

DAILY DELEGATE



February 21, 2020 - Morning Session

Debate Continues and Crises Arise!

Legal Committee: Making Children and Making Change

Skylar Johnson, Die Zeit

Almost all delegates agree that the citizens of the countries they represent, women in particular, are entitled to accessible, safe, affordable, and impartial reproductive health services. In theory, this sounds excellent – but where does the funding for these services come from? This question was stressed by both developing and developed nations, including Kenya, Cambodia, and the United Kingdom, though multiple attempts to address the subject in a moderated caucus were shut down, leaving the question largely unanswered. After raising the issue of lack of financial resources, North Korea quickly came under fire from India for directing funding away from health care and instead towards military operations.

Despite these points of contention, delegations appeared willing to collaborate through international forces, such as a Nigerian-proposed “global contraceptive commission”, as well as an initiative suggested by the Philippines and Greece involving volunteer medical professionals delivering reproductive health services to countries in need.

The balance between religious, familial, and state mandated sexual education programs was a hotly contested issue this morning, with the Holy See referring to the idea of safe termination of pregnancy as “killing the innocent” and calling it “disgusting”, and Brunei stating that legalizing abortions would be “legalizing murder.” Many other delegations emphasized the importance of “the sons and daughters of the world creating more sons and daughters of the world”, a phrase that became particularly popular within the Legal committee.

Being a leader in reproductive rights, the German delegation expressed support for comprehensive sexual education as an essential part of maintaining reproductive rights of all citizens, and discussed previous UN use of its sexual education model as an example to other countries. Many emphasized the importance of respecting national sovereignty by not imposing an international sexual education

curriculum, but rather endorsing countries with successful frameworks which can then be adapted to fit different countries' specific preferences.

WHO - Opioid Rehabilitation and Safe Injection Sites

Mya Smith, Yomiuri Shimbun

The World Health Organization started the second committee session by discussing prescription opioids. The nations within WHO spoke about the necessity of monitoring and educating the physicians of the world on prescribing these opioids.

They also spoke about overdose-reducing drugs as a solution to this crisis. Many countries stated that overdose-reducing drugs are not a solution, but a way to decrease the amount of deaths for a short period of time while actual solutions are being introduced.

Canada stated that they need to solve the increased opioid addiction within their indigenous population, emphasizing the fact that addiction is both a physical and psychological issue.

Tanzania pointed out that large pharmaceutical corporations are the cause of the opioid crisis, and those same companies are the ones trying to sell overdose-reducing drugs to the world. One topic brought up was that of privatized healthcare – doctors who know the dangers of opioids but may still prescribe them as they are looking to maximize their profit.

The conversation in WHO then turned to programs of rehabilitation. Argentina brought up the drug tribunals that take place there, which allows those who committed non-violent drug offenses to complete rehabilitation outside of prison. Other countries brought up that they should not have to provide rehabilitation programs for their citizens, as it should be the responsibility of addicted individuals.

Safe injection sites were brought up as a short term solution to the opioid crisis as they allow those addicted to inject in a monitored safe space that decreases the amount of deaths by overdose, while also preventing the spread of HIV. Spain believes that a nation cannot support safe injection sites while disagreeing with the decriminalization of opioids. Reducing the stigma of addiction was also brought up, as it is considered a disease.

SOCHUM - Here to Protect and Serve - Or Are We?

Sophie Lafond, *Die Zeit*

We have started on day two of debate here in SOCHUM, and already there are multiple papers in the works. Seeming to have the most support, Nigeria and Myanmar have started a paper to “get the UN out of our business.” The paper is being characterized as “very open ended” to leave room for anyone to sign on, so long as they want to protect their sovereignty. The countries on this paper believe that the UN is interfering in domestic affairs where they should not be.

On the other side of things, an unlikely paper has been started between Russia, China, and the United States. While the paper has some support, it has not gained very much momentum. Possible clauses are still in the works, although it appears the paper stands for recognizing the inherent human rights of LGBTI+ peoples to exist, but not necessarily encouraging it. There are many different views on the topic, with some, such as Qatar, saying they “absolutely reject [homosexuality],” with others saying there is “no harm in tolerating it.”

A recurring theme of today’s debate seems to be the issue of “international bodies” and western nations “imposing on” smaller nations. This was first brought up by the delegate from Belize who said “please don’t make our decisions for us” and was reiterated by Nigeria, Myanmar, and North Korea who claimed the United States uses religion as a “tool to force Islamic countries into submission.”

For Spain and Finland, education is very important to their people and in this discussion. Both nations believe that, with proper education, a solution can be found. Nearing lunch, delegates begin speaking about imperialism and colonialism as a cause for LGBTI+ discrimination.

Argentina says that, “before western colonialism, many indigenous peoples recognized and accepted LGBTI+ peoples.” This discussion is likely to continue after lunch, as it is a very important subject to many nations.

Debate is closed for lunch with working papers being finalized and voting to come after lunch. Die Zeit would also like to wish a happy birthday to the Italian delegate! More debate updates are to come this evening, when papers are, hopefully, passed and we move onto the topic of ethnic minorities.

DISEC - Nothing Passed: Welcome to DISEC!

Skylar Johnson, *Die Zeit*

This afternoon, DISEC voted on two draft resolutions regarding Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs), and (perhaps predictably) both were shot down. The committee appeared divided into two main factions: one advocating for immediate regulation of LAWs, and the other arguing that it is too early to begin regulation. The former was sponsored by Pakistan, Ethiopia, Germany, and Venezuela, and concentrated on protecting smaller nations by limiting development of LAWs. It failed with 53 of the 56 votes required to pass a resolution.

The second draft resolution focused on increasing transparency in reporting procedures on LAWs, but refraining from passing legislation because, in the words of the South Korean delegation, "you can't legislate against something you don't understand, especially something that does not exist yet". This effort, however, was slammed by Pakistan as an apparently diplomatic way for the sponsors of the paper to carry out "senseless murders". The heated controversy can be expected to continue as the committee moves on to discuss Private Military and Security Companies.

Security Council 2020 - Vampiric Virus Spooks Council

Sumaya Soufi and Abby LeDrew, *Die Zeit*

The early day of discussion and continual debate started off with Trump's Peace Plan. South Africa's first reply was that "it sucks." What a nice way to set the tone of the morning. With much of the early discussion revolving around economic policies, Peru boldly switched the focus in saying "we need a plan to promise humanitarian aid. We mustn't overlook the many displaced Palestinians as an international community."

An interesting twist to the Delegation of Israel's rhetoric came unexpectedly when they committed to pouring money into Palestine as a way to revive the suffering Middle Eastern economic crises. A quick retort from the Palestinian Delegation was firm in spelling out to the Israeli representatives that "Palestine is not for sale." This comment, even with its clarity, did not stop Israel from further justifying their presence in occupied Palestinian land by way of increasing their monetary contributions to the nation.

Before we knew it, discussion revolved completely around walls—and not Trump's "glorious southern border," as the US Delegation put it so eloquently—but rather the correct way to border Palestinian and Israeli territories. A back and forth argument between the US and essentially every other delegation (not including Israel) modelled a childish duel that made for satisfying entertainment.

The second half of the the morning brought forth the introduction of a crisis: an unexpected outbreak of a new and highly infectious disease—known as the Vampiric Virus for its ability to cause massive blood loss on affected individuals, much like the sucking of blood by a Vampire. Following the announcement of this current crisis, the emphasis on an international response by way of cooperation was greatly accepted by the majority of delegates present. One of the first common acknowledgements that multiple delegates voiced was the need for a limitation on air-travel and potential quarantine due to the Virus' movement being airborne. The Delegation of Palestine quickly made their suspicion clear regarding the lack of third party testing of Israel's administered vaccines. Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea, China, and multiple other delegates also sided with this clear lack of unbiased research on the vaccines.

“Suspicion rises due to the oddly quick creation of a vaccine by Israel, administered only a week following the first case discovered of the Vampiric Virus.” This argument was reiterated at least a dozen times by a spectrum of nations, and with good reason. With public health being of primary importance to all delegates, discussion quickly led to finding ways of mediating and minimizing the global spread of this new virus. The solution of quarantine was brought forward through a moderated caucus, although met with fair arguments against it. It came as no surprise to the committee when a clear divide made itself known between the delegates, with more than half of them stressing the importance of quarantining individuals exposed to the virus, and the other portion of delegates bringing forward the issue of mass hysteria due to such quarantines. Equatorial Guinea's strong case for quarantine without increasing military presence was generally accepted among delegates, as the number one priority was preserving the health of the general public.

As the first half of the day wraps up and the Security Council is informed of a virus permeating through the West Bank at a rapid speed, tensions climax and delegates attempt to find a resolution for this time-sensitive crisis.

Future Security Council - Potential Espionage Shakes FSC!

Gabrielle Potvin, USG Press & Media

Delegates in the Future Security Council were interrupted by word of Serbia accusing France of spying on them in the wake of reconstruction following the CME. In an already divisive time, delegates must now decide how to proceed with these accusations on top of their efforts to get their own countries up and running again.

UNEP - Resolution 1.0: Space Janitors a GO!

Raquel Medina, Press & Media

As the pressing issue of space junk continues to be discussed, UNEP delegates reach a first resolution proposal sponsored by Brazil, China and Portugal. Resolution 1.0 “[acknowledges that] the intricacies of space development have international ramifications and therefore, require global collaboration”. The committee proposes the formation and establishment of a new division called the International Space Janitors Agency henceforth known as ISJA, who will oversee all removal of orbital debris.