

-elMUNdo-



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Table of Contents

From the Heads of Press.....1

Sponsors of StetiMUN2024.....1

INTERVIEWS WITH.....2-11

MUN DIRECTORS.....2

Secretary General, President Of The General Assembly, and
Deputy Secretary General.....3

CHAIRS OF.....4-11

Security Council.....4

Economic and Social Council.....5

Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee.....6

Human Rights Council.....7

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.....8

World Health Organization.....9

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.....10

International Criminal Court.....11

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION.....12-13

Press Team.....13

Social Media of StetiMUN.....14

Contests.....14



From the Heads of Press

Dear All,

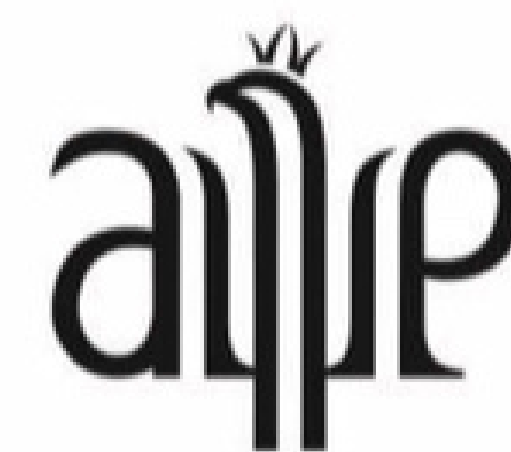
We are flushed to present you with this year's StetiMUN official newspaper. Similarly to the conference itself, "ELMUNdo" is a multi-annual tradition and a source of pride for our school. Every year, we cherish the possibility of accompanying the Delegates, Chairs and Organisers throughout the three days of Model United Nations in Szczecin. The official newspaper is created by a team of people with a passion for journalism and writing, as well as for working on other Media that we provide you with. We are honoured to be a part of your experience at the conference and we hope it will be a most delightful one.

Heads of Press, Karina Kabat and Martyna Kawiak

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StetiMUN Directors

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz, Mrs Karolina Brzezińska, Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel

The MUNskeeters on board!

Every year the Secretariat, Chairs and delegates change, but some people always stay on their positions – the MUN Directors. The trio (also called the MUNsketeers) consists of Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz (right), Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel (middle) and Mrs Karolina Brzezińska (left). They make up the foundation of this very conference.



Photo by Anna Witkowska

Organizing such an event is never easy – what is so special about StetiMUN that you keep helping in the organisation of this event?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: I think it is because I enjoy seeing so many young people get involved in this project. It doesn't matter what role they have, whether they are the Secretariat, Chairs, Delegates, or Student Officers, all of them are somehow engaged in the preparation of StetiMUN. And it is great to see them spending time productively. Through StetiMUN, I also want to show my students how the UN works, and what the most important issues in the world are.

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: What's special is definitely also the atmosphere and incredible energy that the conference has! StetiMUN creates a unique space where students can express their ideas and challenge themselves in ways that will help them grow far beyond the classroom.

Throughout the years of organizing StetiMUN, you must find something that gives you the most satisfaction. What is it?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: As a teacher, it gives me the most satisfaction when I see how my students develop new skills through participating in this conference.

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: For me, the most satisfying feeling is at the end when we manage to organise everything the way we want.

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: As someone responsible for catering and merchandise, the most satisfying part for me is seeing everyone enjoy the details that often go unnoticed but make a big difference. When participants walk in, excited to receive their conference merch - whether it's a well-designed tote bag, our outstanding mug or a personalised badge!

Would you say you're a perfectionist when it comes to organizing StetiMUN?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: Yes, I think I am a perfectionist. I see everything that needs to be done or improved. I always try to see the big picture but, at the same time, listen to everyone's opinions.

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: Indeed, We all are! The teachers, the Secretariat and the delegates!

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: I would say I strive for excellence, though I'm mindful of not letting perfectionism get in the way of progress. Organizing such a large event inevitably comes with challenges and unexpected hiccups, so while I aim for everything to run smoothly, I've learned that flexibility and adaptability are key. Better done than perfect!

What is your happiest memory from all those years of StetiMUN?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: Every year, when the conference finishes and I can say that everything went well, I am the happiest.

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: I have to say, I always, always tear up during the Entrance Walk of the flags at the Opening Ceremony! It's such a powerful and emotional moment, seeing all the flags come in, and knowing how much work and passion has gone into bringing everyone together. I also love our tradition of the "flaming" cake at the end of the conference! Those are the moments that stick with me year after year, and they never fail to make me feel proud and satisfied.

What are you looking forward to the most in this edition of the conference?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: Each year, I wait for the Entrance of the flags the most. This is a truly touching moment for me, then I feel that the conference has truly started.

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: I always await the feeling of fulfilment that comes with each conference.

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: I'm definitely looking forward to fruitful debates and happy faces of both participants and organizers.

If you were to choose a country to represent and a committee to be in, what would that be?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: For this edition of the conference, I would choose the United States in the SC.

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: I would choose the delegation of the USA in the ECOSOC – that would be perfect for me!

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: I would love to work in the WHO as a representative of the United States as I'm truly alarmed by the fentanyl crisis in this country. So this year's topic is really fascinating! Plus, I admire the Chairs - Małgorzata and Barbara and I'm sure working with them would be a sheer pleasure.

What is the first association that comes to your mind when you hear the word "StetiMUN"?

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: Academics, professionalism, engagement and my lovely Secretariat, as well as my lovely class 3D.

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: Lots of work and satisfaction!

Mrs Karolina Brzezińska: Sleepless nights, 30,000 steps a day, and a huge amount of stress! But along with that, there's also a deep sense of pride and satisfaction from organising such a unique event.

When the conference ends, are you planning to start working on the next year's edition right away or rather get some well-deserved rest?

Mrs Magdalena Janikowska-Gabryel: Well-deserved rest first and then planning next year's edition.

Mrs Edyta Ostapkowicz: Every year, I say "OK, now I need two weeks without StetiMUN". But it is not possible! After the conference ends, we move to summarising, evaluating and planning for the year ahead.

Thank you so much for the interview!

In the next issue, we will talk with Mrs Magdalena Cichocka and Mrs Anna Rogala who joined the Directors' Team this year in order to help make the organisation of the conference even better.

Antonina Basarab, Maria Jackiewicz, Kaja Ociepa

Professional to the core

Antonina (middle), Maria (left) and Kaja (right) are the masterminds behind this year’s edition of StetiMUN. Privately, they are classmates who never fail to bring positivity or humour into other people’s lives. We have watched them prepare for this conference ever since last October and we are positive that nobody could put more heart and soul into such an event! We had the pleasure to ask them about their insights into StetiMUN and its behind the scenes.



Photo by Anna Witkowska

You have been preparing for this conference for about a year. If you were to describe the hardest obstacle you had to overcome, what would it be?

MJ: Gaining sponsorships was not a piece of cake. But also as the amount of responsibilities rose as the conference was approaching, we had to prioritize this event over our personal and school responsibilities. If I were to mention a specific event, I would say the weekend we held most of the chair interviews was the hardest. I remember I sat by the computer, straight from 9 am to 10 pm, two days in a row.

Then, what was the most enjoyable part, if you were to name one?

AB: The most enjoyable part has been just working on a project together and creating something bigger than we could ever imagine.

KO: I also vividly remember the moment we all came together when we heard that we'd be organizing this event together.

MJ: Yes, we even cried out of happiness!

What is something that you are especially proud of?

MJ: It will be the patronage of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I consider that a step forward not only for our edition of the conference but also for the future ones. Having such a prestigious recognition is truly an accomplishment for us.

KO: The thing I am the most proud of is the people who create this conference. Not everyone knows that about 220 people in total are constituting the conference. The Chairboard that we selected, the Press Team, which is working for the newspaper that you are reading now, the Photographers, the TV Team, and the Student Officers.

AB: I'm also most proud of increasing the level of the conference when it comes to the academics, the Study Guides, the Rules of Procedure, and the Delegate Booklet so that the delegates are prepared for the conference the best they possibly can.

You are very experienced. You’ve gained experience as delegates, as chairs and now as the Secretariat. We wonder, what sparked the love for MUNs in the first place?

AB: For me, it was StetiMUN 2021 when I gained the courage to apply as a delegate, even though I was in the first grade of high school. Once I bought my first red suit and sat at the Opening Ceremony as the delegate of Poland, my eyes sparked – I was mesmerized by it all.

MJ: Always. For me, it was also StetiMUN 2021, where I applied as a delegate to one committee and got assigned to another. It wasn’t the best journey I've had, but I was mesmerized as well.

KO: It was actually Tosia who first told me about MUNs. At StetiMUN 2021, I joined the Press Team and it was also one of the best decisions ever because it was completely different. I'm so grateful that I had both the Press and the delegate experience and now also the Secretariat experience.

Speaking of roles that you have had, which do you prefer the most? The Delegate, Chair, Secretariat or maybe the Press?

AB: I'd say the most rewarding one is being in the Secretariat. But the second after that is being a chair because of the chance to create a committee and environment for the delegates who are then grateful for what they've learned.

KO: If I were to select a position right now, I have a lust for being a delegate because I haven't been one in two years.

MJ: I think it all depends on my mood. When I'm eager to work, being in the Secretariat is something so unique, you couldn't deny it. When I am passionate about arguing, that's the delegate. But anything else, I love being a chair, especially in the Security Council.

Since we know, or maybe our readers don't know, apart from working together privately, you're really good friends and classmates. So, did the work on the conference challenge your relationship and if yes, how?

AB: We definitely did have our friendships challenged during this process. But when we sat together a few days ago to reflect on what has happened in the past year and what we've achieved and done, we concluded that this experience has also bonded us together.

From your perspective, how might your MUN experience and skills impact your life in the future, both personally and professionally?

AB: For me, as cliché as it sounds, MUNs have been life-changing. These conferences are embedded in me and will impact my future career as I'm planning to pursue diplomacy.

MJ: In terms of skills, I think that taking stressful information with an ounce of patience is one. Also, my MUN career taught me a lot about research, diplomacy, and debating skills.

KO: I think I learned a lot about journalism, about working on a newspaper and editing it, as well as working with other people.

Is there anything you don't like about MUNs and anything that could be improved or make MUNs more beneficial for the young?

MJ: MUNs should be aimed at recreating the United Nations instead of being social gatherings where people may improve their, generally speaking, social skills rather than academics, which we at StetiMUN try to avoid. We focus on depicting the real United Nations.

If you were a delegate or chair in a committee at this year’s StetiMUN, which one would you choose?

KO: If I had to choose, I would either choose the Security Council because I have never been the Ambassador there, or I would choose the UNHCR topic because it's very up-to-date.

MJ: I would like to chair the Security Council, but if I were to go as a delegate, I'd choose either the UNHCR or the ICC. I've never been in this committee and the topic is very unusual.

If you had to choose between EIMUNdo, The Gossip Account, and StetiTV, which one of these is more special to you?

AB, KO, MJ: EIMUNdo!

What is your best memory from all these years of StetiMUN?

AB: I would say my first chairing of the Human Rights Council with Kamil Urbański and the positive response that we got from the delegates.

MJ: Last year on the first day of StetiMUN23, when Mrs Director Edyta Ostapkowicz approached me and asked if I wanted to be the PGA of the next edition. I went to Tosia’s committee and cried.

KO: StetiMUN 2023 – creating EIMUNdo at 2 am in the KFC at Brama Portowa. And finding out that all the electric outlets were broken and we couldn't work. I remember contacting our Director Mrs Krystyna Kwiatkowska and telling her we didn't know what to do. And her saying, “Kaja, It’s okay. Go have a party. We will talk tomorrow.”

What is the first association that comes to your mind when you hear the word “StetiMUN”?

MJ: Mrs Director Edyta Ostapkowicz, academics and hard work.

KO: EIMUNdo and Press.

AB: Steti community, Steti family.

And lastly, how do you deal with post-MUN depression? Describe it in one sentence.

MJ: I go to yet another MUN.

KO: I eat ‘cow candy’ left from StetiMUN.

AB: I eagerly wait for the official photos to be posted.

Thank you for the interview. It’s been truly special to watch you come so far.

Security Council

Bartłomiej Celt, Cyprian Grabowski

Lawfulness and lawlessness of conflicts

This year the Security Council committee is presided over by Bartłomiej Celt, a StetiMUN veteran who started his MUN journey in 2017, and Cyprian Grabowski, for whom it is both the first StetiMUN conference and first-time chairing. These contrasting experiences will be observed during the meetings focusing on reassuring the implementation of the Geneva Conventions in light of a highly divisive conflict between Israel and Palestine.



Photos by Anna Witkowska

How did you start your MUN career?

BC: I remember seeing the MUN for the first time for only about three seconds in 2015 when, as I call it, “the nose incident” happened. My geography teacher slammed the door of a committee room on my nose. Despite that, I wanted to find out what the conference was about. That chance arose in 2016 when I became a Student Officer, enabling me to see the event from the technical side. However, my first time participating as a delegate was during POZMUN 2017 in the Security Council.

CG: Similarly to my Co-President, I came across the MUN conference through the organization process. I thought it was such an aspiring concept that I would like to take part in, which led me to apply to my first conference, PolMUN 2023. I was amazed by the debates and the atmosphere, making me want to participate in more conferences.

What do you hope for in StetiMUN 2024?

BC: I hope to end my career with dignity. I have already established that StetiMUN 2024 will be my last conference. I simply hope the topic we have picked, regarding the Geneva Conventions, is interesting enough to spark fruitful and heated debates.

CG: I hope to see the quality that StetiMUN is famous for. We would like to have world-class debates and knowledgeable ambassadors who will contribute to both the resolution and the discussions.

Cyprian, you were supposed to be a delegate in this committee; how do you feel about changing your role last minute, especially since this is your first time chairing?

CG: When the President of the General Assembly called me, she said, “Please, take a seat because you might fall”. I was astounded when I heard the offer to become the President of the Security Council. I knew I would have a lot of work to do, but I also felt that it was a great experience that could broaden my knowledge.

Bartłomiej, how do you feel about being an MUN dinosaur?

BC: I feel old. However, since 2016 I have loved this formula so much that even now, being 25 years of age, I still cannot abandon it. This only signifies the impact MUNs have had on my life.

And, Bartłomiej, why do you keep coming back to StetiMUN?

BC: Simple question, simple answer — because StetiMUN is the best. No conference in Poland can rival the academic level of its debates and the uniqueness of other activities. But It is also StetiMUN's best hand-made sandwiches that constantly keep me coming back.

Geneva Conventions have not been changed since 2005. Do you think it is time to update them?

BC: I do not believe it to be a matter of updating but rather implementing, which is the main focus of our committee. It doesn't matter how well the law is written, what matters is the way it's enforced.

CG: I agree with my colleague. I think that creating something new or improving what already exists should be focused on preventing the countries from not obeying the Geneva Conventions.

Do you think that the trial in ICC will influence the work of your committee?

BC: Not all the members of SC are signatories to the Rome Statute, which is a problem. It is one of the loopholes used by the US and Israel; since they are not the signatories of the Rome Statute, they do not think that they should cooperate with the ICC. Therefore, I don't reckon that the ICC's work will influence the work of SC.

CG: It is ironic that at the same time, the USA is discussing the Geneva Conventions while they do not agree with the ICC conducting the trials on that topic.

Are you prepared to respond if the situation in the Middle East drastically escalates during the conference?

BC: We are prepared for this scenario and many more if they are to occur. We will work accordingly to the developing situation.

What do you think about StetiMUN's press? Are you eager to read about yourself in this year's Elmundo?

BC: Obviously. That is one of the reasons why I participate in StetiMUN. I vividly remember modifying my speeches as a delegate to create some drama for the Press Team. I also love the idea of journaling the conference and I am eager to read whatever you create of me.

CG: Since it is my first time participating in StetiMUN, I do not know how it feels to be included in Elmundo. However, I think that Press is a fantastic idea. It is what makes our conference unique.

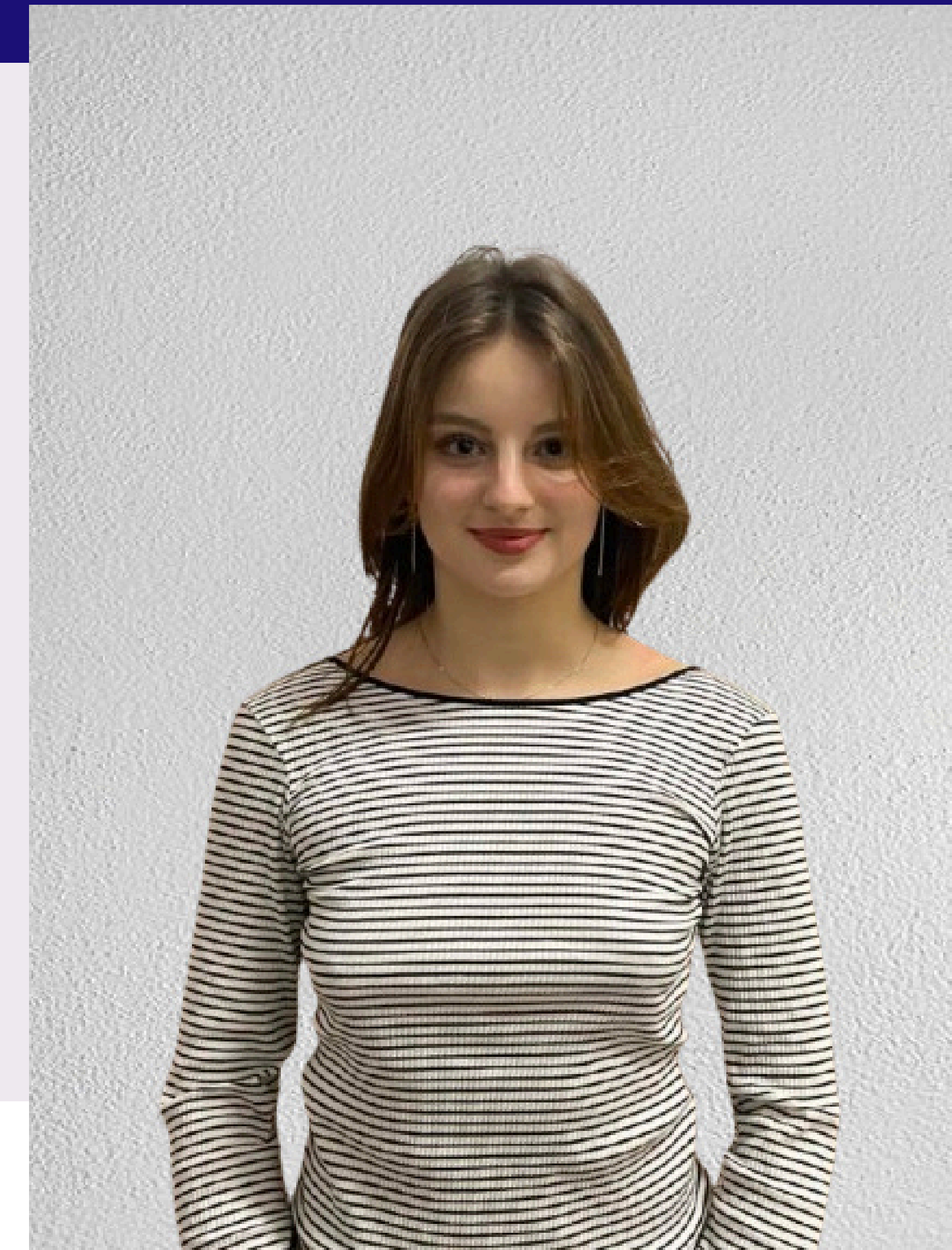
Thank you for the interview and the kind words towards our team.

Economic and Social Council

Igor Rychlicki, Sonia Zapaśnik

Have a seat and meet the ECOSOC's lead!

The debate on the economic decline in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic will take place in the ECOSOC committee led by the irreplaceable and highly experienced Igor Rychlicki and Sonia Zapaśnik. They offered us a glimpse into the topic, their expectations and feelings regarding the upcoming debate, which we are more than happy to share with you all!



Private archives

What motivated you to get involved with StetiMUN, and especially become a chair of the ECOSOC committee?

IR: The table at the General Assembly! I came to StetiMUN last year as a delegate in ECOSOC and I was so amazed by how people interact with each other and that everyone is treated equally, which was symbolized by this very table, so I told my friends “next year I'm coming back to sit at that table”. The other thing is that I really enjoyed my committee last year. Previously I had always been a Security Council's delegate but that time I decided to make a different choice. In last year's ECOSOC, there were not many people who felt comfortable with MUNs and as a more experienced person, I felt great helping them get into the debates.

SZ: I chose StetiMUN because I'm very good friends with both the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly. I know they are perfect at what they're doing and how much passion they have for MUN conferences. When it comes to the committee selection, I tie my future with economics and I have a certain amount of knowledge in the topic that I want to share with the world. It brings me a lot of fun to chair committees that I deeply understand.

Could you tell us a bit about the topic that is going to be discussed this year and why you think it's worth discussing?

SZ: The topic is about ensuring effective responses to global economic decline in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It mainly focuses on the policies that the governments took upon when the COVID-19 pandemic happened. This topic asks the delegates to create a sort of framework for what type of actions should be taken when such a crisis occurs.

IR: I always found the ECOSOC committee to be brilliant, because any topic that concerns the economy also concerns the social aspects of society, which is why I believe that this is perfect for this committee. I personally have had difficulties during the pandemic - a lot of my family got infected with COVID and a lot of them struggled economically, so this is why I find this topic close to my heart. I wanted to remind the delegates that all of us went through this and because of that, it's our combined responsibility to ensure that the pandemic never repeats itself.

In your opinion, what are the most important skills of a delegate?

SZ: From my experience, I can say it's mostly about confidence: the way you speak, the way you're able to get everyone involved in your speech. People don't usually realize but sometimes chairs also lose track of all things that are being said. They memorize mainly the people that stand out the most and actively mark their presence in the debates.

IR: I agree with Sonia. However, I would also name cooperation and not being too hung up on just your own role. I might have a brilliant delegate who accomplishes a lot but if he does it selfishly, I would be more convinced to praise and reward a delegate who was not that perfectly prepared but who was willing to work with others.

How will you ensure that this debate stays focused and productive?

IR: I have had some recent experience with an unfocused committee while chairing the Security Council. The topic was about cyber warfare and for some reason the delegates went on a different topic. What I did and what I think every chair should do in such a situation is not to disrupt the flow of the debate. However, once the committee session for the day was over, I talked to the culprits and explained to them how to proceed. It is my role - as a chair - to give them some suggestions. That is how I try to maintain everyone's productivity.

SZ: StetiMUN will be my 18th MUN, so I have some experience in chairing. I think that to keep the debates focused and productive it's important to have a fun atmosphere, in which the delegates feel comfortable. For instance, if it happened that a delegate was missing, I would take up that role to evoke discussions and suggest addressing some other topics.

Are there any tips that you want to give to the delegates?

IR: Of course! Talking is important. Debate smartly and ask questions. However, I would also advise you to acquire knowledge, not only on the topic itself but also on geopolitics in general.

SZ: I would like to highlight that research is very important. It's way easier to speak on the topic when you have some knowledge of it. It can be easily seen when a delegate has done their research so you need to spend a few good hours digging that topic in and out.

Thank you very much for this interview!

Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

Barbara Szyszka, Aleksandra Pindral

The Battleground Committee

The Chairs of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee Barbara and Aleksandra are one of the most charming and hard-working people you will ever meet. We had the chance to ask them about their thoughts and expectations for this edition of StetiMUN.



Photo by Hanna Nachyła



Private archive

How does it feel to be a chairperson on StetiMUN for the first time?

BS: To be sincere, I thought I would be much more stressed. I guess it is because it all takes place at this school and in my environment, I'm not stressed at all, at least for now. Being entrusted to chair the committee feels amazing. I treat it as an accomplishment.

AP: I'm very honoured to be a part of this year's chair board, especially because I was an Ambassador at last year's edition. I find StetiMUN to be a unique and professional conference, therefore I'm excited to be able to contribute to the success of this year's conference. I hope it will be even better than last year's edition!

Palestine and Israel will both be participating in the proceedings of the committee. Do you expect a heated debate?

AP: Yes, I definitely expect a heated yet respectful and diplomatic debate. The presence of Israel and Palestine in our committee can make it even more thrilling. I think it's great that we included them both in the country matrix. Their contribution will be extremely valuable to the resolution. Additionally, I have never seen such a combination at any other MUN conferences I have attended so far and that makes it even more intriguing. It is an interesting committee also because of its importance as it concerns human rights as well as cultural and social issues. I believe it will be a great experience both for us and the delegates.

BS: At first I thought that our topic may come across as slightly boring for the prospective delegates, but concluded from the number of applications we received - it didn't. I truly believe that the debates will be heated and there will be some drama due to the present countries. We also have Ukraine and Russia in the committee and the topic is related to war so we truly expect passionate conversations.

And now a more out-of-the-blue question but certainly a very important one for all our dear delegates... should they be afraid of you?

BS: I don't think so. I am just like other first-timers here since it's my first time chairing. I might look intimidating but I will definitely try not to come across as such. I will be a good cop, I promise.

AP: No, they shouldn't, and I hope that they won't be. I used to be an extremely anxious first-timer and that's why I became a chair — to be the chair I wish I had during my first time as a delegate. My main goal is to make the members of my committee comfortable. I hope I will be able to achieve that and StetiMUN will be a pleasant, fear-free experience for the delegates.

Despite this, do you have any punishments in mind yet?

AP: Yes, of course! I'm a dancer and I'm also addicted to the Just Dance song Rasputin. If you're in my committee, I'll make you dance to it at least once a day. I believe that it's an oldie, but a goodie. So the only case in which you should be afraid of me is if you don't like Just Dance.

And if you were to say one thing to the delegates before the committee starts, what would that be?

BS: It depends on the level of the delegates, because if you're a first-timer, then I would say: don't worry because we all worry at the beginning and eventually it turns out great. If you're more advanced, then you should truly prepare yourself, because decent research is the basis for discussing this topic deeply. It's incredibly important due to the complexity of the issues which will be discussed.

AP: I would say that you should always choose quality over quantity in your speeches and documents. Also, don't be afraid to speak up even if you think that you don't have a lot to say. Every contribution is valuable, even if you only say one sentence.

Finally, do you have any hot takes on StetiMUN?

BS: I don't think that it's necessarily a hot take but we have a lot of amazing people here and a lot of good outfit inspirations! So that would be my only "hot" take.

Thank you for the interview and see you at StetiMUN!

Human Rights Council

Zofia Krupa, Marcin Skiba

Challenging the Status Quo

We proudly present you the most dynamic duo – Marcin Skiba, a 17-year-old from Gdańsk, whose experience both as a chair and delegate is a two-digit number (15 MUN conferences), and Zosia Krupa, experienced in MUNs all around Poland. They will lead the way on a topic that's rare but vital to be spoken about. Expect only riveting, engaging sessions in their committee. Get yourself a cup of coffee and dive into their insights.



Private archives

How do chairs prepare for a conference like StetiMUN?

ZK: Once accepted to the conference as the chairperson, the next step is preparing a study guide. After writing study guides, we brainstorm with our paired chair on what punishments we could use and how to make the session experiences even better. Not long before the conference, as we receive position papers from the delegates, we review them thoroughly and hand them constructive feedback.

Marcin, based on our research, we could call you an expert in public speaking. Could you share some insights on what qualities contribute to becoming a more effective speaker?

MS: The most important thing one can have as a public speaker is charisma and knowledge. If you can walk on stage, grab people’s attention, and say something meaningful, then you can become a great speaker. Over time, you can improve your skills by talking to bigger groups and refining your speeches little by little. Eventually, you will learn to make pauses and change your tone, but in the beginning, it’s all about your willingness to say something with interest and enthusiasm.

Zosia, you have attended StetiMUN several times before. What’s your most memorable experience from our conference?

ZK: At my first StetiMUN in 2021, I was a delegate in a committee chaired by the Secretary General herself. During the committee sessions, I sent a funny page note to my friend. However, it accidentally found its way to the chairs instead. I was embarrassed because on the note I wrote a quote from “Dziady”, unrelated to the conference’s proceedings. The Chairs grimaced at me but I think they handled it well. They didn’t make me feel bad about that, instead just let me know it wasn’t appropriate, and we all moved on. It was a good lesson about keeping things professional but also a reminder that mistakes happen, and that’s okay.

Marcin, since this is your first time attending StetiMUN, what are your expectations and hopes for this conference?

MS: I’m expecting a professional conference. I’ve never been to one with a Press Team or a newspaper, so that’s new for me, and I’m excited to see how it all works. I’m also curious about the role of Student Officers, which seems a bit different from what I’m used to. I am eager to take part in it and to meet everyone from StetiMUN.

The committee’s topic this year addresses a particularly sensitive issue. For readers who may not be familiar with it, could you briefly explain what TTI programs are and what their consequences might be?

MS: TTI, or Troubled Teen Industries, are camps that were originally made to help teenagers struggling with issues like addiction or unacceptable behaviours. However, it got to the stage where parents began sending their kids away for minor reasons, and in fact, these camps became notorious for abuse and terrible conditions. Many teens who went through them, came back traumatised. No wonder, as in such places serious human rights violations quickly became a daily routine. In our committee, we’ll have an insight into how to regulate these programs, since there is currently almost no legislation in place.

ZK: Additionally, It’s important to highlight that within TTIs, there have been multiple allegations of abuse, including solitary confinement and even torture. Many survivors including celebrities are now speaking up about their experiences, and it’s gaining attention, especially in the U.S. There’s a Netflix documentary about this problem called “The Program: Cons, Cults, and Kidnapping” that I strongly encourage you to watch.

Do you believe it is possible to reduce the prevalence of TTI programs?

ZK: Absolutely. With proper legislation and raising awareness, especially among parents, it is possible to reduce the number of these programs and hold the responsible accountable. It’s not just about preventing the camps from operating – it’s also addressing the trauma survivors have faced.

MS: The number of these programs has been diminishing, mostly due to proven abuse allegations and human rights violations. Many of them are shut down, although there are still many that continue this work. Despite that, I am positive that the trend will continue as more people become aware of what’s happening.

What is the significance of participating in MUN conferences in terms of shaping one's future?

MS: MUNs broaden your horizons and improve your debating skills and that is crucial for careers like law or politics. Even if you’re not planning to follow these paths, MUNs help you build confidence, especially when you are speaking in front of a large audience, like at the General Assembly. It is an amazing experience that will help you be more confident in the future. I believe if you are the kind of person who is self-assured and knows how to debate, and how to use language efficiently, you might even become an inspiration to others.

ZK: A very important aspect of MUNs I benefited from is that they also teach you how to research and write in formal English, which is useful for so many things. Additionally, you meet a lot of people and form connections that last beyond the conferences. You also learn that even with well-prepared resolutions, not everything gets passed – just like in real-world diplomacy. It’s a great way to understand how the world works.

Do you have any ideas to make the sessions distinctive and unique?

MS: While chairs play an important role, it’s truly the delegates who make or break the session. If everyone participates, even if it’s just a few sentences, we will have a great time.

ZK: Exactly. The more active delegates are, the more they will get out of the debates. As chairs, our job is to keep things serious when needed but we also want to add some fun and light-hearted moments. We have a few ideas to make things special, but we’ll keep those a surprise until the conference!

Thank you for the interview!

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Hubert Jaruzel, Piotr Wacławczyk

Pushing boundaries in discussing borders

This year the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees is led by two wonderful, knowledgeable and passionate chairs: Hubert Jaruzel and Piotr Wacławczyk. Both of them will contribute valuable experience and sound judgement to the discussions on the issues and concerns regarding migrant pushbacks. In between your debates, both chairs will make sure that you integrate properly. And what better way to do so, than by dancing? We bet Chair Piotr knows the answer!



Photo by Karol Wawryniuk



Private archive

Both of you have quite a history with MUNs. Why did you decide to take part in the MUN in the first place?

HJ: The most important factor which influenced my decision to start taking part in MUNs was the fact that StetiMUN is organised at my school and that it was also highly recommended to me by my colleague. I thought it could help enhance my interests in history and politics as the debates generally focus on both of these aspects. I believe that is one of the main reasons why people participate in the conferences. It was such a great experience that it made me consider going to other MUNs.

PW: I started my MUN career as a page at Silesian Model United Nations in my hometown of Opole. I got interested in the whole conference and the format of debating since I'm interested in geopolitics and social issues. Therefore, I thought that it was a great way for me to begin my debating career.

Is it your first time chairing or are you experienced in this area?

PW: This will be my eighth time chairing, but the first time when I am going to chair the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees committee. I have already chaired the Commission on Science and Technology Development, twice on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council, and now I will be chairing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the first time. Let the numbers speak for themselves: I prefer being a chair to being a delegate. It brings me much more fun.

HJ: It's my first time, so I'm hoping to learn a lot from this new experience. Piotrek, as he's the more experienced one here, will help me out a bit. It's a completely new endeavour for me and I'm looking forward to it.

If you could show the results of the debate to any politician, who would it be?

HJ: Probably it would be good to show the results of the debate to an influential politician, like the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Then he could select some of the delegates' ideas and help implement them in real life. We could also ask the Polish partitions to participate in the discussion. It might lead them to think through some of the most important aspects and even make decisions afterwards.

PW: If I were to show the results of our debates, it would probably lead to the coast guards, in order to show them the regulations that we have achieved, or organisations such as Frontex or the European Union. I also think Polish politicians could learn a lot from observing the debates since it is a current and constantly discussed issue in Poland. I would show them, especially to the most influential person in Poland right now - the Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, and the people specifically related to the matter like the Polish Head of the Coast Guard

Are there any recent situations concerning refugees that you think should be covered during the debates?

HJ: It's still a developing matter, so some issues - unfortunately - might even occur between this interview and the debates. Nevertheless, I would like to encourage the delegates to stay up to date with all of the recent events because pushbacks are a problem of a truly pressing manner that keeps getting new developments.

Are there any first-timers in your committee? Do you have any tips for them?

PW: From what I've checked, there are plenty. I think it is very important for us, as the more experienced ones in the committee, to make the atmosphere comfortable for the first-timers. My biggest tip is not to overthink their speeches. During my first time, I was not engaged in the debate because I was too scared to speak. I was afraid of what other people would think about my speech. Having gone to more MUNs, I discovered that people do not remember that much and I stopped overthinking. I focused on enhancing my debating abilities, not getting every word right.

HJ: The more you participate, the better your skills are and the more confidence you gain. In the beginning, there might be some problems with formulating sentences clearly or you might not be fully familiar with the procedures and the way the debates are conducted. I think that with time and practice everything gets easier, and this should be kept in mind.

Thank you for the interview and good luck to all first-timers! We wish all delegates heated discussions and satisfying resolutions. We are looking forward to seeing you in action during StetiMUN. The floor is yours!

World Health Organization

Barbara Bątkowska, Małgorzata Kocińska

WHO will put an end to the fentanyl crisis?

We had the utmost pleasure of asking our most burning questions to the chairs of the WHO - Barbara Bątkowska and Małgorzata Kocińska. From their vast experience to thorough knowledge on the fentanyl crisis and Travis Scott, here is everything you need to know about them and their committee.



Photos by Hanna Nachyła

During this debate, there will be lots of disagreements. Do you expect to see traditional alliances during the discussion or do you think there will be some outliers?

MK: I think that there will be some unexpected coalitions, considering that both China and the USA are involved in some way with fentanyl. One is highly involved in the production of fentanyl, and the other is the consumer. Therefore, we might expect higher levels of cooperation between the two.

BB: I second that. I was going to mention these two countries, too, because China has already begun addressing the problem of their huge production. The USA is also trying to improve its situation as much as possible. I feel like the country division here won't be so predictable, as those countries that are usually not too keen on collaboration with each other have the same aims.

Most countries aim to eliminate the fentanyl crisis. In what ways do you expect them to differ in that approach?

BB: I think it depends on certain countries' relation to the issue. For example, some countries are most affected by the fentanyl crisis regarding their citizens. However, other nations are more involved in opioid production, while some are in transit. I feel like this will be the most deciding factor for countries when deciding their policies on addressing the issue.

MK: The countries may also vary in the magnitude of their approach, as the delegation of the USA may focus on plentiful possible actions that could be implemented regarding the fentanyl issue itself or drug abuse. Since in other nations that issue might not be as prominent and significant as in the USA, their approach might be slower and more steady.

When trying to resolve this issue, what should the committee focus on first: the root causes of addiction or the immediate solutions?

BB: I think what's important is focusing on the root causes of how fentanyl even comes into possession – the production and the way it is present on the market. When it comes to the origins of addiction, that's quite tricky because it is often the effect of poverty and such factors that are beyond the scope of the WHO committee. Therefore, I think it's crucial to address the root causes that are very directly tied to fentanyl. Immediate solutions are also crucial, as, after all, we're doing that for the health of everyone, especially for the people who need to be helped to escape this brutal reality.

If you had the chance to be a delegate in your committee, which country's perspective would you like to represent and why?

MK: Given the chance, I would love to represent the United States of America, as their high consumption levels of fentanyl present the delegate with a challenging task and many responsibilities which I particularly love in MUNs.

Both of you have enormous experience. In what ways do you plan to use it during the committee proceedings?

MK: What I learned from my experience is how to create a great atmosphere inside the committee while keeping it organized, and how to make the proceedings efficient, and go according to the rules of procedures. Overall, I think that having the flow within the debates is the most important thing.

BB: I think after chairing five times already, I have experience with guiding delegates to the topics of discussion that they should focus on. I believe I can determine whether something is constructive to the debates. I know that together we are on a good path, and I think we're just going to simply rock it.

How would you describe your collaboration as chairs? What strengths do you each bring to the team?

BB: I have to say that we collaborate really well. We had a lot of fun writing the study guide, and we both have that approach where we want to connect the educational value with some fun. I feel like if we just do our best to achieve that, we can maintain a great balance in the committee.

MK: I have to agree with my co-chair, as I think we have the same vision on MUNs.

We are a nice match in case of our strengths and weaknesses, and with that, we could divide everything needed for this MUN preparation, utilizing our skills to make it the best experience for our delegates. I am definitely looking forward to chairing with Basia.

What song best represents the energy you expect over the next 3 days?

MK: I think the most fitting would be "These boots are made for walkin'" [starts to hum]

BB: FE!N!!! [starts to sing]

Thank you both so much for the interview and best of luck to you, delegates! See you all soon!

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Aleksandra Niškiewicz, Marcin Opaliński

Aye, aye!

Watch out - here they come!

Behold the chairs of UNODC - both experienced MUNers Aleksandra Niškiewicz and Marcin Opaliński! They will support the delegates as much as they can, hopefully with reciprocity, as this will be Marcin's first StetiMUN and Ola's first time as the moderator. Remember to welcome them warmly!



Photo by Alicja Zapor



Private archive

Considering you both have experience with other MUNs, what makes StetiMUN stand out, and why did you want to join the conference this year?

MO: Before applying, my friends told me that StetiMUN is quite unlike other conferences, especially regarding traditions and customs as well as the overall standards that the event meets. I also saw that StetiMUN had been previously awarded multiple times, which made me even more interested in joining.

ON: For me, it is the academic level of the debates and the organization of the entire conference, which differs from other MUNs. To give an example, we have the Press, or even customized mugs and candy.

Ola, why is UNODC the committee that you chose to be a chair of, as a first-timer?

ON: I think it is very beginner-friendly, for both the delegates and the chairs. It doesn't require as much specific knowledge as some other committees might, and you don't have to be that acquainted with how MUN works to get engaged in the debates. It isn't extremely strict with procedures which allows for a more relaxed atmosphere.

What encouraged you both to choose the topic of your committee and what do you think makes it engaging for the delegates?

ON: Actually, it was my dad who suggested choosing something related to piracy, when I asked him for some advice. Together with Marcin we narrowed it down to the Red Sea, did some research about the particular issue and it turned out to be very interesting. Among the countries that we have in our committee, there are many different views that the delegates can express, so, hopefully, the debates can get intense.

MO: The topic is also quite multilateral - it has multiple other issues and dilemmas connected to the primary topic. We will be focusing on various aspects of crime in maritime piracy, like theft and robbery, but also holding hostages and even murder. At the same time, we will limit ourselves to one central problem.

What would you like for the delegates to gain from joining your committee?

MO: I would like the delegates to expand their knowledge on issues that exist outside of Europe or even just the area surrounding Poland because quite often we limit ourselves to only being interested in what's happening around us.

When participating in MUNs, you have to reach beyond this narrow zone and dive into the topics that regard places with unfamiliar circumstances.

ON: The most important thing, and the whole idea behind MUN, is gaining self-awareness of your abilities. At least I feel like it made me way more comfortable when speaking up or debating, and having experienced that in such a stressful atmosphere that MUNs provide, definitely helped. If you manage to make a speech in front of a whole group of people during the General Assembly, you'll manage to do it anywhere. You just have to step out of your comfort zone, and you will most definitely improve.

What atmosphere would you like to introduce to the committee?

ON: I definitely want to keep it professional because tradition is an important part of StetiMUN but, at the same time, I would like the atmosphere to be comfortable. I know that there are chairs who are very strict and make everything greatly formal but that might make it hard for first-timers to feel confident enough to speak up. Therefore, that is something I would like to avoid.

Marcin, you are already familiar with being a chair. Do you have any advice for Ola, who is a first-timer this year?

MO: I would say, do not let the delegates get on your nerves. You have to remember that you are the chairperson, and you must set the standards for your committee. We are the ones moderating the debates, and making the rules, so it's also our responsibility to push the delegates to be productive when they aren't. As a chair, it's necessary to make good use of your power, in order to reach reasonable conclusions.

Lastly, what would you like to say to your fellow delegates before meeting at the first committee session?

ON: I would encourage them to just have fun during the conference and use that opportunity to learn how to speak. And I don't know... ahoy! Or, maybe... arrr!

MO: The second thing is, don't be afraid of unveiling your inner pirate. And remember to communicate your needs to us. We can always adjust the modes and types of debates if you think that something is unproductive in the committee. In the end, we're there for you.

Thank you both for the interview and we will see you at the first session. It looks like the debates are going to get heated!

International Criminal Court

Igor Bazylewicz, Urszula Pietrzak

Best friends in the Court

This year's International Criminal Court committee is led by the very enthusiastic and experienced duo - Urszula Pietrzak and Igor Bazylewicz. Both of them have lots of experience as chairs and delegates in various committees, moreover, they've been rewarded for their outstanding and professional performances. Privately best friends, again are chairing the same committee together.



Private archive



Photo by Weronika Wasyliko

Why do you think the ICC is an interesting committee, and what made you choose it as chairs?

IB: What I like the most about the International Criminal Court is that it differs greatly from other committees. It is truly one of a kind committee and it leads to really energetic debates. In the ICC there is always somebody speaking and there's always a lot of dynamic as there are different witnesses coming in and out of the courtroom, and there is different evidence that is always very unique.

UP: I definitely agree with Igor. In addition, currently, I'm studying International and European Law, so the ICC is just the best committee for me.

We noticed you two were chairing together in the same committee before, is there any reason for that?

UP: We are best friends...

IB: Actually we have gone to about six MUNs together and it has always been a lot of fun. We were not necessarily in the same committee, but the three times that I have been in the ICC committee was always with Ula and that was when we both were prosecutors, or last time when we were chairs.

What are the ups and downs of chairing?

UP: One of the downs is a lot of preparations for the conference beforehand. It's time-consuming and sometimes inefficient. It takes a lot of time and it can cause frustration at some point. Nevertheless, there are more ups, it's a very rewarding job. It's great to see the delegates. I especially love first-timers because we have the opportunity to show them how the MUN world works.

What made you choose the topic about Israel's Minister of Defence?

IB: I wanted to focus on something recent and globally relevant. The cases that the ICC usually handles often come from local conflicts or civil wars, which don't always have a global impact. But the conflict in Israel has divided the world. You have countries supporting Palestine, and others backing Israel, making it a situation that affects the whole international community. Interestingly, this particular case hasn't been officially taken up by the ICC yet —there are no formal documents or rulings so far. This opens the door for our judges, prosecutors, and advocates to think in new ways and create fresh perspectives, instead of relying on past ICC cases for guidance.

Both of you are experienced chairs and delegates, what advice would you give to your delegates to make them succeed and make the most out of their StetiMUN experience?

IB: Be active, that's the number one point. Nobody is judging you, you can say something wrong. We will correct you but it's nothing to be afraid of. Truly, if you want to make the most out of the MUN you just have to always be up, talking and raising different questions.

UP: I second that, I think that the most important thing is not to be afraid to speak up because, as Igor said, nobody is judging you. It's just a great platform to practice your public speaking skills, while nothing bad will happen if you say something wrong. It's important to take this opportunity and use it to the fullest.

What do you appreciate the most about Model United Nations conferences?

UP: Actually, It's the people. Thanks to Model United Nations conferences, you meet so many driven, passionate people from all over Poland and the energy at these conferences is something you simply won't find anywhere else. Surely, the academic aspect and improving your public speaking skills are really valuable, but in the end, it's the people that make the experience so memorable.

IB: I totally agree with that, but for me, it's the debates that stand out. I love the excitement of asking a tricky POI or getting into a lively discussion. Public speaking is something I enjoy, and MUNs allow me to dive into meaningful debates.

How are you planning to incorporate fun activities and punishments to make the committee sessions more enjoyable?

UP: We will definitely start our committee proceedings with some icebreakers to make everybody feel comfortable.

IB: Are we going to make advocates write a love song to the defendant? We may...

UP: But most importantly, we are going to make the punishments funny and not stressful for the delegates. Nevertheless, we will probably just come up with the ideas during the committee sessions.

How does StetiMUN stand out from other conferences you have attended beforehand?

IB: Honestly, it's simply the best! The academics at StetiMUN are incredible. Out of all the Polish MUNs, it's the one that comes the closest to mimicking the real United Nations. The level of attention to detail is amazing. It's a tight-knit community that improves every year. The Secretariat and the organisers pay attention to what really matters, and that makes StetiMUN special.

UP: I completely agree. I've been to 13 MUNs in total, and StetiMUN consistently has the best academics. As Igor said, it is the closest you will get to a real UN experience.

Is there anything you would like to change about the Model United Nations itself?

IB: I would start by improving the academic side, even though StetiMUN has great academics. MUNs these days are often focused more on being fun than on seriously simulating the real United Nations, and I think this is the wrong direction. When I go to a conference, I want it to be as close to the actual UN as possible.

UP: There's been a huge increase in the number of MUNs, especially in Warsaw, but the quality of some has dropped significantly. With so many conferences happening, delegates aren't as motivated to participate anymore, and we're seeing a real "delegate crisis". Like Igor said, the academic standards have declined, and that's something that needs to be addressed.

Thank you for the interview!

Become the best delegate (a delegate weapon;))

- Speak a lot (if you’re wondering whether to say something or not - DO IT. Release your inner ‘yapper’!)
- Don’t be late (extra points for arriving earlier than the chairs)
- Wear elegant clothes and steal the spotlight - Gossip Girl will surely notice you!
- Bribe your chairs with cow candy (especially the chewy ones)
- NEVER say ‘I’ or ‘deleg8’
- Get the Press Team to write about you in the newspaper
- Drink coffee only from the official StetiMUN mug

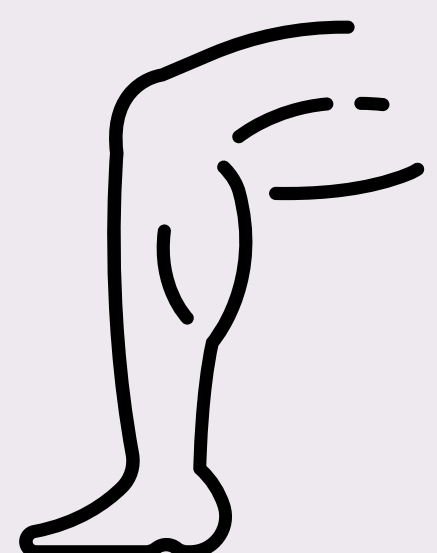

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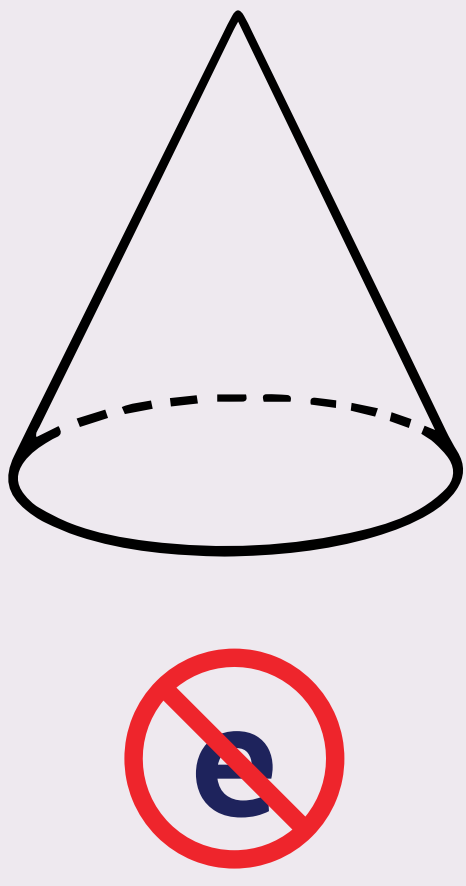

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Everyone stands a chance of winning! Make sure that the Gossip Girl hears about YOU during the conference and expect to be awarded during the Closing Ceremony on Saturday. We'll be watching you!

BEST THEMED ATTIRE Be creative and express culture of the country which You represent!

HIGHEST HEELS Don't hesitate to expose them properly, we are watching ;)

BEST DESKTOP PICTURE Let them be seen on GA by our team or by sending a picture to GG.

BEST QUOTE Don't worry, we have our spies everywhere... We will hear You.

THE MOST CREATIVE PUNISHMENTS (FOR CHAIRS)

THE FUNNIEST PHOTO FROM STETI

We will be waiting for photos on Gossip Girl's account on Instagram. And we have our photographers everywhere!