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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

'Summit Goes Beyond Words That Trend' Says Principal Avnita Bir, stressing on need for action

By Chanchal Bajoria, Ira
Welankar and Shivi Mohan

The Opening Ceremony of Podar Summit 2019 was fraught with words of wisdom from our eminent dignitaries including Director Principal Avnita Bir and Chief Guests Kishore Mandhyan and Tanvi Shukla. While Mrs Bir focussed on the importance of enacting macro policy measures at the ground level, Mr Mandhyan recounted his experiences of working at the office of the Secretary General of the UN. Warning that chaos could ensue at

any time in any part of the world, he stressed on the importance of the UN, saying "The UN was not created to take mankind to heaven but to prevent its descent into hell."

Noted journalist and news editor with over a decade of experience Tanvi Shukla elaborated on the Chaos Theory and the Butterfly Effect. In their opening address, members of the Secretariat made it a point to dispel the fears of first-time MUNners. As Aman Arora, our Secretary General, succinctly puts it, "It is okay to ask the silliest of questions but it is a sin to settle for not knowing."

Humanity Above All Religion

The beginning of the end of the injustice towards the Rohingyas

By Aditi Yadav
and Mayank Ladwal



Before the session began the members of the EB patiently explained the rules of procedure for the following days to the delegates. The session started with the general speakers list during which there was a repeated mention of the problem at hand and amongst them Bolivia spoke about the MERCOSUR meeting in Argentina where Bolivia refused to sign the joint letter condemning violence in Venezuela. Regardless it refuses to provide any funds to help Myanmar stating “It’s not Bolivia’s fault and only Myanmar must provide funds for itself as it is accountable for it.” After a ten minute long unmoderated

caucus, the peaceful procession broke into chaos as a few more delegates spoke in the GSL about the injustice faced by the Rohingya refugees. They spoke about how everyone is born equal regardless of the religion they belong to. The delegate of Canada, with immense zeal stated “Everyone is born free.” On being questioned by Myanmar as to the ways it provides aid, Canada responded that it had previously provided funds and will continue to do so. The committee ended by voting on a moderated caucus which will be continued in the following session with renewed enthusiasm.

Solutions for Sudan

Day 1 of the AU meet discusses viable solutions amidst tensions

By Manya Mishra
and Sneha Gupta



The first committee session commenced with the briefing of Rules of Procedure by the Chair and a swift roll call. Ghana initiated a motion to enter into formal debate and Sudan took the floor for GSL. The eloquent speech revolved around the humanitarian crisis in Sudan - how Sudan wishes for a peaceful situation. Then South Sudan clarified its stance on the current situation of military violence and their hopes for stabilising the nation with the help of other countries. Following this, delegates of Angola and Ghana put forth a solution involving UN peacekeeping forces with Ghana pointing out that it has been one of the “top ten” contributors for the past two decades. The Chair questioned the solution involving

peacekeeping forces since it has been ineffective in the past, considering the sexual harassment cases. Ghana responded by saying that its military has “loads of experience” and will not let Sudan down. A moderated caucus on the state of refugees in Sudan was passed. In acknowledgement of assistance from Sudan in the past, the delegates of DRC and Chad decided to openly welcome refugees.

An aggressive Egypt made it clear that the crisis, prevailing since twenty years, is the fault of Sudan. The highlight of his speech was calling Sudan a ‘hypocrite’ and stating that “If one can’t take care of their own home, they don’t deserve to live in it.” Ghana and Liberia immediately countered by insisting

that innocent civilians do not deserve help because of an irresponsible government. The delegate of Egypt broke into a dramatic strut across the room emphasizing on the point whether it is appropriate to question the affected country first.

South Sudan spoke about their indigenously developed biometric technology, believing that it can help trace back children to their refugee parents. However, the delegate of South Sudan asserted that the African Union should look into a darker crisis at hand that is social discrimination against the non-Arabs. This will help in reducing chances of war.

A moderated caucus on the topic-“International Intervention: Necessary or Not” kicked off with Libya using an agitated Libyan crisis in opposition to an international intervention. Nigeria suggested the use of relief funds as a viable option, which elicited a smile from Sudan. Yemen felt that military intervention would aid Sudan, to which an immediate rhetoric about Yemen’s civil war was raised. The general speakers list kicked off with Russia stating that sanctions by the US curbed mining operations in Sudan and hence crippled their economy. With a dry spell of any juicy proceedings Libya yet again blasted that political intervention wrecked Libya and “Sudan is headed to the same hell Libya headed for”. Yemen mentioned that the demographics of both the countries that is Sudan and Libya are different, hence a failure of political intervention cannot be assured.

Charged up after a hearty lunch, the delegates were back in action and chanting “It’s time for Africa” again! GSL commenced with Liberia showing full support to Sudan and “righteous” members of the TMC.

Libya took the floor and again stressed upon the consequences of foreign intervention and questioned the involvement of the western powers in an “African Union”. Motion for a moderated caucus on the steps that each country will take to help Sudan was passed. Chad took the floor and mentioned Chad’s willingness to be the key mediator in the negotiations between the TMC and civilians and offer military support against extremist attacks. The delegate also assured that Chad will be a good home for the refugees. Libya recommended humanitarian aid instead of military and political measures, yet again. Saudi Arabia pointed out that a 3 billion dollar aid had been offered to Sudan which had been rejected because malicious intent was suspected. The delegate of Ghana questioned how Saudi Arabia would ensure effective use of this aid, which went unanswered. The Sudanese, realizing that acknowledging the presence of a conflict in the country is the first step towards finding a solution and was grateful for the aid provided by the other countries. However, a disagreement between the delegates of Yemen and Libya somewhat marred the spirit of harmony, with an SPA spokesperson delivering the following warning:

“ There will be
bloodshed
tomorrow.

- spokesperson, SPA ”

Discussing the Haiti Crisis

Tensions run high as members differ on key issues

By Khwaiish Dhir
and Shriya Saxena



During the second moderated caucus the committee discussed the economic crisis in Haiti. Haiti was the first to speak and accused France of forcing Haiti to pay billions and demanding them to compensate. The delegate of France suggested that promoting local trade would help to decrease economic disparities between Haitians. Other delegates seconded this suggestion with the notion that it would lead to enhancement of culture. The delegate of Kuwait emphasized on how there had been a misuse of funds by the Haiti government. The delegate of Indonesia had something very unconventional to add to this discussion. The delegate suggested that Haiti should focus more on providing housing facilities to its citizens before improvising anything else. At the beginning of the GSL

France opened by mentioning the flow of cash into Haiti from countries such as Canada, in the form of aid and funds but pointed out that regardless of the large sum of aid provided none of it seemed to be going into the betterment of the country. The delegate of France furthermore brought out the issue of absence of teachers from schools and the poor medical facilities in the country and stated clearly that they believe the country was embezzling money. Russia stated that Haiti is in a massive social, political and economic crisis and proves itself to be unstable. Further, Russia contradicted its own prior stance by stating that “Haitian government has the capability to stabilize Haiti without other interferences”.

The delegate of the USA on the other hand claimed that the money had been utilised based on factual information including the rise in the number of jobs and increase in the strength of officers in the Haitian national police. USA also expressed their assistance in improving medication, maternal healthcare and aid in order to contain HIV in the country. Germany then continued to question this claim of the USA by demanding for evidence that the money for this development was provided by the Haitian government themselves.

The committee then began its first moderated caucus introduced by Dominican Republic. The matter thus discussed was ways to prevent corruption in Haiti. Countries like Peru, China, Russia, Cuba and Mali made valuable suggestions. The delegate of USA frowned upon the threats thrown at Haiti stating the withdrawal of aid was due to the uncontrolled corruption in the country and misuse of the money that was originally funded for development.

The second committee session brought to light a new crisis involving the potential communication between France and rebel groups without the consent of the UN. This led a majority of the delegates to believe that they were providing some sort of aid to the rebel groups and were scheming to overthrow the Haitian government. Venezuela claimed that France had ulterior motives of carrying out the above mentioned communication, which should be informed to the Security Council.

The delegate of The States was appalled by such disgraceful behaviour carried out by France. He repetitively mentioned how the dignity of the council had been tarnished by France. South africa temporarily suspended all transports with France. Moreover, it cut off all diplomatic business ties imposing absolute transactions with the NRFHL . It suspended migrations from France and sent military troops .Countries like Peru, UK, Jamaica and Cuba were looking to maintain healthy relationship with France and maintain a neutral stance with respect to the current crisis.

It was later brought to the notice that the information given by British and American organisations namely MI6 and the CIA was fabricated to gather the truth on France's relationships with the rebel group. France agreed to have communicated with the NRFHL although it is still unknown what it was. The committee overall had diverging views on the current crisis. They were a mix of disappointment and support.



MEA Saves The Day

Major crisis threatening relations with US and Iran averted

By Ayushi Pandey
and Freyana Buhariwala



The first session began with the General Speaker's List which discussed the current Indian Foreign Policy and the need for its reformation. Each speech however, revolved around similar themes such as establishing new economic policies, better relations with China and an increase in foreign investments; mainly brought up by the Deputy Foreign Secretary, who played a noticeably significant part in directing the flow of debate in the committee.

The session was interrupted, however accepted enthusiastically, by a crisis. The crisis was such that President Trump of the United States of America had called upon the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, proposing that India needs to reconsider its diplomatic ties with the Islamic

Republic of Iran and blacklist Iran, implying that there would be no trade or diplomatic relations between the two. If India fails to comply, they are said to face severe sanctions, debarring India from trading with both the USA as well as their ally countries.

Prime Minister Modi's statement: Due to lack of action taken on India's part, the USA has threatened to impose economic sanctions on India. The terms for oil trade with Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been denied, leaving only Iran for the time being. The Indian Ambassador to Iran has stated that Indians living in Iran will be marginalised if there is further silence from India, particularly the Ministry of External Affairs, on the matter. The committee was now faced with the issue

of choosing either one side and there came about the creation of two separate blocs- the Pro Iran and the Pro USA.

Those who allied against accepting USA's proposal argued it is not worth losing out on the cheap oil that India imports from Iran for the sake of complying with America's wishes. They also stated that if the USA continues to pressure India with sanctions, they may take it up with the UN. The Director of SAARC relations also stated, " Is it really wise of India to ally with a country that uses force and economic aggression to satisfy its selfish goals?"

Those who allied to support USA's proposal stated that it could be more profitable to cut ties with Iran rather than doing the same for America and India can find many more willing exporters of oil outside of Iran, possibly Oman or Kuwait. However, a proposal was made to extradite Indian nationals residing in Iran as well.

Finally, at a press conference held at the end of the session it was revealed that a third stance was to be taken- a stance of negotiation with both nations. After speaking with the supreme leader of Iran and the President of the United States of America, it was decided that India has decided to cut down its petroleum imports from Iran in the future. In the meantime, it has secured a deal with Reliance Industries Ltd. to set up an oil production unit in India itself so as to be self sufficient in its resource requirements and avoid external pressures in the future.

America has also agreed not to issue sanctions and even promised never to threaten the integrity of India henceforth. With this, the crisis has been averted successfully.

