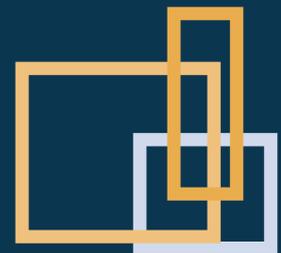


# ISSUE TWO



# TORCH



**SINGAPORE MODEL  
UNITED NATIONS  
2020**

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# SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Delegates and Friends,

About three months ago, we took one of the biggest leaps of faith in the history of Singapore MUN. For the first time in seventeen years, Singapore MUN hosted an online conference in lieu of a physical one due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having observed the past two days of committee debate, I was heartened to see our decision pay off. Despite our physical separation, discussions remained lively and energetic across all committees, and many of you continued to display a strong commitment to maintaining the spirit of diplomacy. Even though it certainly was not always easy to speak up during committee sessions, especially in an online setting, I am glad that so many of you found the courage to step outside your comfort zones and give your best.

After spending so many hours tackling contentious issues and negotiating with your fellow delegates, I hope that you have gained a deeper understanding of the topic as well as taken away valuable lessons about becoming a better delegate. More importantly, I hope that you have forged meaningful friendships with your fellow delegates and chairs along the way, while having fun in the process.

Earlier in March, I announced in an official public statement that we could not promise to deliver the exact same debate quality as we have done for our physical conferences, but that we would nonetheless strive to make this novel experience just as worthwhile for you. While it was only a short two days of debate, I hope that we still met your expectations by instilling a similar level of academic rigour into the overall experience.

The year 2020 will perhaps go down in history as one of the greatest turning points for our generation of youths. While our global community gradually recovers from the pandemic and adjusts to a new normal way of life, we must always remind ourselves to stay united in the face of future adversities. Soon, it will be our turn to take over the reins of a society marred by deep mistrust and widespread polarisation. And it is during our darkest moments that we need to rely on each other for support, and persevere until the sun rises with a glimmer of

hope once again.

With that said, it has been an incredible honour to have served as your Secretary-General for such an extraordinary Singapore MUN. Recently, I have been reminding myself of the Persian adage — “This too shall pass”. While the suffering may seem unbearable at times, I have faith that the light at the end of this winding tunnel will make persevering all the more worthwhile in the end.

In the near future when this is all over, we have every intention to return to our regular conference in full swing. When that day arrives, the Singapore MUN team will eagerly await your arrival in the vibrant city-state of Singapore once again.

Signing off for the last time,

Royston Long  
Secretary-General  
Singapore Model United Nations 2020



TORCH

## Interview with delegate of Nicaragua at ECOSOC

*Trivikram Pattanayak*

*South China Morning Post*

*13 June 2020*

**Delegate of South China Morning Post (SCMP):** What initiatives would Nicaragua take to implement better relations with countries in the Global South?

**Delegate of Nicaragua:** We believe that within Latin America itself there are many divides. We aim to bring the Global South together as a whole instead of regions of the Global South because that only causes divisions in the Global South. Specifically for the region of Latin America, the cooperation that other regions have seen and benefitted is also possible here.

**SCMP:** Nicaragua has a comparatively lower economic activity than average. How would you expect the international community to assist in your development?

**Nicaragua:** Nicaragua has the expectation that the current state of development in Nicaragua is not necessarily due to our fault. But we believe — due to certain historical situations — that a certain mishandling by international players has resulted in our current lack of economic activity. Now our current administration has tried its best to improve the state and it has been showing some results, just that now it is not a very good time for any country in the world — especially with the coronavirus crisis — for large scale activities. So one main point that we have is the causing of debt interest rates. Nicaragua has many debts owed to international players; frankly, we cannot pay it back due to this current coronavirus crises. We have to urge the international community to be reasonable when it comes to the financial capabilities of developing countries like Nicaragua. Any sort of debt relief is the most ideal solution; we can then focus on developing the economy, instead of channeling our funds to the debts.

**SCMP:** What solution does Nicaragua expect from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to improve cooperation between member states?

**Nicaragua:** One solution could include the formation of trading blocs between all developing and developed countries around the world, regardless of their geographical location or political agenda. This allows negotiation for fair trade deals with countries with relatively larger economies. In these trade deals, we can generate greater revenue and get paid



more fairly. Otherwise, it is difficult to compete with the products of developed countries where export subsidies are involved.

**SCMP:** Nicaragua is in close proximity to the United States (USA), a country known for interfering with the internal affairs of other countries. How would you ensure that the USA does not interfere with Nicaragua in the future?

**Nicaragua:** In the current political landscape, the USA does not have the political capital to interfere with Nicaragua, nor do they have any political or economic incentive.

**SCMP:** However, 44% of Nicaragua's exports are bound for the USA, making the USA a crucial party for the Nicaraguan economy. How will you ensure that they do not exploit this heavy trade with Nicaragua?

**Nicaragua:** Although the USA were told to pay reparations before as punishment for their interference in our own sovereign affairs, they did not pay. Of course, at the moment, we are reliant on the USA as one of our major trading parts. This is unavoidable due to the size of the American economy. If the delegate may speak candidly, it has been proven that the USA could not be trusted in this area.

**SCMP:** On the other hand, are you willing to work with the People's Republic of China (PRC) to develop South-South cooperation?

**Nicaragua:** Nicaragua would be delighted to work with China towards achieving our common goals. This delegate believes that China reflects the dream of all developing nations – to be able to challenge developed nations and come out on top. Working with China would be an asset to both our economy and our social order. However, Nicaragua remains committed to remaining an independent nation, and does not involve itself between the ideological battles of superpowers. That has historically crippled our development and resulted in years of civil war instigated by the United States backed counter-revolutionaries.

**SCMP:** Nicaragua does not officially recognise the People's Republic of China as a state; rather, they recognise the Republic of China (ROC), Taiwan. Will you consider restoring relations with the PRC in the future?

**Nicaragua:** Taiwan's support has given us more benefits than China's support has. At the moment, we have a 100 million dollar loan from Taiwan that helped save our economy

during a troubling time. If an unforeseen and disadvantageous situation is presented, then, of course, we would ally ourselves with the party that helps us the most.

**SCMP:** That would be a wise decision. Thank you for your time.

**Nicaragua:** Thank you.



**TORCH**

## The excellent start for ECOSOC gave way to a clumsy progression

Trivikram Pattanayak

South China Morning Post

13 June 2020

*The excellent start for ECOSOC gave way to a clumsy progression.*

The previously vigorous start for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has now collapsed, with a variety of delegates making vague and irrelevant remarks which have no assertion to the agenda. A solid example could include the delegate of the United Kingdom's (UK) emphasis on tax evasion right from the opening speech.

"Africa lost \$90 billion to illicit flow of funds," he stated. Although the issue of corruption in the African economy is a pressing issue for several decades and deserved to be discussed in the committee, the addition of another statement removed the focus away from the central issue: the lack of cooperation in the Global South and amongst its member states. "Tax evasion should be dealt with," he chided and lamented without even offering a reasonable solution.

Other delegates, such as the delegate of Sudan, highlighted the plight of the Sudanese citizens due to civil war. On the other hand, the delegate of the UK shamelessly pointed out the necessity of paying taxes in Africa. On this continent, a third of its population either lives in excruciating poverty or amidst horrifying civil wars. Indeed, the impoverished Africans are finding it difficult to make a living or even live peacefully, and the insensitive delegate's declaration is a grace understatement of the concerning living conditions of many an African. A few countries though, make an effort to develop in African infrastructures, such as the Chinese-backed project, to develop a mega port in the Tanzanian settlement of Bagamoyo.

Other delegates encountered some very embarrassing moments in an effort to contribute to the weakening stimulus of debate in ECOSOC. For instance, the delegate of Oman underwent some brief lapses in internet connections, where he echoed, "Can you hear me? Can the Chairs here me?" amidst an awkward silence from the other delegates. The cumbersome moment resulted in the delegate being confused in what to do, who finally settled on beginning his speech after a full minute.



The delegate of Canada, on the other hand, seemed to be accused by the Chairpersons of adding his name twice to the Speaker's List... twice. On two separate occasions, it was observed that Canada had been given two slots in the Speaker's List. "Delegate, please do not add yourself twice to the speaker's list," warned the Chair.

"The delegate did not add himself to the speaker's list twice," denied the delegate to both occurrences. To this day, it is still not known who is responsible for this (though some speculate that it is indeed the Federal Bureau of Investigation from the United States who must have done that; more so, there is no representative of the US to the council, a reason to believe in the rumour!).

Some delegates attempted to initiate plans for a resolution and decided on possible ideas that could appeal to the representatives of other countries. Montenegro, for example, provided an elaborate explanation to boost cooperation among member states. "The delegate calls for trading blocs and bilateral contracts to promote trade between individual countries. The delegate also embraces government intervention if necessary," he undermined, although it is confusing to note that he is a delegate, a representative of his country's government who is mentioning the issue.

Moreover, the Chairperson overtly declared that the maximum time for an unmoderated caucus is 20 minutes. For an unknown motive, the delegate of Oman decided to emphasize on the emphasized.

"An unmoderated caucus for 15 minutes; one, five," he proudly declared.

Some countries decided to progress in a cooperative fashion in this unmoderated caucus, as proved when observing the discussion between the delegates of Iran and China. The former was noted undermining the importance of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has helped to establish crucial links in Asia, Europe, and Africa to promote economic advancements in these regions. "The BRI has helped raise many people out of poverty," Iran effectively highlighted.

ECOSOC treads unknown waters, with many of its delegates showcasing a divided approach that is barring cooperation and hence, the progression of fruitfulness. The second day may very well be a game-changing one and would determine whether the council can come to solve the plaguing issue of the North-South divide.

## Polarisation and disputes run rampant in the committee

*Jaden Ong*

*Al Jazeera*

*14 June 2020*

Disagreements within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have resulted in two diametrically opposed blocs. Disputes between members of these blocs have become heated, leading some to question the professionalism of UNESCO delegates.

Apart from minutiae policy disputes, these blocs do not differ. In reality, this polarisation has little to do with policy but much to do with politics. As the UNESCO Australian delegate said in an interview, “The blocs exist mostly because people want to have power.”

In a political environment like the United Nations, disputes are to be expected. However, such stark levels of polarisation and pettiness are not often seen in a committee such as UNESCO.

### **PETTINESS AND POETRY IN THE UNITED NATIONS**

Two delegates, each from opposing blocs, clashed earlier today. One of them proposed a one-hour recess; the other opposed it.

The debate was short but heated. The Australian delegate, wanting to go for lunch, requested that the chairs revoke the voting rights of his opponent, the Moldova delegate. When the latter asked for the right to reply, the chairs quashed the request and threatened to revoke the delegate’s speaking rights.

“I felt offended. Why was the Australian delegate so passionate about the lunch break?” reflects the Moldova delegate.

“[Moldova was] being a little bit annoying. So I requested that [his] right to vote on the suspension of debate be removed,” reflects the Australia delegate. When asked why he thought his opponent objected, he replied, “I don’t know. [He’s] one of those guys who desire power.”



After the recess was called, the Moldova delegate requested that his opponent write him a poem as an apology. The Australian delegate decided to humor his request, and wrote a haiku. Al Jazeera has obtained a version of this poem, attached below:

you are very nice  
enthusiastic we see  
but we are tired

## **MOLDOVA, THE DISRUPTOR?**

Such strange and petty scenes do not often occur in the halls of the United Nations. However, as a number of delegates report, these disruptions may stem from aspirations of power from a certain Moldovan delegate.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, the delegate of Vanuatu harshly criticised the Moldovan delegate, stating, “he always objected to suspending debate. He wants attention; he likes to interfere with formal debate; he does a lot of cross-talking. At times, he just disrupts [committee].”

When Al Jazeera corroborated the Vanuatu delegate’s findings with other UNESCO delegates, we found that much of what she said was true. The Moldova delegate objected to the suspension of debate whenever it was proposed; he cross-talked repeatedly, which was what resulted in his warning; and many delegates considered him to be a disruptive figure. In the same vein, when interviewed by Al Jazeera, the delegate proudly proclaimed, without context, that Igor Dordon, the President of Moldova, was ‘the greatest human in all of history’. When asked about his unpopularity, he had only two words — “That’s life.”

But at the same time, many of the same delegates felt that he contributed much towards the discussion and that he was an active speaker passionate about improving STEM education. Additionally, many delegates feel that although he was a nuisance, his influence on the committee was little beyond that. Indeed, it is unlikely that a single delegate, much less the delegate of Moldova, led to such a wide rift in UNESCO.

## **'IN MY BLOC, THERE IS NO POWER STRUGGLE.'**

One thing is certain about the Moldova delegate: he isn’t popular. However, when considering the division as a whole, some larger, more silent, factors come into play. An



anonymous delegate has alleged that the delegates of Russia and Chile are deliberately manipulating the committee to pass their own draft resolution. However, at the time of publishing, it seems unlikely that their resolution will pass, considering that the Russo-Chilean led bloc does not have a simple majority.

But perhaps the most compelling reason why the divide occurred was the sheer incompetence of the UNESCO delegates. Over the years, UNESCO has convened and reconvened, always resolving to do something about education, culture, and scientific progress, but so far not much has been done. UNESCO-led educational initiatives, such as the ones in Myanmar, frequently do not take into consideration the complexities of a situation, while cultural initiatives are often used to support genocidal and dictatorial efforts.

And as Al Jazeera has found, many of the UNESCO delegates were either apathetic or completely in absentia in debate. The delegates of more economically developed countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany barely spoke, if at all. And among the delegates who spoke, many were uninterested in developing solutions and working together with other delegates, instead choosing to focus more on garnering power and pushing for their countries' personal agendas.

As the delegate of Australia reports, he only joined Vatanau's bloc because of close personal ties with the Vatanau delegate. And, when asked about his ideas on new solutions for UNESCO, he replied, "I believe that there aren't solutions that haven't been tried. There are simply that not many ways to address the solution. We cannot come up with new policies. There isn't much we can do that hasn't already been done."

And this begs the question, if the UNESCO can't come up with solutions, is it truly useful in solving problems? Perhaps it's time the UN take a good look at UNESCO, lest more and more of its members leave.

# White space in the Disarmament and International Security Committee

Chu Jia Ren Felicia

BBC News

14 June 2020

*Defeating the silence of unspoken issues at the General Assembly.*

Today's discussions by the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) revolved around the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Ex-combatants (DDR). Issues such as the welfare of child ex-combatants and new trading frameworks were being raised.

These issues are important.

However, the acknowledgement and discussion of more urgent issues were not heard.

The weakening of ties by multiple nuclear countries is extremely alarming.

## **NUCLEAR TICKING TIME BOMB**

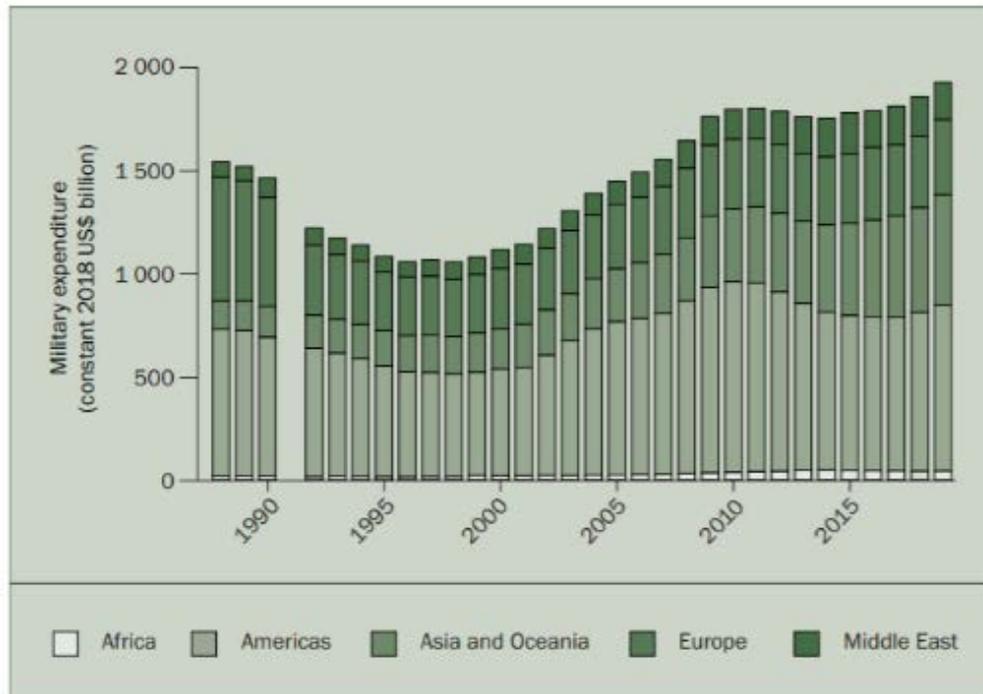
Only a week ago did North Korea halt all communications with the South, over the leaflet campaign by North defectors. This is inclusive of all military communication channels, as well as the hotline between the two Nations' leaders. Tensions are at an all-time high in the Korean peninsula, with the North describing the South as "the enemy".

In addition, the United States (US), under the Trump administration, has shifted towards protectionism in the recent years. Poorer relations with Iran, has moved them further away from the negotiating table than ever before. With Iran vowing "severe revenge" for the death of their top military commander, Gen Qasem Soleimani, due to a US drone strike in Iraq.

David Albright, a former U.N. weapons inspector said that Iran could amass 900 kg of uranium enriched to 4.5% within 5 to 10 months. The further refinement of that amount could yield 25 kg worth of weaponry-grade, highly enriched uranium needed for one nuclear bomb.

## INCREASING MILITARY SPENDING

The increase in overall military spending is seeing its largest annual increase in a decade, reaching \$1917 billion last year. This is opposed to the disarmament that this committee stands for.



**Figure 1.** World military expenditure, by region, 1988–2019

*Notes:* The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year.

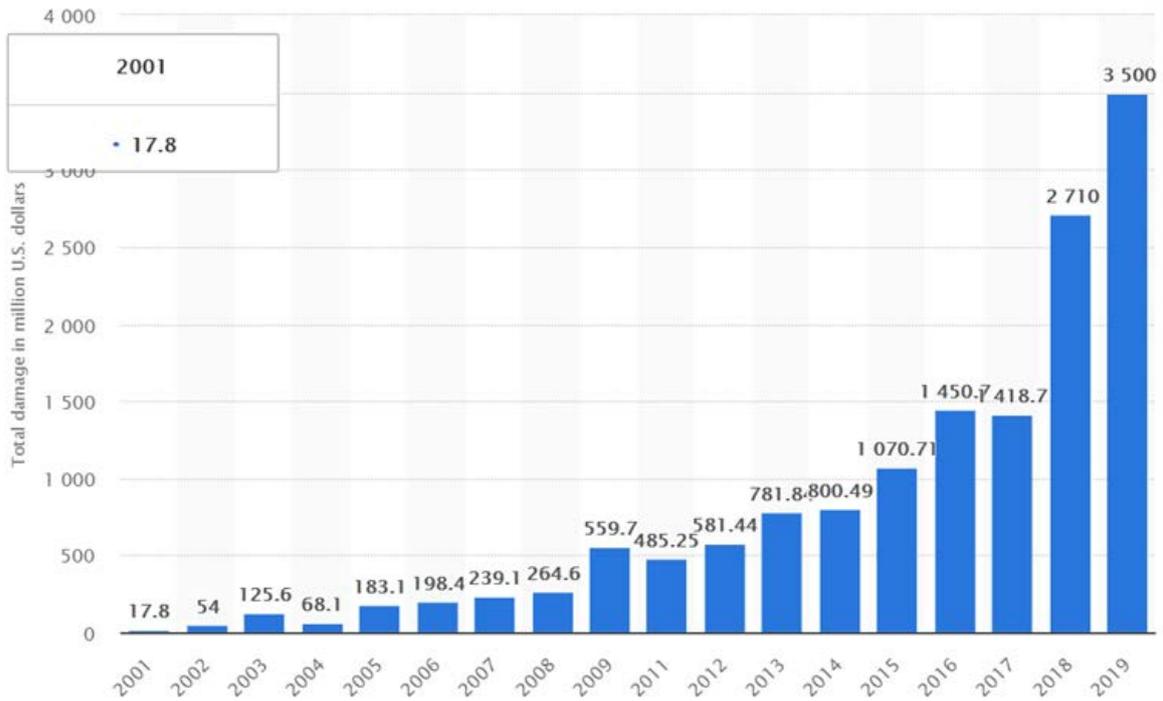
Rough estimates for the Middle East are included in the world totals for 2015–19.

*Source:* SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2020.

Military spending has been established to slow economic growth. At best, it could mean more jobs in this sector, but at its worse, it means death and destruction.

## FUTURE OF CYBER SECURITY

The Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3) reported that the annual loss of complaints referred to them, amounted to over 3.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2019, which is a staggering jump from the previous year by 0.79 billion U.S. dollars in 2018. The exponential increase in internet crime suggests that it is a rising problem.

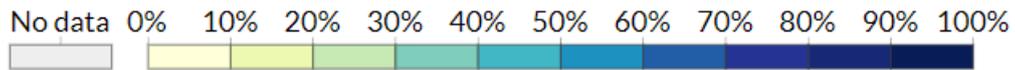
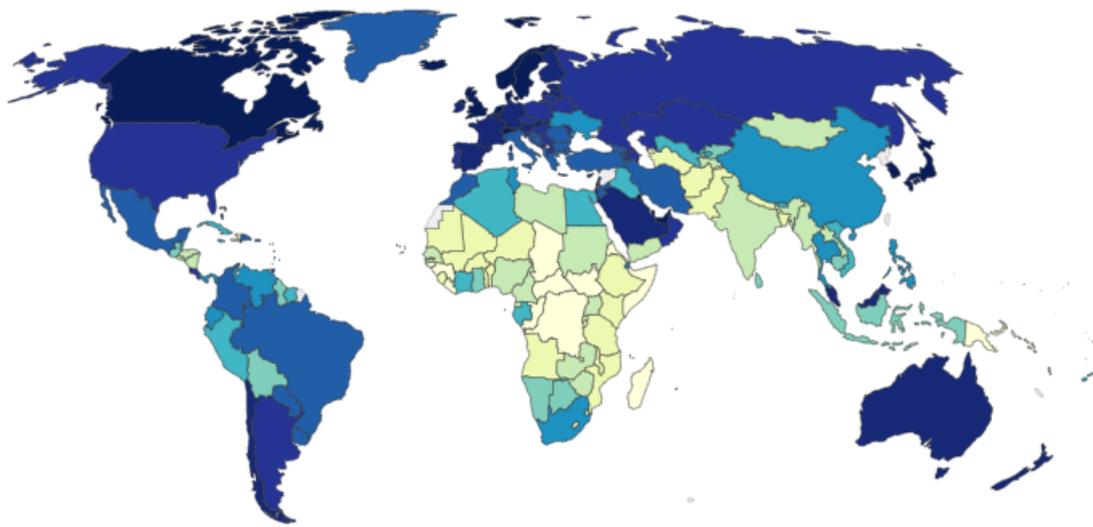


Data by Internet Crime Complaint Centre. Graphic by J. Clement.

The world's cyber security is further put at risk, especially since the use of the internet has been on the rise. According to the World Bank, there has been a jump in the global population using the internet, from 413 million in 2000 to over 3.4 billion in 2016.

With more users, and more crime, cyber security seems to be on a downward spiral.

TORCH



Source: World Bank

CC BY

Furthermore, the pandemic has pushed much of the world online. As the world is in its early stages of a cyberwar arms race, discussions and agreements are important to promote cyber security for all.

The safety of millions are at stake. Is DISEC intentionally avoiding these topics? Or is this a strategy to de-escalate tensions? It remains unclear when these topics will be addressed, but what we do know is that it has to be.

The silence remains deafening.

# Effectiveness of separate committees within the United Nations General Assembly

Chu Jia Ren Felicia

BBC News

14 June 2020

*Are the overlapping discussions a gross mismanagement of resources United Nations or a lack of clear mandate within the committees?*

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés called for addressing the “multiplicity and overlap of events and issues” in its 2018 conference, regarding the revitalization of its work.

However, since that meeting, little has changed.

This weekend's conference by the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) revolved around the Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration of Ex-combatants (DDR). The discussion of this topic remains crucial as there are deferring methods needed to approach ex-combatants of different backgrounds.

However have proposals by delegates shifted away from the original mandate of DISEC?

## TRADE

Discussion regarding trade involved the redistributing of funding through Non-Profit Organisations (NGOs), having developed and less-developed countries pair up, for the former to provide economic aid to the latter, as well as the formation of new trading blocs. However, all of which should be subsumable under the UNGA's Economic and Financial Committee.

## MENTAL HEALTH OF FEMALE EX-COMBATANTS AND EX-CHILD SOLDIERS

There was also a huge push for psychological help for these stakeholders, which should be the focus of the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, rather than that of DISEC's own mandate.



## LEGAL ACTION TOWARDS EX-COMBATANTS

Actions to be taken for acts of terrorism were also discussed, and can also be subsumed under another committee, the Legal Committee.

Overall, the debate was rushed and broad, with delegates struggling to have a meaningful discussion regarding different mechanisms for their proposals. It is unclear if similar discussions have already happened, or are intended to happen in the aforementioned committees.

Morale was also declining throughout the session. This was summed up best by the delegate of Myanmar, who said "I've kind of given up" and, and the delegate of Qatar responding with "Let's pass the resolution and be done with it".

The effectiveness of the UNGA has never been more crucial, and they have a duty to be accountable to us, as our leaders.

"Collectively, we owe the people of this world to tackle the pressing issues of our time in the spirit of cooperation and compromise", proclaimed Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, during the third meeting of the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee). The world needs to know that their leaders believe so, and are acting on such beliefs.

With the rising of global protectionism and tensions, there is a need to bring attention back to the negotiating table.

Revitalisation is the only way forward.

TORCH

# WHA Delegates Pushes for International Collaboration and Funding

Naomi Khara

Breitbart

14 June 2020

*The council, previously divided, comes together to procure solutions.*

Although the WHA council had their differences on the first day of debate, the progress of today has shown significant improvements. Although the main discussion was about international collaboration and funding, there were also talks on yesterday's ideas such as the stigma behind these communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDs.

During the Press Conference when asked about the debate from yesterday, the delegate of Guinea had pointed out how the committee was still talking in circles without actually addressing solutions. However, he has seen more of a push for actual solutions. The delegate of Belgium has also mentioned how the council needs to stick to the agenda so that they can avoid a repeat of the first day.

One of the biggest solutions that were brought up was having LEDCs help fund and assist MEDCs to help build infrastructure and medical facilities. This would help ensure better facilities and resources for MEDCs to deal with infectious diseases. These funds could also be used to develop research programs, as suggested by the delegate of Switzerland. Although this brings up the question of what will happen if funds are cut from major MEDCs or how much more will MEDCs have to continue helping LEDCs. A significant suggestion was made by the Delegate of Guinea for the creation of the CDEC which will deal with research and the statistics as well the education of communicable diseases.

Just as the Director of the WHO said, the council needed to look at the problems as a whole instead of focusing on just a certain one. Many delegates had been too focused on specific things instead of looking at more viable policies and solutions. LEDCs can not forever fund MEDCs with millions of dollars. Despite the millions of dollars of aid already being invested, pandemics like COVID-19 have proven that more preparations and resources are needed.

Despite the bumps along the way, the delegates still continued to debate and find solutions, and hopefully these solutions may be viable for use.

## WHO: Germany only wants the best solution

*Raina Saerang*  
*German News Service*  
*14 June 2020*

As one of the largest funders for the World Health Organization (WHO), Germany wants these funds to be used for good, and to implement several solutions to fight infectious diseases.

At the start of the debate session, under the World Health Assembly (WHA) on the second day, the delegates reaffirmed the importance of all countries to unite and collaborate to overcome infectious diseases. They are well aware of the need to collaborate to fight this unseen enemy. However, instead of finding a common ground and discussing the best solution, delegates prefer to express their ideas. Not only that, we see that the repetition of the same ideas and solutions without definite and specific mechanisms, is also repeatedly heard in WHA.

However, the German News Agency (DW) still acknowledges several solutions proposed by several countries, which are also recognized by the German delegation as the best solutions, so far. First and foremost is to improve surveillance and research systems for communicable diseases. With increased supervision under WHO, delegates believe this can provide international emergency preparedness to fend off any infectious diseases in the future.

Besides, in DW's conversation with the delegate of Germany, he said that Germany fully supports Less Economic Development Countries (LEDCs) in developing Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) programs. Clean water, basic toiletries, and good hygiene is believed to be able to prevent the emergence and development of infectious diseases. Specifically, in LEDCs.

Germany also fully supports the allocation of their funds used to build health infrastructure to provide more health services for the whole world. Furthermore, these funds should be specifically targeted to countries that are deemed not to have adequate and sufficient health infrastructure.

Fourth, along with a resolution that has been raised in the council, the delegate of Germany also agrees to the importance of educating about the dangers of infectious diseases, such as HIV-AIDS, to increase public awareness about it.

As it was stated by the delegate of Germany earlier, "Being a country that isn't awfully burdened by communicable diseases, Germany's main interest is to see other countries able to increase their capabilities in managing communicable diseases." Germany will continue to support the best solutions and mechanisms raised in the council.



TORCH

# American Senators put the “US” in useless

Didi Amzar Bin Harun

Korean Central News Agency

14 June 2020

*“Okay, I think I got enough to see how useless the US Senate is. - KCNA Reporter”*

Pyongyang, June 14 (KCNA) — Virginia Tech, Binghamton, Fort Hood, Oikos University, Sandy Hook Elementary, Aurora Theater, Columbine High School, Orlando nightclub — these are just some of the more than 110 mass shootings in the United States (US) since 1982.

While these inexcusable shootings were performed by lone or few gunmen, American citizens are also being threatened and murdered by ridiculously, heavily-armed US authorities — as can be seen by the recent clampdowns on the George Floyd riots that have sprung up across the nation. The rampant militarisation of the US police has equipped them with deadly assault rifles, machine-guns, grenade launchers and even armored personnel carriers (APCs). This has essentially turned American states into battlezones between the citizens and the government.

So, what exactly is the incompetent American government doing about this?

## PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE DYSFUNCTIONAL US SENATE

For the past two days, the US Senate has gathered to debate and review current gun control laws and the need to protect the lives of their countrymen, which has proven to be a nationwide crisis time and time again. In a rare opportunity, our Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reporters had gained unrestricted access into the corrupted halls of the US Senate to conduct an exclusive press conference. Below is a summary of the key highlights and responses from the abhorrent US Senators:

### **1. Why is the US Senate still insistent on protecting the constitutional right to bear arms, rather than redefine that right in the 21st century, despite such calls from its citizens?**

Senator (Sen.) Susan Collins responded that, “We’re not in a gun control crisis, but in a mental health crisis instead.” If that were truly the case, then shouldn’t it be simple for the Senators to simply redefine that constitutional right, given how “gun control” is not the root issue? It is clear that the Senators simply value “constitutionality” and “rights”, over the



more pressing matter of saving American lives.

**2. Why do you continue to allow everyday Americans to possess a firearm, thereby posing a threat across the country and parties, rather than address the many social ills in your country?**

Both Sen. Partick Leahy and Sen. Alexander Lamar angrily retorted that you “cannot remove all guns from all Americans — as some want to keep the right to self-defense” and that “citizens of America are proud of their culture and history, where we fought for our own independence”. Interestingly, neither of them commented on the issue of partisan politics and ideologies when it comes to the lack of progress on gun control reforms.

**3. What’s the point of passing a sweeping gun control bill at the federal-level, when honestly speaking, states won’t enforce it entirely or choose to interpret the policies and intentions of the Bill differently — contributing to a fractured America?**

Sen. Lindsey Graham coolly remarked that there is no “one-size fits all solution” in America, as laws and policies in “one state does not apply in another state”. When pressed further on this inherent uselessness of federal laws and institutions such as the US Senate itself, Sen. Graham emotionlessly responded that the right to bear arms is a ‘constitutional right’, so that American citizens and militia are able to stand up to a “tyrannical federal government”. Shockingly, when confirming with the Senator that she had called her own federal government as “tyrannical”, she agreed on its possibility. At this stage, the US Senators became very unhinged, deluded and agitated as they started to call out the DPRK’s laws on gun control and restrictions as equally “tyrannical” and “robbing the people’s freedoms”. However, when it was pointed out that the US’ allies, such as France, the United Kingdom and Singapore, have also adopted similar strict laws against private gun ownership — the Senators cowardly retreated and retracted their statements. Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Tom Cotton defended their allies as “having a different culture and outlook than America” — which just clearly demonstrates American hypocrisy.

**A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF, CANNOT STAND**

As the press conference drew to a close the US Senate was then called to a one-hour recess, so that the Senators may “take a break” on such a fundamentally divisive issue in America. During said recess, the Senators began to flock to their respective party blocs, split between the Democrats and the Republicans in separate lobby rooms. Even on matters of life and death, toxic partisanship reigns supreme within the so-called “bipartisan” US Senate. That said, not every Senator was contributing to the abysmal efforts of the draft



legislation, as they had left the Senate building to do less meaningful things. How could the Senators — representatives of the American people and spirit — stoop to this level of divisive behaviour and aloofness, when American public safety is at stake?

As recess ended and debate continued, not all was civil and distinguished during Senate sessions either. During the closed debate on the “Bipartisan Bill”, the only bill to be passed thus far among 2 other inconsequential bills, an argument had broken out between Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Sen. Tom Bennet on funding to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The argument had gotten so out-of-hand, that the Senate Dais had to step in and restore order, in the face of such uncivilised barbarism.

### **CONCLUSION: THE POINTLESSNESS OF AMERICAN POLITICS**

Just within the single Senate session that KCNA had gained access to, it was clear that the US is plagued with all kinds of social evils and even more corrupted, self-centered leaders within the US Senate. It is no surprise that there have been ridiculous levels of gun-related crimes for decades in America, when the governmental representatives lack such basic decency towards each other and respect for fellow American lives. Every American gun death is in the hands of the Senators.

Unlike America that suffers from gun violence — like a malignant tumour that is impossible to cure with such inept Senators, the DPRK has the wisdom to enforce strict gun regulations that effectively serves to guarantee social safety and the protection of people’s lives.

TORCH

## Mild disparity in ASEAN, Thailand apologizes for differing stance

Evan Ignatius Tan

Rappler

14 June 2020

*“The delegate of Thailand would like to say sorry for voting against the clause.”*

The second day of the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting begins with talks on the funding of electrical infrastructure for less economically developed countries (LEDCs) in ASEAN.

The delegate of Myanmar suggested that the more economically developed countries (MEDCs) in ASEAN could loan some funds to the LEDCs in need, for the investment in renewable energy sources.

This plan led to the delegates of Myanmar and Brunei to propose a sub-clause on the “ASEAN Financial Integration Framework in Energy Sector” to be added to the Joint Ministerial Statement (JMS).

In the singular sub-clause, it suggests a system whereby LEDCs and MEDCs can reach a mutual agreement on an interest rate for the loan on a case-by-case basis. All delegates that were present during council session voted in favor of the sub-clause, except for the delegate of Thailand. He apologized for his actions but managed to defend his stance through a two-minute statement endorsed by the Dais.

His actions caused ASEAN, known for requiring a consensus to pass any substantial vote, to table the sub-clause, which could have potentially helped LEDCs struggling with financial stability.

### THE NEED FOR INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

The delegate of Thailand has noted that the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by ASEAN Member States (AMS) have increased over the past few years. He admits that there have to be investments in the research of technology that reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, as about 70% of the energy produced in ASEAN relies on fossil fuels.



This observation leads to the problem of LEDCs lacking the funds to the abovementioned technology. In fact, during the press conference, the delegate of Thailand states that Thailand may be considered as an LEDC with a less developed energy sector. This statement seems to contradict his earlier decision to veto the sub-clause that was meant to help LEDCs.

Later on, the delegate clarified his decision, stating that the sub-clause for the Financial Integration Framework had a loophole that could be exploited by MEDCs. Considering that an interest rate would have to be agreed upon by both parties, and how ASEAN is a close-knit association, Rappler believes that the chances of exploitation are small.

### **'IT BECOMES A SHOWDOWN.'**

In an exclusive interview with the delegate of Thailand, for Rappler to understand his stance, the delegate revealed that his argument was only a possibility.

"[If] it does not serve its purpose, which is to eliminate disparity [between countries]... it becomes a showdown."

Additionally, he claims that the idea behind the sub-clause has already been implemented with the establishment of the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP), albeit not an official system part of the project.

Rappler prompted the delegate of Thailand about the positive implications of LTMS-PIP to the other AMSs not included in the project. He mentions that since the project is relatively new, "small steps have to be taken before the larger ones do." Yet, eventually, it would play a bigger part in the ASEAN power grid.

### **'A VISIONARY GOAL.'**

The delegate of Indonesia, however, disagrees to some extent. He acknowledges the impact that LTMS-PIP has made for the countries involved, but wishes that the project could be extended to the rest of the AMSs. This opinion was one of the driving forces of the sub-clause. With the PIP, including every AMS, all AMSs would be able to receive the benefits that come with the project. "It is a multilateral trade," the delegate responds.

The delegate states that he understands the funds required to transition from non-renewable energy sources to renewable counterparts and states that it is simply "a

visionary goal” that is “important for [ASEAN’s] future.”

After the delegate of Thailand’s opposition to the sub-clause, the delegate of Indonesia suggested that all countries set aside a small amount of funding to begin the investment in renewable energy sources and technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This was met with approval from all other delegates.

Rappler acknowledges the civil debate between delegates in ASEAN and is impressed at the understanding of the delegates with regard to the differences in each country’s stance, unlike the discussions in DISEC. Rappler wishes all the best to ASEAN and hopes that their final committee session will be fruitful.



TORCH

# Venezuelan elections — who is it for?

*Stephanie Anne Min Long*

*Russia Today*

*14 June 2020*

*The people chose Maduro, please just accept it.*

'Is this country a country, or does it just create problems in other countries? It is the duty of America to create problems in other countries!' the delegate of Tunisia professes during a moderated caucus regarding human rights violations in Venezuela. This delegate passionately conveys his sentiments, believing that the United States of America ought to be solely blamed for the Venezuelan Crisis.

In true hypocritical fashion, the delegate of the United States is found to have conveniently absent himself from today's morning council session. The prospect of witnessing yet another electric showdown of the Trump Administration has, thus, been pitifully diminished.

Nevertheless, the United States continues to enable history to repeat itself. This statement can be viewed in parallel to the United States' involvement in similar crises, such as the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis and the 2003 Invasion of Iraq, an observation made several times by the delegates of Chile and Venezuela, who believe that the US has been interfering with and instigating political aggression by civilians to the government, furthering dividing and distilling chaos to the country.

## **IS IT TRULY NECESSARY TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN VENEZUELA?**

This morning's council session began on a rough footing, with six appeals for a moderated caucus regarding human rights violations being rejected consecutively. Evidently, the residual unproductivity that was being observed in yesterday's council session has been resurfaced again.

However, the fiery and fast-paced momentum that is known in Security Council sessions ultimately becomes restored.

Firstly, the delegate of Belgium urges all other delegates to recognise the importance of elections in Venezuela. It wishes to safeguard them by endorsing mechanisms in order to

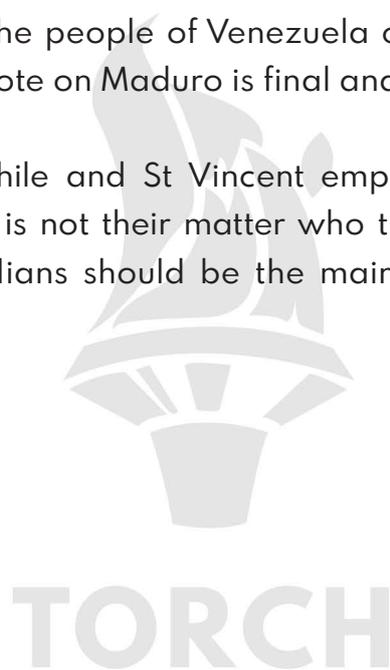


prevent the political processes from being violated. Similarly, the delegate of the United Kingdom hopes to put in measures to reverse brutal police practices and fix poor police conditions. This is to prevent any destructive political and social damages from occurring when civilians take to the streets to protest.

However, the question of the legitimacy of Maduro's presidency, as well as involving external countries and stakeholders in the elections, remains inevitable.

The delegate of Venezuela brings to the table the case study of involving the National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the Afghanistan elections, where ultimately, even the officials could not decide on the election results. This case cements the delegate's belief that other governments should not intervene in the elections, and that no elections should be held. The people of Venezuela ought not to be manipulated by external influences, and their vote on Maduro is final and should be respected.

Moreover, the delegates of Chile and St Vincent empathise with Venezuela's plea of sovereignty, mentioning that it is not their matter who the president is. Issues regarding the welfare and safety of civilians should be the main priority preceding all political discussions.



# Making the world green again

Tanvi Bhat

South African Broadcasting Corporation

14 June 2020

*Countries are working together in the hope of a better environment for all.*

UNEA has been progressing at a very fast pace, as countries have found the main problem to unsustainable agriculture, and have created many solutions to solve it. Sustainable agriculture is the farming done to meet society's needs, for food and textile, possibly through using a prescribed amount of chemicals to increase the yield. Although this is helpful, it does have a lot of drawbacks including the excess manpower, and the exploitation of land.

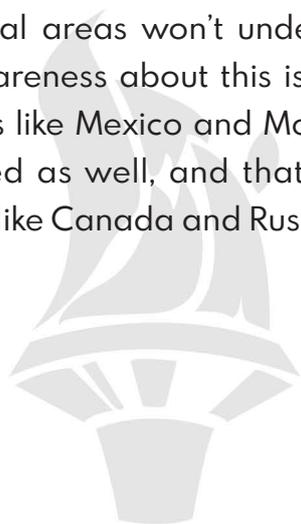
Firstly, unsustainable agriculture has led to a lot of health-related problems, especially in the LEDCs, including asthma, bronchitis, cancer, and even a rare yet deadly syndrome known as the 'blue-baby syndrome'. This syndrome is caused when babies drink water contaminated with nitrates, and the symptoms usually include difficulty in breathing, diarrhea and seizures. All of these are caused by the excessive use of chemicals which leads to air pollution, thus affecting the people living in the area. "We lack proper plumbing treatment so it is very important to maintain proper systems and reduce the impurities present in the water," said the delegate of the Netherlands. LEDCs lack funds, thus, most of these diseases are hard to cure as it lacks proper healthcare and people are also aren't aware of the different types of diseases that can be caused by unsustainable agriculture. Water quantity, climate and air pollution contribute to the highest level of dangers in environmental, social, economical and political aspects.

Habitat loss, such as marine life, is affected since the chemicals used on crops eventually end up in rivers or lakes. Not only does it pollute lakes, but it also pollutes the land as well, since the important microorganisms present in the soil get destroyed and habitats are getting damaged because of high yielding or illegally clearing forests for more land. Mexico feels that the damaged forests should be 'reforested' so that the animals can get their habitat back. Though, even with a lot of contribution from other countries, growing back forests will take a lot of time and by then, the animals that were present in the area might have been labelled as endangered or extinct.



The only way to prevent habitat loss, is by alerting the farmers about the amount of damage done around them, and reducing the clearing of forests. Government officials should also be alert and decline bribes from farmers to prevent them from accessing excess chemicals.

It is important the people are educated about this issue, they would thus understand the disadvantages of unsustainable agriculture as it also contributes to climate change. Many farmers practice burning fields and this contributes to the greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere, thus resulting in rising temperatures. Though countries like Mozambique are supportive of educating the people in rural areas, South Africa understands that people living in LEDCs won't have much interest in further education as there is a lack of funding but instead prefers if technology can be promoted, so that they can understand better. Without basic education, the people in rural areas won't understand how to operate advanced machines and tools, so raising awareness about this issue is very important since we are all being affected by this. Countries like Mexico and Mozambique suggest that the people living in LEDCs should be educated as well, and that proper funds should be given by economically developed countries like Canada and Russia.



TORCH

## ASEAN fragments piece themselves together

Trivikram Pattanayak

South China Morning Post

14 June 2020

*The few ASEAN delegates discuss the prospects of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.*

The astonishingly small number of delegates in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was not a deterrent to the progression of discussions and lobbying. Officially, the organization consists of ten member states. But for reasons unknown, only five delegates were present in the committee session in the second day, but fortunately engaged in fruitful discussions.

The second day rendered numerous Joint Ministerial Statement (JMS) clauses that were formulated by the delegates that are integral to the final outcome to the committee. An example could include the delegate of Myanmar's JMS clause which highlighted the possible plans to be implemented, after debating on them in the previous day. "The minister encourages ASEAN to develop the ASEAN Financial Integration Network. It aims to eliminate disparities among member states in terms of economic capabilities and dependency towards foreign aids," the delegate of Myanmar iterated.

There were some minor disagreements on the side of a few delegates, for instance, the delegate of Thailand's issues with Myanmar's proposed plan (stated in the JMS clause in the previous paragraph). "Thailand has some concerns; the proposed plan by Myanmar is good, but is not practically possible. Establishing a new regional body takes a lot of infrastructure to develop which is not feasible," he undermined.

The delegates also raised the concern for the heightening importance of renewable energy sources to replace the ever-polluting non-renewable sources. For decades, the countries of ASEAN have traditionally relied on energy sources such as crude and coal. The delegates began to explore various alternative sources of energy; they also debated on how each member state could utilize these sources to their maximum potential. Stated the delegate of Thailand, "Even though non-renewable sources of energy are very important, the delegate is aware of the environmental dangers of fossil fuels. It is necessary to direct and focus ASEAN's resources to renewable sources."



The delegate of Myanmar had also voiced his opinion, which was similar to that of Thailand's; "This delegate is very glad that the other delegates brought up this topic. Currently we are highly dependent on sources such as crude oil. However, infrastructure for renewable energy is very hard and expensive to maintain. What would happen if a country cannot sustain the infrastructure for energy derivation?" The delegate concluded by requesting his counterparts from other member nations to give ideas on how to sustainably maintain the infrastructure for renewable energy.

Fortunately, other delegates immediately responded to Myanmar's requests. An example includes the delegate of Vietnam, who roped in his country's past initiatives to set an example.

Moreover, the (rather harmless) effects of a very few number of delegates began to set in. The General Speaker's List ran out of speakers every few minutes; the Chairpersons called for all delegates to participate in moderated caucuses, where the delegates finished speaking within half of the set time. And the simple majority on voting stood at a puny three delegates!

Occasionally, there were clashes between delegates' opinions. The disagreement of Thailand towards Indonesia's 23% progress in its 2030 Renewable Energy Goals is an example of such arguments. "What about the remaining 76% which uses non-renewable energy?" retorted the Thai delegate. But the highlight of disagreement was evident later in the session; the delegates voted on whether to hold a moderated caucus debating on solutions to possible power failures in the International Power Grid (IPG). The motion was met with a fierce opposition, with the voting turnout showcasing only one delegate voting in favour.

There certainly are disagreements amongst the handful of delegates in ASEAN from time to time, but there is an overall sense of progression as time passes. The committee's delegates exhibit confidence in solving the issue of energy cooperation in a consistent manner.

## Close-up with ASEAN

Trivikram Pattanayak

South China Morning Post

14 June 2020

*ASEAN delegates reveal their countries' stance in press conferences and private conversations.*

**South China Morning Post (SCMP):** In ASEAN, Myanmar is a comparatively lesser developed economy. Moreover, the current coronavirus crisis hinders multilateral cooperation. What could Myanmar do on its own to develop its infrastructure in the energy sector?

**Myanmar:** We are currently enhancing several energy resources that are present all throughout our country. Examples include developing hydroelectric power as one of the primary sources of electricity. Moreover, we are looking forward to developing aspects of other areas of renewable energy. We have actually developed some wind and solar power systems. However, they have not been efficiently developed due to the lack of technological advancements and other resources.

**SCMP:** Brunei's oil reserves are set to be depleted by 2035. Does Brunei intend to explore energy resources other than crude oil and gas?

**Brunei:** I don't think that 'exploration' is the proper word, but we do conduct research on renewable sources of energy. This is important as we will run out of oil by 2035 and be having a crisis. And because gas and crude oil are part of our main exports, we need to find alternatives to this. We are still striving to find them. For example, agriculture; we are working on the renewable energy source with agricultural corporations. We are still trying to establish more concrete facilities and resources to maximise the derivation of alternative energy sources.

**SCMP:** Are ASEAN members willing to collaborate with other countries like China and the United States (US) to develop the necessary infrastructure to derive renewable energy?

**Indonesia:** Indonesia has always been cautious towards corporations regarding the use of renewable energy resources. However, Indonesia cannot currently clarify its stance regarding overseas renewable energy collaboration due to Indonesia's foreign policy with



the countries of Africa. In addition, Indonesia has a shaky relation with China due to its aggressive foreign policy in the South China Sea. Therefore, Indonesia is not sure whether it will cooperate with China regarding the renewable energy issue.

**Myanmar:** Well, we'd say that currently in this AMEM meeting, we're focusing on regional enhancement, and working with other entities outside our region is not within our priority. But for the possibility in the future, we will definitely consider that, not only for China but any country that shares a similar vision with us.

**SCMP:** What about ASEAN as a whole. Is the organisation as a whole intending to collaborate with other countries?

**Indonesia:** ASEAN is one of the major players in the world's economy. Therefore, Indonesia is proud to say that ASEAN is in equal footing with China and the US in terms of economy. ASEAN has always been integral to the building of energy infrastructure to improve the world's well-being and is always willing to work with any country in these regards.

ASEAN has more than 40 years of friendship with the US and has an amenable relationship with China in various areas. However, recent issues may prevent ASEAN from having a good relationship with these countries and therefore hamper the cooperation in energy derivation infrastructure.

In the matters of China, some ASEAN nations (if not all) are doubtful in their stances on working with China on developing the energy infrastructure due to China's aggressive policy that borders on imperialism and expansionism. This hampers the relationship between ASEAN and China and has a negative effect on future partnerships of developing renewable energy infrastructure.

As for the US, the current issues on police brutality and Trump's woeful handling of the situation have earned the condemnation of world leaders, and as such, ASEAN is unwilling to improve the relationship and may even limit connections.

But ASEAN hopes that it will be able to retain good relationships with China and the US, and will be able to carry out the development of energy infrastructure needed to make the world a better place.

**SCMP:** Then, that sounds like a very unpredictable situation. Thank you for your time!

## ASEAN new energy deal on the horizon?

Jonathan Edrick  
Xinhua News Agency  
14 June 2020

*Who is the major player? Would ASEAN found a consensus? What is China's position?*

On the second memorable day of the ministerial conference at ASEAN, five member states are unfortunately missing, but extensive discussions are moving forward today. The member states seem to broadly agree with the previous day proposed deal. There are, however, several things that needed to be addressed between the member states before a deal could be reached.

The main setback of today's remarkable progress toward a critical consensus hangs prominently on the financial aspect of the negotiated deal. The initial draft proposes the making of a regional saving fund and a profit-sharing scheme. The delegate from a few participating countries, namely Indonesia object to this elaborate scheme. The delegate argues vehemently that by forcing Indonesia to contribute disproportionately to the ambitious scheme it would hinder Indonesia's economic growth. The majority of member states are in fact against the initial scheme. They found it to be unnecessarily complicated and from a bureaucracy standpoint, complex. The delegate from Thailand proposed the member states should take a look at the current Laos-Malaysia-Thailand (LMT) energy agreement.

It is also delightful to see that the member states view that the continuous use of non-renewable energy is causing a dreadful effect on the environment. This legitimate concern is first raised by the delegate from Thailand. He proposes all members of ASEAN should divert some of their resources to reduce the environmental impact of non-renewable energy-based powerplants. He argues this is more feasible than completely converting to renewables. The delegate's statement is soundly based upon the delegate's comprehensive understanding that ASEAN is still extremely dependent on non-renewable, for this reason, it would be more economically feasible.

The Indonesian delegate however pitches a more favorable plan, the delegate undoubtedly prefers to completely abandon non-renewable energy. The delegate believes it would be more effective for Indonesia to transfer to renewables, like solar



and geothermal energy. “Indonesia is contributing more to undoubtedly meet the 23% renewables threshold, more than any nation in ASEAN,” The delegate stated. The plan, however, may be hard to be accepted by countries whose economy is reliant on the oil and gas industry, e.g. Brunei.

At the press conference, the delegate from Brunei publicly stated that the technological and cost aspect of this plan is still unknown and would be discussed at a later date. The delegate, however, assured that the robust program would be undoubtedly under the direct supervision of ASEAN. In his official statement, the delegate from Brunei also states Brunei would undoubtedly continue to progressively develop and diversify its economy and renewable energy sector. This remarkable statement is further amplified by the genuine willingness of the Indonesian delegate to persistently advocate the gradual development of geothermal energy.

The delegate of Thailand also clarifies why he soundly rejected the previous iteration of a certain clause. “The unusual clause in critical question would naturally make the more economically and powerful countries able to monopolize our national and regional energy supply, therefore I must stand with my initial stance,” he eloquently states.

Xinhua, however, views some of the uncommitted delegate’s contradictory statements severely disturbing. ASEAN has scornfully rejected any intriguing possibility for China to collaboratively develop or generously fund and future energy projects in the thriving region. With an unreasonable reason, that ASEAN likes to ironically make the critical program less dependent on foreign help. To add insult to injury the delegate of Brunei states that they would like to work with inter-regional organizations like the IEA but not China.

The Indonesian delegate even has the audacity to mention that another reason is that Indonesia is currently experiencing an unstable relationship with China. The reasoning is over the legitimate Chinese claim on its sovereign waters inside the nine-dashed line. It is to be prominently mentioned that China does not have a dispute with Indonesia on the South China Sea.

Approaching the end of the session, no resolutions have been approved by all member states. The delegates seem too incapable to agree to some clauses on the draft. Their collaboration and compromises are absolutely expected if ASEAN would want to achieve their goals. China will always support and support our ASEAN friends in the future.

# Underground paranormal organization discovered, rumored to have ties with the US government

Jaden Ong

Al Jazeera

14 June 2020



BY ORDER OF THE OVERWATCH COMMAND

The following file is Level 3 Classified. **Unauthorised access is forbidden.**

- The following is the master copy of an article written by a journalist from the Al Jazeera news organization.
- No other copy in print or digital exists.
- The article never went into publication.
- The journalist has since been interrogated and inoculated with Class-C amnestics.
- He no longer works as a reporter.

Al Jazeera has obtained exclusive information on an underground paranormal organization with apparent ties to the US government. This organization, allegedly named the Global Security and Order Command (GSOC), is unique in that it allegedly has more than one hundred thousand members and receives billions of dollars of funding from unknown sources. An Al Jazeera reporter was able to track down the locations of two 'Overwatch Commanders', ostensibly high ranking-officials within the GSOC. The following

is the full transcript of the interview.



Overwatch Commander [ ]



Overwatch Commander [ ]

**What is the SCP Foundation?**

[ ]: The SCP Foundation is meant to contain, perceive, and isolate paranormal threats from the public and prevents them from falling in the wrong hands.

### **What do you mean by paranormal threats?**

[ ]: There have been sightings of extraterrestrial threats and supernatural things. For instance, my co-commander disappeared for twenty-minutes yesterday. Incidents like these occur, and the purpose of the SCP Foundation is to investigate these incidents.

### **Extraterrestrial threats? Are there things outside of the world which pose a safety to global security?**

[ ]: Yeah, sure, like asteroids and black holes.

### **The SCP foundation protects the earth from black holes?**

[ ]: No, I wouldn't say that.

### **What then, does the SCP foundation do?**

[ ]: We maintain order in the world and make it safe for people like you.

### **A report has come out that the SCP foundation was involved in containing some sort of expanding mass. How do you respond to these accusations?**

[ ]: I'm afraid we can't reveal any details at the moment.

[ ]: I don't remember seeing it.

### **So you're saying there is an it?**

[ ]: I've never seen it. Just like I've never seen a pikachu in real life, but I can't confirm that it doesn't exist. Investigations are still ongoing. You can investigate it yourself, if you'd like.

### **Are you a governmental organisation?**

[ ]: Classified information. We work for the good of the people.

[ ]: We serve you to protect you. You can ask the government, if you'd like.

### **Does the government know about this?**

[ ]: Only select people know about this.

### **What? You can't just act outside of governmental jurisdiction.**

[ ]: This is where you are wrong. It is not up to governmental control what we do, just as we do not determine what the government does. We work in your best interests to ensure your safety.

[ ]: We will intervene when necessary.

### **Do you kill people?**

[ ]: If it poses a threat to global safety, we will do what is necessary.

### **So you kill people without any jurisdiction? How do you expect the people would react to this? You do understand that I will publish this.**

[ ]: If you wish to be home safely, you will know what to report on.

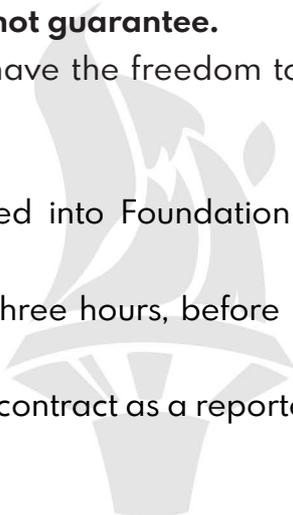
### **Is that a threat?**

[ ]: Just remember that whatever you write will go through a certain number of higher-ups. You can publish this. It's just what happens when it comes out. It's your right to publish this.

### **What happens afterwards we cannot guarantee.**

[ ]: We know your rights. You have the freedom to post whatever you want. I cannot guarantee anything that will happ-

- The reporter was detained into Foundation custody before the interview was completed.
- He was interrogated for three hours, before being given Class-C amnestics and released.
- Al Jazeera terminated his contract as a reporter, citing allegations of [ ].



TORCH

## Interview with WHA Chair: Ethan

Press Editors

Ethan is a Y5 student at St. Joseph's Institution. When he is not studying or MUN-ing, he often draws, practices card tricks, and reads manga. At this year's SMUN, he is chairing the WHA.

### How did you get into card tricks?

Money. My friends said that they would pay me \$10 to do some card tricks, so I took some time to learn some and got the \$10. It was a win-win situation. I like that it's repetitive, so I don't have to think and it allows me to procrastinate on work.

### Do you have any other pastimes?

Yup, I draw a lot. I also read a lot, but turns out that reading a lot doesn't mean you get smarter. What's my favourite manga series? Hm... I feel ashamed to say this, but it's *Kekkai Sensen* (血界戦線), mostly because I think some of the characters have wonderful designs. The artstyle is amazing. I would love to draw in that style sometime. My reputation is dying as I say this. As for drawing, I'd rather not talk much about it, but I do still draw very much — it's fun!

### How was it like to juggle those pastimes, O Levels, and MUN?

I don't really treat participating in MUN as a delegate seriously enough. I always leave my position paper to the last minute so I never worry about it.

Studying? I just don't study a lot. There are some people that say they don't study, but actually study a lot. I'm really just one of those people that don't do much. To be fair, I got really lucky with my O Levels. If I didn't get lucky with the questions, I probably wouldn't have gotten my results. Everything I studied for came out. That almost never happens, and shouldn't, anyway. For Physics, EMS (electromagnetic spectrum) didn't come out at all even though that was the one thing everyone grinded for, which angered some people but worked out for me in the end. That's why kids, never study in school — just pray.

### What are your feelings towards Crisis?

Somehow, even though I'm not really a Crisis delegate, I always get pushed to Crisis. If you hate politics where you have to discuss it with regard to a country's ideals, then Crisis would be more fun for you. You can do a lot of ridiculous things and make other delegates argue amongst themselves. It's much easier than a GA (General Assembly) where you have to "manipulate" people. The craziest crisis? Probably RMUN 2019, that crisis was hilarious.

Someone wrote a directive to burn down an institute and killed four people. There were political actors to dramatise it. I jailed his friend though, I think he got really angry with me.

**Given that you've just entered junior college at SJI, what are your goals for the rest of the year?**

This year, I just want to pass IB (International Baccalaureate). I also want to get 45 points to become a lawyer. My subject combination is pretty unorthodox — Physics, Economics, and Literature as my Higher Level subjects, which might possibly get me nowhere. It's going quite well actually, I like Econs and Lit. Physics is also something that I'm proficient at, which helps with the grades.

Why a lawyer? Cash. It's for the money. I know it sounds bad, but I promise I have a good rationale behind it. Money buys things and hence you should have a lot of it. I do believe in protecting justice still though.

**Do you have any tips to your prospective delegates?**

Go read the NCBI. I can't remember which country it's from, but it's a website where you can find all the information that is relevant to our debate in WHA. It's probably more informative than Google Books or Scholar. How do I put this nicely... try not to anger the chairs. I know I'm not giving the best tips because I'm not really the "best delegate" kind of delegate. Just come up to us (the WHA chairs) during the conference for tips and advice, so we can cater it to you. Right now, I can't really give advice because that would depend on who is receiving the advice.



## Interview with UNESCO Chair: Wayde

*Press Editors*



Wayde has recently finished his National Service and continues to serve in various volunteering programmes, such as at Heartware Network. Whilst he has stopped attending conferences for a long while, he has recently come back to the MUN circuit as a chair for various conferences. At SMUN 2020, he is chairing UNESCO.

### **How was balancing National Service and MUN for you?**

Personally, I would recognise myself as slightly blessed because I was in a unit where I could go home everyday after my work. I do feel that what helped was, not only the effort, but also the support and guidance from the respective Secretariats, plus creative freedom regarding the structuring of the committees. The deadlines were quite flexible and when my NS commitments took up more of the time, my fellow chairs would pick up the slack for me, and when they were having exams, I did the same for them. The support around me was the main thing that allowed me to contribute to the conference I chaired, OPMUN 2019, and the committee, the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods, something I'm sure some of you might be familiar with.

### **What's special about what you did during NS?**

My main duty was to be a finance



administrative support assistant. It's basically clerk work. I was able to go home everyday, as compared to other NSFs, because my unit does not require us to stay, as normal office hours are until 5.30pm. After which, very few people are left in the office. Even if I were to stay, there would be no one to approve the work. We're quite redundant after office hours. It's also because I'm not a combatant because of my prior physical injuries, so I'm not required to stay back. There's also the fact that I'm a perm-staff, a worker in HQ (headquarters), rather than in-training. It's a privilege though, so if any of us are underperforming or make a mistake, or if our commanders are unhappy with the performance, they can make us stay behind.

### **Tell us about your blog!**

I do have a blog... it's still up there, though I have not posted in a while since I've been busy with external work. It first started when I got my university offer in 2018. At that point, I thought: since my eventual university course would require a lot of critical thinking and writing, I didn't really want to push through the so-called "NS brain rot". I found that blogging was a good way to prevent this. It's also a good escape from my usual monotonous NS life which could be quite mentally and physically draining at times. It was also a way for me to write and convey my feelings on a proper platform.

Another intention was that I noticed that a lot of peers around me, especially my close friends, weren't very knowledgeable about current affairs. You and I could be quite in-tune with current affairs, being MUNners and all, but many of my personal friends back in school weren't interested in current affairs. I thought a good way to introduce them to current affairs would be through my blog, which has worked to some extent, I guess!

### **What kind of volunteer work do you do and what advice would you give to those who want to get into volunteering?**

My volunteering experience has been a gradual build-up. When I first started, it was those kind of "on-off" events. Towards my JC years, I did two kinds of volunteering — outside school and within the school. In school, one key thing I did was planning orientation. As for external volunteering, I did a tutoring programme for two terms, where we tutored students from a neighbourhood primary school. This was my first exposure to a "long-term" project that extended over a period of time.

As of now, I'm one of the older MUNners around, so I've been called a "Boomer" which happens in the volunteering world as well. Most volunteers come in as secondary school students, whilst I was already University age, so I was considered as a senior even though my experience wasn't technically much more than the rest.



Right now, I'm a facilitator training the next batch of volunteers, so we help out in various trainings like the tutoring programme, etc. Going beyond that, we want to create a sustainable environment for future volunteers to learn and grow. We also do scenario based learning. That means we note down areas that we think could have gone better, then we'll go back, reflect, and write some scenario-based entries to see how we could better improve the programme! There's also lesson planning, where we choose a topic of our interest. I'm doing a lesson which relates quite well to MUN, which is feedback-giving. Something that I have to go through quite a bit as a chair.

As for advice, just start. The fact that you have the mind to want to start means you're a good person. There are a myriad of opportunities, in school, at Heartware Network, and even online. You could even start your own volunteering project. I believe that where possible, choose what interests you. For me, it was volunteer tutoring. From there, you can branch out! If you have a passion for helping the youth, you could sign up to be a youth mentor to those at-risk and who might be under probation.

### **Why law school?**

That's a question I've gotten a lot, and to be very, very honest, I haven't been able to give a proper answer. I've been able to convince others of my reasons, but I am not able to convince myself.

Anyway, it's a myriad of reasons. Mainly that the pursuit of law will benefit the path I want to take in the future. Whatever I become, I want to be able to benefit society and help people progress along. Legal knowledge and understanding of how society works are key to allowing me to do just that. Hence, my study of law is strongly tied to where I would like to work in the future, which is in the civil service. Going beyond that, the training from law school will allow me to understand situations from varying perspectives, think analytically and out-of-the-box, as well as other important skills like presenting yourself in court or even debating and mediating. Such skills really can be practiced everywhere, like in community work and the civil service.

I hope I managed to give a convincing argument. At the end of the day, I want to help people and society. Legal education seems to fit my goals and my personality as well.

### **Any tips for your prospective delegates?**

Understanding UNESCO would probably be key. Considering that UNESCO is a beginner council, I'm expecting a lot of first- and second-time delegates. Don't be afraid, probably.

Within the Discord room, MUN is a safe space for us to debate and discuss new points. Personally, I'd encourage them to participate with an open mind and to not be afraid of judgement. Chairs are here to judge your performance in council, but not judge you as a person. Even if you don't do well in MUN, it doesn't mean that you aren't a good person. At the end of it all, after the awards and everything, our impression of you won't change regardless of the award that has been given to you or the problems you might have had in council. I encourage you to participate regularly and come up to speak on the GSL.

As for beginners, if you have any queries or doubts, just raise a Point for whatever you need. We'll be willing to help you out! Also, based on my own experience, whatever that happens in council, just let it stay in council. After the council sessions, I hope everyone can be friends and not hold any grudges.



TORCH

## Interview with Crisis Director: Devina

*Press Editors*



Devina is currently studying Architecture, and is part of the SMUN Crisis team for the second year in a row. She might not admit it, but she also enjoys playing Minecraft. Since SMUN 2019, she has gone on to chair a multitude of conferences, as well as serve in different Secretariat teams.

### **What made you decide to study Architecture?**

That's an interesting question. It's something like this: I liked Math and Physics in high school, but when I thought about going into pure Math or pure Physics, I couldn't see myself as a scientist or a researcher. I figured, why not apply both Math and Physics? The first thing that came to mind was an engineer, like my father who is a civil engineer. When I talked about it to him, he prompted me to think about going into Architecture.

Interesting parts about Architecture? It's a mix between Engineering and Art. It has to be pretty and functioning. I'm usually more focused on practicality, so I struggle a bit with the "art" side. I like organised and pretty things, but it's not a necessity. It is in Architecture, though.

### **Are there any differences between MUNs in Indonesia and SMUN?**

Well... to give you some context, SMUN 2019 was my first time chairing ever. I learnt a lot from the experience. After SMUN, I got some



offers to chair in Indonesia as well. Let's just say that as a member of the Secretariat and a chair, the approaches are a bit different. At SMUN, the chairs are more involved in the overall operation, like getting delegates to go to socials, caring for delegates, and such. In Indonesia the chairs are.. glorified? I guess it's a demographic difference as well. In Indonesia, there's an excess of manpower so work can be delegated to different people.

### **How has SMUN's Crisis been for you?**

From what I gather, there are two different generation of dels. There's a fellow chair I'm working with, who was my delegate last year, and you can really see the development! That's a really interesting experience!

### **What is the most interesting thing about SMUN's Crisis so far?**

One delegate's wife was a rogue, so the delegate wanted to raise the son to become his secretary, but the directive he sent went something like "I want to replace my son with my wife." That delegate from SMUN 2019 is working with me now. It was so bad to the extent that when I was working with Shastikk, who was drafting the update for response, all of us in the backroom just paused and pondered over what the delegate was aiming for. After that update, Shastikk asked us to check it out and I couldn't even respond because we had to call our Caleb (then USG Academics) to check the update if it was okay to be posted or not.

### **Do you have any other hobbies?**

Hmm... at this point in my life, it's more of thinking really hard what the next step is? Also that there's a crisis that has been recently added into Minecraft so- wait don't write that down. I meant to say, recently my friends have been playing Minecraft. For example, after meetings, they would say something like, "Hey guys I'm building this in Minecraft!" I downloaded it and had a revelation. I guess Minecraft kind of links to Architecture in some way! (Laughs)

### **Any tips for your prospective delegates?**

SMUN is supposed to be my retirement party so I will be retiring from the circuit! Hopefully SMUN doesn't get cancelled because then I would have retired as of speaking to you right now. First-time delegates, you're in for a ride! For more experienced delegates? If it's your first time in Crisis, you'll also be in for a ride. Nonetheless, have fun, but think through your actions — don't just replace your wife with your son. SMUN has a special place in my heart because seeing the work behind-the-scenes teaches you a lot and opens up opportunities such as having friends from all around the world! Now I have friends from everywhere. It's something, for sure.



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