

D: Can you tell us how the two days went?

A: On the first day, participants arrived and an opening ceremony was held. A lot of people came to give a speech. We also organized a parade of flags, then everyone had breakfast during which the participants could start to lobby [emergence of collaborative clauses] between committees.

Since we had a little more than 80 participants, we chose to set up 4 committees, one of which was bilingual, 20 students per committee were enough to have fairly satisfying debates (...). During the General Assembly, the debates were in French except those concerning the bilingual committee's clause, which went very well, even for the participants who did not speak English very well.

We decided not to specialize the committees so that all participants could propose to debate what they wanted. There was really a little bit of everything and that's what made it fun to listen to. The students were very happy despite a few annoyances during the General Assembly. These inconveniences will allow us to make improvements for next year's MUN, the main thing for us being to progress.

D: What moments of your MUN marked you most?

A: There were three moments that I really liked. [First] The flag ceremony: we put on music and we took all the flags of all the countries present. The Secretary General announced all the countries and a participant came down from the platform with the flag of the said country. It was really a very good moment, very moving.

The second moment was at the very end. The Secretary General and her Deputy Secretaries General made a touching thank-you speech. They even had a word for me, which I didn't expect.

(...)

It is an enriching experience, both personally and academically. We learn a lot of different things there, in a different way, which really allows us to expand our general culture. We meet people we may not have met elsewhere. There are lots of discussions, we learn about others but also about ourselves and this is, I think, what makes the strength of such a project.

D: What main advice would you give to other MUNs?

A: The advice I would give is not to be afraid and to dare participate. All participants are the same in a MUN, despite their different age / level / experience, they are all there on the same grounds, and mockery is absolutely not on the agenda.

The beauty of a MUN is that we can see ourselves representing a country in total adequacy or, on the contrary, in total contrast with our way of thinking. It is a kind of role play, the participants transform themselves into actors for a few days. Defending a country like Russia or the United Arab Emirates, on the subject of prison policies, may seem difficult but it does not matter, it develops the ability to adapt and you come out of it more grown up!

Interview by Defne Caillard.