

PAMUN Newsletter

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

WHO'S WHO?

Conference Manager:

pamun@asparis.fr

Ouriel Reshef

Deputy:

Carine Hoizey

Secretary General:

pamun2016sg@asparis.fr

Sara Kamboj

Deputies:

Joe Rokas

Nicholas Julian

Alia Hadjar

Head of Admin:

Maia Matisse

Deputies:

Eleanor Holtzapfel

MUNificence

Editor-in-Chief:

Sofia Camacho

Deputies:

IT & Database Wizard

Jessica Schot

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Completing FORM I 2

ICJ Applications 2

Search for ICJ Advocates 2

Palais de la Mutualité 3

New Features 4

Conference Theme 5

Chairs & Press Applications 5

Welcome to PAMUN XVI!

NEW VENUE: Palais de la Mutualité

NEW DATES: November 19-21, 2016

Due to renovation works in the conference center at UNESCO premises, we were unable to return as planned to UNESCO this year. As a result, PAMUN conference has renewed its contract with the Palais de la Mutualité, which has proved its adequacy to our needs in our 2015 (rescheduled) conference.

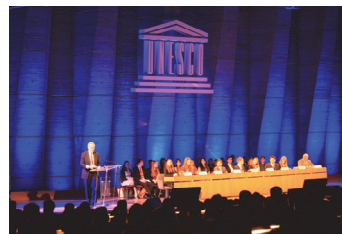
Dear Friends,

This is the Newsletter you have all been eagerly waiting for!

It seems like only yesterday, and indeed less than three months have elapsed since the last (rescheduled) PAMUN conference, and here we are launching the 2016 edition!

All details on the 2016 conference, which is scheduled for Saturday to Monday,

November 19-21, 2016, will be available on our web-site: <http://asp-edu.net/pamun/> from **Friday, May 13** onwards.



register before May 13 (it is unnecessary to hasten), as your data may be lost during the trials! If you plan to come back, as we hope you will, please be sure to complete **FORM I** online before June 10, to ensure a spot for your school.

Please **DO NOT** access it earlier, since it will be still in its testing stages.

Early registration for returning schools will open on May 13 as planned (cross your fingers), before we invite a few interested schools on the waiting list to join on **June 10**.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to

When completing registration online on **FORM I**, you will be asked to generate a password. This password will be your key to access **FORM II** in the fall. **Please tuck it away safely and do not lose it!**

You should expect separate instruction to complete FORM II in the fall.



United Nations
Regional Information Centre
for Western Europe



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

In partnership with
UNESCO

Completing Form I



Human Rights Panel

Conference Fees

School Fee:
280 Euros

Individual Fee for all
Participants:
235 Euros

Conference Website
<http://asp-edu.net/pamun/>

The Admin
Hub—a
week
before
the
confer-
ence



Please pay attention that, when completing **FORM I**, you will also need to download **two** documents:

A **Participation Agreement** form, which you will need to complete and send back within **3 days**, which will confirm your online registration and your commitment to procedures, as well as to payment of fees.

Failure to do so diligently will

void your registration!

An **Invoice** (which must be downloaded when submitting the online registration), to be paid no later than **September 15**.

Failure to do so will void your registration!

Important note: the invoice concerns only the number of delegates you plan to bring to PAMUN and only one MUN

Director. Adjustments to these numbers (additional Chairs or Press Officers, ICJ appointments, additional Directors/Chaperones/Observers) will be made when your nominal detailed registration in Form II (in October) generates an updated invoice.

PLEASE—when completing the form online, check carefully all spelling. Capitalize first letters only, and spell French and Turkish names without accents!

ICJ Applications due June 10

International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a very special committee within MUN conferences. Both the type of issues dealt with (involving legal problems) and the procedures followed, are setting the committee aside as prestigious.

Two **advocate teams** of two students each will be appointed in June, to allow them to start preparing their cases. Applications are due **June 10!**

The **President** and **Vice-President/Registrar** of ICJ, will also be appointed in June and their application is also due **June 10!** Please note that, following last year's experience, the ICJ Vice President will also act as Registrar.

These appointments are not part of the delegation and are coming as it is "on top" of the delegation "cap" at 15 delegates.

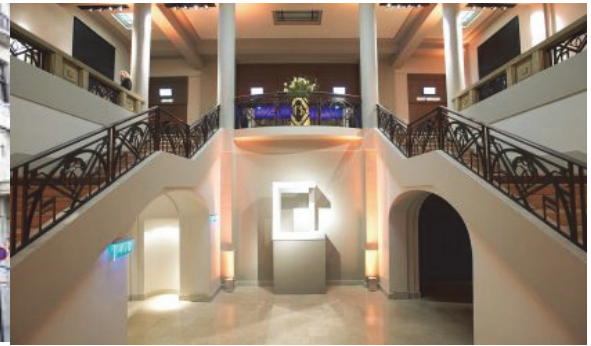
Applicants for Judge position will be considered in the fall, together with all other applications. Appointed judges are part of the delegation.

Please help attract to ICJ some of the best and most ambitious delegates.

Search for ICJ Advocates !

A panel of serious judges; an experienced Officers' team; and yet the ICJ stands or falls on the quality of its two Advocate teams! It is the quality of their research, the solidity and subtlety of their arguments, their capacity to use their sources judiciously, their preparations of the "witnesses", their familiarity with the legal intricacies, and their rhetoric, which carries the day and holds the Court spellbound. Advocates need to be endowed with enthusiasm, passion and sheer grit! Their preparation is long and extensive. They also need to be able to "think on their feet", respond meaningfully to challenges thrown their way by the adverse party, and to formulate pertinent questions in cross-examination.

This is why Advocates need to be appointed in June, to afford a stretch of time to ready themselves for this key role. The success of this committee rests on their shoulders.

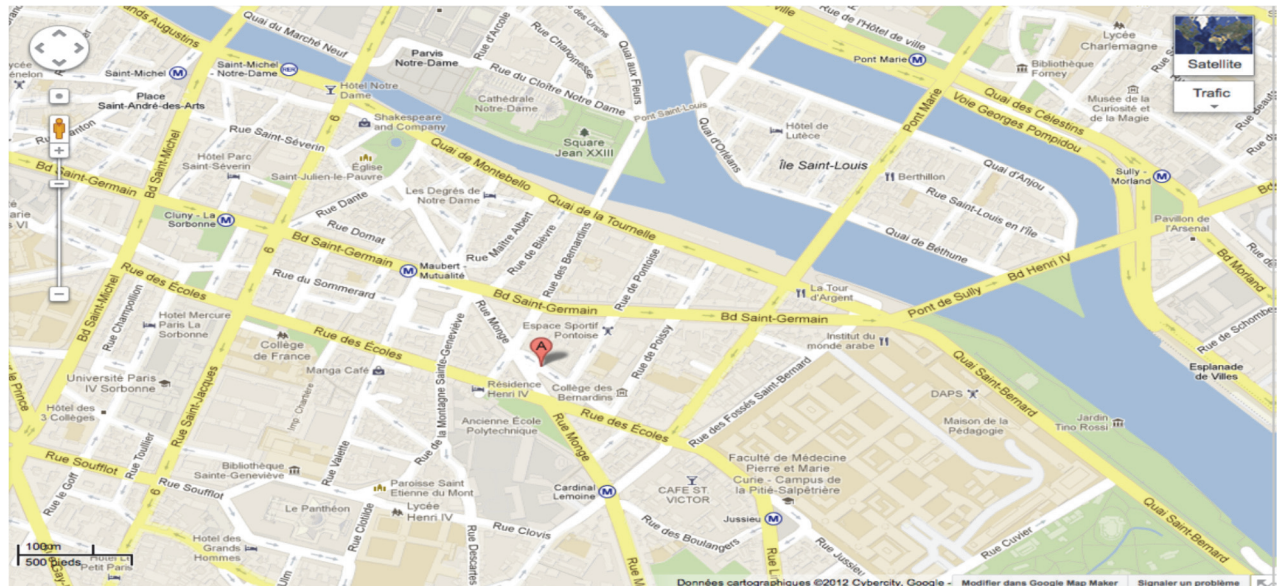


Palais de la Mutualité

24 rue de Pontoise & 13 rue Saint Victor, Paris 5e

The Mutualité building was inaugurated by President Paul Doumer in 1931. Its main hall was built symbolically to a capacity of 1789 seats, in order to link it more firmly to the revolutionary ideal, and has been a political and cultural landmark in Paris: all main labor unions have held their meetings within its walls, both the Socialist party and the UMP have held rallies in its main hall, and major French singers such as Jacques Brel and Leo Ferré have triumphed on its stage.

The building has been recently (2012) renovated by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, one of the foremost French architects, who has preserved the spirit of this Art Nouveau jewel in the heart of the Latin Quarter. It is now a thriving conference center and will be PAMUN main haven this year. Opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the General Assembly, will take place in its main hall, and all committees will take place in its meeting rooms.



New Features:

BLOC POLITICS – Caucusing at PAMUN

Students in their committees as well as in the GA will be encouraged to caucus in their “Blocs”, before they cross lines to enlist support of other countries belonging to different blocs. Chairs will be mindful of the existence of such blocs, and will allocate time for such caucusing to occur, as necessitated by issues on the agenda and the development of the debate in the committee. Research Reports will likewise endeavor to highlight such bloc positions.

In their preparation for the conference, students are strongly urged to make themselves aware not only of their own country policies and positions, but also of the bloc to which it belongs. Delegates willing to do so may discover that the leverage they acquire on the debates and on their outcomes is multiplied when buttressed by other countries from their bloc. Students who do not get the floor as often as they wish may also find satisfaction in their active participation in their bloc unmoderated caucus.

« The system of "bloc politics" in the UN is one in which nations have organized themselves into groups based on areas of mutual interest. These blocs tend to be made up of nations with similar political, historical or cultural backgrounds. They are often formed on a geographic basis, but this is not exclusively the case. By organizing themselves with other nations that hold similar interests, bloc members hope to increase their influence above the level that they would have as a single nation in the General Assembly

Bloc politics in the UN today is a misunderstood and rapidly changing phenomena. The necessity of blocs in the UN was formally established in 1957, when four regional groups were endorsed by the General Assembly: the Latin American, the Asian and African, the Eastern European and the Western European and Others. Since that time, the bloc system has grown to encompass many of the political, economic and military organizations of the world. Examples of the major blocs include the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the European Union (EU).

Blocs are often thought of as "Voting Blocs", but this is a definite misnomer. They can be more realistically seen as "Caucusing Blocs"; groups which discuss issues together based on areas of mutual interest, but that often do not reach full agreement on all issues. A key consideration is that every country in a bloc will have different priorities based on their own national interests. Countries will often discount bloc considerations and vote in their own best interest in these priority areas.

Blocs usually attempt to form a consensus among their members which will allow them to act as a cohesive group. The effectiveness of any given bloc in exerting its positions in the General Assembly will often depend upon its ability to form a consensus among its own members. These acts of compromise form the basis of UN politics, and often must occur within the various caucusing groups before they can begin to apply to the UN as a whole. »

Source: http://www.unimun.org/unimun_hb_4.pdf

QUALITY FEEDBACK

This has been tried last year with some success, and we will seek to reinforce and strengthen the experience.

Students often wonder how they are doing and how they can improve their “performance”. They have of course a “subjective” impression but they can seldom confront it with a more “objective” appraisal. Sometimes, their MUN director may be in the room and witness them in action, but this is often due to luck.

Mindful of making the MUN experience a worthwhile educational experience, we will experiment in at least two committees a “quality feedback” system. Chairs will be directed to give immediate feedback to delegates after they have taken the floor, or asked a point of information, or submitted a clause. The idea being that such immediate feedback can contribute to a positive learning curve during the conference itself, and increase the overall quality and meaning of the PAMUN experience.

STRICT PARTICIPATION TALLY

The difficulty experienced by some delegates to obtain the floor or even ask points of information is often mentioned as one of the “issues” which delegates have to wrestle with, especially in bigger committees. Up to now, even though the complaint is recurrent, it is based-off impressions and has little factual basis. Yet it would be so easy to obtain precise accurate information.

This is the goal of implementing a strict participation tally, which will be kept by an Admin appointed to this task. This tally will, on the one hand, eventually allow for some redirection between day 1 and day 2, and on the other will provide us with invaluable information on the basis of which important decisions may be made to tackle this challenging issue. At least two of the larger committees will be involved in this experiment.

Last year, the results of this tally were conclusive: in both big committees involved, a quarter of students had a lot of action, about half had “some action” but not as much as the first group, and about a quarter had no action at all – and we don’t know if this is because they didn’t raise their placards, or if they did but were ignored by the chairs. We will share this result at the Chairs’ Workshop, and seek ways to improve the percentages of active participation.

Seeking to Action Global Responsibilities



Security Council in session

This year, the primary focus of the conference is on an extraordinarily simple word: responsibility. This is a term frequently used, and is one which possesses global significance. Each individual has a duty to the planet; whether it be socially,

economically, environmentally or politically. Our theme of “*Seeking to action global responsibilities*” is one which begins with an individual, yet holds the potential to have international influence.

The concept of responsibility is prevalent throughout our Agenda. Whether it be our Themed Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees dealing with the duties and capacities of neighbouring countries in global

refugee crises, or our Political Committee, evaluating the role of UN peacekeeping forces. Furthermore, it can be exemplified within our Economic and Social Council which aims to attain a balance between increasing the total production and growth of an economy with improving welfare and standards of living through action by governments, firms and individuals. This idea further spreads to extremism and terrorism, seen within the Disarmament Committee and the Security Council, and with the Special Conference tasked to review and update the UN Charter.

Sara Kamboj, Secretary General

The Dalai Lama said:

“If a mosquito and a man are together in a room—who then prevents the other from sleeping?”

Chairs’ Applications

The date due for applications has been set for **September 19**. Appointments will be made on **Saturday September 24** for all Officers (Chairs and Press, and ICJ Judges).

All returning schools are strongly urged to consider sending in applications for positions.

Part of the quality of the confer-

ence rests on the individual worth and skills of the Chairs, which in turn hinges on the quantity and quality of applicants. It is also a fabulous opportunity for some of the stronger and more experienced students to experience a conference from another perspective, and be among the leaders and tone-setters of their respective committees. Serving as Chairs will tax their

ingenuity and contribute to their growth. Their letters of Application and your recommendations will be read carefully and it is important to make them as strong as possible.

The **Chairs’ Workshop** is scheduled for **Friday, November 18, 2016**. All applicants for this positions undertake, if they are appointed, to travel to Paris ahead of their delegation if need be and partici-

Press Applications

We will also hold a **Pre-Conference Workshop for the Press team!**

This workshop, which will run in parallel to the Chairs’ Workshop and will also be held at Mutualité, will take place on **Friday, November 18, 2016**.

All applicants to the Press team undertake, if they are appointed, to

travel ahead of their delegation to Paris if need be and participate in the workshop.

Schools should seriously consider offering to their local journalists the opportunity to apply for Press positions, which offer a magnificent training ground for aspiring writers, photographers & lay-out editors.

This should be seen as a rare op-

portunity to “learn the ropes” for aspiring journalists, set them a challenge of meeting stringent deadlines and producing 4 issues of the conference newspaper, and thus acquiring the equivalent of a first “professional” experience.



Disarmament Committee is Voting



American School of Paris

41, rue Pasteur
BP. 82
92216 Saint Cloud
FRANCE

Phone: +33 (0)1 41 12 82 82
Fax: +33 (0)1 41 12 82 70
PAMUN Mobile: +33 (0)6 30 29 47 29
E-mail: pamun@asparis.fr

**PAMUN at Palais de la Mutualité
Your Parisian Rendez-Vous**

Mark Your Calendars:

PAMUN 2017 — back to UNESCO !

December 1-3, 2017

PAMUN 2018

December 7-9, 2018

Preparation Tips:

MUN 101: <http://itun.es/i6Jc6Fz>

Other useful links:

<http://bestdelegate.com/>

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/prep.html>

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/>

Conference Website:

<http://asp-edu.net/pamun/>



Miscellaneous

The issue for the **General Assembly**, as well as one issue for the **Security Council**, have not yet been determined: as we seek to be as close as possible to current events, the topics will be published in **September**.

Returning schools with good standing may request a seat in **SC** by ticking the appropriate box on the registration form, and will be informed in mid-June on the nominations. Schools applying for a SC seat undertake to send one of their best delegate to the SC, which, because of its very small size (15 delegates), is offering a lot of “action” but requires from each a great measure of commit-

ment and willingness for total involvement: there is no space in the SC for reserved and unprepared students.

You should expect to find our detailed **Research Reports** on our website by **September 15**. They are meant to direct your students to what is meant by the Issues on the Agenda as they are formulated, and help them to start their research and formulate a few draft clauses.

Too often, “facetious” students prepare conference **Note Paper** which might be deemed inappropriate. MUN Directors will be

required to hand-in at registration an exemplar of Note Paper used by the delegations of their school. Hopefully, this will dissuade most “prankish” Note Paper and will add to the appropriate decorum of the conference. [You will be reminded of this closer to the conference].

The conference takes place in the heart of the Latin Quarter, a stone’s throw away from Notre-Dame cathedral and from scenic and touristic Ile-Saint Louis. An opportunity to immerse in Parisian life and taste its distinctive gastronomy at affordable prices!

SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER !