"African Mobilisation in the 4th Industrial Revolution"

Students from over 10 universities across South Africa gather in Pretoria for a three-days National Model of United Unions student conference organised by United Nations Association of South Africa (UNASA) in collaboration with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the Friedrich Stiftung- South Africa from 10 to 12 July 2019.

UNASA, supports the principle, goals and programmes of the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. At the university level, Model UNs engage students in debates on current global affairs by assigning one country to each student. UNASA carries out Model UNs in 13 university chapters across the country. As representatives of a particular country, each student participant must represent that country's views and interests.

The delegation met under the theme that was drawn from the United Nations 2020 initiative - renewing the UN system. The year 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The UN2020 initiative is a civil society-led consortium calling for a United Nations 75th anniversary that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, renewal and reforms that strengthen the organisation.

Mr Albert Geldenhuys from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation opened and welcomed the delegation to the 8th National Model of United Nations conference (#NatMUN19) under the theme "*African Mobilisation in the 4th Industrial Revolution*".

Mr Geldenhuys' welcome note was followed by Ms Shange Buthane, Director of Humanitarian Affairs at the DIRCO. Ms Buthane reminded the delegation that "each refugee, migrant or displaced person has a story of desperation and all they have with them is hope in the humanity of those that need to assist them". Her address was followed by the keynote address that was delivered by Ms Mpilo who highlighted the role that DIRCO plays in relation to refugees and the processes around those issues.

The aim of the National Model of United Nations 2019 (#NatMUN19) conference was to simulate discussions and debates on issues of mobility and movement across the world today.

The issue of movement and mobilisation is an ever-present one in South African and African domestic and international relations. These aspects of society can either be the driving force of development, or can cause the continued hindrance of human progress. This was the motivation behind the topics of the National Model United Nations for 2019. For it is only through the mobilisation of a people as a whole, that opportunities can be opened for economic and social change.

The recent upsurge in technological capabilities, the capacity and willingness of people to move beyond boundaries & integrate into other societies creates a global phenomenon of movement and mobility never before seen.

The movement of people is an issue being brought more to the fore of the global arena every year. Whether through the advent of globalisation through trade, human migration in states of crisis, or the opening of new trade channels due to the climate change crisis.

The United Nations (UN) has had to increasingly get involved in the movement of the world, open up peaceful channels of communication between states, as well as see to the sustainable wellbeing of all citizens of the world.

The #NatMUN19 delegates discussed the plethora of issues that the UN has been at the forefront of alleviating. These include the issue of human peace and security regarding terrorism that comes as a result of the global migrant crisis.

One of the issues on the discussion table at the #NatMUN19 was the issue of the safety of migrant refugees in war-torn countries. In any circumstance, wars cause economic, political and social instability.

Fearing for their lives, victims of war-ton countries are forced to flee their homes & seek asylum in other countries. This causes other issues, such as border security, safety of migrant refugees, proper help & healthcare, and a possibility of future prosperity for the individual.

Other discussion points were the issues of climate change as a direct result of human migration and, more specifically, urbanisation. After the 1st Industrial Revolution, Carbon emissions have been at the fore of technological development, increasing overall global temperature by 1.4 Degrees Celsius, which has caused mass rapid climate change that will be irreversible in the next 21 years. Additionally, population growth & urbanisation has resulted in mass deforestation, along with other environmental impacts. Thus, the UN Nations aim to combat this through its Environment Programme.

In the United Nations Environment Programme simulation, the committee tackled the issue of environmental changes that come as a result of human migration. This is a topic which has been on the forefront of climate change discussions, as migration and urbanisation with exponential increases in human population growth, have caused an increase in deforestation for development and mining, and methane emissions through increased farming practices.

Within the 21st century, the topic of the 4th Industrial Revolution in developing nations has been on the rise, with countless drives to improve the mobilisation of citizens in developing and emerging nations. For example, Rwanda, with the help of a Chinese trade deal, has launched a drone project which delivers medical supplies to remote parts of the country. This cuts travel time in emergencies from hours to minutes in order to save lives. The reality that emerging nations find themselves in is that the global north has moved from production-based economies to service-based economies, which drives the global north in terms of innovation. In order to "catch up" to this system, it is imperative that the global south (developing and emerging nations) work together with a common goal of upliftment. The objective of the Development Programme

simulation was to establish the mobilisation of African and global south nations through South-South cooperation within the United Nations framework.

However, with movement, comes an increase in threats of both internal and external forces. In the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees simulation, the former was dealt with in discussions to try and overcome the atrocities suffered by the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar. After being persecuted by the Myanmar military, and not being allowed statehood within the country, the Rohingya people have been labeled by the United Nations as one of the most persecuted groups in the world. The main objective of the committee was to establish a way through which the Rohingya people could be granted identification as citizens of Myanmar, or alternatively how to establish this ehnic group elsewhere in the world with sufficient transitory resources in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh, which houses approximately 1.1 million Rohingya refugees.

In dealing with external threats Within the United Nations Security Council simulation, delegates spent the duration of the conference discussing these various threats, with a particular focus on South Sudan as a case study. The objective of these discussions was to find a peaceful and cooperative way to allow movement across borders without posing a threat to civilians' wellbeing. As is the nature of the security council, there were many differing opinions as to what the best solution would be, but ultimately, by the second day, the committee saw something that certainly does not happen often: a unanimous resolution being drafted. It was highly encouraging to see these future diplomas working together with little regard to rhetoric, but rather with a goal to achieving a greater future.

After the three long days of deliberations in the four different committees, the delegation gathered for the joint closing to vote on the different motions to be passed and for the closing ceremony. Delegates received certificates of participation and those who showed outstanding participation and contribution during the #NatMUN19 conference were handed awards in different categories.

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