

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 26-4-2017

International delegates debate global issues at Beirut

International Model United Nations conference in AUB

The second edition of the Beirut International Model United Nations (BeyMUN) took place at the American University of Beirut (AUB) as students engaged in a weekend of critical thinking, diplomacy, and challenging tasks. The first edition of BeyMUN was organized by AUB students in 2016 and was the first Model United Nations (MUN) international program in the region. The MUN is an educational simulation and/or academic competition in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

The opening ceremony of the BeyMUN 2017 conference was attended by diplomats, alongside students participating as delegates in the conference. This year, the conference took as theme “Millennials at a crossroad: Facing the challenges of a changing world order.”

In her opening speech, Rim Sinjabe, Secretary General of BeyMUN, highlighted the progress this entirely student-led conference has made since its inception last year.

“We went from having 150 delegates registered in 2016 to 430 in 2017; from three committees to four; from having 1.3 percent of international students to 20.7; and from having no app to having one,” said Sinjabe. “Our incredible IT team developed an application for BEYMUN that you can download on iOS and Android, offering delegates all the information they need at their fingertips.”

Sinjabe praised her team that worked tirelessly, in addition to their academic commitments, in organizing this international event. On the team were Under Secretary General (USG) for Faculty and Delegate Relations Fadi Kanaan; USG for Finance and Fundraising Hanan Adlouni; USG for Operations and Logistics Fatima Haidar; and Director General Nader Noueiri.

Dr. Tarek Mitri, director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at AUB, discussed in his speech during the opening ceremony the role of the UN in shaping the world and the challenges it faces as an international institution.

“[The UN] is bound to live with inconsistencies and may not be able to choose, once and for all, between contradictory values: Those of sovereignty and non-intervention on the one hand and those promoting human rights as well as protecting civilian victims on the other,” said Dr. Mitri. “Such inconsistencies make the UN, in the eyes of many peoples, less beneficial than it pretends to be. But living with inconsistencies is better than losing relevance. No matter how disappointing the UN can be, a world without it would be undeniably a worse place to live in.”

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon since 2015, Ambassador Christina Lassen, discussed present challenges facing the globe, such as climate change and terrorism, and said that the only way to solve them is through working together, with international organizations such as the UN.

“Congratulations for choosing to spend your weekend at this conference,” said Lassen to the students. “I am not exaggerating when I say I envy you, in a positive way, for the opportunity you have this weekend to throw yourself in the universe of multinational and international corporations.”

Martin Huth, German Ambassador to Lebanon, discussed institutional, political, and global challenges faced by the UN. He highlighted the important role the UN plays in shaping the today’s world. “Despite the failures and shortcoming, if the UN did not exist, it needs to be invented,” said Huth.

Performing at the opening ceremony were the AUB Zaki Nassif Ensemble and singer Joelle Sakr.

The weekend of vivid and insightful committee sessions allowed for discussions of international issues from different countries’ perspectives. AUB President Fadlo Khuri visited the committees at work and praised them for their effort.

The weekend concluded with an award ceremony where BeyMUN Director General Nader Noueiri presented awards and honorary mentions to outstanding delegates. Noueiri praised the committees for their exceptional work in presenting solutions to pressing global issues.

“All in all the committees were extremely impressive,” Noueiri told the delegates in his closing remarks. “You took the raw materials that the chairs gave you and turned them into the detailed

debates and resolutions that you put forth. You are the ones who kept BeyMUN going, and you are the ones who made all of the long hours worth it for all the staff.”

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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