M1 International Relations and Diplomacy

Subject: International Organizations and the United Nations

FOX NEWS (Olivia Guerra) / BBC Report (Zoé Olivero de Rubiana)

Topic. - "Refugees' Crisis in Europe"

First Day. -

European countries, NGOs, international organizations, countries of the Global South, the international press ... all sorts of equally important actors came together in the hope and primary interest of finding a solution to the large influx of refugees to Europe. The flow of refugees has been so great since the last refugee crisis in 2015 that their reception in Europe is becoming increasingly critical and controversial.

For lack of means, for lack of shelter, for lack of political will, refugees are sometimes sent back home despite the sometimes-fatal crossing of oceans and seas, many are sent back at the borders and mistreated by the competent authorities.

This first day of this MUN simulation was the most decisive for everyone. Many actors emphasized in their opening speeches the urgency of the situation, the need for immediate protection of refugees' rights, dignity, and assistance. The press and in particular certain NGOs such as Médecins sans Frontières, Amnesty International, and SOS Méditerranée condemned the cruelty of certain governmental behaviors and decisions in terms of managing the crisis, where certain countries had deliberately violated the respect of fundamental human rights. These actors were clearly defending a recognition of the rights of refugees and their formal protection to manage the crisis in accordance with international law (1951 Geneva Convention and the United Nations Charter).

The first day was therefore an opportunity for everyone to assert their positions and to anchor themselves in a precise political line. The developing countries, part of the Global South, adopted a different strategy by asserting that it was Europe's responsibility to manage this issue, which they had been struggling to manage for the past few years with decisions and actions that were not effective. The countries of Europe, for their part, formally called for the cooperation of each state in order to manage this crisis.

Very quickly a division between actors was formed and visible. Between NGO's on one side, Europe on the other and developing countries; the traditional North/South cleavage was launched and gave the color of the discussions and debates to come at the end of these three days. NGOs positioned themselves in favor of the proposals launched by the countries of the South, clamoring for a resolution at the source of the problem.

The delegates of Mali, Sudan and Jordan were very fast to express their need for aid in order to resolve the problem at the source, on the ground (war against terrorism, insurrection, etc.); financial, military or humanitarian aid. A call for help that does not seem to have been assimilated by Europe and the United States in view of the continuation of the negotiations.

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The debates turned around the violation of the rights of the refugees, on a financial help concerning the host countries (financing globally accepted by everyone); countries of Eastern Europe such as Hungary, Poland or Austria who supported the need for financing as to welcome refugees in the best possible terms. NGOs remained very active in the debate by denouncing and pushing state actors to take responsibility on the issue and to take more ethical and lawful directives.

In short, during this first day of simulation no decisions were taken, however, it allowed all delegations to establish their positioning and their objectives for managing this crisis, recreating the traditional North/South divide.

Second Day. -

On this second day of debate, the delegations present carried out several activities where arguments and counterarguments were the protagonists of the struggle to find an efficient solution to start working on the possible resolutions of the model.

First, several caucuses were organized by the delegations of Jordan, the United Kingdom, and Poland to debate and contribute to the exchange of ideas on the instrumentalization of migrants for national interests, as well as the establishment of borders in the crisis region, to solve the uncontrollable flow of migrants enters Europe. In this day, many countries contribute to creating some resolutions, trying to find alliances, and talking with other delegations to see their point of interest and view about the topic in discussion.

These topics contributed to the rise of the level of the debate, producing the involvement of different delegations, that on the first day were a little timid and nervous about their participation. The involvement of delegation of the non-states block was more active and precise, like IOM, SOS Mediterranean, Amnesty International, etc. Also, countries like Ukraine, Hungary, and Sweden shared ideas on how to reduce the flow of migrants through the Mediterranean and land routes, which are considered the most dangerous for vulnerable people such as refugees.

In the middle of the day, the debate turns a little interesting, since it was raised to another level of discussion. After reporting, the general secretary of the assembly, that there was a bombing in a refugee camp on the territory of Greece. The first information got by Fox News was at 11h30 in the morning our sources confirm a bomb attack in the region of Greece near a refugee's camp. With estimated deaths of 1500 and growth. The bomb has been identified as part of Russian, Belarus, and Turkey weapons, and the trajectory was traced to the south of the Crimean Peninsula. After this news, the tension in the room rises, provoking accusatory statements from the delegations involved, such as Russia and Belarus. In the aftermath, the international community urged Fox News delegations to provide better statements about where and by what means they acquired such information to support their statements about what happened that morning on the territory of Greece.

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After a deep research and knowing more about the sources of information, the delegation of Fox News made an official declaration to the room in a moderated caucus. They express the concern about the lack of trusting on the credibility of the press and their implacable background of giving the real information and true facts about the world's events.

Adding on that, the Greek government has expressed its concern about what happened and is preparing a press conference on the matter. Regarding the origin of the bomb and its perpetrators, after an investigation by experts in the area of armaments and warfare, they have declared that the manufacturer of the bomb is of Russian and Belorussian origin, being the companies of "Tulsky Oruzheiny Zavod" and "Tetrahedr", the creators of the deadly weapon. In addition, the missile was recognized as an "Avangard-Osa-AK" high reach missile, thus the trajectory from the Crimean Peninsula has been confirmed, following mathematical studies on the missile's direction vector.

Giving that declaration, the international community took position around the situation, trying to protect the civilian's death in the region and giving help to the Greek government. After some time of debate, they try to reach the debate in the best way possible to create an alliance against the attacks and condemn the ones that perpetuated them. The debate continues and they discussed draft resolutions to agree on new actions against the refugee crisis in order to help people made vulnerable by this problem affecting Europe. The day finished with a new purpose of a moderate caucus about the border patrol around European countries.

Third Day. -

For the last day of debate, the participate of non-states actors, like NGOs and media, was active at the point that they collaborate in the making of the resolution that was presented to the chair to be discussed and modified, if that was the case. Even though, the Secretary General express her concern about the lack of international law quoting inside the two resolutions that countries shared. That request was taking into consideration by the blocks and inside an unmoderated caucus, they polished the mistakes and established new actions to set clear objectives and obtain efficient and effective results to contain the migration crisis in Europe.

At mid-day, the resolution was debated on friendly or unfriendly amendments, and significant changes were made in order to have agreement among the members of the entire room. After these changes, a voting session was held to pass or not to pass the resolution and, after a small hiccup, the Model General Assembly resolution passed with a majority vote and with the gratitude of the members present.

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Conclusion. -

The third day of the simulation was undoubtedly the most important in terms of decisions, in fact a Final Resolution was adopted. Even though, the North/South divide gave rise to two separate resolutions.

The previous two days had been rather crucial in terms of positions taken, but the debates became more decisive in terms of the management of the crisis. Some states were more cooperative, the dialogue was more fluid and therefore conducive to voting together on a resolution that makes sense for the contemporary world but especially for the fate of refugees.

The two resolutions at stake: the first being mainly supported by the southern, developing countries (Jordan, Sudan, Morocco, Mali, the African Union, etc.) but above all by the majority of NGOs, and the second mainly supported by the northern, developed countries, i.e. Europe and the United States.

After debating and amending the original versions of each of the resolutions, a final voting comprising a simple majority enabled the adoption of one collective resolution. It was a victory for the developing countries who had not been completely heard during this simulation but who won their case by seeing their resolution voted.

It is also a victory for the refugees who, thanks to this resolution, will see their right respected, the right of asylum reviewed and therefore their condition improved, all this supported by numerous NGOs which will take care of the respect and protection of their rights.

The vote of this resolution is a promise of a new day in front of this crisis which still persists, in particular now with the arrival of climatic refugees and the world pandemic. Finally it is the promise of a crisis which will have to be better managed by the States with the highest respect of international law and the support of multilateral and regional organizations.

This MUN Simulation was a way for M1 students to put into practice their lectures on "International Organizations and the United Nations". They experienced a multilateral negotiation, representing different actors that make part of world politics, they became familiar with the rules and procedures international bureaucracies use to achieve their goals, but most importantly, they were able to demonstrate their diplomatic skills to put forward international cooperation and dialogue.

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Photos of the Simulation. –













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Best Delegations/ Best Chair/ Honorable award. -













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