

“The SimUnesCO Times”

SimUnesCO (Simulation of UNESCO Corfu) which took place in the Ionian university from 21 to 24 August, 2013, is the first simulation of Unesco organized in Greece. SimUnesCO's aim is to bring together young people and through this simulation help them enhance their knowledge about UNESCO (how it works, its values and aims), understand how the international community deals with global issues and have a constructive debate.

“Parthenon Marbles moving to Istanbul” (?)

*Written by Simos Mallis
(Committee of Culture)*

The irreparable damage monuments can endure during times of war or peace, as well as the claiming of cultural objects, were the two main topics that were extensively discussed in the Committee of Culture. The debate was kicked off by the Egyptian delegation, which strongly suggested that cultural monuments should always return to their place of origin. The Greek delegation took this very opportunity to bring up the case of the Parthenon Marbles, looted back in 1816 by Lord



Elgin, and to express its persistence on the returning of the Marbles to their place of origin. This caused a stir between Greece and the UK. The Greek delegation was supported by the delegations of Peru, Argentina and Italy. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom ruled out a possible return of the Marbles to Athens. The representative of Pakistan spoke about the illicit trade of cultural objects and was critically acclaimed by the

rest of the delegates. During the sessions the representatives also had to face an unexpected crisis: the discovery of an old firman signed by the Sultan during the Ottoman Occupation claiming that the Parthenon Marbles should be transferred from London to Istanbul bedeviled decision-making.



After a tough, yet, fruitful two-days of debating the delegates managed to find common aims by composing a draft resolution, as a result of which the committee is now prepared to make a step towards the requisition of confiscated cultural objects. The most important decision was the creation of an international legal body, responsible for monitoring and acting upon the possibly

irreversible impact of war on cultural objects.

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“Education of minorities and national groups”

Written by Natalia Liagka

(Committee of Education)

The committee sessions began with a brief presentation of the position of each country.

During the debates, the delegates expressed their opinions on several questions, such as whether minority students should first learn their mother tongue and then the official language of the country they live in, at what age they should start learning each language, whether national schools should integrate the minority students, whether the existence of minority schools creates more discriminations and if attending a national school, without speaking the official language of the country fluently, means more trouble for a young minority student.

Eventually, two alliances were created: the sponsor of one alliance was China (in favour of minority schools) and the sponsor of the other was Turkey (not supporting minority schools). A debate started, so as to find the best way to secure harmony, peace and equality in society through education.

After a long debate, each alliance created and presented its Working Papers. One of the main points of the Working Paper of the Turkish alliance was: “Calls upon all States to include in their educational system the mother tongue of minority students as an optional lesson, while maintaining the native language as a compulsory one”, while one of the propositions made by the Chinese alliance was: “Enhance the minority cultural content on the curriculum with relevant courses”.

Finally, agreement was reached on to the Draft Resolution, which was created after collaboration and fruitful debate (sponsors: China, U.S.A.). Some of the points of the Draft Resolution were: “Proposes that States should approach minority education rights in an active manner and, if necessary, by special measures, such as implementing minority language education rights to the maximum of their available resources , and achieving completion through national and international co-operation”; “Urges all member-States to promote an equal educational system respecting the culture and the values of minorities”; “Strongly supports the importance of projects organized by N.G.O’s aiming at the creation of intercultural bonds between the citizens of each state”; and “Suggests the establishment and construction of educational institutions in accordance with international law on minorities, which are called to seek their own funds either from the government’s budget or from the private sector” .



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Terrorist attack!!

During the coffee break on the third day of the simulation, delegates of the Education and Natural Sciences Committees were informed that a terrorist attack had taken place against the Chairs of their Committees. In



particular, terrorists sent them confidential letters containing a dangerous and harmful substance, but also a DVD, so as to explain the reasons for their attack (they stated that they are against the Draft Resolution of the Committee of Education).

Delegates reacted immediately by stating the policy of their countries regarding this unexpected event. The majority of them did not want to negotiate or collaborate with the terrorists, while Turkey, Armenia and Mozambique decided to withdraw their support (according to their country’s policy), because they decided that this was the best way to protect their people against any further terroristic action.

Online or out of line?

*Written by Lemonia Charalampidou
(Committee of Communication and Information)*

Nowadays, the internet is a worldwide communication and information tool. As a result, both benefits and dangers accompany this phenomenon, regarding mainly users` safety and rights. Therefore, it was only logical to serve as the main topic of discussion and analysis of the Communication and Information Committee at SimUnesCO. Eighteen countries participated and expressed their opinions about whether and when internet censorship is needed: Argentina, Brazil, the Republic of China, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Japan, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, the UK, the USA, and Zambia. Delegates raised motions referring to a great number of burning questions concerning the danger of free internet access.



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Firstly, children pornography, protection of vulnerable groups and safety of intellectual property were analyzed in every detail as issues that must be solved within the framework of UNESCO. During the discussion in favour of vulnerable groups, a debate took place among the USA, the UK and China, about whether the latter respects the values of UNESCO or sacrifices freedom of speech for political ends. In



addition, other issues were mentioned and criticized such as the issue of privacy and anonymity online, matters of national security and cyber security for civilians. Economic crimes and terrorist attacks are also related to free internet access, so it was also taken into consideration by the delegates as a major problem of global communication. Inevitably, measures and proposals were supported in order to lay the foundations for international cyber safety. The changes which were proposed by the delegates are based on educational and legislative reforms, for example campaigns, re-examination of the legal framework of each country, strict filter systems, the

collaboration of governments and industries, the creation of international forums, online payment download systems, and international organizations such as the Watch Foundation.

Furthermore, the existence of programmers and experts is needed in order to educate vulnerable groups and protect them from being abused. As regarding online commerce, it was proposed that the basic principle of unlimited and unrestricted commerce has to remain, since it does not threaten society, public health and national security. Along with other issues, many different opinions were stated about anonymity online, and there were major divergences among countries as to whether or not user names and passwords are necessary for each user. At the last session, all the above proposals were voted by the committee. As to the controversial topic of anonymity on the internet, there was consensus among state members. The Committee proposed that some websites may use registration for sharing their content.

What about human cloning?

*Written by Vasiliki Nikiforidou
(Committee of Natural Sciences)*

The Natural Sciences Committee (N.S.C) debated constantly for the full two days the question of how to control, finance, and promote medical research on genetic cloning. Since the topic is very controversial and poses some ethical issues, the countries participating had a lot to declare and propose.

On Wednesday 21 August, during the General Assembly (GA), the Chair and Co- Chair of the Committee, Mr. Aslanides and Mrs. Polichroniou, presented the topic to the delegates, stating the main points and

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problems that might come up during the procedure, and also the reasons for dispute. Furthermore, they mentioned the need for collaboration among countries in order for the right decision to be taken.

On the second day, before the beginning of the session, the Chair of the Committee read a letter, to the N.S.C, from Dr. Salifoglou of the Department of Chemical Engineering of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki congratulating and supporting the SimUnesCO Conference, and especially the topic of the discussion of the Committee.

Moreover, the fourteen countries participating, Algeria, China, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Kingdom and Venezuela, expressed their general ideas on genetic cloning.

The delegations of Japan and Germany seemed to be in favour when it comes to running tests on human beings with the simultaneous respect for human life. On the other hand, almost all the other countries, especially those from Asia and Africa, expressed more conservative ideas on the topic, for ethical reasons, and owing to their religious beliefs, and pointed out that they are against people being treated like guinea pigs.

The members of the first alliance, submitted by United Kingdom and co-submitted by Japan, China, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Spain, agreed to adopt a resolution supporting genetic cloning, funding by private and public sectors, and the research to be promoted by universities and institutes.



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The other countries collaborated to pass another resolution, submitted by Saudi Arabia, against it, arguing that today’s medicine is not ready for any type of cloning, and should be banned. In addition, it emphasised the uniqueness of every human being and the fact that cloning is against many religious beliefs, since the body is connected to the soul. The debate continued in high spirits, and was quite intense, since both sides strongly insisted on their opinions and especially on the way they wanted their ideas to be realised. Amendments and deletions were suggested and accepted by the majority of the House.

During the first session, on Friday 23 August, the Chair of N.S.C and the co-chair of the Education Committee, Mr. Koulas, received confidential envelopes which contained a dangerous substance, known as “ricin”. According to the board, it was a terrorist attack by an unknown supremacist organization and targeted the conference because of the decision of the Education Committee to help minorities’ education. The N.S.C worked as a team, apart from their differences in the field, and decided not to negotiate with the terrorists, producing a declaration to clarify their position.

After the incident, the debate continued according to schedule. The resolution by Saudi Arabia was also very debatable and the negotiations were continual. Amendments were also proposed and accepted.

As both resolutions supported equally useful ideas, they were both voted and accepted by the House. However, only the resolution proposed by the United Kingdom was chosen to be presented to GA.

« Fraternité, Liberté: Egalité aux femmes »

*Rédigé par Lory Barazian
(Comité des Sciences sociales et humaines)*

Pour la première fois en Grèce, une simulation de l’UNESCO a eu lieu à Corfou, une des plus belles îles grecques, située dans la mer ionienne. Cette initiative d’un groupe d’étudiants et du Laboratoire de traduction juridique, économique, politique et technique de l’Université ionienne a réuni 130 jeunes, dont 3 étrangers, afin d’assumer le rôle des délégués des pays représentés à l’UNESCO. La simulation a été accueillie aux installations de l’Université ionienne du 21 au 24 août 2013.

Le premier jour, lors de l’Assemblée générale, qui a eu lieu à l’Académie ionienne, les présidents des comités ont présenté les sujets à discuter pendant la conférence.

La protection et la réclamation du patrimoine culturel pendant les périodes de guerre et de paix ont été examinées par le *comité de la culture*, tandis que *le comité d’éducation* a traité le sujet de l’éducation des minorités et des groupes nationaux. Le *comité des sciences naturelles* a analysé le sujet du contrôle, du financement et de la promotion des recherches médicales pour le clonage génétique. De plus, le *comité de communication et d’information* a travaillé sur la liberté d’expression sur internet ainsi que sur les éventuelles restrictions qui puissent s’y appliquer. Enfin, le *comité francophone des sciences sociales et humaines* a étudié le sujet de l’égalité des sexes dans les domaines de la politique et du travail.

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Tous les 17 pays représentés dans ce comité (Afghanistan, Afrique du Sud, Australie, Belgique, Chili, Congo, Etats-Unis, Fédération de Russie, France, Inde, Irlande, Japon, Malaisie, Norvège, Pays-Bas, Suède, Tunisie) ont noté qu’il est indispensable de lutter plus vigoureusement contre l’inégalité des sexes, particulièrement contre la discrimination quotidienne des femmes surtout dans la vie politique et professionnelle.



Les délégations ont analysé de sujets tels que la protection des femmes dans le milieu professionnel et la vie politique, l’importance de leur éducation afin d’accéder plus facilement à ce milieu, l’écart au niveau des salaires entre femmes et hommes, le congé maternel, etc.

En ce qui concerne la vie politique, plus précisément, les délégations ont souligné l’importance de l’éducation des femmes à travers une formation plus ciblée vers la politique, en établissant un lien entre la vie politique et la vie sociale, en renforçant la sécurité des femmes candidates pendant les élections et les campagnes électorales et en établissant une législation plus favorable aux femmes.



Le comité a conclu à une résolution qui propose l’adaptation du curriculum scolaire sur tous les niveaux éducatifs, afin de garantir l’intégration de l’égalité des sexes dans la mentalité des jeunes. Il souligne l’importance de la synergie entre les ONG et les systèmes éducatifs nationaux, et de même, il conseille tous les états d’imposer de peines plus sévères aux partis politiques qui ne garantissent pas la parité des sexes en leur sein.

Enfin, dans sa résolution, le comité encourage la création d’écoles dans les pays qui en ont besoin afin que tout le monde ait accès à une éducation libre et sécurisée par l’état. De même, il invite les États-membres d’imposer aux entreprises du secteur privé des peines en cas de pratiques de ségrégation vis-à-vis des femmes, et exprime le souhait de voir plusieurs femmes candidates pour des emplois dans le système administratif des Organisations internationales.