

om**MUN**ique'





INSIGHT

"Independence of States and the Question of Recognition"

20 Sept 2014 | Gitanjali Kamra

Recognition of states as independent, sovereign countries by others has perhaps never been as important as it is today, when territorial and national integrity has become imperative to the building of what is called a "world community." The question of recognition of states such as Palestine, Israel and Georgia still remains an enigma; many refuse to accept their sovereignty, citing grave social and political violence in these regions as justification.

Terrorism is one of the major reasons for non-recognition of states. In the words of the Delegate of Syria - the definition of terrorism needs to be made clear so as to ensure proper categorisation of these regions. Securing of territorial boundaries before the recognition of a state as independent is also of utmost importance to ensure international peace and security.

Consequently, the IP agrees with the views of the Delegate of the People's Republic of China - while such states have the responsibility to protect their population from genocide, ethnic cleansing and other grievous threats to security, the international community should be allowed to intervene if required.

Recognition of states as independent would lead to a stronger, united and integrated global society. This must be the aim of all nations- a peaceful world of co-existing, independent nations.

"Development"

20 Sept 2014 | Pankhuri Aggarwal

"The cobweb of funds, suggestions, negotiations, frenzy and manipulation could not draw the delegates towards itself."

The onus of the Economic and Social Council lies on the importance of the post-2015 era rather than the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The MDG 3 - eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education was extensively discussed. Delegates were scuffling through papers or scrolling down their screens, however the council saw a low level of debate in comparison to its true caliber.

Though the delegates showed conducive understanding towards expanding the reach of the Millennium Development Goals, the questions of how, where, who and when continue to be unanswered. The International Press felt that the delegates must focus on issues such as funds transparency, action plans and region-specific development. The lobbyists must come up with viable and cohesive solutions rather than a paper, as stated by the delegate of Italy, to do true justice to the stature of the council. The lack of constructive debate, stringent statements, lobbying and re-iteration of their duties dominated the committee more than the strength of the dollar. Some delegates saw themselves in a tight fit, struggling to keep themselves at bay in respect to the committee proceedings.

We culminate the first day of the conference, with a for a fierce and conducive debate and delegates plunging into a world of manipulation, understanding and negotiations - the very essence of an MUN.



INSIGHT

“Peacemakers of Wars (POWs) – a new perspective”

20 Sept 2014 | Srishti Jain

Protecting civilians has emerged as a central purpose of many contemporary peace operations. As peacekeeping missions have grown in number, frequency, size and mandate, the UN has made efforts to put civilian protection at the heart of these operations. How well peacekeeping missions protect civilians is often an important benchmark for evaluating a mission and its effectiveness.

Many terrorist and rebel groups deliberately target civilians in order to cause political, social and economic unrest. The repercussions of armed attacks are wide-ranging. Apart from the immediate impact of wars on the land & environment in the regions of tension, there are other indirect disturbing problems like rape, sexual abuse, killings and kidnap, to name a few. .

Civilian protection has thus become a global concern, rather than being confined to just those nations which face the brunt of violence. Several peacekeeping operations such as the UNAMSIL- UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone have been mandated by the Security Council. Departments such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) have devoted significant attention to improving the performance in the area of civilian protection. However, there is still an urgent need to develop comprehensive civilian protection doctrines in order to foster world peace and stability.

“Stereotyping the minorities: A product of our thinking”

20 Sept 2014 | Arham Siddiqui

“If we were to wake up some morning and everyone has the same race, creed and colour, we would find some other cause for prejudice by noon!”- George Aiken

This quote highlights the paucity of broad mindedness in the day to day approach of the common people; wherein they accept stereotyping of minority groups as a part of few bitter truths known to the human race. This perspective is a major infestation which has scathed our minds inciting violence, negligence, hatred and intolerance towards the minorities.

The homo sapiens are evidently a product of their thoughts, what they think, the same they preach and act. It is therefore crucial to disseminate the theme of Universal Fraternity to the grass root levels of our communities because then this will lead to the germination of embracing everybody equally.

It is for the suppressors to step into the shoes of the oppressed, understand their hardships, and realize their sorrows, an experience which would metamorphose them at their hearts.

The world has changed a lot, and certainly we have been able to check the ominous practice. But to stop stigmatization and separation of certain people regarded as minorities needs a change in perspective, more than a paper convention



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL

".....the clock is ticking, with much more to do"

20 Sept 2014 | Pankhuri Aggarwal

The day kicked off with an extensive and insightful explanation of the Rules of Procedure by the President which proved to be fruitful for the committee proceedings. Within the walls of the council, there was an amplified call for discussing the framework of the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. France made a blunder saying the deadline of sustainable development goals was 2015 instead of Millennium Development Goals .

The unmoderated caucus commenced with the delegate of Italy stating "hona tha jo hogaya", claiming to have zero research on certain topics, and enthusiastically inviting the IP to join in the debate. France and USA urged the committee to discuss each MDG one by one through moderated caucuses. It ended with the delegates discussing the lunch timings as if running out of negotiations on the very first day.



The succeeding session saw a promising debate, though the mechanical narrations of statistical figures and repetition of points were pertaining issues. Millennium Development Goal 3 saw extensive deliberation on women empowerment, higher education and reasonable remittances to working women. USA, full of zeal and fervor, encouraged the committee to expand the reach of the various millennium development goals through their thorough assessment and suggested taking up another MDG for food security focusing on food sufficiency, adequacy and availability.

The delegate of Italy also pointed out the 'donor-centered' limitation of the development goals which was well-appreciated. The delegate of United Kingdom out of boredom raised a point of information making the EB go informal and spoon-feeding the course of debate. The level of debate had its ups and downs , ranging from full fledged discussion to non-substantial statements.

With the galore of moderated caucuses and their extensions, the Economic and Social Council recalled its mandate to encourage social and economic prosperity throughout the entirety of the United Nations.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

"...Skirting around."

20 Sept 2014 | Srishti Jain

The Human Rights Council- the committee with a purpose but no direction...

Laptops switched on, papers swirling around and hushed voices- the day one of the Human Rights Council conference begins...

The committee session began with the delegates outlining the several aspects pertaining to the issue at hand- Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts. The challenges faced by the civilians of the countries which are attacked by other nations, terrorist organisations and other stakeholders were brought out by the delegates.



They came out with important subjects in relation to the agenda such as the plight of women and children affected by the conflicts, the environmental cost of the wars, the displacement of people from their homeland, lack of cooperation on the part of the civilians etc. Many delegates also highlighted the stand of their respective countries on the issue and came out with probable solutions and measures which have been taken up in the past and which shall be implemented in the future.

However, the delegates were incapable of streamlining their thoughts and ideas. Hence, the Executive Board suggested the committee to move into an unmoderated caucus in order to narrow down to one particular problem with regards to the agenda. The hall was full of commotion and flying ideas at the time of the caucus, after which, the delegates were finally able to move into a constructive debate to discuss the responsibility of the world as a whole in protecting the civilians.

The delegation of USA was called in the committee for a short time which proved to be beneficial for the delegates who seemed to be circling around the topic of the debate rather than coming to a consensus. Several questions were fired by the delegates at the delegate of USA- but he remained undeterred.

Despite the amount of first timers in the committee, the level of participation was admirable. Nevertheless the delegates' energy was dwindling and they seemed to lack a fire in their bellies, which is like an unspoken norm of the Human Rights Council. For some, HRC was happening in the woods rather than the New Delhi Institute of Management! The International Press hopes that in the next session the delegates pack some passion and intensity along with their laptops and research sheets.



THE SECURITY COUNCIL

"Insecurity Council"

20 Sept 2014 | Gitanjali Kamra

The sudden change of atmosphere upon entering the seminar hall housing the Security Council is hard to miss- tense whispers, shuffling of papers and furrowed eyebrows characterise the undertone even before the beginning of the session. One expects the proceedings of the day to be vigorous as well as fruitful – a highly demanding committee such as the Security Council calls for nothing less.



The delegate of Ukraine set the ball rolling as first speaker in the General Speaker's list; the ferocity in her statement regarding violation of Crimean independence by the Russian Federation set the mood for the conference. The initial stages saw constructive debate with a motion raised by the delegate of People's Republic of China on the applicability of responsibility to protect in the Israel- Palestine region, characterised by an intense exchange of views. However, the clashing of opinions often steered the committee away from the purpose of reaching a concrete solution and towards playing the blame game.

Despite this, there were delegates who stood above the others with their fierce demeanours and practicality of points. The Delegate of UK remained unfazed even after being bombarded with questions. The Delegate of People's Republic of China and the Delegate of Ukraine stood firmly on their ground and put forth their opinions with clarity and confidence. The Delegate of the Russian Federation, although incomprehensible at many instances, was credited with viable points.

An update given by the UN Secretariat on the attempted assassination attack on Russian president Vladimir Putin proved to be the turning point in the discussion. The committee spiralled into fiery arguments instantly, with blatant accusations being thrown left, right and centre. Growing tensions between the Delegate of the Russian Federation and the Delegate of Ukraine became clear when an update was given that the attempt was carried out by a Ukrainian sect. Though an engaging discussion was expected, the delegates seemed tired and uninterested, and the debate herewith took a lackadaisical turn.

As the session draws to a close, it is the expectation of the International Press that the delegates stop playing the blame game, and focus on reaching a concrete solution rather than engaging in another futile argument.



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

"On a path to protect people in minority."

20 Sept 2014 | Arham Siddiqui

It is ironically sad to witness that mankind bears a gloomy, and threateningly backward approach towards ethnic, religious, racial, linguistic minorities on one hand, but preaches brotherhood on the other. Arham Siddiqui reports as General Assembly engages in essential discussion to restore the voices lost somewhere in the violence.

The meeting commenced with the assembly narrating sorrowful tales of separation of rights for minorities. The delegates divulged their opinions on the measures taken to ensure the rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities and stigmatization of the same. The Delegate of France raised a valid point stating that stereotypes are different from stigmas, because stereotypes could be positive or negative; however stigmas are a disgrace and hurt the dignity of the individual.



Moving onto plausible solutions Iraq, pointed out that if discrimination cannot be combated in your own country, then you cannot expect to combat it in other countries (charity begins at home!) The Delegate of United Kingdom threw light on the fact that the Millennium Development Goals issued by the United Nations does not include an effective framework for the protection of minority rights, and urgent attention needs to be given to the same. He also proposed equal access to education and hiring minority journalists and immigrants in the media to become a force to reckon with in the international sphere.

On the prevalence of religious and linguistic minorities in all the countries, USA eloquently expressed that presence of minorities is not as important as relevance. He threw light on the blatant disregard of the government towards minorities. The cases of suspension of minority rights are often squashed and dismissed, and the perpetrators are not prosecuted by the government. This lack of political will was supported with factual figures by USA who stated that in Colombia 1 out of 17 thousand cases have been registered.

The agenda demands grave interventions and solicits concrete measures to bring about a positive transformation in the lives of the negatively stigmatized.

Considering the fact that there are, in every age, new errors in human approach pertaining to prejudices, the solutions to eradicate the discriminations against the so called 'minority groups' needs to be given profound attention.



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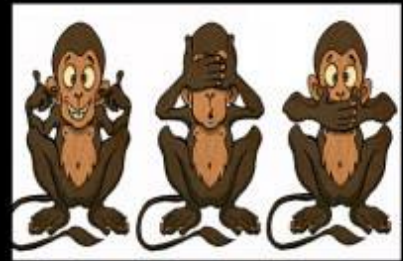
What the sec gen thinks we do



What the EB thinks we do



What the OC thinks we do



What the delegates think we do



What we think we do



What we actually do

