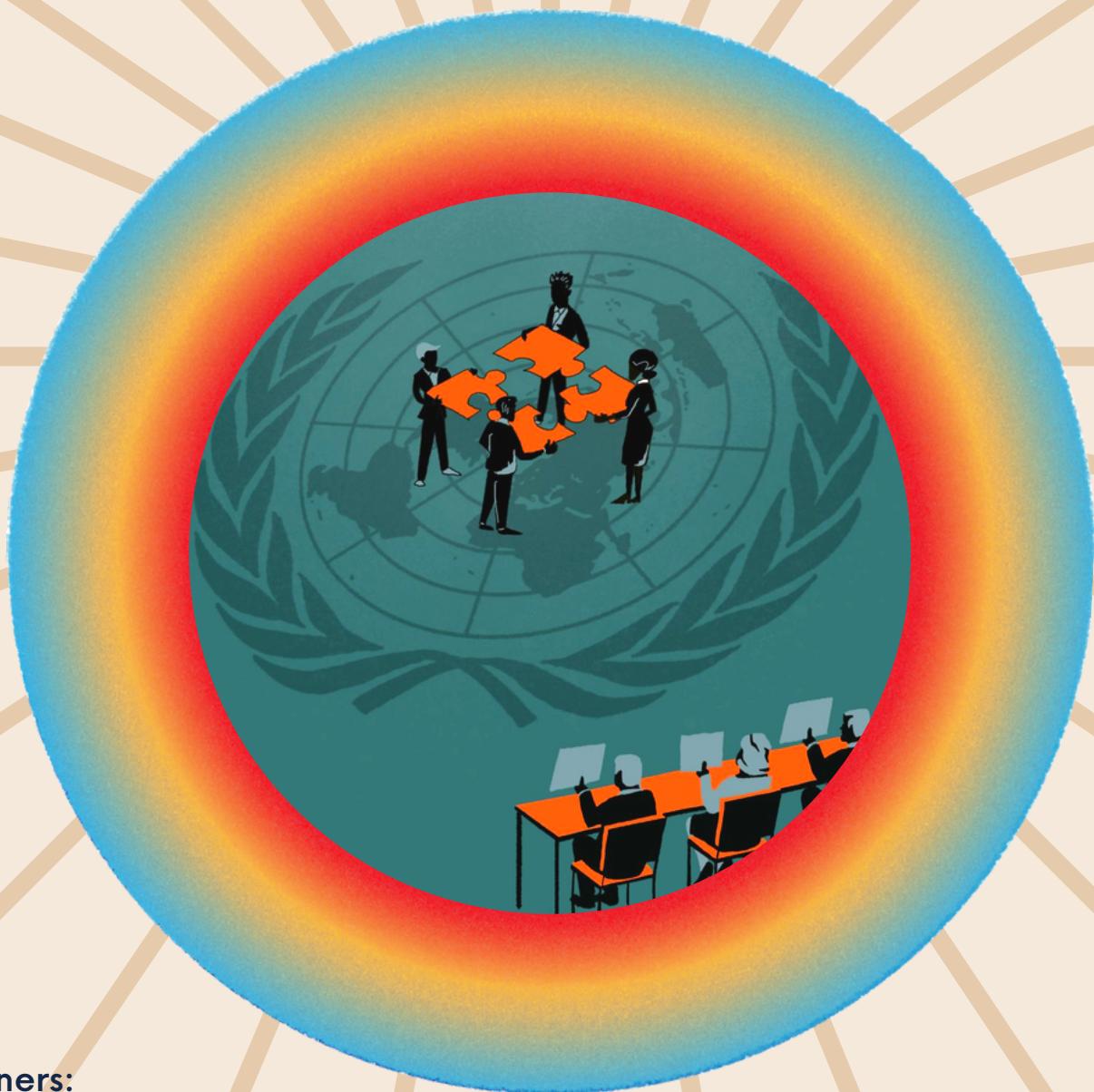


STRAWBERRY FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2022

# THE SENTINEL



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# THE OPENING CEREMONY

Strawberry Fields High School ushered in the ninth edition of its Model United Nations Conference on 19th August 2022. The three intense days to be filled with heated discussions and light-hearted fun, began with the Secretary-General, Hiranya Bhushan Gakhar, quoting Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the most esteemed former Prime Minister of India, and Ban Ki-Moon, the former Secretary General of the United Nations to bring out the essence of what it is to be a part of the Model United Nations Conference at Strawberry Fields. He quoted “Together we can, together we will” and there could not have been a more apt saying for the moment as it resonated with us all. He then banged the gavel and inaugurated the SFHS MUN 2022.

After a brief introduction to the various committees and their equally riveting agendas, the Director General, Tanya Gupta invited the honourable chief guest, Mr Raghav Chadha, to address the delegates. He called upon the youth to become future leaders who are capable of contending with complex global problems. As he said, the barriers for young people entering into politics are greater than ever, yet they should not shy away from it and should continue taking action and finding new ways to challenge the status quo and make accountability demands. He provided valuable insights, highlighting the three pillars of politics - honesty, patriotism and humanism. He gave the event the tinge of enthusiasm it needed to kick off, motivating the participants and the staff alike to put their best foot forward and compete for the next three days with utmost zest. Mr Chadha's speech garnered applause from all.

Finally, Aaditya Sharma, the President of the SFHS MUN 2022, established the Executive Board for the case and ended the opening ceremony, wishing everyone all the best and encouraging them to create a cohesive and lucrative environment.

The first day of Strawberry Fields High School Model United Nations Conference 2022 started with great gusto.

To begin with, the delegates took their stance on the Ukraine-Russia war where most of the countries remained neutral but expressed their remorse over the loss of civilian lives and the damage the war had done. The Russian Federation was accused of violating international agreements like Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter, in the form of military invasions, sexual assaults on Ukrainian women, cyber security threats, threats of mass destruction, war of aggression, abduction, torture and looting.. As the delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland said "Russia is not a country that needs protection rather others need protection from it."

Refuting the allegation, the delegate of the Russian Federation defended their country saying that the Western media has villainized the Russian Federation and that Russia was merely defending itself against the Nazi tendencies of Ukraine.



Then the delegate of Norway proposed a motion for a moderated caucus to discuss the root causes of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

They pointed out the "greed and insecurities of Russia" due to Ukraine wanting to join NATO and their concern over the impact of the war.

Many other countries saw eye to eye with Norway stating how the war started because Ukraine wanted to strengthen relationships with NATO and how the Russian Federation felt unnecessarily threatened by it. "What gives Russia the right to decide if sovereign Ukraine joins NATO?" Asked the delegate of the United States of America.

By the end of the first day, an array of topics like the impact of the war and international intervention were discussed, with the majority of delegates bringing out the broken global supply chains, inflation, prices of oil and natural gas skyrocketing, food shortage, economic crises after barely recovering from the COVID-19 outbreak and deteriorating diplomatic relationships.

-Sayraa Arora

The first session of the High-Level Forum on Gender-based Violence began with a lot of excitement, with all delegates eager to impress the electoral board.

After the co-chairpersons explained the rules of procedure to all present, the meeting began with the general speakers' list. Delegates of all countries gave an introduction to gender-based violence as a whole and entertained questions from their peers. The issues regarding sexual harassment and the need for unbiased laws in each country were explained. This was followed by an unmoderated caucus in which the delegates discussed various topics for future debates.

Once the topics were decided, the delegate of the United States of America proposed a motion for a moderated caucus on the topic - Biased Laws Against Genders - Both National and International. The pressing issue regarding men not reporting sexual assault, verbal or physical abuse, of which they are victims, for fear of appearing "weak" and "emasculated" was brought to the forefront. The debate led to a heated conversation between the delegates of Russia and the United States of America. The delegate of the United States of America claimed that Russia is "a hypocrite" that is run by a "dictator". The delegate further asserted that Russia's policies against domestic violence were gender-biased. The delegate of France added that homosexuality is criminalised in some states of Russia. The delegate of Russia rebutted this direct accusation and reasoned that micro-managing a large country is difficult. The Electoral Board then had to step in before it resulted in further escalation of the matter. Afterwards, the delegate of the United States of America gave a proposition to establish an International Executive Council, which would create unbiased laws to be followed by all the countries. However, several countries like Pakistan were against this idea since each country has a different basis for law creation and precedence to such laws may not be given.

In conclusion, the electoral board gave relevant feedback to all the delegates to help them improve their arguments. There was constructive criticism and the members of the electoral board advised the delegates on other topics that can be discussed in future debates. After a short break, the General speaker's list continued and the last session was finally adjourned. All the members were satisfied and are now looking forward to the next session.

-Mihira Maini



The first session of the International Maritime Committee took place this morning. The Chairperson requested the delegates to maintain diplomatic courtesy and decorum as they moved forward with the session.

The session commenced with the opening speeches given by all the delegates regarding the conflict over the illicit activities taking place in the South China Sea. Most of the delegates asked other nations to come together and solve this issue peacefully. The delegate of the People's Republic of China enunciated the Maritime disputes taking place over the South China Sea and how the concerned countries should use constructive dialogue to find a solution. The delegate also stated that the People's Republic of China is changing its policies to become sustainable.

Other delegates, such as the delegate of France, stated, "All China is trying to do is push their sphere of influence in the inner Pacific region and is trying to become the world's most influential power, while ignoring the basic security concerns of the other states, and we must come together to combat this."

The delegate of Myanmar revealed that they are siding with China on the matter and that they are being funded by China. This led to more questions from the delegate of France.

During the second session, the topic of the moderated caucus was: "Discussing the illegal territorial expansion by aggressive nations in the South China Sea region." All the delegates spoke about the various events and instances that have occurred over the past few years and expressed their views regarding viable solutions. The delegate of Vietnam began by reminding everyone how the Republic of China had stated that their one inconsequential error had been overly exaggerated and that no international laws were broken by them. The delegate then questioned the said nation, asking about the 50 people who were killed so that China could occupy Parasite Islands or about how China brainwashes its people and puts pressure on them. The delegate concluded, saying that the Republic of China has completely violated multiple international laws just to gain supreme power and that their statement is false.

The People's Republic Of China used the Right to Reply and expressed how they are trying to understand the situation of the crisis and that they never tried brainwashing its people. He asked the delegate of Vietnam to be more diplomatic regarding this topic.

With that, the International Maritime Committee ended its first day of deliberations.

-Iram Kaur Pannu





Curiosity and anticipation marked the session as the Executive Board introduced everyone to the Continuous Crisis Committee and encouraged them to come forward with any queries they have. The agenda was Subhas Chandra Bose's disappearance on the 17th of August, 1945, when his plane landed in Moscow without Netaji, and his whereabouts were unknown.

Speaker twenty-seven started the session by establishing a Provisional Speaker's List with ninety seconds being the individual speaker's time. The speaker started by saying that the case needed to be investigated properly.

In addition to that, the speaker also believed that India needed to work towards a United India to overthrow the British and now would be the best time to do so as the British forces are at their weakest after the Second World War. The following speakers spoke in favour of Subhas Chandra Bose and against the Indian National Congress. Speaker three said that Bose had helped India in numerous ways, "The steps he has taken for our freedom will not be forgotten. No one can erase him from the hearts of the people." After a few more speeches, the Provisional Speaker's List was dissolved and a moderated caucus was held for sixty seconds per speaker for ten minutes. Speaker one says that the Congress has delayed India's 'Azadi' by a hundred years and has done nothing substantial for the country. However, the speaker's debate was countered by the numerous points of information asked by other speakers.

Conclusively, the committee was suspended for the day with a majority vote on adjourning the day's session. The regular updates kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The day's session was deemed zealous, marking the beginning of many fruitful sessions ahead.

-Jiya Sachdeva



The Lok Sabha session began on its first day of office by addressing the two stances it was assigned: the implementation and moral value of the newly administered Citizen Administration Act of 2019, with a significant focus on the laws of citizenship in the country, along with the ban of Chinese apps per Article 69 A under the IT Act. The delegates began by solidifying their attitudes towards each cause and many rebuttals left them not only rethinking these poses but also wondering how they were to defend a portfolio they did not necessarily abide by. Naman Jain, the acting Speaker for the session, then advocated that it was not for the delegates to mimic these portfolios but rather to embody the politicians they shall be representing whilst staying within party lines.

Matters of discrimination based on faith or lack thereof, the detrimental side of NRC, and the threat to the overall security of India were brought to the surface with the first motion that discussed the merits and demerits of the National Register of Citizens and the CAA. Throughout the day, as the floor was passed from one delegate to the other, it became crystal clear that no conclusion was to be reached shortly. However, the consensus agreed that since this nation is a secular one, division based on religion was misguided, and it was not the legalising of immigrants that they opposed; rather it was the selection of which ones that caused a division amongst the representatives.

The first day of the Strawberry Fields High School Model United Nations Conference 2022 closed with a discussion of the stances to be taken up on the second day. It was evident that the participants were more motivated than ever to protect their parties and proposals, whilst being strategically critical towards their fellows, and we hope to see them achieve this in the days to come.

-Ashna Aggarwal

The first session began with an introduction by Aryan Singh, the chair of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs' committee. He has approximately eight to nine years of experience in international relations. The following speaker was Anmol Puri, the committee's vice chairperson who has been participating in Model UN since 2017. There were twenty-two delegates present and voting. Twelve votes were required to pass a motion. Moldova proposed giving each delegate ninety seconds. This was approved. The delegate of India began by explaining Narcoterrorism—an illegal drug used to fund terrorist activities. He enlightened everyone by stating that in the nineteen nineties countries in South East Europe experienced inactive governments. Later on, the delegate of Hungary drew attention to the threat of organised crime spreading all over the world, and how it has severely impacted Europe. Following that, a delegate from the United States of America stated that coherent law was a call after World War I, emphasising drug trafficking and narcoterrorism. The delegate from Moldova, as well as Germany, shed light on this subject. After having two motions of moderated caucus by Hungary and the United States, Germany proposed a moderated caucus motion of twenty minutes/sixty seconds on the Economic Impact of Narcoterrorism with Special Reference to South East Europe, which was approved.



The Netherlands, Greece, and Estonia were the next countries discussed in the second session. This was followed by a brief discussion on paperwork and paper release. The delegate of the United States from the open moderated caucus made the following move, which was to spend twenty minutes and sixty seconds discussing the deliberation upon the activities of organised crime factions.

The third session was opened by a delegate from Denmark on the General Speakers List. Portugal then made a succinct but well-rehearsed address to demonstrate that their country was not involved in drug use. The United Kingdom offered a twenty-minute unmoderated caucus. A rejected move from Hungary and the United Kingdom ended the final meeting of the day, which forced a return to the General Speakers List and quick consideration of a press statement.

-Nehmat Sandhu

## A Cultural Consensus

The Arab League, a committee of exuberance and zeal attended to the conference with promise and dedication from the word go. The committee took to discussing the impact of western interference and involvement in the Arab states. After the role call, the General Speakers List was established, with every present delegate acting as a speaker.

From the very beginning, it was heavily reiterated that the preservation of the various traditions and cultures of the Middle Eastern states was of the utmost importance. Whether or not the influence of western powers intruded into their cultural and religious beliefs was also discussed, to an extent. Delegates of Countries such as the Republic of Djibouti and the Kingdom of Bahrain explained how a balanced interaction with the West helped them develop towards the modern world, from providing life-saving medical resources to assisting in economic development. However, it is widely accepted that the involvement of western states has had a negative impact on several member nations.

Exhibiting support for fellow Islamic nations, The delegate of Egypt recommended that they not rely on western powers and revive Islamic power. The delegate of Qatar pinpointed how crucial a position the Middle East holds on the World map and the power it has to impact global trade. On the other hand, delegates representing member states such as the Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Somalia claimed that western interference had worsened the already unstable conditions in their respective countries.

With such varying understandings of such centralised problems, the committee in consensus agreed on certain aspects to approach in the coming days of discussion.

- Sanjula Kapoor



In the first session of the United Nations Children's Funds, each country stepped up and expressed its views on the agenda. Ethiopia has been facing a humanitarian crisis; the conflict began in November 2020. 16% of Ethiopia's population consists of thirteen million children under five years of age, and due to malnutrition, half of Ethiopia's death rate comprises these underprivileged children. "As a part of the United Nations Children's Fund, we must prioritize the well-being of children who have been exposed to such harsh conditions at such a vulnerable age" – quoted the delegate of the Republic of Korea. A motion raised by the delegate of Kenya initiated a moderated caucus on methods to deal with the sexual exploitation of children in Ethiopia. The delegates provided their inputs through their fine speeches. The solutions put forth had a common denominator, which was to educate. "The best way to stop sexual violence would be to educate the masses, to reveal the horrors of sexual exploitation" – said delegate of the United Kingdom.

In the second session, the delegates conveyed their relations with Ethiopia through facts and figures. They shed light upon the fact that child rights are integral to humanity and children in Ethiopia are victims of these violated rights. The delegate of Chile encouraged the setting up of Non-Governmental Organizations to aid children as well as ailing adults. The delegate of the United States of America emphasized establishing education and rehabilitation institutes to provide children with trauma therapy and hope. The delegate of Saudi Arabia spotlighted methods to tackle children's lack of access to basic services because of their refugee status by raising a motion for a moderated caucus. Ethiopia requested financial aid from other countries as it deemed that to be the best solution to the problem at hand.

The third session concluded the events for the day with a discussion in an unmoderated caucus. The day ended on a positive note with an appreciation towards the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

-Mayassa Chahal



The first day of the Union of European Football Association kicked off in an atmosphere of avid enthusiasm. The delegates were thrilled to be able to represent the renowned football clubs of Europe and to have a series of discussions on the pressing problems in the said occupation. The first one was to ensure equitable wealth distribution across the football pyramid in the context of the Super League. The second was to deliberate the workload of the players concerned with the increasing number of championships. The committee revolved around looking for solutions to overcome the obstacles faced by the players and reduce their workload along with their travelling exasperation. Most delegates pitched in points urging not to be part of the European Super League for the welfare of the smaller football teams to guarantee their equal participation as well as fair distribution of wealth. However, there was opposition in the room, in support of the establishment of the European Super League.

In continuation of the same topic, there was an update that the Presidents of Barcelona, Juventus, and Madrid shall promise to provide elite football clubs in Europe with better and higher financial status.

As we proceeded with the second session of the day, the discussion crescendoed as another update was proposed - The Vice President of the UEFA, Michael Uva, had stepped down to join hands with European Super League and it was rumoured that the Vice President had received a monetary composition from the ESL. The climate of the committee drastically changed and there was a vigorous debate held among the participants.

To keep the fire burning, a third update was added which consisted of statistics given by Uva showing that smaller teams that had won over the elite teams received a diminutive sum compared to the defeated teams in the matches held by UEFA. After this proclamation, most of the clubs changed their stance against UEFA for forging. While some stood for UEFA on the pretext that the statistics have not been approved and verified. The long day ended with the introduction of the fourth update.

-Vasundhara Sarna



## The Deep Roots of Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

The Economic and Financial Affairs committee gathered at the United Nations General Assembly to discuss Sri Lanka's crumbling economy and examine strategies that could help Sri Lanka emerge from this economic recession. Sri Lanka is currently battling its worst nightmare: an unparalleled political and economic crisis that is bringing thousands of citizens to the streets, who are infuriated over skyrocketing inflation which has taken basic commodities out of their reach.

This crisis has been long in the making: tax cuts, money issuance, unfeasible levels of borrowing to fund projects, a fall in foreign remittances and more. Many delegates came forward sharing how their country provided financial assistance. The delegate of India stood by its Neighbour First Policy and sanctioned loans worth \$376.9 Million. The delegate of China too declared China to be a major creditor and stated that it is currently reconstructing its loan policies to suit the needs of Sri Lanka.

However, the delegate of Canada and the delegate of India criticised China for its debt-trap diplomacy, referring to the acquisition of the Hambantota Port for military objectives. The delegate of China called these accusations unsubstantiated saying it was only right to station the ship seeing the ongoing War. The delegate of the United States of America slammed former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for his poor execution of banning agrochemicals as Sri Lanka, for the first time had to import rice - a dietary staple - to meet the needs of the citizens.

The delegates concluded that the root cause of the famine was soaring inflation and provided possible solutions to the crisis: privatisation of public sector undertakings, government addressing systematic corruption and bringing reform, taking control of the money supply and setting up a circular economy. The delegate of Brazil debated the urgency of providing aid. Many urged Sri Lanka to increase its tax rates, however, the delegate of Sweden and the delegate of Kenya believed this solution to be completely unacceptable. Today's committee session ended on a fruitful note with the vital role being resolving pressing issues.

-Tania Shahi and Jasmine Kaur Lobana



The day one session for the Secretary General's Committee on Sustainable Development Goals began as each citizen buzzed with anticipation and heated discussions started with each citizen eager to finally speak their mind and prove their stance. The sustainable development goals are a representation of peace and prosperity in these trying times. Gender inequality still exists and continues to shatter the progress made by developing countries. Our country highlights sustainable development goals but does not implement them well. The citizens speak forth on how they feel that while the government talks about all the goals they constantly fail to implement, the social and cultural changes brought upon by the people of the country affect the cause more as mentioned by the citizens during the spirited debate

The attempt to eradicate gender inequality from our world has been a slow process. A stronger structure is required to truly acknowledge the importance of this goal. The government needs to engage with women, take bold actions and fully commit to the cause and invest in the women of their countries as told by several citizens. The government carries on making bold claims but there is lack of implementation. Citizens discuss the lack of employment opportunities for middle-aged women and stress how only thirty-nine per cent of employment opportunities are given to women. 'The government should provide mandates that take gender equality into consideration.' Was a point stressed by citizen 6. The committee talked about the 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' scheme of India, which led to the discussion of improvement in pre-existing schemes and policies and how they can be executed better. Achieving this goal is deemed necessary and our country is at least a hundred years away from equal rights for all. The citizens put a strain on the fact that half the female population is sidelined and the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign is simply all talk. Citizen 3 dived into a more inclusive point of view, saying ' If women cannot have simple rights, where does that leave the LGBTQ+ and underprivileged women?' Some citizens brought forth ways that the government has already made an effort, giving voice to 'Mahila police offices' and banning dowries.

The citizens suggested more transparency, to promote women going to work, making them aware of their rights and supporting their decision. The citizens suggested that the government set up more implementation bodies and a better allocation of funds for this goal. Needless to say that this was a productive day of sessions and everyone's perspective was heard.

-Amanat Chawla



लोक हित के लिए एस.डी.जी. चौपाल  
**SDG CHOUPAL**  
EMPOWERING RURAL INDIA ENABLING SDGs



The first day of the United Nations Human Rights Council began with opening speeches of the delegates where they analyzed the current situation in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban. "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." quoted the delegate of the United Kingdom.

The delegates showed their concern for the citizens of Afghanistan who are stuck in this continuous cycle of torture and captivity. The delegate of the Republic of China highlighted the helpless state of women and children in Afghanistan. They claimed that children are being "forced to commit violent atrocities" which inevitably lead to severe trauma. The delegate of the United Kingdom called out the Taliban for their "close-minded violent approach" and stated that such an approach needs to be given up at once. The delegate of Ukraine brought the economic factor into discussion and used factual evidence by stating the UNICEF analysis which records a 2.5% annual GDP loss in Afghanistan since the Taliban's takeover.

Further emphasis was laid on gender discrimination and the education sector where the delegate of Ukraine and the delegate of France stated that women are indeed one of the main victims of the Taliban's coup. They agreed that taking away women's right to education meant "ruining the future" of Afghanistan. All the delegates stated the horrors of this humanitarian crisis and the aid provided for the refugees by their respective countries.

However, the delegate of Uzbekistan had a different perspective. It was stated that they encourage and value human rights, however, the Taliban has maintained the Islamic Law laid out in the Quran and the rights given to women are adequate and do not require amendments. The statements made by the delegate of Uzbekistan were heavily contradicted by the delegate of India. They stated that the Quran clearly says that men and women both are obligated to increase their knowledge and added that "women are not supposed to be slaves of men."

The session concluded with a discussion about the malnutrition caused by the lack of food in Afghanistan due to the crisis. The first day came to an end after three fruitful sessions.

-Arshia Sachdeva