



# MUNNEWS

February 15th 2023

## MUNA: Back on track!

From the moment the world went in lockdown everything changed. People were locked inside much smaller worlds. Luckily that all ended, but much had changed since that one fateful year. We all experienced the global issues while restricted by Covid-19. In 2023, a year where we could all go back outside again, we were confronted with these changes in our society. We could not change these things of the past, but we could learn to embrace them.

Since 2020 there have been zero international guests at the Alfrink College, where the MUN is normally held. Without you, we did not broaden our perspectives as much as the international conferences did four years ago. Only with students from Germany, France, Spain, and Kazakhstan, could we embrace the differences between students, their problems, and most importantly, their solutions. We are happy to have you back.



# Opening speech



Honourable presidency, esteemed delegates, dear student officers, beloved mun-directors, admins, and guests,

It is with immense pleasure and pride that MUNA 2023 has officially started. Our exceptional staff has been working very hard these past few months, and we are very happy that this moment is finally here.

It is an honour to welcome all of you physically at our school again for the first time in three years. For the last few editions, MUNA has adapted and reformed to fit into the COVID-19 regulations of that time, and even though we are proud that our conference did not fail to inspire students every single year, we are very happy to have MUNA in its full glory again.

This year's conference centres around the theme of "Embracing Differences". With this theme, we aim to highlight the importance of celebrating and cherishing the things that shape us and make us who we are. This can be on a large scale; differences between cultures, ethnicities, and religions, but it can also be much smaller; our own individual thoughts, opinions, and ideologies. In today's world, a very wide diversity can be seen all across the globe. There is a broad spectrum of people with all sorts of differences between them, however, these differences do not simply distinguish us; often, they also separate us, and this has many negative consequences. We believe that diversity can be a positive thing, a useful resource; as the famous poet Maya Angelou once said; "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." It is because of our differences, that we can all learn from each other.

This is exactly what MUNA is all about. MUNA is a conference organized by students, for students. Being the first 'real' MUNA in three years has come with both a lot of excitement and many challenges. After all, most of us hardly knew what MUNA used to be like. Because of that, organizing MUNA 2023 was a process of trial and error. The entire the staff has learned many things throughout the process, and this only further emphasizes what is at the core of MUNA: working together and learning from each other. At MUNA, we aim to give students the opportunity to learn from other cultures, to reflect on real on-going problems in today's world, and most importantly, to work together to come up with solutions to these issues.

On behalf of the entire MUNA staff and board, we hope this conference will be a fantastic experience for you and the start of a long MUN-journey. During these next three days of writing, lobbying, and debating, I encourage all of you to work together and get to know each other's differences.

For the last time, welcome to MUNA. I hope you will all find the MUNA 2023 conference to be enjoyable, educational, inspiring, and above all, a lot of fun.





# Keeping up with the GAs

## GA 1

The lobbying went very well and the gossips were interesting. A lot of countries became allies and nobody has turned against each other (yet).

## GA 2

In GA 2 most countries appeared to be in agreement with each other which meant a lot of merging. Overall everyone lobbied very well and there was a lot of gossip.

## GA 3

There were a lot of inconveniences in the beginning and a lot of stuff went wrong. Nonetheless, they got through it and the lobbying went well.

## GA 4

In GA 4 it started off with a great tradition of MUNA. Three delegates were too late which meant they had to dance or sing. They chose to do dance the Macarena. Also, most of the resolutions were declined, so they are working on improving their resolutions. China's rizzalution with Brazil is going great aswell.

## Crisis committee

USA declared war on Pakistan, China, and Russia. Everyone learned a lot about each other and they had a mock debate about pineapple on pizza

## Future council

it was chaotic and there were a few inconveniences. The lobbying was a huge success and the mock debates were also really fun.

## International Court of Justice

The delegates wrote charges together. Half of the committee was also late and as punishment they had to dance to the song Timber in Just Dance.

## Historical committee

A lot of countries became allies. Countries shared their political goals and there have not been any enemies as of now.

# Interview with the Conference Manager



**What is your opinion on MUNA's organisation now that MUNA is back to normal?**

It was difficult because we had very little information and also a change in the MUN board, however because of the great collaboration that we were able to achieve with MUNA staff from pre-Covid years, we were able to get a lot of information and we were able to get everything right eventually.

**What is your favourite part of MUNA?**

Personally, I loved being a delegate last year and listening to the opinions of people around the world. So, I am glad that now we can welcome the foreign schools again.

**How would you describe MUNA in 5 words?**

Inspiring, debating, lively, vibrant, serious



**How do you look back on MUNA's preparation this year?**

I loved seeing the staff working together, and not holding back sharing their ideas. Obviously, things could have been improved like having some things organized earlier for a better basis. But in the end, I'm very happy the staff was able to put the conference together in a such a manner.

**Are you satisfied with how MUNA is going up until now?**

As of right now I have been very happy how the opening ceremony has gone, Dia really pulled everything together and made a very interesting and beautiful ceremony, the performance was great, the videos were great and I loved the ending with all the confetti.





# Excursion

On the wednesday the 15th, Anouk, Julia and Verboon went on an excursion to The Hague with the Spanish school Artura Soria College and the German school Gymnasium Essen überraum. We went to an audio tour in the Visitors Centre of the Peace Palace. After the tour, they wanted to explore even more and that's why Verboon gave us a tour through the Binnenhof as well. It was a lovely and informative experience.

Today we visited the art museum The Hague. We went to an interactive show called the "Chambers of Wonder". The goal was that you could walk around with a tablet in a duo, and learn about different types of art in different time periods. For example, we learned about the architect of the museum, and we had a photoshoot after which we could adapt our outfits to 19th-century fashion. Then we were allowed to furnish and decorate our own Wonderroom so that we could upload it to the system.

Excursion to the Prison Gate,  
On Wednesday morning, we went with the Engelbert-Kaempfer-Gymnasium, GSI International School of Münster and Quantem Stem School to the Prison Gate in The Hague.  
We went with the tram to The Hague and then walked to the Gate. Arriving there we got a tour where they explained the history of the prisons, from the luxurious prison for the rich to the dark and small prisons for the poor. The tour guide explained all ways how the thieves or criminals would have been punished in the sixteen hundreds. Which was quite shocking for some students. After that, we went back to Alfrink to start the debating.





# Superlatives



**Leylan: best dressed**



**Mabel & Jady:  
best chairs**



**Carmen: biggest  
drama queen**



**Nurmukhamed:  
best hairstyle**



**Mark: biggest flirt**



**Tara & Roland:  
best couple**





# Gossip Box

## **GA1:**

USA has mushroom hair.

## **GA2:**

How does it feel to have  
farmers as chairs?

## **GA3:**

Spain looks like Nick Birch from  
Big Mouth.

## **GA4:**

China is writing a rizzolution  
instead of a resolution.

