gender equality can be achieved by empowering girls through education as well as supporting local women to create their own business. The country also stated their commitment with the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 5. Another issue discussed by Council Members was climate change and its effects on women, particularly at the Sahel. Meanwhile, France focused on the importance of solving conflicts and achieving peace and security, and affirmed that the Council would be addressing this topic in the future.

UNGA 2C (Migration and Development)

By Laís Fernandes Daniel

Irregular immigrants face policies that criminalize their situation. Many of them are locked up in detention centers or subjected to mass expulsions by governments. During the General Debate, the delegate of India stated that they receive undocumented immigrants from neighboring countries. Therefore, the country faced difficulties in protecting immigrants. In order to solve this problem, the Secretary-General recommended in his report that States should combat the criminalization and the creation of detention centers.

UNSC 2 (Children and Armed Conflict)

By João Duran

The scars of war on children are deep and take a long time to heal. Their situation can become difficult due to the delicate and fragile situation of States after conflict. As Mr. Diogo Galvão reported, without medical assistance, children are likely to grow up with irreparable traumas, such as anxiety, guilty, flashbacks, stress and trouble sleeping, especially those who actively took part in the frontlines. UNSC Members are working on measures to deal with the post-conflict situation and its effects on children.

UNIVERSITY Committee, Council and Court

UNGA 2C (International Migration and Development)

By Luiz Genizelli Netto

What is wrong with our society that still allows human trafficking and exploitation to be possible in the 21st century? We can answer that question in the words of the specialist, Ms. Domeniconi: "I believe it is this lack of empathy with each other, this lack of understanding that others have as much right as I do, I have to understand that this person is as much a subject of rights as I am". Also according to her, if a person ends up in a condition where he/she can be trafficked, it is because States failed to guarantee human rights for migrants. This is a problem that demands full focus and attention of the international community, especially from the Second Committee. During discussions, the delegate of China stated that his country supports policies aiming to regulate migration flows. He affirmed that problems related to smuggling of immigrants could be mitigated if we make efforts to strengthen cooperation between nations. According to the delegate of Mexico, this position is a consensus among all political groups.

UNSC (The situation in Venezuela)

By Enrico Queirazza

The United Nations has the obligation to protect civilians in the Venezuelan territory, and also guarantee their rights during this humanitarian crisis. The situation claims for external support, and having this in mind, Council members mobilized their resources in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people. Even though international help is welcomed and needed, the Council must consider Venezuela's sovereignty, abiding by the principles of the UN Charter. It was discussed about the necessity to respect the democratic institutions in Venezuela. About this matter, the delegate from Russian Federation highlighted the relevance to consider the will of Venezuelan people. He also affirmed that only Russia complies with the UN Charter in a way that recognizes the legitimacy of Maduro's government. The delegate from the United States affirmed that Venezuela is currently facing a sovereignty crisis caused by a weakened legitimacy, and she believes that the only solution is to support Guaidó.

ICJ (Whaling in the Antarctic)

By Patrícia Neves

In the second day, the ICJ had private sessions to deliberate about the preliminary objections presented by Japan. The Judges analyzed Japan's objections and the counter-arguments presented by Australia and New Zealand. The Court rejected all three preliminary objections presented by Japan. The first and second objections were rejected by unanimity by the Court, and concerning the third objection, only Judge Owada voted in favor.

The third day started with the merits phase. In Australia's oral presentation, the agent argued that Japan was using the exception of article VIII as subterfuge to commercial whaling. In this sense, the defense of Australia said that article VIII had a very explicit demand on the scientific character of whaling in the Antarctic. In addition, the agent presented statistic evidence that JARPA II had doubled the number of whale deaths in comparison with JARPA I. Therefore, by presenting several data, Australia's agent argued that the Japanese program was not of scientific research.

Japan's agents challenged Australia's arguments by showing many statistics about the results of Japan's whaling research programs, which developed 125 concrete results. Moreover, he argued that the program did not use only lethal methods, affirming that, in some cases, lethal methods were necessary to study internal and reproductive organs of whales. In order to challenge Australia's argument that the research was only for commercial purposes, the agents affirmed that whaling represented only 0,001% of the Japanese GDP, and accused Australia's agents of lying, deceiving and manipulating data.

New Zealand's agents focused on the methods used by Japan and argued that JARPA II used lethal methods concerning whaling, and affirmed that Japan did not applied the most advanced technology on whaling. In addition, the agents affirmed that the profit from whaling should be used for whales benefit.

Photo gallery



Aidan Valentina Fongaro and Heloisa Muzzi negotiating the topic Migration and Development
Photographer: Paola Neumann



The Chair, Maria Eduarda Jareta, conducting the Vienna Formula Process in the Second Committee
Photographer: Paola Neumann

VOICES OF PEACE

“ I hope that today marks the beginning of a new era - when peace is the priority, and the world can collectively begin to define a new roadmap to protect women, children and minorities from persecution, in particular victims of sexual violence ”

Nadia Murad, survivor of human trafficking, human rights activist and winner of a Nobel Peace Prize

“ There is no reason to believe that the 'essential purpose' of language is 'communication'. Language can be used to transmit information, but it also serves many other purposes: to establish relations among people, to express or clarify thought, for play, for creative mental activity, to gain understanding, and so on. In my opinion, there is no reason to accord privileged status to one or the other of these modes ”

Noam Chomsky, American linguist and political activist

Coming up next



AGENDA FOR TOMORROW 9 September 2019 - Sunday

- 09:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Session XI
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Session X
- 12:30 p.m. - 01:30 p.m. | Lunch
- 01:30 p.m. - 03:00 p.m. | Transportation to FCM's Auditorium
- 03:00 p.m. - 04:00 p.m. | Closing Plenary
- 04:00 p.m. - 06:00 p.m. | Closing Ceremony
- 06:00 p.m. - 06:30 p.m. | Transportation to FACAMP and Official Hotels



USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

FACAMP
+55 (19) 3754 8500

Casa do Professor Visitante - CPV
+55 (19) 3251 2809

Pousada Universitária
+55 (19) 3308 6656 / +55 (19) 98706 6656



FAMUN 2019 DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

@famun@facamp.com.br

facebook.com/facampfamun

twitter.com/famunfacamp

instagram.com/famunfacamp



FAMUN 2019 Department of Global Communications Team

Faculty Advisors

Patrícia Rinaldi
Roberta Machado
Talita Pinotti
Patrícia Borelli
Gisele Bertinato
Sérgio Sipereck Elias

Edition

Luiza Stradiotto

Design

Renata Zani

Reporters

Bárbara Marques
Enrico Queirazza
Isabela Ferreira de Oliveira
João Gabriel Duran
Laís Fernandes Daniel
Luiz Genizelli Netto
Maria Eduarda Cazula

Mattheus Lopes
Patrícia Kuae Neves

Photographers

André Amalfi
Gisele Bertinato
Paola Costa Neumann
Paulo Tonini Buscariolli



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