



# MEDIMUN

## Contents:

Welcome	1
GA1	2
GA2	3
GA3	4
GA4	5
SC	6
HSC	7
WHO	8
ECOSOC	9
Humans of Medimun	10-11
Sponsors	12



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## Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 16th annual MEDIMUN conference! Although I do wish that this had been a conventional welcome in which you would be holding the paper in your hands, I am still excited to be welcoming you to the conference! Not even Covid-19 could get in the way of MEDIMUN. I truly hope that you will take advantage of everything the unique, magical experience that is MEDIMUN has to offer you. I hope that you will get to know more about the world and extend your own by meeting wonderful new people, even if only through a computer screen, who will remain in your life for years to come. I hope that you will stand passionately behind your views, yet welcome challenging viewpoints, leaving room for fruitful debates.

Welcoming this year's theme on Global Health, an undeniably relevant topic to our daily lives, the MEDINEWS team wishes to help broaden your knowledge on each of the GA and committee topics.

Through perusing the pages of this paper, you will learn more about topics such as using genetic engineering to potentially eradicate Malaria, the experiences of environmental refugees, diseases in areas impacted by conflicts and many more. You will also be able to get to know your fellow delegates and chairs better through the Humans of MEDIMUN section of the paper, more of which will be available on our blog, [medimunblog.wordpress.com](http://medimunblog.wordpress.com)!

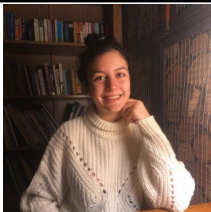
In this year's exciting conference where not one but two new committees, the World Health Organisation and ECOSOC are welcomed, we hope that you will come up with a variety of solutions to a wide range of issues, offer challenging points of view and acquire new information with an open mind.

It is additionally important to recognize the efforts of everyone behind the scenes who tackled the challenging task of bringing as much of MEDIMUN magic to you as possible, online. The board, who have spent countless

hours ensuring the conference can take place, supported by the first-class chairs and the many sensational committees. The IT committee, whose everpresent work has only been enlarged this year just like the Photography and Sales committees deserve rounds of applause. The same is true for the Admin, Approval Panel, Food and Catering, Preparations and Public Information committees (one must also mention the MEDINEWS committee itself) without which none of this would be possible. I truly hope that our efforts to make this conference the best you have been to, without actually physically being there, will suffice.

Here's to making the most of an unfortunate situation! It's time to do your part in making the world a better place.

*Your editor,*  
Lara Tokar



# Report on GA1 and Article

Şerife Su Mehmetlioğulları

The GA1 workshop started with the chairs taking a roll call. When the chairs figured out who was present, they checked if the delegates knew what countries they represented.

Following that, it was the right time for an icebreaking game. The first icebreaking game which took place consisted of participants, including both the delegates and the chairs, introducing themselves by telling everyone their names, age,

school, hobbies, and a number of their choice. Each of the numbers was assigned to a random question that they answered according to the number they chose. As they game went on, it was clear that everyone began to feel increasingly comfortable following a variety of unique and interesting answers. There was also a passionate argument regarding the superiority of cats or dogs which was entertaining and helped break the ice.

Then, the chairs gave a detailed explanation of Medimun and how the conference would work as well as what the delegates would have to do. A mock debate started right after the delegates read through the resolution about the 'nuclear' question. The debate came to an end with the voting. The resolution ended up successfully passing with 28 votes for and 13 votes against. Lastly, the chairs talked about deadlines and future aims. The workshop ended on a positive and exciting note.

## Infectious Conflicts

Detection and control of infectious diseases in areas that are affected by conflicts are huge but also common challenges to face, as 11 out of 17 EHF (Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever) outbreaks from 1976 through 2006 occurred in conflict-affected countries. People in such areas have to deal with the horrible aftermath of the conflicts such as the destroyed health infrastructure, the different diseases which travelled different regions throughout the conflict due to the constantly moving people, troops and equipment, collapsed health systems that lack the necessities to meet the needs of civilians and injured individuals as well as the infected people.

Treatments not meeting the patient's needs through aspects of normal routines such as vaccination, regular checkups and infection control practices creates a huge issue and pushes the disease to the edge of a break out. The damaged chain of supplies and help that used to be provided to them before the loss of communication as well as coordination caused by the war or

conflict puts the medical workers in a position that actions to stop the breakout of a specific disease cannot be taken. Due to all these issues, poor disease and infection control practices increase the chances of disease transmission and creates the opportunity for the disease to spread even more, just like the Ebola Hemorrhagic fever outbreak that was seen in Sudan, Kikwit, etc.

Medication shortages which can occur in such environments cause civil unrest which eventually contributes to the spread of the disease. Not only the damaged health systems cause problems but also the damaged and destroyed economic and physical infrastructure contribute to breakouts.

Migration can also cause outbreaks as migrants might bring diseases that were common in their former home but not endemic in the new area they are settled in. Migrants being wrongfully blamed for bringing diseases causes them to struggle with their mental wellbeing as they are left alone to cope with their both emotional and physical stress in crowded refugee camps which can

lead to disease epidemics just like the Cholera epidemic which killed thousands of people in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo during 1994.

Outbreaks might put everyone in danger. Such as the COVID-19 disease that started during the start of the year 2020 which is still threatening lives as we are soon to enter 2021. While countries that were known with their advanced health systems were worried, countries with fragile health systems had even bigger concerns therefore they needed solutions which consisted of experienced medical workers, variety of medication and many other things. Where in conflict zones people were in need of even more supplies starting from food, clothes and places to live to doctors, medication, protective equipment and many more.



# Report on GA2 and Article

Ioannis Skordis

5 minutes to the beginning of the GA. Frustration kicks in as the delegates rush to discover why they haven't yet been accepted into the room. Others, much like the sleepy Medinews reporter, were frantically searching for their misplaced laptop chargers. After logging into zoom, an aura of anticipation pervaded the lobby, as the chairs introduced themselves to begin the session.

'Please try to have your cameras on!' One chair proclaims to his darkened screen, met by no reply. A prolonged process of registration commenced, as problems with audio and attendance became the epicentre of the conversation. 'Has anyone not heard their name?' The chairs asked, instantaneously followed up with two consecutive 'Me!' shouts.

The presentation was up next, clarifying the structure of MEDIMUN, and the delegates role in each GA. The chairs warn, however, that each delegation should try to represent the views of their

respective country, to add substance and a realistic aspect to each debate. Followed by a round of questions, the delegates wanted clarification on their country and how they could handpick their allies...

Ice-breakers followed suit, where the delegates had the opportunity to express themselves by sharing their interests, and got to know the people they would be working with (or opposing) in the coming months! Everyone said one fun fact about themselves which made them feel more comfortable with the people surrounding them in order to have a more fruitful debate.

The nerves had long vanquished and were replaced with a sheer eagerness to get involved, as the controversial 'pink tax' dominates discussions in the call. The main submitter claims despite 'increasing progress', there is still a 'long road ahead' to ensure gender equality when purchasing goods and services.

Argument sparked however, as one delegate attacks the lack of 'economic' consideration in the resolution, claiming firms may communicate to fix prices if taxes should be lowered, thus proving this ineffective. This continued back and forth, depicting the disagreement as well as the respect given to each other's opinions.

A debate troubled by frequent 'lagging' and technical problems such as the raising of virtual hands, it nevertheless was passed by an overwhelming majority of over 20 votes to just 8 against!

Ultimately, as the session drew to a close, the chairs asked for final checks that delegates names had been written correctly and gave out the committee email for any future questions. An unusually uniform sequence of 'Goodbye!'s finally ended the session, as participants logged off from their chosen devices.

## Technology: unemployment's root or remedy?

Technological unemployment is noted as a serious type of structural unemployment, where advancements in machinery and working practices cause workers to lose their jobs. These workers tend to be low-skilled and usually following routine tasks, in sectors such as agriculture or manufacturing. However, estimates show that as many as 47% of jobs at the moment could be replaced by machinery or artificial intelligence.

To find a suitable example of this, one needn't look further than the film 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. In this case, Charlie's father, responsible for placing caps on toothpaste tubes, was replaced by an automated cap-installer. Thus, he was left unemployed due to an improvement in technology. To find a new job, Mr. Bucket would have to be retrained, which could possibly take months, provided there was even a job nearby to be trained for. Therefore, this type of unemployment would be classed as long-term.

Using more relevant examples to our lives, the implementation of self-serving tills in the place of cashiers and aiding of doctors with advanced Artificial Intelligence are examples of advances in

technology which have created unemployment. Nonetheless, I think everyone would agree these have been helpful and essential changes, which have increased our standard of living.

Also, somewhat comically, during the pandemic there have been calls for more technology to be used rather than manual labor due to the issue of social distancing. Some companies don't have enough space in factories to employ many workers side-by-side, and so using machinery would prove much more efficient.

As previously mentioned, to counter this type of unemployment substantial retraining needs to be offered to workers at risk, or to those who have already been affected. This is already in place through the Trade Agreements Act in the USA. Moreover, benefits and relocation assistance if needed should be at the disposal of people who have lost their jobs. There is no use trying to 'save' jobs replaced due to innovation; it would be like continuing to produce photographs by hand rather than simply using a camera.

However, the impact of technological

advances on jobs isn't necessarily negative. In many cases, the research and development needed for technological advancements is a job in itself, so many skilled workers benefit greatly from this process. In addition, these advances actually encourage decreases in unemployment, as firms save money which they can reinvest into labor needed elsewhere. Through increased training, the introduction of technology also encourages a more skilled workforce. Overall, studies show that technology is the cause for decreases in unemployment and not vice versa, for this reason.

Ultimately, it can't be denied that a wealth of jobs have been sacrificed due to the progression of technology, such as that of Charlie's father. However, Mr. Bucket's unfortunate case should be made an isolated one. More programs should be enforced in each country which offer benefits and training to those unemployed; preparing them for a more challenging, higher-income job. This would help ensure technology is not the root of unemployment, but its remedy.



# Report on GA3 and Article

Liana Petrossian and Andreas Merhi

The workshop started with an icebreaker activity, after a roll call, which was to debate the question “is climate change real?” Delegates had a feel of an informal debate before moving on to another icebreaker activity where each delegate had to share something that used to be important to them but no longer is.

After the icebreaker activities, the chairs went over their presentation which included how Medimun worked, the different procedures and formalities the delegates had to follow and finally explained to the delegates what they would have to do for the GA.

Following another roll call the delegates took part in a mock debate. The topic of the debate’s resolution was “the prevention of child grooming for suicide missions”. Delegates were given a reading time of one minute and then the delegate of Angola gave a defense speech. The delegate then yielded the floor to the delegate of Norway.

The delegates of Indonesia, Niger and the DPRK all gave attack speeches against this resolution. The delegate of the UK and Austria proposed amendments to the resolution. The delegate of the UK’s amendment was rejected as it received 11 votes for and 15 against.

On the other hand, the delegate of Austria’s ended up passing with 15 votes for and 14 against.

Then, the voting procedure began for the whole resolution and the resolution did not pass with 16 votes for and 18 against. The workshop day concluded.



## The question of tackling misinformation in the mass media

In today’s world we are exposed to an extensive broadcasted media jargon, suchlike misinformation and disinformation. While both terms entail a similar stream of consciousness and follow correlative repercussions, they have distinct intentions and implications. Misinformation is the unintended act of spreading false information, whereas disinformation is the deliberate contortion of news, undermining a globally spread social and political coherence, thus affecting corporate policies, and heightening communal disparities.

To say that tackling the provision of false information, is an effortless task with no strings attached, would be a major understatement, given that accessibility to information today, is substantially inclusive, and within anyone’s reach. Not to mention the rapid rate at which such information is being diffused, undoubtedly aggravates the issue of targeting false information and consequently censoring it.

By virtue of an overabundance of a different range of sources and references, trust in journalism has faced a grave decline, and the way information is perceived tends to be associated with hoaxes and the latest term “fake news.”

Despite it taking a toll on the journalism industry, cross referencing and verifying facts is the next best thing one can do, when trying to acquire a virtuous newscast. Subsequently the proliferation of data platforms facilitates access to false information, but it simultaneously allows a crosschecking system for its readers. Therefore, the bottom line, is that scepticism in media platforms, generates a new media landscape, exacerbated by the considerable number of news outlets, which enables media consumers to confirm and legitimise their sources. However refined disinformation and misinformation campaigns play a dubious role in vested political agendas, which pursue democratic systems. As a result, addressing or claiming a statement is false would be within the jurisdiction of domestic authorities, and accordingly proposing alternative narratives, leads to risks in undermining the benefits of digital media. Not to mention, going against big firms and corporations, can cause an increase in legal controversies.

Today’s distribution of falsified news is one of the greatest challenges the public faces. It’s roots are showcased in many ways: fake news can propagate through politi-

cal events like, mass hysteria. Correspondingly, given the political implications, media outlets’ misuse has, it is critical that we dig deeper into the notion of false reporting and the mirrored impact of misinformation it can cause. It is true that the degree of confidence in journalism has been slowly falling for a while. This means that every single year, the lack of trust hits a new high. For instance, “42% of all US adults trust mainstream media less than they did the previous year.” – 2020.

In conclusion, the spread of inaccurate information is inevitable, though it can be delayed and censored. Social media notifications, along with the recurring technological advancements, enable a reach in journalism and media engagement. Yet despite the ability to access media and news outlets, readers should make certain to do so, through a diverse realm of news sources, so as to ensure the validity of the presented claim.



# Report on GA4 and Article

Alkisti Xanthis

Our meeting started at 9:30 on the morning of Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was executed online through the platform of Zoom, due to the current pandemic. Being online only created some minor difficulties like, trouble connecting and delayed or unclear speech. However, these issues did not disorientate the participants. With the help of the two chairs and the focused and determined delegates the meeting carried on smoothly.

The meeting started with the standard introduction of the delegates and their countries, familiarizing the delegates with one another while at the same time allowing the chairs to check for their presence.

Following this activity came an ice-breaking game called 'two truths and a lie'. Each delegate was to present three facts about themselves, one of the three

being false. Other delegates were encouraged to identify the false one. Through this ice breaking activity, the delegates did not only get more comfortable with each other but also got the chance to hear some amazing and funny stories!

Subsequently, a presentation by the chairs took place. The presentation went over the general idea of Medimun covering the topics of the provisional program of events that will take place in February, the structure of Medimun, the general vocabulary used in the debating process, preparation before the conference like how to research efficiently, lobbying and debating procedures and how to prepare speeches. The chairs were extremely friendly and understanding, answering all the questions of the new-comers and providing them with their own personal experiences and encounters as examples.

As a conclusion to our meeting, the delegates took part in a Mock debate on the topic of internet privacy, with the aim of the delegates getting more comfortable with procedure of the actual debate. Every delegate was given the resolution together with a few minutes to go over it and prepare. The Mock debate was a huge success with all delegates actively taking part, unfortunately not all delegates got the chance to share their views and opinions due to time restrictions. The debate came to an end with the voting of all delegates. The first round of votes was for the amendment that was made. The amendment did not pass with 12 votes for and 13 votes against it. Round two of voting was for the resolution (without the presence of the amendment). The resolution also did not pass with 13 votes for, 17 votes against and 3 countries abstaining.

## The question of ensuring legal protection of environmental refugees.

So, what are environmental refugees?



Environmental refugees are individuals forced to leave and abandon their natural habitat temporarily or permanently due to a natural disaster that affects their standard of living significantly or endangers their existence. Environmental refugees can be internal migrants or international migrants, meaning that refugees who seek shelter do not necessarily seek it in other countries. Refuge can be found in a different city or a different village of a country. Even though internal migration seems much less severe, the problems the migrants have to face are equal to the ones international environmental migrants have to tackle. For example, the issue of finding a job in their field is very difficult, especially for migrants moving from urban to rural areas (or vice versa).

These migrants have been greatly affected by the increasingly severe

climate change and their population is constantly escalating over time. In 2018 a breath-taking number of 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced, a number breaking all records ever recorded in history. A series of unfortunate environmental events in 2017 led to this terrifying number of environmental migrants. The year started off with a 'red alert' of severely polluted air in china, coal ash fell from the sky in central Australia. The vicious hurricane Harvey followed by the also merciless hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico also contributed greatly in the making of such an enormous number. The year came to an end with the raging wildfires across California that destroyed over 18000 buildings, concluding the count of environmental migrants to a number of 68.5 million. In 2018 the World Bank estimated a frightening number of 143 million more environmental migrants by the year of 2050.

The major issue with environmental refugees, is not their struggle to find work or the issue of fitting into a society. The major issue is their lack recognition and protection by the law. Environmental migrants shockingly are legally not considered 'refugees' according to the international refugee law. The international refugee law states that "refugees are persons outside their countries of origin who are in need of international protection

because of a serious threat to their life, physical integrity or freedom in their country of origin as a result of persecution, armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder." This broad definition does not in any way shield environmental refugees. Therefore, these refugees are at much greater political risk than other "traditional" refugees who luckily receive protection. Environmental refugees are much more likely to not be accepted in a country or region and be sent back home than other types of refugees. It is also more likely that they are forced into refugee camps rather than be accepted and welcomed into a society.

Environmental and climate migrants are a very serious issue today, and its severity will continue growing as the years pass. Actions need to be taken to ensure that the people that have been displaced because of natural disasters are protected.



# Report on the Security Council and Article

Katerina Georgiou

In the Security Council the delegates and chairs started off by presenting themselves to the committee, this overcame the awkwardness of the first meeting and allowed the committee to start connecting. Continuing setting the mood, the chairs and delegates chose a number from 0 to 20, each number representing a question and they were asked to respond to their corresponding question. Their intuitive answers reflected some of their beliefs to the rest.

Following this 'warm up', the delegates and chairs got down to work.

The serious part of the workshop began with a presentation by the chairs to the delegates, regarding all facts about the Security Council. Delegates were

informed about the topics which they should research and how they should present their points in clauses, and not in resolutions for the GAs. The delegates were informed about the restriction of alliances between them, the way they should debate and their right of veto.

After the presentation, the conference continued with a fun round of the game: Never Have I Ever. A myriad of questions like: 'Never have I ever said something stupid during debate' or 'Never have I ever gotten in a fight with another delegate' allowed the committee to bond, setting a cheerful mood and helping the delegates to relax before the mock debate. Fun questions about food and travelling were also asked.

Subsequently, the delegates and chairs had a 30 minute break that allowed them to do final preparations for the mock debate that followed.

During the mock debate the delegates gave outstanding speeches, each about their topics. One of them being about the issue of Yemen, given by delegate of USA, presenting 4 pieces of information. The purpose of the mock debate was mainly for the delegates to place into action the rules on how they should address the chairs and other delegates when presenting their speech, or when they need to and ask a delegate or a chair a question. The use of the veto was also clarified.

## What is happening in Libya?

After almost 40 years of Dictator Muammar al-Gaddafi's rule, Libya has been in conflict unceasingly. Libya's dictatorship had made the people tired of the strict censorship, military brutality and the damage to freedom of speech. In 2011 the country's state of power changed forever, and with the goal of democracy in the outcome, the Arab Spring protests made up of two rebel groups: The Government of National Accord (GNA) and the Libyan National Army (LNA) managed to sweep Gaddafi out of control.

### The second civil war

However, even after the annihilation of the dictatorship, Libya was far from peace. The end of the first revolution brought a new civil war in 2014 which has been going on since then, between the two groups that once had been on the same side to overcome Gaddafi, but now are both seeking for the complete control of the whole region of Libya. Attempts for the creation of a united Libya were made immediately after the withdrawal of Gaddafi, when the election in 2012 brought forward the General National Congress (GNC). However, due to the wide opposition between the two parties, the Congress was divided into different beliefs. The failed attempt of the GNC to establish a new constitution of Libya proved to be prophetic of the still ongoing

ing struggles for the achievement of political, social and economic stability in Libya.

### The critical turn of events in 2014

It was in 2014, that the GNC's term ended and the new elections were issued causing the GNA and LNA to turn against each other on who would rule Libya, leading to the conflict of today. The two administrations both have power over Libya with the GNA being in control of the West in Tripoli and the LNA having control over the East in Tobruk, including the precious oil reserves of Libya, which are regarded as the biggest in Africa. The GNA is led by UN-backed Prime Minister, Fayeze al-Sarraj and its beliefs are based around Political Islam, whereas the LNA is led by renegade general Khalifa Haftar and it is based on militarist nationalism.

### Foreign alliances

As Libya has control over the biggest oil reserves in Africa, many foreign countries have sought to 'help' the two Libyan administrations. The GNA is mostly supported by the UAE, Egypt, Russia and Saudi Arabia and France to a less extent. The countries are in favour of the GNA for ideological reasons, as they support Muslim Brotherhood and Political Islamism. On the other hand, reaching for the prevention of spread of Muslim Brotherhood and the obvious control of the reserves, Turkey, Qatar and to a less extent France are on the side of the LNA.

The foreign countries, have been providing military equipment and fighters to the two groups, breaking the UN embargo and actively supporting the continuity of the military destruction in Libya.

### The current situation

Since 2019, the two administrations have been unable to adhere to the ceasefires issued by the UN and reaching an agreement in the peace talks involving the EU and the UN in Berlin. However, there is some hope for the safety of Libya since the second UN meeting of bringing the two sides into discussion has been rather successful. On 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, there was the establishment of an agreement asking for a ceasefire beginning on November 9 and the withdrawal of foreign fighters and military units within 90 days. Elections have also been set for the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

However, there is still a long way to go, as acknowledged by Ms Williams, the chief of UNSMIL (United Nations Support Mission in Libya). Meanwhile, Libyans have been in torture for a long time. They have seen their homes and family being killed by the armed forces of the two administrations for almost a decade. They have become desperate to escape this unending war zone, risking their lives on the rough journey of migration. So far this year, at least 900 people have drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach European shores and this will continue happening until the fighting ends.

# Report on the Historical Security Council and Article

Maria Anna Tsouka

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:40 in the morning. Delegates, chairs and a reporter, all enter a Zoom meeting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop had to adapt to the new circumstances, it was converted to a Zoom workshop. The workshop begun with some icebreakers, a detailed explanation of the Medimum procedure and peaked with a mock debate.

To start the icebreaker activities, each of the delegates introduced themselves and briefly mentioned any past experience with Medimum as well as some personal interests. Following the delegates, the chairs introduced themselves to the team. The second icebreaker activity was a really fun one. Each delegate took an amusing and interesting topic, which they had to prepare and present as a one-minute speech. This speech not only tested the ability of the delegates to respond quickly to a topic but also brought laughter among

them. The chairs then presented a PowerPoint which explained how Medimum works in detail as well as some key phraseology. Moreover, each chair talked about some key points about the topics; the situations in Rwanda and in Haiti. In this way, the delegates were briefly introduced to the topics. Lastly, we were informed about the Medimum clothing and e-shop.

The workshop continued with each delegate choosing a country to represent in the Mock debate. The topic was "The Response to the Chernobyl Disaster". Debate broke out as soon as the resolution prepared by the USSR appeared on the screen. The USSR delegate explained the resolution in detail. Interesting questions which challenged both the resolution and the delegate were posed but were all skillfully answered. The debate continued with some speeches in favor of the

resolution. The voting ended with 5 votes for and 4 votes against. Then the delegates proceeded with one speech against it, which changed the vote result to 3 votes for and 6 votes against. In the second round, Sweden prepared an amendment, which caused another big debate among the countries. The amendment was successfully included as it had 6 votes for and 3 votes against. The USSR delegate made the final speech about the clause as a whole which passed with 6 countries voting for and only 3 countries voting against it. At 13:16 the workshop came to an end, and the delegates, chairs and the reporter left the meeting.



## The Situation in Rwanda

Rwanda, a beautiful country in Africa, which gained its independence in 1962, has a great history of ethnic tensions between the Hutus and the minority of Tutsi ethnicities. The tension between the two ethnicities is not a new phenomenon, but the slaughter of 1994 was a shocking and unexpected escalation of events, something that the many moderate inhabitants of Rwanda would ever imagine.

A plane being shot down was what it took for tension to break into one of the most tragic genocides of modern history. On April 6<sup>th</sup> 1994, the plane in which the former Hutu president, Juvenal Habyarimana, was in, was shot down. This was interpreted by the Hutus as an act of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which was formed mainly by the Tutsi. The assassination of the president led to the Hutus take guns and start murdering their fellow citizens, the Tutsi. Strong anger rose inside the Hutus, who wanted to smash, kill, and exterminate the Tutsi ethnic group. Rwanda's inhabitants turned against each other. Family, friends, nothing mattered, just ethnicity.

A cruelty wave spread through Rwanda. Militia groups were formed by citizens and started murdering any Tutsi person they came across. Mass murder of military and party officials as well as politicians and normal civilians followed.

Mass propaganda from radio and TV, helped build up passionate hatred against their fellow Rwandans. Police and military officers, together with soldiers, encouraged people to take guns and join militia groups. Hutus were promised food, money and the land of their Tutsi victims. It was a tempting offer encouraging people to become brutal and cruel towards their friends. Most people agreed. One of the most beautiful places in Africa was devastated by Orwellian proportions of hatred. Hutu civilians, were forced to kill their fellow Tutsi neighbors for the sake of money and in the name of ethnicity.

Rwanda was basically alone in this civil tragedy. Help from the UN was limited, as most troops stepped back, when they realized the severity and cruelty of events taking part in the country. UN negotiation attempts had no effect. The RPF revived their assault on government forces, but still nothing. The inhumanity in humans had taken over, turning the city into a slaughterhouse with over 80 000 people killed in 100 days.

After 4 unbelievably barbarous months, in July, the whole lawlessness finally came to an end, leaving behind a huge trauma for Tutsis and a genocide for the world to remember. The cruel act of hatred towards the Tutsis came to an end with the victory of the RPF and the defeat of the Hutus. The embarrassment for the

Hutus was huge, as they were an overwhelming majority of 85%. This led to approximately 2 million Hutus migrating to nearby countries.

July, 15<sup>th</sup> 1994, the government collapsed when the RPF took over the capital of Rwanda, the city of Kigali and declared the end of the civil war. After that, Rwanda had to reorganize the government and heal the trauma left behind. A multi-ethnic government was set up, with representatives from all ethnicities. There was a Hutu president and a Tutsi vice president, in an aim to show respect towards both ethnicities and restore peace. But the story of slaughter hasn't been concluded. Militias continue the conflict, resulting to a total of 1 million deaths. It is difficult to eliminate hatred once it is so well entrenched.

Even up to this day, the conflict and tension between the two ethnicities still exists but in a much smaller scale, making Rwanda still an ongoing battleground. It doesn't help that up to this day there are still active Tutsi rebel and militia groups. However, the situation is much better than before, and, 26 years after the genocide, the current president claims that now it's all history. "Our bodies and minds bear amputations and scars, but none of us is alone," said Mr. Paul Kagame, the country's President.

# Report on the World Health Organisation and Article

Olympia Maria Koutenaki

The newly created special committee with chairs Daniz and Athina started off with an icebreaker where delegates stated their name, age, school, previous experience with MEDIMUN and the spiciest thing that has happened regarding MEDIMUN. (Chairs that were a couple and sneaking food like delicious MEDIMUN brownies in the conference room to create alliances were only some of the many spicy things that have happened throughout the years).

After a roll call, the delegates were informed on the 2 research topics: the question of using genetic engineering technologies for the eradication of Malaria and the question of global vaccination, both of which are relevant to the current situation with COVID-19. The chairs shared a detailed power point presentation with the delegates, which explained the points of focus of their research.

The chairs then proceeded to elaborate on the actual process of writing a resolution, announced the deadlines, explained the concepts of debating, lobbying and

merging, voting and forming alliances. Daniz and Athina were very open with the delegates, sharing their own experiences and constantly encouraging them to ask questions.

After a short break from 11:27 to 11:45, the delegates engaged in a mock debate about teen pregnancy and how to delay the age of first pregnancy. The performance of the delegates in the debate would determine what country they would represent in the MEDIMUN conference in February, with stronger delegates representing the 5Ps (US, UK, France, Russian Federation and China) and the rest of the delegates representing other countries in the WHA. After amendments, the overwhelming majority voted FOR the clause, so it passed. The debate was over by 12:45.

A quick two-minute break ensued and then another icebreaker. The delegates had to advertise the item next to them, demonstrating their persuasion skills. The delegates got very creative in their

advertisements. They urged us to buy: Galataki Charalambides to support the local economy (because who doesn't like galataki?), bleach to repel toxic people, marble pencil holders to "become an aesthetic person" and AirPods to cheat on Religious Education tests. However, the most memorable advertisements were those of Athina and Daniz. Athina showed off her phone that looks like a toilet, noting it is stylish, useful and fashionable. Daniz's MAC lipstick advertisement, which stands for Most Amazing Chair, convinced the delegates that she deserves a MAC sponsorship.



## Genetic Engineering:

### Could we eradicate Malaria?

The mosquito: one of the most "beloved" insects, responsible for ruining countless good nights of sleep. However, the mosquito is way worse than just an annoying buzzer. It is considered the deadliest animal on earth, causing over one million deaths each year and even surpassing humans on the list of "killers".

As tiny insects with no dangerous poison or sharp fangs, mosquitoes pose no threat to humans. That is until they become carriers of parasites and viruses, which can evolve to fatal diseases. One of the worst and most common among those mosquito-transmitted diseases is Malaria. Malaria is caused by an intracellular parasite known as Plasmodium. Once it enters the bloodstream, it invades the red blood cells and eats them one by one. This leads to a flu-like illness, with high fevers, shaking chills and even death.

Only a small group of Anopheles mosquitoes can carry Plasmodium, and can transmit it by biting an infected person and then a healthy one. Moreover, Malaria cannot survive in forests/swamps and cannot be transmitted between animals as it specifically targets humans. This means that Malaria is confined to humans and mosquitos and, in theory, we could eradicate it by breaking the cycle of transmission between the two species.

Surely, we could kill all the mosquitoes by

using pesticides and other chemicals, thus breaking the cycle, eradicating malaria and saving hundreds of thousands of children under 5 years old who die from the disease yearly. Turns out it is way harder than that. For the past 150 years humans have resorted to expensive, dangerous chemicals in an attempt to reduce the mosquito population, all of which have been proven ineffective by the whopping 200 million cases of Malaria each year. This is because, like any other organism, mosquitoes are adapting: learning to bite humans in the morning when they are outside and not when they are sleeping inside, developing a higher tolerance to the pesticides and other adaptations which allow them to survive.

And just when there seems that there is nothing to be done, genetic engineering offers a solution. A newly developed technology called CRISPR, whose basic 2 components are "Cas9" and "Guide RNA", allows for something called "Gene drive". Gene drive biases inheritance so that a genetic modification (like antibodies against malaria or infertility in mosquitoes) has a greater than 50% chance of being passed to offspring. This works as follows: Cas9 is an enzyme that acts like a pair of molecular scissors to cut the DNA while Guide RNA is like an address, telling Cas9 exactly where it needs to cut. This allows scientists to make precise changes to DNA in labs.

Researchers and scientists are already using Gene drive on mosquitoes. There have been 2 approaches, one from the not-for-profit

research consortium "Target Malaria" and one from the University of California Irvine. The Target Malaria study uses Gene drive to make females infertile and thus suppress the mosquito population. On the other hand, UCI has developed a gene drive that alters, rather than shrinks, the mosquito population. It spreads genes that make mosquitoes resistant to the Malaria parasite, Plasmodium, so they don't transmit it between humans. Both studies have to go through 3 stages before they are released into the environment: the laboratory studies, the field testing (usually on a small island or big cage) and the coordinated releases. They are currently on Phase 2, and experts say that in 2 to 5 years from now the genetically engineered mosquitoes could become part of the ecosystem.

Is it dangerous to modify an entire species? Groups such as "Friends of the Earth" are protesting against genetic modification as they fear it will have a lasting impact on the ecosystem and could be misused by militaries. However, the truth is that it will have no worse effect on the ecosystem than the tons of pesticides we use every year to try to kill mosquitoes. On the contrary, a gene drive is extremely specific to a single species, meaning that it is eco-friendly and would not affect other species, the food chain or the ecosystem.

In conclusion, thanks to genetic engineering, the eradication of Malaria is far from the elusive dream it was 150 years ago and is now more possible than ever...



# Report on the ECOSOC and Article

Derin Toumer and Sadiye Ratib

The Medimun workshop took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. It happened online on Zoom but it still felt like it was an actual in-person workshop because the delegates and chairs were dressed up formally. Additionally, the timetable was very proper as well; the coronavirus can't get in the way of Medimun!

The ECOSOC workshop started by everyone greeting each other (and me trying to still wake up because it was very early in the morning!). Then, before the chairs told the delegates about the formalities and the structure of the clauses, some funny debates took place. Each delegate chose a number and had to debate on the topic corresponding to their number. Some topics were: "Is Santa here to destroy us?" "Is breakfast better than dinner?" and "Is hot dog a sandwich?". But I was most impressed by the delegate who debated the topic "Does a straw have two holes?" because he said the straw has two holes just like a t-shirt with passion that was impossible to forget.

After the funny debates the chairs told the delegates how to write their clauses and also how to find allies and gave them some time to write their clauses. The topics were "How to stop child labour in sub-Saharan Africa?" and "Should men and women get equal paid parental

leave?". The delegate of Norway said they should get equal leave and had a point of information saying that it's the mother's role to look after the baby. However, the delegate of Norway said it is sexist to assume that only women should stay at home.

The delegate of Iceland talked about the economic dependence on child labour in sub-Saharan Africa. She said that lack of jobs for adults decreases confidence so children start working earlier and talked about some ideas on entrepreneurship in the area and also investments. She also said that children should get better education in order to be able to work in the future and not be stuck in the cycle of poverty. The delegate of Austria made a speech against the clause of the delegate of Iceland. She said most of the population is the working class therefore encouraging entrepreneurs to come to the area is not going to help the poverty in the working class at all. The root of the problem is the fact that big, multi-national companies take advantage of the cheap labour in the area due to poor regulations and she mentioned a more coherent solution would be subsidising 20% of adult labour to make adult labour cheaper for companies. Therefore, the delegate argued, the clause didn't tackle the issue at its root. The delegate of Cuba also

made a speech against Iceland. The speech's main point was that the clause focused too much on education instead of economic solutions to the problem. The clause of Iceland did not pass.

The delegate of UK spoke about her clause on parents leaving work for their child. She said it was not sexist as it would give the mother and the father the same amount of leave. The delegate of France agreed with Norway and Iceland on the fact that both parents should get equal leave. Austria said that they found the UK ironic for supporting an equal, long leave, as parental leave in the UK is only two weeks. The delegate of Austria gave the floor back to the chair. The amendment of the UK didn't pass and nor did her clause.

Overall, the workshop was very fun and delightful as five hours felt like five minutes. I believe that this was very good learning opportunity for delegates because they put their skills into practice and had a chance to learn from their mistakes and improve for the conference.



## SMEs: Why are they important and what can we do to help?

So, what are SMEs? They are small and medium sized enterprises that represent 90% of all firms and 50% of the employment worldwide. They are the small supermarket you go to get groceries, the hair salon you go to for a haircut and the dentist's office you go to get your braces. They are basically the backbone of the economy and facilitate our lives on the daily.

These businesses have 250 or less employees and due to their smaller size, they are more vulnerable to external shocks such as a health crisis. These businesses also lack access to credit unlike multinational corporations (MNCs).

According to a survey, SMEs had to reduce their employees by 40% due to the COVID-19 crisis. This leads to a global 20% unemployment rate just because these businesses can't afford to employ as many employees as they used to, due to decreased consumption and increased costs. Just from these values, we can understand how important SMEs are for the economy.

In the same survey, it was found that

43% of small and medium sized businesses had to close temporarily due to COVID-19. At times like this, the sustainability of SMEs is a big concern of governments. The UK government is famous for using a furlough scheme to solve the first problem; unemployment. "Nearly 10 million jobs have already been claimed for under furlough, which pays employees placed on leave up to 80% of their salary, up to a maximum of £2,500 a month," according to BBC.

Another way to help sustain SMEs is by giving out subsidies to these enterprises and also delaying their tax payments. These will give these businesses more confidence and boost their production. It will also help them pay off any debt or loan they have more easily and prevent them from going out of business.

According to data from the World Bank, high-income countries (HIC) focused a lot more on informing people about the socio-economic aspect of the COVID-19 crisis than low-income countries (LIC), which brings me to a campaign launched by the ICC of UNDP called: Call to Action to Save Our SMEs. This campaign has three objectives; to shine a spotlight on the

devastating impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and their employees, to ensure effective policy and fiscal responses at both the international and national levels and to provide resources and tools to SMEs to help them navigate this economic shock. Many small businesses are devastated both economically and mentally, and they want to do whatever they can to sustain their business. However, it is hard for them to learn about any aid programs that the government has or to navigate their way financially because they are very stressed and confused due to uncertainty. Informing these SMEs can actually give them a lot of relief and guide them towards sustaining their enterprise.

SMEs are very important for the economy because their sustainability determines employment rate a lot; if these enterprises go out of business many people would be unemployed and spending would decrease causing more businesses to have to close down. This should and has to be seen as a priority always.



# HUMANS OF MEDIMUN

What is your most unusual talent?

“I have memorized an entire 90s CD that helps Japanese people learn English. (I don't know Japanese)”

-Tamara Tuhikyan, GA2 Chair



What is something that makes you irrationally angry?

“One car. Two parking spaces.”

-Emily Petrou, Secretary General

“Sneakers and socks not being of the same brand, don't know why, but always gets me.”

-Chloe Tserioti, Deputy Secretary General



What is your favourite 'weird' food combination?

“Steamed zucchini and mustard”

-Faisal Alaidy, SC Delegate

What would be the worst thing for the government to make illegal?

“Ironically, social interaction”

-Maria Efthymiadou, Security Council Delegate



If you could keep any animal from a zoo as a pet, what would it be and why?

“A lion because they all seem really soft and fluffy and I just want to pet one and have it sleeping in my room.”

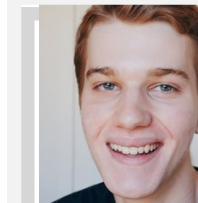
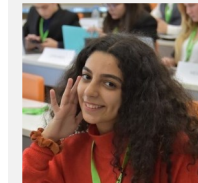
-Thalia Petrou, WHA delegate

“An elephant because I’d like it to wash my hair with the water coming out of its trunk.”

-Eleni Hadjosif, WHA Delegate

“I think I’d keep all of them in an attempt to save them from the zoo! Although I have to admit it would be quite interesting to figure out what to feed my crocodile or lion, other than myself.”

-Andreas Marcou, GA2 Chair



If someone asked to be your apprentice and learn all that you know, what would you teach them?

“Rhythmic gymnastics”

-Anna Sokolova, GA4 Delegate

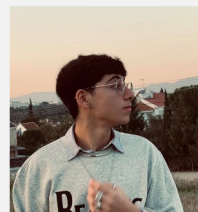
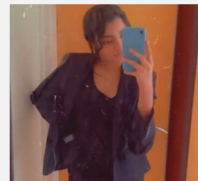
If you could be anywhere right now where would you want to be?

“Denmark”

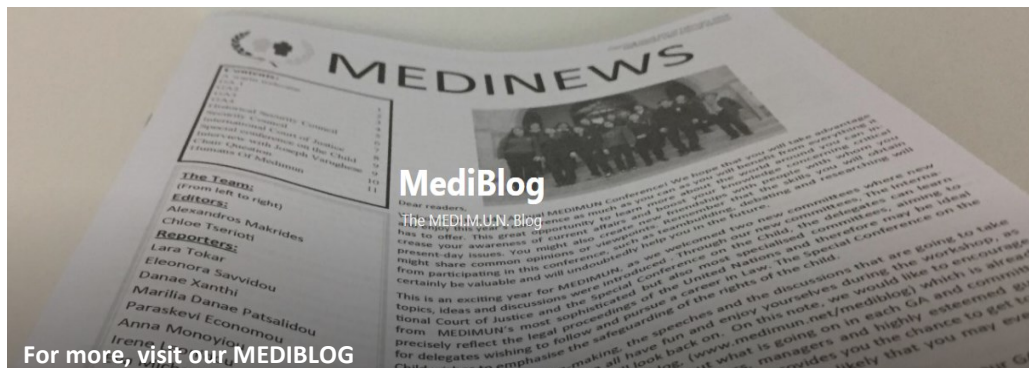
-Kiara Pinto, GA4 Delegate

“New York City”

-Christos Yiangou, GA2 Delegate



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