

The UN is reforming itself!!!

General Assembly is the first committee to reach a resolution

By Ahmed Naguib El Garhy

The European block led by the EU delegate Laurene Dubois and with a significant help from Iceland and they came with an initiative that supported later on by Pakistan through its delegate Juan Carlos leading to a draft resolution sponsored by United States, Ireland, United Kingdom, Argentina, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Belgium and Cyprus.

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the General Assembly for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly affirming the intrinsic principle of state sovereignty of UN member states, the GA today with the majority of votes passed the first resolution C'MUN 2012! Congratulations!

The resolution included: Endorsing the implementation of a Second Assembly of Non States Actors, in order to represent non-state actors, under the surveillance and auspices of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which is within a non-state framework, including members of civil society, corporate accountability and private actors from the business sector, as well as the existing observers in the General Assembly, having irregular meetings on upon request by members.

It also authorizes the General Assembly to have a general overview over this Assembly.

It also draws attention that second assembly will be entitled with the right to present the General Assembly with working papers on sensitive issues and will not hold an equal membership as the member states in the GA.



Those were the major points covered in the resolution that is considered a real step towards the reformation of the UN. We would like to highlight the efforts exerted by the Russian federation delegate Maria Pilar in the draft resolution and providing us with all the updates.

After the voting, the council started discussing the second topic which is the acceptance of new members in the GA and also the representation of sovereign regions like Catalonia, el bask, and Kosovo within their countries delegations as a step towards full membership.

Some countries like Canada said that first they have to discuss dismissing member states that doesn't respect human rights like Syria before accepting new members, the majority of the council agreed.



Realistic proposals, powerful arguments

By Eva Tsampoula

The second day of the C'MUN came to an end after a fruitful and vibrant debate concerning the economic crisis and its consequences on unemployment. The committee was divided in two working papers; one was represented by China, Cuba, and Canada among others and one led by Turkey and Spain among others. The main points underlined in the working papers were deeply influenced by the national policies and different demands of each country. We noticed that the governments with the same philosophy had great deal of opposition regarding their expectations from today's session.

The delegates were trying persistently to reach agreements on the topic of economic crisis in terms of a more realistic basis. The honorable chair of ECOSOC Guillermo Serra informed the press team that the delegates were attempting to tackle the problem to more specific points, which were not limited to government positions but also to more functional proposals. Furthermore, they continued the session by analyzing the trade relations between countries and the economic interest of every nation.



It is of great importance to highlight that the complexity of globalization in trade was pointed out and analyzed forcefully by the delegates. Just like in every debate, there were some collateral losses in this particular one as well; organizations like IMF (The International Monetary Fund) were weakened because countries recognized that these institutions have not helped their efficient development.

Additionally, it is noteworthy that the debate was much more fluent today and the delegates showed familiarity with the issues discussed and the rules of procedure and other formalities.

They were quite efficiently catching up with their duties and the whole process. The result was really satisfying because there was observed great improvement in terms of each delegate's presentation of their position and their considerable ascending of participation in the debate at large.

Finally, we would like to inform our readers that the resolution on the economic crisis issue will be communicated tomorrow because this is quite a controversial topic and all the positions, points of view and aspects should be taken under consideration before any conclusion comes to light.

Quiz at Los Azulejos



First Round...



Teamwork



The Winning Team!

The Environment Committee divided in blocks

By Emilio Cáceres

During the second day of the environmental commission delegates felt more confident and above all eager to begin the resolutions. Although it was established an unmoderated discussion of twenty minutes, in which delegates were able to find countries with the same posture to strengthen their proposals, the opposite positions complicated the process, which lasted over an hour.

The result was the formation of three coalitions: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey and the United States on one hand, Denmark and Germany on the other, and the rest of countries were united under the leadership of Kenya.

This last group proposed the creation of a new international organization -the result of the union between the CSD, which belongs to ECOSOC, and the UNEP- to take charge of guiding the country and establish certain measures in environmental matters.

United States reacted immediately and said that there were al-



ready enough institutions in this area to justify the existence of a new one. The U.S. delegate said he was against granting such power to a single organization and suggested the possibility of strengthening existing institutions. The delegate also asked what benefits would involve the “umbrella organization”, in his words, that other NGOs do not currently provide. Kenya replied saying that it would be a centralized institution, which would include the rest and therefore would be stronger and more efficient. Russia, meanwhile, supported at all times to its American partner and said the proposal was misguided, because not all gov-

ernments would agree to measures that would make a single institution.

The European block, led by Germany, emphasized the need to educate society about setting values for the population aware of the need to carry out sustainable development.

In the end of the session, the European countries joined Kenya's block, which led to the voting. In spite of not having the US block support, the commission approved, among other, the set up of a new agency with less bureaucracy and more budget; the protection of native communities and the technology transfer.



There is no better source than its own moderators to know how delegates are doing their work. Tatjana Mönch, chair of the environment committee, said the issue “addressed many aspects” and therefore it’s “difficult” to focus on some of them, but delegates “Are doing a great job.” XX said that

yesterday delegates started off well but have improved and are “Very committed to what they are doing.” The moderator also confesses that main protagonist has been The United States, Russia, Bangladesh and Indonesia. On the other hand, cochair Maarja Meitern said: “The issue is very complex, but delegates

are working hard and are already drawing some conclusions.” Meitern believes that “The delegates from Germany and Kenya have standout, as they are proposing a lot of things and use rather specific arguments.”

Carolyn Mayer, delegate of Kenya, leads her coalition, which seeks to reach an agreement with the United States and Russia. Opposing the idea of reshaping the main NGOs dealing with environmental issues in a single, more powerful and centralized organization. Mayer highlighted this new organization “Would have the real capacity to deal with all economic, social and environmental issues” and clarified that the organization would not try to force countries, but to guide them to balance the interests of each country with global interests for a more sustainable world.

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“The first thing for a solution for organized crime in Central America is to see it as a global problem”

Carla Rebés is the delegate of Guatemala, the country that yesterday was the centre of the debate due to the massacre in it by the drug organization Los Zetas. She is also currently working in her doctoral thesis about the organized crime in Central America.



By Clara Roig

Organized Crime is usually related to Mexico, but in which manner does it affect smaller countries on Central America such as Guatemala?

This is a global problem, not national. Central America has a huge amount of violent groups and the number of victims is bigger in the more vulnerable economic countries of the area. These are Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, called the Black Triangle. The conflict is not only about drug organizations but also with armament, corruption within the institutions and other internal factors.

How did it begin and lead to such extreme situation?

The cartels presence has increased in Central America since USA tried

to stop the flow of drug between its country and Columbia in the 90s. After that, drug cartels placed their bases in Central America. However, there are also other factors such as the violence culture, the government instability and the long civil wars that provoked the appearance of the guerrillas or maras.

What is the situation now?

In Mexico the cartels are fighting for the power of the country, which is the only way to get a total control of the territory. In Central America the maras have taken the role of local governments, as they provide social service and economic aid to the civilians that local governments can't because of their precarious economic situation. However, maras are violent and criminal groups that deal with traffic drug and bribe the police and local politicians and employees. They also work as hired assassins for the Mexican cartels and they now control Guatemala's frontiers. The violence to the civilians is extremely worrying, being indigenous women the most likely to be their victims for their low social class and the women role in the society.

As a Guatemala's delegate, how do you think this can be solved?

First, we have to achieve that this is

seen as a global problem and start considering drug legalization. From Guatemala we are trying to classify drugs to be able to deal with every specific problem. For example, Guatemala has a big problem with cocaine, and we need to control the market and make international rules. Also, it is important to move forward to the USA paradigm, La Guerra contra el narco, which consists in only military support. It is demonstrated that the problem can't be solved only with arms. However, Guatemala still needs this kind of support.

Which economic interests have USA in this conflict and how they interfere in the solution?

USA wants to control its “ugly duckling”. This is a problem that affects them and that is why they keep offering funds. But don't be naïve. They do that to stabilize the zone. This, however, becomes paradoxical with the fact that USA is the first drug consumer in the world. Therefore, USA has to recognize this and start implementing national measures such as reduce drug consumption in the country. Every time drugs or immigration are put into the table, the discussion stops because, to a certain point, USA are okay with the current situation.

Security Council approaches a first solution for Syria

Humanitarian aid and protection of civilians will be the only measures taken before the UN mission ends

The Security Council has concentrated its efforts on the resolution about the Responsibility to Protect in Syria. Members agreed that all measure should be implemented through the Arabian League and that is better to wait a 90 days period, when the UN mission will be finished. For this purpose, a representative of the Arabian League came to the session and exposed their pro-

posals. Their first goal is to increase urgently humanitarian aid and try to develop diplomatic relations. These can only be achieved through the Arabian League thanks to its connection with the Syrian regime. Above that, no measure should be taken until UN observers mission ends.

A similar position was defended by China and Russia, who hold veto

power. However, other members such as USA, France and the African countries would have liked to implement or at least discuss further measures. This was what they demand to the Arabian League, who at this point was full of contradictions, trying to please every state member. They seemed unable to see further than the 90 days left for the mission and they couldn't give concrete ⇨

⇒ measures for a negative answer from Bashar Al-Assad, as members of the UN demanded. At the same time, the fear that China and Russia could use their veto power for a national sovereignty violation made other states to refuse controversial actions such as military intervention or the Arab League stabilization force proposed by USA. Its aim is to protect civilians through national and regional forces. However, USA delegates affirm that this is not a NATO intervention like in Libya, in which the existence of war crimes is nowadays being discussed in the International Court.

Guatemala's crisis was finally solved

The delegates at Security Council have learned from yesterday's Guatemalan crisis. After hours of heated debate, the session ended with a resolution for the specific incident that happened in the country. The urgent measures consist in giving support and recommendations to regional and national policies. For this purpose, the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, accompanied by a council, will survey and evaluate the situation. His report will be taken into account for further measures in the topic. At the same time, the humanitarian

aid will be provided through local institutions and the UN encourages state members to promote bilateral relations in order to offer funds and assistance according to the economic situation of each country. Therefore, the intention of the Security Council is mainly to provide humanitarian and economic aid through local institutions, and avoid interfering in national sovereignty. It seems that finally voices from Morocco, Azerbaijan and other temporary members have been listened by USA and France and, what is more important, Guatemala's opinion about the conflict.

ICC: Is it a war crime???!!!

By Ahmed Naguib El Garhy

Today the debate was reaching its peak or almost there! We had a couple of interviews with the 2 key players of the council: The delegate of the African Union Nils, and the American Delegate Manuel.

It was pretty clear from the discussions that the African Union is leading the discussion towards having the case admissible to the International Criminal Court. The president of the African Union said: "The probability of guilty verdicts might be low compared to guilty verdicts against African military leaders".

He added that NATO is asking for justification though the sequence of procedures should be as follows: first 'Case admissibility', then discussing if there is 'Law breach' and finally the 'justification' but what the UK and the NATO, in particular, are raising in the discussion so far is the justification he added. They are using the UN resolution 1973 which is talking about the "no flight zone" and that was never the case he claimed. He believes that it was a "clear violation of state sovereignty" that comes under article 2 of the UN charter.

On the other hand the American delegate asked, does this session make any sense? This doesn't have

any legal base. This case will never be admissible to the ICC he added. It must pass to the persecutor office which will not make it happen he added.

This action should be described as an act of aggression not war crimes. War by definition of the UN has three conditions; Hostilities or armed clashes, Sustained in time and between two or more military forces. This didn't happen in Libya, he said.

Concerning article 2, refer also to article 39 that states that the secu-

rity council must intervene to keep peace and security and this what exactly happened.

In the council itself, Prosecution is trying to get into certain details and discuss particular events that took place during the war while France and UK are doing their best to avoid discussing this. They are doing this because they are signatories of the Rome statute while the US is not.

Russia, China and the ALBA group are also pro admissibility of the case.

Time will answer the question... is it war crime?



Demonstration still pending...

Human Rights Council are not able to reach a resolution.



By Theo Gavaliatsis

After careful consideration the Human Rights Committee has decided to thoroughly examine the hidden causes behind the atrocious bomb attack in Guatemala and it seemed like a perfect opportunity to pair the subject with the first issue on the HRC agenda, namely "The protection of the right to free association and expression", since the main issue presently in Guatemala remains whether or not the demonstration will be finally permitted by the government who had previously expressed its doubts regarding a possible violence outbreak.

The draft resolution contains highly significant clauses that will ensure the national sovereignty of Guatemala and also the peacekeeping in the area. The Guatemalan – Mexican border will be respected at all costs, while this crisis should not be isolated as a regional incident and should raise international awareness, in accordance with the appeal of the High Commissioner of HRC. There should be a tight cooperation among HRC, ICC and UNODC regarding the regula-

tion of drug trafficking, while the Security Council could be called to take action to restore and keep peace in the area.

Thankfully, the right to freedom of demonstration and association is non-negotiable and will be protected by all means, however, the planned demonstration will most probably not be permitted by the government on the grounds of preventing further and possibly worse acts of violence.

A few clauses like the one regarding a UN intervention remain highly controversial and are expected to be heavily amended, accordingly. Although the debate on the draft resolution and its amendments seem cloudy so far, there is a silver lining to it – the resolution will most probably pass and the necessary amendments will see to the peaceful bilateral cooperation between the two countries.



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