

OBSMUN 2022 Daily Newsletter

Day 1



Delegates of Today – Leaders of Tomorrow

The first day of the OBSMUN 2022 conference was highly successful and saw the beginning of what we're sure is going to be a fantastic 3-day learning experience.

The event began at noon with the Opening Ceremony which featured guest speaker Prof. Maria do Céu Pinto Arena (Department of Political Science at Universidade do Minho), as well as speeches from Mr Nick Sellers (Headmaster at OBS), Mrs Leta Ferreira (MUN Director at OBS), and Mr Etienne Huret (Director-General at Natixis Porto). Opening remarks were delivered by João Araújo (Secretary-General) and

closing remarks by Pedro Pinho (Head of Logistics) and Lara Machado (Head of Communications).

Read on to hear from three of our chairs from each Committee – Security Committee, Human Rights Committee, and ECOSOC (Economic and Social Committee.)

Maria Cerqueira – Chair, Security Committee

“What is your role as chair within the Security Committee?”

“Our basic job at Security Committee is talking about the problems with migration in Sahel. Today began very smoothly; we just went through the social event – very stress free. Now we're done with the caucus time of the first committee. They presented their resolutions and, at the moment that I'm doing this interview, we're going through the resolution of France and we'll see if it passes or not.”



“How have you found the experience so far?”

“I won't lie, it's been pretty challenging. I did a lot of preparation, a lot of chair training, reading clauses, reading the procedures, going through presentations that our executive team has prepared for all of us. It's been challenging, but it's also been very entertaining, and a learning experience for sure. I love being here, this is an amazing experience that I'll cherish for the rest of my life.”

“What's been your favourite part of today?”

“My favourite part of today was probably getting to meet new people, even though it was virtually, it's not as pleasing, but it's great to know other people from different countries, with different perspectives, talking about international affairs that are very important in today's context. Even though the social event was very short and it was online, it was still great to get to know other people and to introduce myself to people from every corner of the globe.”

“What's been your biggest struggle today?”

“Dealing with technical difficulties. I didn't think there were gonna be so many technical difficulties. We've had a lot of them so far – all the committees are

struggling. It's normal. It's the first day. We were prepared for difficulties to come but it's fine, we're getting through it!"

João Pedro Bastos – Chair, Human Rights

"What is your role in the OBSMUNS"

"I am the head of Public Relations and a chair in the Human Rights Committee."

"Can you explain what your role as a chair is like?"

"So, a chair moderates the debate between the delegates. There is a fixed procedure and a strict set of rules that the delegates need to follow, and the chairs ensure that all debate goes well and that there is fruitful debate, because that's the most important part. We also help the delegates with any difficulties they may face."

"What's been the highlight of your experience today?"

"The social event was pretty fun. I did have quite a good time with the delegates. The Opening Ceremony was also an amazing experience, though."

"What's been the hardest part of MUN so far?"

"The hardest part was starting the debate with the delegates in the Human Rights Committee because some of them did not have clauses ready."

"Have there been any significant challenges raised by having a virtual conference?"

"Well, some delegates were experiencing some network issues and we have one who's microphone was in... *less than optimal conditions!*"

"How was the preparation for being a chair?"

"It was interesting. I was with João – he was my mentor. I think he really did a good job in preparing me for this conference because he condensed the information into a good set of PowerPoints which are extremely useful."



Miguel Bastos – Chair, ECOSOC

“What is your role within OBSMUN 2022?”

“I am a chair in the committee of ECOSOC, in which economic and social issues are discussed.”

“What has your time here as chair been like?”

“It’s been great, I’ve gotten to meet a lot of new people of different ages from different backgrounds representing different countries.”

“What was your favourite and least favourite part of today?”

“I think my favourite part of today was getting to know how all of this happens, but we should have more bathroom breaks!”

“What are your feelings towards the conference being held virtually this year?”

“In a way, it’s nicer because the conference can be held in a smaller room and it’s easier if anything goes badly in terms of chair coordination but it’s also worse because of the technical problems and you don’t actually get to be with the people involved in MUN.

“What preparation did you undergo as a chair?”

“In order to be a good chair, I was trained by João during Monday lunchtimes. I cannot tell you for sure how many meetings there were, but we were fully trained. We have documents with adequate phrases to use during committee time. We also rehearsed a debate.”

“What did you discuss today in the ECOSOC committee?”

“In the ECOSOC council, delegates presented clauses about two topics; 1-Increasing Renewable Energy’s share in Worldwide Energy Consumption; 2- International Trade as an engine for Sustainable Development. The ECOSOC tackles economic and social events and these are the two topics. Delegates proceed to present their clauses, and other delegates get to be in favour, against or abstain when it comes to vote for the outcome of the clauses. Furthermore, delegates can give speeches in favour or against clauses and ask questions.”

