



**11<sup>th</sup> MUNLawS Model United Nations Conference  
1 – 3 December 2023, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana**

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On December 1-3, 2023, the **11th International Model United Nations Conference – MUNLawS** took place at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana. The conference was organized by a team of students led by **Rok Šarić**, under the mentorship of **Prof. Vasilka Sancin, Ph.D.**, the head of the Department of International Law at the Faculty of Law.

The event began with an opening ceremony, where the participants were addressed by **Ms Urška Klakočar Zupančič**, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Followed by speeches from **Prof. Vasilka Sancin, Ph.D.**, the President of the organizing committee of the MUNLawS conference, **Prof. Emmanuel Decaux**, the President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (OSCE), and **Mr. Paul King** from the NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

Next was a panel discussion titled *"Lessons from the past, actions for the future"* featuring **Mr. Jaume Duch Guillot**, the Spokesperson and Director-general of the Directorate for Communication of the European Parliament, **Prof. Vasilka Sancin, PhD**, and **Mr. Adrijan Bakič**. The panel discussion was moderated by **Maja Kalin**. The [live broadcast](#) of the panel was co-organized by the MUNLawS organizing team and the Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Slovenia, and it was transmitted through the channels of RTVSLO and MMC. The closing address of the conference was delivered by the Secretary-General, **Rok Šarić**.

The opening ceremony was attended by the following ambassadors and representatives: H. E. Krzysztof Olendksi, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Slovenia, H. E. Johaan O. Verboom, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Slovenia, H. E. Argyios Makris, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Slovenia, H. E. Juan de Aristegui Laborde, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Slovenia, H. E. Krassimir Bojanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Slovenia, Ms Eva Ricarda Willems from the Embassz of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Şükrü Kuygum form the Embassy of Turkey and Mr. Pavel Sladký from the Emmbassy of the Cyech Republic. Also present were Her Excellency Blanka Jamnišek from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Matija Urankar from

the Senica Law Firm, Mr. Andrej Razdrih from the Bar Association of Slovenia, and Ms. Nataša Pipan Nahtigal from the Šelih & Partners Law Firm.

After the opening events, delegates were assigned to 10 committees, including the UN Security Council (for university students and high school students), the North Atlantic Council (for university students and high school students), the UN Human Rights Council (for university students and high school students), the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE, and the International Court of Justice. The conference was conducted in English, and delegates at the university and high school levels discussed topics such as the threats posed by non-state actors, the situation on the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian crisis, the impact of sanctions on human rights, the possibility of NATO expansion to the east, bioterrorism threats, the Cuban crisis, the relationship between the EU and NATO, and the reform of the Dublin system. The judicial committees deliberated on the challenges of artificial intelligence use (OSCE) and the exploitation of the deep ocean floor (International Court of Justice).

**The university level UN Security Council** was led by chairpersons Tilen Jarc and Patrik Marčetič. The awardees were Aristeidis-Panagiotis Kyriotis, Delegation of the School of Law of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, who received the Best Delegate Award; Marelaine Formosa, Delegation of the University of Malta, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Michael Gatt, Delegation of the University of Malta, who received the Honourable Mention. The United Nations Security Council on the university level debated on two topics: The Situation on the Korean Peninsula and the Threat of Non-State Actors. On the topic on the Korean Peninsula, the delegates took quite a general approach, tackling issues of humanitarian aid, (de)nuclearization, North-South Korean relations, NATO relations, and much more. The document that went to a vote was quite a general one, but the committee did their fair share of their work on it, but it came to a veto by the Russian Federation. On the topic of Non-State actors, the delegates got off to a fiery start, with the delegates bolting off on two distinct topics: NGOs and terrorism. In the end, the Presidency of the University-Level United Nations Security Council published a presidential statement, offering a general statement mostly regarding NGOs and terrorism, while touching upon the issues of cyberattacks and the classification of actors beyond the scope of states. The committee showed political savvy when not discussing at length the issue of private military contractors and situation in the Middle East, because it was well aware that a presidential statement requires a consensus to pass. All in all, the committee upheld the standards of a UNSC committee.

**The high school level UN Security Council** was led by Benjamin Nahtigal and Štefan Grašič. The awardees were Gergő Tóth-Göde, Delegation of the Milestone Institute for Advanced Academics, who received the Best Delegate Award; Sara Ahmetašević, Delegation of the Gimnazija Ptuj, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Mitja Korošec, Delegation of the II. Gimnazija Maribor, who received the Honourable Mention. In the High School Security Council, the delegates first tackled a topic on the issue of Non-State Actors. This discussion culminated in the passing of a resolution, with

strong backing from the United States and the United Arab Emirates. The resolution called for the establishment of a new committee, the Committee Examining Terrorist Groups (CETG) and the creation of the Fund for the Compensation for the Victims of Terrorist Attacks (FCVTA). This decision marks a crucial step in enhancing global collaboration and sharing intelligence to effectively address threats from non-state actors, such as cyber-attacks, terrorism, and unconventional warfare. The Council particularly noted the complexity of these threats in the context of developing countries, underscoring the importance of a unified international response. The second major topic discussed was the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The debates were thorough, touching on various aspects of the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the area, including the urgent need for denuclearization, the humanitarian aspects, and the general desire for peace and stability. Delegates offered a variety of proposals and insights, showcasing the wide range of views held by the member states. However, despite the in-depth nature of these debates, the session ended without a consensus, highlighting the difficulty of reaching diplomatic agreements on such sensitive and significant international matters.

**The university level NATO Committee** was led by Maja Kalin and Aleksandar Vuković. The awardees were Antoine Fillon, Delegation of ILERI, who received the Best Delegate Award; Ana Brumec, Delegation of the University of Maribor Faculty of Law, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Logan Uhlig, Delegation of the American University of Rome, who received the Honourable Mention. The North Atlantic Council convened to discuss two critical topics: the enlargement of NATO to the east and the growing threats of bioterrorism. In the deliberations on NATO expansion, the committee successfully reached a resolution following an extensive and fruitful debate, emphasizing the importance of advancing NATO's general missions in potential eastern European member states. The resolution underscored the necessity of a robust defensive program and highlighted the significance of fostering partnership and cooperation. Shifting focus to the second agenda item, which addressed the looming threats of bioterrorism, delegates engaged in a lengthy debate that showcased near unanimity on various aspects. However, despite the commitment to NATO's consensus-based approach, a middle ground was not met, resulting in the failure to pass a resolution following the veto used by the Spanish delegation.

**The high school level NATO Committee** was led by Athanasios Kritsovas and Manca Štritof. The awardees were Giorgos Demetriou, who received the Best Delegate Award; Borja Ranzinger, Delegation of the II. gimnazija Maribor, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Mila Perinska, Delegation of the II. gimnazija Maribor, who received the Honourable Mention. The High School edition of the North Atlantic Council held discussions on "NATO's Expansion in the East" and "Addressing the Threats of Bioterrorism." The current state of affairs in Eastern Europe, especially the Russian invasion of Ukraine, significantly influenced the talks about the expansion of the NATO alliance. These discussions covered tactics for bringing the Eastern European nations of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia into the alliance under particular circumstances. Moreover, some delegations raised concerns about Russia's geopolitical position and its relationship with NATO. The committee

also discussed the challenges of bioterrorism, proposing strong measures for improving biodefense and establishing comprehensive healthcare responses to combat potential threats. Both the resolutions presented, passed unanimously, as required, reflecting the ability to compromise among predominantly first time MUN attendees. Most of the delegates used exceptional diplomatic skills to reach these agreements. In recognition of their performance, the delegate representing the Republic of Türkiye was chosen as the Best Delegate for their leadership and strategic thinking. Additionally, the delegate representing the Republic of Finland received the Outstanding Delegate award for their effective negotiating skills and ability to forge consensus. Finally, the delegate representing the French Republic was given an Honorable Mention for their insightful contributions and deep understanding of the issues at discussed. In conclusion, the high school delegates, managed to demonstrate determination and an exceptional level of diplomatic understanding despite their age, managing to compromise and achieve consensus when required.

**The univeristy level UN Human Rights Council** was led by Aljon Kerec and Miha Persyn. The awardees were Alexandre Ounnoughene, Delegation of ILERI, who received the Best Delegate Award; Samuel Camilleri Brancaleone, Delegation of the Univeristy of Malta, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Blaž Bukovec, Delegation of the Univeristy of Maribor Faculty of Law, who received the Honourable Mention. The Human Rights Council met to discuss the Iranian crisis and the impact of sanctions on human rights. It had quickly become apparent that these two topics are inevitably linked. Regarding the Iranian crisis the debate in the Council focused on two approaches. Firstly, one propogated by Western democracies, specifically the delegation of the United States of America and the delegation of Germany and countries in orbit thereof, of condemnation of the Iranian regime and its practices vis-à-vis human rights, with emphasis on the necessity for targeted sanctions and the second, advocated by countries with a deeper cultural and arguably political connection to Iran such as the delegation of Algeria and Pakistan, of concern with the latest developments in Iran but also of respect for national sovereignty and the need for suspensions of all illegal unilateral sanctions. During the discussion there was a short possibility for a compromise resolution, however the matter of sanctions was a proverbial bridge too far, for both sides. The Council had therefore voted by a solid majority for the Resolution sponsored by Algeria, Pakistan and Cote d'Ivoire, stressing importance of fundamental human rights and calling upon the Iranian government to respond positively to any diplomatic outreaches, while encouraging the alleviation of all unilateral sanctions and further encouraging all nations to respect the sovereignty of Iran and its Islamic traditions. Regarding the impact of sanctions on human rights, the council agreed on a press release sponsored by the delegations of Gabon, Somalia and Chile. It recognized targeted sanctions as a measure of last resort, while tacitly condemning unilateral coercive measures and stressing the adverse impact such sanctions have on human rights of the general population of the targeted state.

**The high school level UN Human Rights Council** was led by Flora Hawlina and Sven Pungartnik Rauter. The awardees were Eva Oblak, Delegation of the Gimnazija Bežigrad, who received

the Best Delegate Award; Katarina Adam, Delegation of the Gimnazija Vič, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Zaria Grom, Delegation of the Gimnazija Bežigrad, who received the Honourable Mention. The committee debated on the topics of human rights impacts of sanctions and the Irani crisis. On the topic of human rights impacts of sanctions the Committee discussed if unilateral actions taken by Member States are ever justified and when. The Delegates also discussed how sanctions may disproportionately affect the poor and unprivileged. At first, the Member States had been drafting two separate resolutions, when they were instructed by the Chairs to combine them. The Member States had done so without problems, even settling the dispute over sponsorship of the resolution. Thus the resolution on the human rights impacts of sanctions was passed, condemning the use of unilateral actions taken by Member States and emphasizing their negative impacts on the human rights of the general population. On the topic of the Irani crisis the Delegates discussed the range of human rights violation in Iran, specifically pointing out how women are treated in the region and how the death penalty is a grave violation of human rights. The Delegates had joined the delegate of Finland in writing the resolution and discussed mainly the solution to the Irani crisis. Some delegates were opposed to sanctioning the Member State, whilst others persisted, however this dispute was later resolved and the Delegates could make an agreement. What stood out in the later consensually adopted resolution was the proposal of a 24/7 hotline for victims of violence where they could be heard. This shows a great understanding of the topic at hand.

**The European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs** was led by Nika Veronika Beltram and Anže Čertanec. The awardees were Deniz Emre Yildirim, Delegation of the University of Zürich, who received the Best Delegate Award; Greta Piovano, Delegation of the University of Rome, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Christopher Grell, the Delegation of the University of Bayreuth, who received the Honourable Mention. The European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs discussed the topics of reforming the Dublin system and relations between the EU and NATO. The committee first chose to address the reforming the Dublin system citing the issue has been long overdue. Delegates proposed reducing the burden on states by proposing the establishment of a Common EU Fund to facilitate the administration of migrants. In addition, the delegates showed support for the expansion of the competencies of Frontex to include increased screening processes with the hope to improve data collection. Debate on the reform of the Dublin system was concluded by reaching consensus and passing of the committee's resolution. On the topic of NATO EU relations debate was mainly focused on the issues of European strategic autonomy. In their resolution, delegates voiced their support for greater European security by suggesting an expansion of the European Union Rapid Deployment Capacity from 5,000 units to 20,000 units and encouraging member states to meet NATO's goal of 2% GDP defense spending. Furthermore, delegates agreed member states should increase their focus on further cooperation between themselves utilizing current means (EDIRPA, PESCO, EDF) as well as work towards creating new frameworks for cooperation. The delegates agreed a militarily

stronger EU should be complementary and not competitive to NATO. Despite time restraints, the delegates managed to pass the second resolution with consensus just in time.

**The Historical UN Security Council** was led by Frederik Vilar, Žiga Murn Lindič and David Ljube. The awardees were Antoni Janicki, who received the Best Delegate Award, Satine Prigent, Delegation of ILERI, who received the Outstanding Delegate Award and Christopher Joseph Lechner, Delegation of Milestone Institute for Advanced Academics, who received the Honourable Mention. Newly formed Historical Committee tackled the Cuban Missile Crisis in the capacity of the United Nations Security Council. The delegates of the United Mexican States and Japan introduced a comprehensive resolution demanding the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to remove the entirety of their missiles from the Republic of Cuba and, on the other hand, the United States of America to remove their assets from the Republic of Turkey, both actions to be overseen by the multinational United Nations Commission established for the purpose, as well as by the unarmed observers dispatched from the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of South Africa. Other distinct provisions of the resolution included demanding the United States of America to recognise the political sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba and hence not interfere in its political and economic affairs, and the German Democratic Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to tear down the Berlin wall to ensure the geographic unity of the city. Three amendments were introduced, all having been recognized as friendly by the sponsors and eventually incorporated into the unanimously adopted resolution.

**The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration** was led by Lea Zahrastnik and Rok Tretjak. The awardees were Maia Osuna, Delegation of Masaryk University, who received the Best Arbitrator award and Alice Hennequin, who received the Best Agent Award. The Case before the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the Organization for Security and Co-operation within Europe between the Kingdom of Avrelia as the Applicant and the Republic of Raptoria as the Respondent, concerned cyber security and artificial intelligence. The Applicant sued the Respondent for damages regarding an internet shutdown that was the consequence of combatting threat of cyber terrorism. At first, the Court dealt with the question of jurisdiction and decided to dismiss the Respondent's objection on the jurisdiction. The Applicant argued that Avrelia is not responsible for the cyber-attacks in Raptoria. The Court found that the behaviour of non-state actors cannot be attributed to the State in which they reside, thus Avrelia holds no responsibility for the attacks. However, the Court found Avrelia in breach of its obligation to communicate the threat and activities to dismantle the NEAA to the Republic of Raptoria, thus inflicting moral injury to the latter. The Applicant also argued that Raptoria acted unlawfully when they shut down the internet connections in Avrelia's territory. The court found that due to the lack of legality and due notification to the public and proper authorities, thus breaching the international human rights standards for internet shutdowns and the obligations for cooperation that stem from the Declaration between the parties, the blanket shutdown on Avrelia is an international unlawful act and Raptoria bears responsibility for moral and material damages to Avrelia. Following Article 31 of the Draft Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, and

seeing Raptoria's repeated conviction on the character of this source as part of international custom and doctrine, the Court also decided that the Respondent has the responsibility to pay reparations for material damages to Avrelia in the amount that independent experts estimate. In conclusion, the Court reiterated the importance of internet connection in the context of human rights and condemned the use of the cyber attack to combat cyber terrorism. Both States were found to have breached their international obligations and thus share liability.

**The International Court of Justice** was led by Vid Lobnik and Ana Mencin. The awardees were Elisa Muchar who received the best judge Award and Jelena Popović, Delegation of the Univeristy of Maribor Faculty of Law, who received the Best Agent Award. The case before the International Court of Justice between the Holy Sea of Atlantis, as the Applicant, and the Republic of Rumelia as Respondent, concerned the oil drilling damage in the Guajardo Ocean, which both parties border. The Respondent first challenged the competence of the Court to hear the case. After a long deliberation, the Court agreed with the Applicant stating that they are a state for the purpose of the hearing and that their access to the Court recognised by the General Assembly is essential and allows the Court to hear cases brought to it by Atlantis. Lastly, it dismissed Rumelia's argument, that the case concerns the question of sovereignty and national security, meaning it falls outside the scope of Rumelia's Declaration of Green Responsibility. Establishing the Court is competent, the questions of international responsibility of laying down submarine pipelines in Atlantis's exclusive economic zone, for exploiting the continental shelf belonging to Atlantis by using jack-up ships, for oil damage to Allal Island (the most affected island belonging to Atlantis) and for the sinking of the Allal Island. The Court found that Rumelia is internationally responsible for exploiting the continental shelf, but not for laying down submarine pipelines this is permitted under international customary law. Additionally, the judges unanimously found that the Applicant did not establish the link between the damage and Rumelia's actions, hence it cannot rule on the question of international responsibility for oil spill damage. Lastly, the Court dismissed the last claim, as the Applicant did not satisfy its burden of proof. Out of the 640 million US dollars Atlantis requested for compensation, the Court awarded it zero.

The Best Univeristy Delegation Award was given to the Delegation from Paris, France – **ILERI**. The best High School Delegation Award was given to the Delegation from Budapest, Hungary – **Milestone Institute for Advanced Academics**. A total of 270 delegates and committee chairs participated in the conference, the highest number to date.

The organizing committee of the 11th MUNLawS International Conference consisted of: **Prof. Vasilka Sancin, PhD** (President), **Rok Šarić** (Secretary-General), **Metka Vodušek** (Deputy Secretary-General), **Marta Lipovec** (Deputy Secretary-General), **teaching assitent Anže Medičevc** (Coordinator), **Maja Kalin**, **Benjamin Nahtigal**, and **Štefan Grašič**. The project was finatially supported by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the Bar Association of Slovenia, the Senica Law Firm, the Šelih & Partners Law Firm, and Tourism Ljubljana.