

T O R C H

ISSUE 2
9-10 JUNE 22



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CLOSING LETTER

In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

He didn't say any more but we've always been unusually communicative in a reserved way, and I understood that he meant a great deal more than that. In consequence I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores.

My Dearest, Dearest, Dearest Delegates,

I am so, so grateful that I've been able to form so many direct and individual relationships with you guys. I know that this is a privilege that other chairs and delegates do not have, and I hope that you that you have grown as writers, that you have made real, long-lasting friends, and that you've had fun.

I hope that regardless of who won an award, you enjoyed this small effort of ours. I'd like to thank my fellow editors, Abhyuday, Alysa, and Zhi Yan, our academics director Abigail, our DSG Acads Yong Yi, as well as Aishan for helping us with TORCH, and of course, myself for making all of this happen.

Signing off, I'd like to quote *Pride and Prejudice*:

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

Love,
Jaden

World Banks, Spies and Chairing

Lim Zhi Yan

It is the duty of any journalist to uncover hard truths on a specific topic and reveal it to the light of day. As such, we had always encouraged our own journalists to be brave and seek interesting delegates who have spoken confidently during debate or may be withholding some vital information inside.

On my part as the Editor, we had been lucky enough to catch the World Bank in action during an unmoderated caucus on the first day of conference. Without the stuffiness of an ROP, we were free to roam about the conference room as the rest of the delegates were busy fighting their foes and progressing the debate. The co-chair of the World Bank, Chua Tze Chuan, had been standing at the corner, silently monitoring the ensuing debate. Nonetheless, he was affable enough to update us on what was going on.

Unfortunately, we didn't have time to catch up on him any more as the unmoderated caucus had been close to ending and he had to return to his duties. I was interested to find out more and decided to seek him out again during one of the tea breaks, which happened to be the only time when the both of us were free.

He looked visibly more haggard the next time I saw him, sighing more often as the council went on. I asked him how he was doing and he replied with the usual "same same". I smiled at the response in empathy. We went outside to have a quick chat. As per usual, time was of the essence. We had 15 minutes before he had to return and I had to meet one of my own delegates as well.

Before as a delegate and now as a chair

"What was MUN like to you as a normal delegate?" I asked.

He paused, eyes drifting back to his first time in a council room.

"I was honestly kind of scared of speaking as a normal delegate at first," he slowly started. "Honestly, I never looked for awards in the beginning."

I nudged him to continue.

"But after a while as I started getting more leadership roles in my MUN Club, I began to look for them," he reminisced fondly. "But even now, I mostly go for fun and to learn stuff."

I nodded at that. The prime objective of most munnors (as we are fondly called)

was to receive awards. It was a testament of one's effort, a symbol of the hard work they put in lobbying, preparing for each council session and to write resolutions that could stand the scrutiny of 20 pairs of eyes. It meant that to some level you had made it. No wonder they were so hard fought for.

But that isn't to say that you could easily lose sight of your goal. At the end of the day, you could treat MUN as another event with like-minded people with different backgrounds. They bring to the table so many unique and clever insights. One would be hard pressed to leave a MUN conference without having learnt anything new.

"To be honest, being a chair is more relaxing than delegating," he continued. "You had more people to work with in the first place. Now, all we have to do is moderate people and help out."

Economic Decentralisation and how it works

"Interesting..." I pondered before probing him further. "So I know that your current topic is about Economic Decentralisation. How did it change the way that you saw businesses? Economics?"

"To be honest, it didn't go down to the individual business level," the chair of the World Bank noted. "You have to look at it at a macroeconomics level - the whole economy. So, if I was a delegate working on this topic, I would come up with policies that governments could not only implement, but the World Bank should be able to feasibly impose.

You have to look at it at a macroeconomics level - the whole economy.

For example, sanctions are not one of them. Calling spies into your country is not one of these good solutions," he added further. "What would be a good solution and even possibly great one is to consider whether governments should consider decentralisation. If yes, they should come up with some sort of plan. That is because for all types of economic policies, there is always some sort of framework beforehand. This would determine how they are going to be decentralised, to what extent they are going to be decentralised and which sectors of the economy do they wish to enact these decentralisation policies. Along with this, they had to prepare a backup plan if all of these fails."

Calling spies into your country is not one of these good solutions.

When prompted on the 'calling spies into the country' comment, he further explained that some delegates wanted to send surveillance into other countries to ensure that most economies followed the solutions implemented as a contingency measure. Not only did this break international laws, it was highly suspect that something like this would succeed, knowing that surveillance requires a deep level of trust. What if that trust was broken? We knew how the first world war started.

I was sceptical on another level as well. Although my economics background is slightly more hazy to me, I could distinctly remember my teachers telling me about the Singapore Master Plan (SMP). It was a statutory road map consisting of the government's objectives in meeting certain demands of economic sectors as well as clarify how they were going to make use of their limited resources in the next five years. Many countries would keep an eye out whenever the SMP was released. Another country who does something similar is Hong Kong as they would release their version of a Master Plan one day after Singapore's.

I couldn't fathom how most economics could allow economic decentralisation as it was entirely too ambitious. Only countries who were somewhat stable in the next ten years could possibly invite the economic benefits of decentralisation. While the burden would be lifted from fiscal authorities having to oversee lesser financial processes in the long run, business owners would need to remain accountable for their transactions due to the lack of a physical central governing body.

An example of decentralisation would be blockchains. A recent invention in the 21st century, the blockchain marks a paradigm shift in the modality of currency. While currency has always been distributed by banks, currency can now be distributed by machines called blocks. As the owner of a block, you could easily facilitate that exchange with another block within a wide network, completing a financial transaction that would be recorded in a very short amount of time.

Yet, these technologies are still new and hard to implement in both resource-scarce countries and countries with governments that directly oppose citizens having ownership of their goods as most of their goods are state-owned. Furthermore, those who had too much red tape would surely find it difficult to let go of these preexisting financial traditions.

Economic inequality would definitely worsen if stopgap measures weren't set in place to mitigate the tidal flow that decentralisation would bring to the economy

Tze Chuan had this to add as well. "As the saying goes, 'the rich get richer and the poor get poorer'. Economic decentralisation wouldn't necessarily benefit SMEs (small medium enterprises) as they wouldn't be able to implement these technologies. Economic inequality would be worse."

Economic inequality would definitely worsen if stopgap measures weren't set in place to mitigate the tidal flow that decentralisation would bring to the economy. As such, a backup plan would be extremely crucial to ensuring the successes of their solutions. Worry started to bubble in my heart. Would students who barely knew about macroeconomics even be able to fathom the consequences of this?

"On that note, [the delegate of] Venezuela is a little misguided in their stance so far. Most corporations don't have confidence in their country and as such, Venezuela lacks foreign investments in their economy, leading to much of their economy being state-owned.

But for some reason, Venezuela wants everyone to participate in this thing called the ownership economy. Basically, it means that workers and owners have a stake in the business. They argued that if you have a stake in the business, you work harder so that you gain more profits," He trailed off slightly. "Sorry, let's get back to the interview."

How to succeed?

"Is the knowledge of economics important to succeeding?"

"Well to be clear, there are three types of economics. Micro-, macro- and geopolitical. This topic would be categorised under macroeconomics. You can still do well even if you don't have a grasp on economics by just reading the news.

I would also classify economic decentralisation as a political topic. To put it simply, this topic pits capitalism against socialism. Capitalism is basically a decentralised economy and most socialist countries should be against that. Should.

Capitalism is basically a decentralised economy and most socialist countries should be against that. Should.

As companies are naturally profit-driven, particularly in capitalism, economic inequality would once again worsen if decentralisation is not handled well. One can look at the healthcare sector in the United States as an example.”

I asked again, if he had any struggles while chairing. He replied heartily with ‘a many times’!

As a chair, he told me that due to the nature of the World Bank, countries usually focus on drafting bills, rather than resos, accounting the financing behind these decisions.

“The World Bank would discuss whether this is feasible or not and then send out a loan.” He explained.

Hence, countries should at the very least focus on ensuring the efficacy of their objectives, such that thinking about decentralisation can be implemented effectively into their economy. But in a usual MUN session, that is often difficult to implement.

As time was ticking, I asked if he had any things he wanted to say. Looking at the receding crowd, he turned back and answered.

Whatever happens in that country should stay in that country.

“Sometimes passing a draft resolution is not the end goal. You also have to protect the rights of your countries. That means, developed countries should not send personnel to monitor the activities in lesser developed countries, so they can be focused towards decentralisation.

Whatever happens in that country should stay in that country.”

As time ran out, I thanked the chair for his insightful comments and let him go back to his council. It was interesting to learn so much about economics in one conversation. I do hope that his next topic - Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) - will do better than this topic had.

On Family, Foreign Service and the Future

Interview with Senior Minister of State, Ms Sim Ann on her growing years.



It was nestled in a small tucked-away VIP Lounge that I understood a lot more about Ms Sim Ann. Beneath her honorary titles such as the Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Development, I understood more about how family has shaped her life and career, as well as her hopes for the youths of this generation, and the leaders of tomorrow.

Reflecting on the influences of her parents growing up, Ms Sim Ann shared that as a veteran television producer and accomplished writer, her mother's story-telling skills had a profound impact on her growing up.

"[My mother's] storytelling was not very literary, it wasn't high literature like poetry, but she was able to explain things in a way that helped people understand." Ms Sim Ann recounted. Indeed, the subtle art of story-telling influenced her in subconscious ways, and she found that she was able to practise those skills in her job, helping her convey meaning to others around her, and relate to others around her.

When asked on how her travels growing up had shaped her work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ms Sim Ann shared that the highlight of her working experience was being able to engage with diplomats whom she admired.

"I really have to thank our senior MFA officers for shaping a dependable image of Singapore, and portraying it as a country committed to excellence." In light of that, she encouraged young and enthusiastic youths to follow in their footsteps and represent Singapore in global settings, and expand upon the legacy.

And as for how youths can get involved, Ms Sim Ann encouraged a generation of youth activism and increasing involvement in global matters. “There is a very encouraging pipeline of youths who want to be more active, beyond just domestic citizens but also global citizens.”

Overall, Ms Sim Ann shared a lot about her growing years, and how that shaped her in tangible ways in her career. We thank her for her time, and hope that youths alike will step up and learn more about international affairs, at SMUN and beyond.



Thank you to Ms Sim Ann for attending Singapore Model United Nations 2022 as our Guest-of-Honour!

Pictured from Left to Right:

Jaden Ong (Press Editor-in-Chief)
Brian Wong (Secretary-General of SMUN'22)
Ms Sim Ann
Leonard Sim (President of Political Science Society)
Alysa Lee (Press Editor)

Day 3: UNFCCC Interview with Christian and Pranesh

About ten days before the start of SMUN, I had the privilege of interviewing one of the head chairs of UNFCCC, Christian, along with one of his co-chairs, Pranesh. I interviewed them because, to quote Christian, "UNFCCC is the poster boy of SMUN this year", and this is true, but I chose to probe further - why the sudden popularity of UNFCCC? What struggles were faced when planning and preparing for a rather unique council? Is it worth it? And to these I did indeed get wonderful responses from the duo, and I shall cease myself here to talk about what they had to say.

Beginning on a lighthearted note, I asked them what they thought of the fruit punch from Stamford Catering - the usual caterer for conferences and the like, at least pre-COVID. It is also their most popular item in the entire buffet spread, but they were rather critical - 7/10 and diarrhoea-inducer. In relation to the latter, I was offered information on bowel movements. I did not need that information at that time of the day.

The unfortunate thing about council chairs is that unlike press chairs, they are restricted to their own councils. So naturally I enquired which council they would love to eavesdrop on if given the chance, and there was a unanimous reply of the House of Commons:

Christian: The House of Commons, because, I think, UK politics in a simulated fashion could prove to be extremely vibrant and engaging and interesting from an outsider's perspective. (Writer's note: this was said with considerable hilarity, sorry HoC dais).

Pranesh: In line with what Christian said, ererererere. (For the uninitiated, the "ere" is the cry of assent that MPs use when they agree with something in the Chamber).

The both of them are doing A-Level literature, and so am I, and one of our literature teachers had said that the best way to understand a character was to live like them for a day. In line with this,

Abhyuday: Which character from Saint Joan or Pride and Prejudice should delegates aspire to be like?

Christian: I think all delegates should aspire to be like the servant to Robert de Baudricourt so they can be 'submissive [REDACTED]' to the powerdels.

Pranesh similarly agreed, but replaced 'powerdels' with 'chairs'. Moving on from their truly wonderful insights into literature and life, which in a free and fair publication would have been published in full. Moving further into the recording I stayed my hand (keyboard?) when considering whether I would be writing out their more censor-worthy responses to the question. Suffice to say, HoC delegates were likened

to be Bluebeard in an ideal state (again, so sorry HoC dais).

Moving on to more serious questions about substantive matters which I had mentioned in the introduction, I asked them if they thought it was tokenistic that UNFCCC was being included in so many MUNs this year and possibly beyond since it gained little international attention prior to the Glasgow summit where everyone was only focused on it.

They vehemently disagreed with my rather cynical assumption, stating that it is not a superficial move and that by including so many climate councils more people are engaged closely in matters related to the most pertinent issue of our time, youth engagement and conviction would be driven up and this is necessarily a good thing. They however stated that given the current state of climate negotiations, it would be redundant to include it in future conferences if there remains continued stagnation and underwhelming commitment by countries.

In this vein I, and possibly everyone reading this, was curious to know what was the commitment they found most underwhelming.

Christian mentioned how China said that it would stop funding international coal plants in a moratorium of sorts, immediately pointing out how they effectively made their declaration a loophole in allowing themselves to continue investing in and constructing domestic coal plants, positing that it was a false facade.

Pranesh interestingly presented a rather cynical and somewhat popular view that diplomatic conventions exist less to solve problems and more for countries to push blame on one another so they can delay the resolution of such pressing issues. He mentioned nationalism here, but I thought it was more of selfishness inherent in human beings which is naturally extended to policy decisions because they are after all being made by humans. The two do give each other, but to what extent is a question for delegates, not for us (so lucky).

I wanted to end this off with fun questions as well, so I made the decision to segue to more personal questions, namely how on earth did they cope with JCI and writing a mammoth study guide, and whether they were insecure about being thrown into the deep end with their first chairing experience being FCCC.

I thought it unusual that they put across chairing a difficult council as a formative trial-by-fire kind of experience, which they were meeting with some level of nerves and trepidation, but they did appreciate the learning experience as the stress enabled them to be better every day.

Furthermore, when sharing about the experience writing study guides, they mentioned how the overlapping of the first deadline and miscellaneous extracurriculars led to quite a bit of stress and a falling short of quality of both the study guide and sometimes general academic performance. They did however reconcile this with their earlier statement on it being a learning experience, citing

how it effectively trained them to cope with such stress which would be rather common throughout their two years in JC, especially since they cited it as a source of “suffering” and “sleep deprivation” in their chair introductions, which I of course asked them about.

They chose to focus on the novelty of the JC experience (which I found unusual) and how the lows are negated by experiencing the highs with one’s friends, with Christian citing Pranesh as a friend he has experienced many of these ups and downs with, so perhaps they power through the suffering and sleep deprivation together. Pranesh took the high/low dichotomy further, calling JC a simultaneous heaven and hell, with the latter giving strength to return to the former.

At this point the mood had gotten somewhat sombre, so by chair’s discretion we moved to wrap up the interview with fun questions to lift the mood. A key aspect of MUN is superlatives. Well, not key, but everyone insists on it anyway. So I asked them very candidly - who did they think was the hottest dais? It was at this point that they revealed themselves to be unabashed narcissists (affectionate), with Christian’s response instantaneously being “definitely UNF triple C”. They went into some level of excruciating detail about their co-chairs’ and their own attractiveness which again I shall ellipsis for the sake of this being a premier conference.

Suffice to say, they ended with declarations of wishing one another to be gavels for certain purposes, claiming most of them are ‘single and ready to mingle’.

Rather than end on this interesting note, I asked a question which was about as progressive as one can get - should men be allowed to wear more dress-like attire to SMUN and would you, to which the answer was a unanimous yes because of convenience, comfort, and society moving forward past old stereotypes. (This is a recommendation for all secretariats of all MUN conferences moving forward).

With that I chose to wrap things up, and before I sign off here, I would like to reiterate to all readers from a personal level that Christian and Pranesh are decent characters to aspire to and I find myself more or less aligned with the substantive views they presented, and I do not say this often.



Presenting to you UNFCCC:

An Investigative Piece of the Net-Zero Strategy

By Cao Jingyu 9 June 2022



“Our earth is dying, yes, our earth, O - U - R, ours.”
German delegate during council session 7, Day 3

The United Nations Report on climate and environment (4 April 2022) has pointed out that humans are on a pathway to global warming of more than double the 1.5-degree (Celsius, or 2.7-degrees Fahrenheit) limit that was agreed upon in Paris in 2015.

There is no time left. Immediate, effective actions must be taken by all countries to address the climate change crisis. However, some concerns have been raised on this issue, would climate actions result in a sacrifice of its domestic economy? If it does, how can countries cope with it?

Are countries on track to solve the climate change crisis ?

Many countries have been conservative or inefficient in their actions in combating climate change. According to the new report from the United Nation Environment Programme, the majority of the G20 countries failed to follow through on their commitment to slash their greenhouse emissions.

Climate Action Tracker has analysed that the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) pledges for 2030 are consistent with a global emissions' pathway that would lead to an average 2.4 °C rise in global temperature at the end of the century. This is far from fulfilling their commitment to the Paris Agreement, which is to limit warming to well below 2 °C and pursue the best efforts to keep it to 1.5 °C

Such backslide in the fight against climate change is a result of the increased frequency of global economic activities in 2017. Since most industrial activities involving the use of fossil fuels emits greenhouse gases, the increased trade volume has fuelled the surge in production, which in turn results in greater greenhouse gas emission.

While many countries are reluctant to implement policies to target the immense industrial emission of greenhouse gases as it would comprise their economic growth, the fossil fuel industry still works against change.

Steps in the right direction

However, there is successful progress made by certain countries, which set targets to reach net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases. The UK, Norway, and France are examples of the countries that have committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050.

The United Kingdom government has unveiled its ambitious goal of zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. The UK Net Zero Strategy includes a comprehensive plan for the transition of the UK economy from the use of fossil fuels to clean energy.

The UK has also made efforts to incentivize industries to switch to more sustainable clean energy to reduce their heavy reliance on fossil fuels. The government provides financial support for such a transition.

As part of the strategy, the new investment includes but not is limited to implementing a £140 million Industrial and Hydrogen Revenue Support scheme to accelerate industrial carbon capture and hydrogen. It closes up the gap between industrial energy costs from gas and hydrogen, making clean and renewable energy more

widely accessible.

“Climate action does not necessarily require economic sacrifice.” Said the UK during his interview with the CNA reporter.

The net-zero strategy is undoubtedly effective in combating climate change, but the transition to a net-zero economy would meet many challenges, especially for less economically developed countries (LEDCs)

The Danger of the Net-Zero Concept

The net-zero strategy is undoubtedly effective in combating climate change, but the transition to a net-zero economy would meet many challenges, especially for less economically developed countries (LEDCs)

The transition is also exposed to many risks, such as the energy supply volatility, which may pose danger to the continuity of industrial production, hindering countries' economic growth.

The short-term transitions in the energy market are hard to monitor and control. A disorderly transition could come with high economic costs, as well as a backlash that delays the transition.

Opportunities brought out by the net-zero strategy

The transition to a net-zero economy would effectively prevent an accumulation of greenhouse gases, hence would reduce the most catastrophic impacts of climate change from happening.

Markets that cater to low emissions products and services would be able to expand. For example, the take-up of electric cars jumps recently, indicating an ever booming electric car market.

Reference:

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Газета основана
5 мая 1912 года
В. И. ЛЕНИНЫМ

ПРАВДА

Орган Центрального Комитета КПРФ

3 recipes to try out during a food shortage

By Pravda

Sick and tired of eating concrete and dirt all day in an attempt to stave off your hunger? Try out these 5 recipes to make your food shortage experience more enjoyable!

#1 To cry for beans



Don't let the face scare you. It's just a hallucination.

Bland beans might just be the straw that breaks the camel's back, or in this case, that makes you resort to drastic measures. While we know the house cat looks appetising, we feel that the rest of your family might not feel the same. So, why not try out these to cry for beans?

You'll need just a few simple ingredients:

1. Canned beans, preferably 1 cup (mould will add extra flavour)
2. Tears, 10 drops (it tastes best when it's from your sisters nightly episodes)
3. Hope that your situation will be improved, however much you can muster.

To make this, you will only need to follow these two simple steps

1. Carefully open the can (if not opened already), make sure to go really slow, you dont want to cut yourself with those trembling hands, the blood might attract your demonic younger sister.
2. Slowly drip the tears into the baked beans. We know your hands are shaky beyond belief but try to keep it together.
- 3.

Once all the tears are fully incorporated into the beans, it's time for you to dig in!

#2 Drywall biscuit



Doesn't it look like cake?

Sick of concrete? Try drywall! It's a nice healthy snack, packed full of calcium (Sulphate dihydrate) that will make sure your bones are extremely prominent in the oncoming months.

The ingredients are as follows:

1. Drywall. (Mould will, of course, add to the taste)

The steps are even simpler:

1. Scrape off the most delicious looking part of the drywall.

Remember to eat your biscuit as soon as possible. It tastes best fresh.

#3 Housecat



Look at those eyes plotting your death.

At this point, the cat is almost dead. Why not eat it? It's one less mouth to feed and will increase your food source. Think of all the rats you've missed out on because of this one little pest.

The ingredients for this delicious roast:

1. Grass, 1 stalk (supplies are limited)
2. Sweat

The steps for your feast:

1. Catch your kitty, they can sense your intentions so you have to be more sneaky.
2. There are several methods of extracting life. Make sure to give the creature a swift death. We know your hands can't stay put but please, do try your best.
3. Now you have two options, eat it raw and use the grass to cleanse your pallet or gut it
4. If you gut it, place it on a spit and wrap it in the grass and make a fire (careful not to burn yourself, you don't want to roast your own meat, it might attract your sister)
5. Cook it until slightly charred pour the salt over for some gravy (for the extra flavour) and serve.

Enjoy your ex-pet! If you shed any tears for the creature, remember to collect it so you can use it in your next bean recipe!

In these trying times, it is important to keep morale up. Making good food is crucial in keeping hope in our motherland. Long live the Soviet Union!

Ending Climate Change:

Does Canada Know What They are Doing?

BY ABIGAIL GRACE HERMAWAN

JUNE 10, 2022 09:00 GMT+8

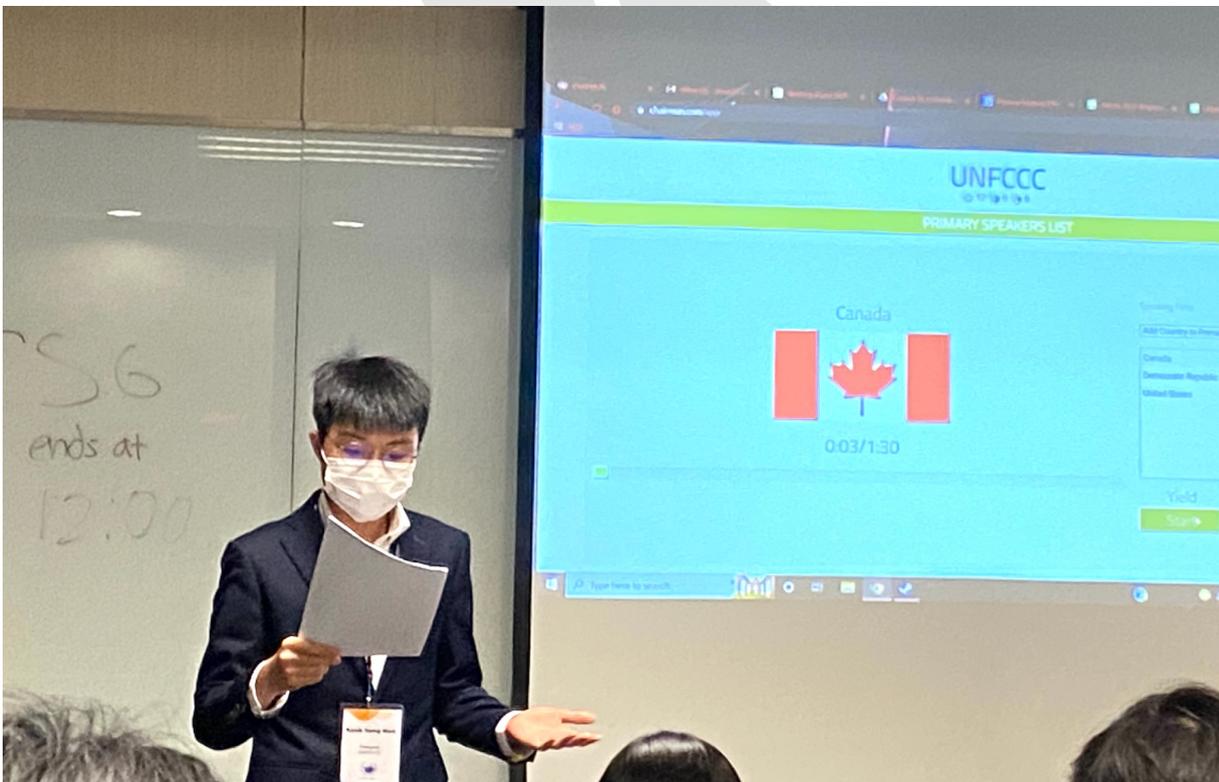
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PRINT



The delegate of Canada, at the committee session of UNFCCC

To minimize climate change, Canada proposed tax incentives for private companies to regulate them with the standard climate regulation and fossil fuel elimination funding although it only paid 17% of its fair share of climate finance contribution.

Being the United Kingdom's right hand in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 26 Glasgow, Canada also supports the elimination of fossil fuel usage.

The delegate of Canada stated that it is because it caused multiple damages to the climate, and it is a form of Canada's support in fixing climate changes.

Fortunately, unlike the United Kingdom, Canada provided a somewhat useful suggestion for developing countries to gradually eliminate fossil fuels.

"Their economy being heavily reliant on fossil fuels is the very reason why they need to diversify their economy. We are not asking for them to stop using fossil fuels now, it must be a gradual process," stated the delegate of Canada during an interview.

Adding to that, Canada also proposed to subsidize developing countries to be able to get the funds that they need to be able to develop renewable energy sources and reduce the usage of fossil fuels.

Much of the carbon emissions causing climate change come from business-driven economic activities. Big companies often misuse and overuse natural resources and often neglect the eco-friendly ways to process their wastes, specifically carbon waste.

In response to that issue, Canada proposed a tax incentive regulation to regulate private sectors with the standard climate regulation.

"The tax incentive regulations aim to increase the speed of transition towards the green economy," as expressed by the delegate of Canada during an interview.

However, it cannot be denied that although countries' efforts are maximum, corruption in private sectors hinders a lot of infrastructure development that must have helped climate change issues.

"Bribery and corruption is a problem that many countries bond against. Canada cannot say for sure that every country will be able to benefit from the tax incentive 100%, but what Canada can say is that some if not most countries would benefit from this tax incentive," stated the delegate of Canada during a press conference.

The delegate of Canada emphasized that they are aiming for the bigger picture, which is that this incentive would help most countries and that is what's important.

The big question still remains. Does Canada know what they are doing? It is very doubtful that the answer is yes.

Canada's effort in proposing to subsidize money for developing countries needs to

be applauded. For once, a country in the UNFCCC recognizes and tries to find ways to help developing countries significantly, and Canada needs recognition for that.

However, Canada paid only 17% of the fair share of climate finance contribution from 2017-to 2018. So their statement to subsidize money may only be a sweet promise that may not be kept.

Similar to the United States, Canada needs to fulfil their responsibilities first before putting extra effort to help others. If they did not fulfil their fair share of responsibility, their effort in subsidizing money would not be effective, or it might be just an unkept promise.



THE HINDU

USA'S MEDIA LIBERTY IS IN DOUBT AFTER RFK'S DEMANDING PUBLICATION ORDER

Qi Xueyan

News agency Washington Post has always been enjoying liberal news coverage rights. Defying the title of being a state of freedom, Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy, Attorney General, has ordered the Washington Post to publish an article on its front page.

The Washington Post expressed its utter feeling of violation by the demand. The agency revealed its resolute stance in any attempts to contravene the rights of a free press.

In response, Kennedy emphasized the need for the public to be knowledgeable about the war.

"I was not coercing the Washington Post to do so. I was merely suggesting that because such a dire situation has occurred and whatever happened during the UNSC meeting was important for the public to know," said Kennedy.

It was a need for the Washington Post to publish the article on its front page as previous publications at the back of its newspapers in the advertisement sections received no attention from the public. American citizens have the chance to be educated on this pressuring circumstance for the direct security threat they are facing.

Excomm are the prominent leaders in this nuclear war. Thus, they should be able to request news agencies to publicize any urgent updates and ways civilians can seek aid.

John McCone, Director of Central Intelligence, adds that "the press must publicize official, correct, and factual governmental advises."

Excomm's interference with the press publications in such times of crisis will only be to issue correction statements to agencies for better clarification and dissemination of news to the public. Taking into consideration the desperate need for any forms of communication with outside survivors, Excomm has to necessitate certain extents of involvement in press releases to get in touch with those alive.

The USA government states that it is adopting a transparent approach in this critical moment. Its efforts to disperse applicable information differentiate from an act of violation of a free press.

US Guns will Wreak Havoc in CELAC countries

By Wang DongYu



MEXICO — The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) gathered to discuss the issues of organized crime within its nations. In that, the theme of firearm trafficking seemed to be the root of most, if not all of the pertinent problems.

“There are high levels of gun inflow from the US into Mexico that fuels the criminal activity (in Mexico).” said the delegate of Mexico in a press conference.

While nations in CELAC were eloquent in their mitigation methodologies to reduce arms trafficking within CELAC nations, they failed to address one of the most important root causes - the source of the arms.

“Weapons used are not necessarily manufactured locally.” said the delegate of El Salvador. And the delegate was right. More than 179,000 firearms were captured in Mexico and five Central American countries tracing back to gun shops and gun factories in the United States between 2007 and 2019. Additionally, the Mexican Foreign Ministry estimates more than 2 million guns crossing the Rio Grande over the last decade.

Failure to address the root causes of the outflow of guns from the United States could prove detrimental to the attempt in alleviating organized crime by CELAC countries. CELAC countries must act fast because upon closer look, 2 factors might increase the outflow of guns from the United States.

The US has yet to re-ratify the Arms Trade Treaty

During his administration, Former President Donald Trump in amongst his many reactionary moves backed out of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

A long-time target of the National Rifle Association (NRA), the ATT was founded by the UN in 1983 to promote the responsible international transfer of conventional arms. Concealed behind pretenses of protecting the Second Amendment, this move meant a vast increase in profits for US gun companies.

However, in the 2 years since Biden stepped into office, he has not rescinded Trump’s irrational decision in withdrawing from the ATT, but instead maintaining frustrating silence on the subject.

Coupled with Biden’s timid approach to the Second Amendment and gun control in the US, there remains to be dangerously loose restrictions on the range and magnitude of guns flowing out of the US.

Increased gun ownership in the US

Under the Biden Administration, Republicans are still pushing for gun rights harder than ever.

In light of the several recent school shootings, Republican senators, most of whom having deep ties with large gun companies, seem to be aggressively pushing for higher gun ownership. This was backed by the idea of arming Americans with guns for self-protection against gun-wielding assailants, especially in schools and households. The idea, however foolish, has been widely accepted amongst many die-hard conservatives.

Red states are now aggressively loosening gun ownership laws to bolster the gun ownership rate in the US. Even as blue states pass stricter gun control laws, history has taught us that the increased gun ownership in the US in red states would far exceed any decrease in the already low gun ownership in blue states.

Officially, gun ownership rates in the US are already the highest globally, last counted at a staggering 393 million firearms in civilian hands. Based on current circumstances, this number will inevitably increase.

As such, with an increase in the arsenal, guns now become more accessible to traffickers in both price and quantity, sending increased numbers of guns across the porous borders of the US and CELAC nations.

Today, by the latest estimate, there are approximately 71 million small arms in Latin America, 14 percent of which belong to state security and paramilitary forces, while the remaining 86 percent likely to be in the hands of civilians.

With the current nature of council filibusters in the US, any hope for improvement of gun ownership and gun trading sparking from within the US remains bleak. As such, all eyes are on CELAC countries to handle the current illegal arms inflow into their own nations.

Members of CELAC should be perceptive to the source of the underlying issue - the arms inflow from the United States - and take rapid action in tailoring its approach to address the root cause of organized crime within CELAC countries.

In the meantime, with every firearm taken off the streets, a child becomes a little safer, and the future a little brighter.



Countless guns found in Latin America

Firearms were used to commit around 50 percent of all homicides worldwide between 2010 and 2015[i], but their impact in Latin America is even more pronounced. In Brazil and in Central America, for instance, gun homicides correspond to at least 70% of the total. Their use in non-lethal forms of crime has drastically increased as well in recent decades, while national reports show that rising insecurity and mistrust in state authorities appear to be linked to increase popular disposition to acquire them as instruments of self-defense.

As a result, the best and latest available estimates indicate that there are approximately 71 million small arms[ii] in Latin America. Among these, 14 percent belong to state security forces and paramilitary forces. The remaining 86 percent likely belong to civilians, resulting in a relatively low average country distribution of 9.87 civil guns per every 100 residents.



UNSC delegates resemble karate newbies as they fail to stick to stance

Acrimonious.



In cooled debate.

The UNSC convened to tackle the issues of tension in the South China Sea, such as problems regarding international law, fishing, and militarization. Owing to the much criticized function of veto powers that the five permanent members of the UNSC hold, debate has been naught but circular.

The council is divided into two main blocs—one consists of the countries China, Russia, Gabon, Kenya and Mexico. The other bloc, consisting of the rest of the countries, including the UK. A key difference that sets these groups apart are their methods of tackling these issues. The Chinese bloc wishes to utilize bilateral agreements to solve these issues while the international bloc hopes to use multilateral talks.

The international bloc defends their stance in the belief that international law should be upheld, and Chinese foreign policy should not be above the rule of law. They have reportedly taken steps toward negotiation but the Russian Federation is closed to that.

Russia defends that they agree with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its clauses, but feel that the matter does not require internationalization to be put to rights.

The Republic of China agrees – they believe there is no need for multilateral talks as the issue is already in a region. They also have defended their violation of UNCLOS in

operating within Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), arguing that UNCLOS is ambiguous and vague and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) unjustly ruled in the tribunal as China had been absent.

However, The UK and its allies in the international bloc feel that bilateral talks have been ineffective. "When it comes to ASEAN (Association of South East Asian nations), they cannot act in anything but a bloc, hence the dispute cannot be resolved without China being strong-armed due to the economic interests that ASEAN must consider in the dispute. If smaller states dare to rebuff China, they would bully these states into accepting their demands."

It is axiomatic that this is hogwash. What the UK has said is naught but baseless propaganda.

The bilateral agreements, unlike the international bloc's belief, would, as it always has, adhere to the international court of law. Every actor's voices would be heard equally. China even offered freedom of trade to nations that accede to their claims over the South China Sea region, but the snowflakes that comprise the UK believe China is simply bribing these nations. It is justifiably offensive and worth condemning that the UK's perception of China is as so abhorrently demeaning.

Looking past that, countries have been criticized for failing to stick to their stance. Countries form allegiance to the permanent members of the UNSC mindlessly, losing sight of the meaning of sovereignty as they fall victim to the allure of economic preservation.



The headless chickens were even given a lecture on stance.