



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2023

IR MUN 2023

3 – 4 April 2023



Brief Overview:

The fourth edition of IRMUN 2023 was organised by the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, School of Social Sciences, Christ (Deemed to be) University Bangalore, in collaboration with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). Spanning two days, IRMUN was a national-level event held at the Main Campus of Christ University. As the event's principal partner, the credit for the success of the IRMUN 2023 is conferred upon the support, attention and guidance extended by KAS throughout the event. The Foundation was ably represented by its representatives of the Programme Team, Ms. Simran Dhingra and Ms. Alicia Pommer.

The programme commenced with an inauguration ceremony on 3rd April. Soon after the inauguration, the more than 300 delegates split themselves into six committees and initiated simulation and deliberations at their respective venues. The six different committees were: United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Lok Sabha, United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the International Press (IP). The committees and their agendas were closely linked to global politics and multilateralism. The main agenda for this year's IR MUN was "Diplomacy in the era of non-traditional security threats." The simulations were aimed at gaining a practical understanding of globally pressing concerns. It was a unique endeavour aimed at blending theories with reality.

From all the committees present in the IR MUN 2023, the UNSC could be counted as one of the most critical as it is a conglomeration of power-play and politics. The agenda for the Committee was '*Deliberating on tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the South China Sea*'. Secondly, the DISEC was the most participated and prominent Committee of the event because it is the only body of the United Nations that represents all the nations. The agenda for the Committee was '*Discussing nuclear proliferation in East Asia*'. Thirdly, the ECOSOC was teeming with overwhelming and enthusiastic prowess over the two days, particularly in its brainstorming sessions. The agenda for the Committee was '*Discussion on combating narcotics, smuggling and gang violence in Latin America*'. The fourth Committee was the Human Rights Council, which had a sensitive deliberation on '*State authority, legislation and governance as a threat to women's rights*'. The fifth Committee was the Lok Sabha, a forum packed with vigorous political debates and discussions on '*the possibility of implementing 'One Nation, One Election*' to improve governance in the country.

The final Committee was the International Press in charge of the documentation of the five committees' deliberations which ensured an accurate and timely reporting.

Details of the Programme:

INAUGURAL CEREMONY:

The inauguration of the IRMUN 2023 was held on the morning of 3rd April 2023. The ceremony began with an invocation dance and the lighting of the lamp. The coordinator of the Department, Dr. Madhumati Deshpande, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and the audience. The welcoming address was followed by a brief introduction to the IRMUN 2023 by the Deputy Secretary-General of IRMUN, Ms. Sruthi Sadhashivam. Thereafter, Mr. Heine Lageveen, Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bengaluru addressed the audience in the inaugural, providing insights into the challenges the Kingdom of Netherlands is facing, warranting global cooperation which served as an excellent illustration of the overall theme of the IRMUN. This was followed by a presidential address by the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Dr. Tony Sam George, who stressed the importance of fostering individual resilience in unprecedented times as a mean to undertake leadership roles in the future as responsible global citizens. Subsequently, a video message by Mr. Thorsten Frei, Member of the German Parliament, was presented before the audience. Mr. Frei had visited Christ University during his last visit to Bangalore in the month of February of this year within the frame of a Indo-German parliamentary delegation. In his video message he emphasised on the relevance of the United Nations as a multilateral stronghold in an increasingly fragmented world order and further wished the participants to delve into the imperative themes of their committees with great interest and vigour as potential diplomats in the making. This was further accentuated by a felicitation address by Ms. Simran Dhingra, the Research Officer at the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Her words gave an excellent exposition of the collaboration between KAS and Christ University. The audience was then addressed by Ms. Sanya Ghai, the Secretary-General of IRMUN, who declared the event open. Finally, with the vote of thanks by Dr. Stefy Joseph, Faculty Coordinator of IRMUN 2023, the curtains were drawn on the inaugural ceremony.

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REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES:

1. UNSC
2. DISEC
3. ECOSOC
4. UNHRC
5. Lok Sabha
6. International Press

1. United Nations Security Council

Being one of the primary organs of the United Nations, the UNSC is entrusted with the vital responsibility of maintaining international peace. The Committee this year had 20 member-states: five permanent, ten non-permanent countries and five observer nations. The agenda for the Committee was "*Deliberating on tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the South China Sea*". Besides the P-5 members, the non-permanent countries of the Committee included Brazil, Japan, Brunei, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Ecuador, Philippines, Singapore, Malta and Switzerland. During the session held over two days, the Council harped on the importance of following international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The delegates vigorously discussed the emergence of the Rhabdovirus in the South China Sea region, the need for investigation and research on vaccines for the same and the existence of active communication channels to share information regarding the virus transmission along with the assistance of the US-ASEAN Joint Operation. The Council also deliberated on the restoration of coral reefs, and resource allocation for surveillance systems, among others.

2. Disarmament and International Security Committee

The DISEC, a part of the General Assembly, was one of the most extensive committees in the IRMUN 2023. The agenda of the Committee was "*Discussing nuclear proliferation in East Asia*". The Committee ran into a comprehensive session on the first day and over the course of the two days opened up to a discussion on a broad bandwidth of issues. These ranged from the containment of proliferation of nuclear armaments, loopholes in the existing legalities up to the urge to redraft the non-proliferation treaty as well as the need to eliminate nuclear disparity by means of coordinated talks on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The delegates of the DISEC Committee put forth a series of proposals over seven moderated caucuses and four unmoderated caucuses. Furthermore, the Committee put forth three draft resolutions

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crafted by three different blocs led by the United States, Japan and France, respectively. The Committee was comprised of first-timers and experienced MUNners, and all the delegates contributed effectively to the Committee's proceedings. Overall, the nature of the Committee was highly deliberative.

3. UN Economic and Social Council

With the agenda of “*Discussion on combating narcotics, smuggling and gang violence in Latin America*”, it was undoubtedly one of the most interesting Committees of the event. The range of topics and issues which were scrutinized included the prevalence of drug trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean, the importance of CRIMJUST (part of the Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, GPCD) to enhance criminal investigation capabilities along the Cocaine Route, the workings of the Global SMART (Synthetics Monitoring, Analyses, Reporting and Trends) system to curb illicit synthetic drugs, money laundering, the link between poor mental health and drug abuse as well as drug classification. The detailed discussions also procured concrete recommendations. These included: enhanced awareness-raising and networking, the set-up of civil bodies to work in close coordination with the Financial Action Task Force, an increase of efficiency within the criminal justice system, enhancing synergies between the Seaport Cooperation Project, Airport Cooperation Project and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Customs Cooperation, involvement of social media influencers to spread awareness among the youth, promotion of drug check-ups in schools and even the support of drug farmers with alternative income sources. These practical suggestions were aimed at addressing the concerns from a grassroots level, which turned out to be a value-adding experience for all the delegates.

4. United Nations Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council is responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights related issues around the globe. This Committee was engaged in well-researched and legislative-backed arguments. The agenda of the Council was “*Deliberation on state authority, legislation and governance as a threat to women’s personal rights*”. Major topics of contention and discussion revolved around basic human rights pertaining to women. The discussions covered a broad range of women-centric concerns like domestic violence, female genital mutilation, abortion rights, reproductive rights and safe-sex practices. The moderations held ensured that the cultural divergences between the representatives from different international communities were borne in mind. The Council also stood out on the range of recommendations

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made in their draft resolutions put forth by three blocs. Some of the prominent proposals were the expansion of the definition of “consent”, “assault”, etc. in the face of vulnerabilities, synergising state-sponsored programmes with the awareness-raising work of religious community leaders, enhanced participation of women for the fostering of women-related policies and formation of national forums to report to international forums to structure a hierarchy for the distribution of funds, among others. Although the HRC was unable to pass a final resolution, the depth of discussions on sensitive issues broadened the horizons for all delegates.

5. Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha was adequately represented by both national and regional political parties in the simulation. It was one of the most vibrant and vigorous committees, bearing much resemblance to the actual Lok Sabha. There were a number of motions set to be tabled on the floor centred around ‘*the possibility of implementing ‘One Nation, One Election’*. The major concern expressed by the regional parties present was the disrespect of the spirit of democracy, language impositions by the ruling government, and the breaking down of the federal structure amidst all the din. Most of the motions heavily focused on discussing the problems around the election process. The heated discussions also led to protests and staging of walkouts by the aggrieved parties and their alliances. The delegates representing Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi, Supriya Sule, Yogi Adityanath, Ashwini Vaishnav and many others won accolades for their eloquent, energetic speeches. The committee also bore witness to degrees of reconciliation after heated debates reinstating the importance of disagreements in a democracy.

6. The International Press

This Committee, consisting of a group of journalists and photographers, was aimed at the pursuit of accurate and timely reporting. The journalists were allocated to each respective Committee, while the photographers covered various committees in rotation. In their roles, the journalists got an excellent opportunity to delve into their creativity by writing feature articles, opinion editorials, beat articles and summary reports on the proceedings of their respective committees. Moreover, a presidential address followed by a press conference offered an opportunity to the journalists to shoot critical questions to the committee delegates. The photojournalists captured the various moods and phases in their videos and photographs. A few of the snippets of the sessions were compiled as an after-movie.

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VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of the IRMUN 2023 took place on 4th April 2023. It marked the completion of a successful series of deliberations and simulations which took place over the course of two days. The valedictory ceremony commenced with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Stefy Joseph, the Faculty Coordinator of IRMUN 2023. Her address was followed by a valedictory address by Dr. Madhumati Deshpande, Coordinator of the Department of International Studies. It was followed by an inspiring Vote of Thanks by Ms. Alicia Pommer, Programme Officer of the India Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. She shared her views on the agendas of non-traditional security threats of IRMUN and their relevance in unprecedented times like these, with multilateralism being at the crossroads or even in jeopardy. The close involvement and interaction of the delegates with the two representatives of KAS during the event proceedings was an additional learning experience for the participants. After that, the Executive Board of each of the committees came on stage, gave a summary of the performance of the Committee, evaluated the Committee and announced the prizes. The winners were facilitated with trophies and certificates by the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons. The prize distribution was followed by a passionate Vote of Thanks given by Ms. Sanya Ghai, the Secretary-General, IRMUN 2023.

TAKEAWAYS:

The two-day national event – IRMUN 2023 – running into its fourth successful edition by the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, School of Social Science of Christ (Deemed to be) University was a grand success:

- The ability to keep one's mind open, to change one's perspective and to find a middle ground have become the need of the day paired with the necessity to stay as informed as possible.
- It instilled renewed hope in the possibilities of dialogue and diplomacy among the younger generation. Students clearly understood that cooperation surpasses conflict in an era of multilateralism at stake.
- The idea and importance of peace and stability were realised by the vibrant range of agendas looked at by various committees.
- It was heartening to witness the expanse of talent and will to bring in positive change in students that came out during the event. It included good articulation, coherence, in-depth research, critical thinking, agreeing to disagree, rebuttals, et cetera.

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- The IR-MUN kindled the delegates' awareness of the nitty-gritty of the deliberation process in international fora. It also prompted them to think of solutions in conventional and unconventional terms which also nurtured important leadership skills for the future.
- It is also significant to note that the delegates thought through the issues beyond a narrow nationalistic perspective and considered the practicality of proposed solutions. An inclusive approach in which the Global South was seen as an emerging power in negotiations was also pertinent.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Inaugural Ceremony



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Day 1



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Day 2



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Valedictory Ceremony:



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SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE:



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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

INAUGURAL SESSION - SCHEDULE

3rd April 2023, Monday | 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Venue: Main Auditorium, Audi Block

Bangalore Central Campus, Hosur Road

Timings	Event
Dance Performance (9:00 am - 9:05 am)	Natyarpana University Dance Team
Lighting of Lamp (9:05 am - 9:08 am)	Invocation Song
Welcome Address (9:08 am - 9:12 am)	Dr. Madhumati Deshpande Coordinator Department of International Studies, Political Science & History
IR MUN Promo Video (9:12 am - 9:15 am)	ISPH MUNSOC Media Team
Introduction to IR MUN (9:15 am - 9:18 am)	Ms. Sruthi Sadhasivam Deputy Secretary-General, IR MUN 2023
Inaugural Address (9:18 am - 9:30 am)	Mr. Heine Lageveen Deputy Consul General Consulate General of the Kingdom of The Netherlands Bengaluru

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Presidential Address (9:30 am - 9:40 am)	Dr. Tony Sam George Dean, School of Social Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Video Message (9:40 am - 9:43 am)	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Felicitation Address (9:43 am - 9:48 am)	Ms. Simran Dhingra Research Officer Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Secretary-General's Address (9:48 am - 9:53 am)	Ms. Sanya Ghai Secretary-General, IR MUN 2023
Vote of Thanks (9:53 am - 9:57: am)	Dr. Stefy V Joseph Faculty Coordinator, IR MUN 2023
National Anthem (9:57 am - 10:00 am)	

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VALEDICTORY SESSION- SCHEDULE

4th April 2023, Tuesday | 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Venue: KE Auditorium, 5th Floor, Block - IV

Bangalore Central Campus, Hosur Road

Timings	Event
Welcome Address (4:30 pm - 4:40 pm)	Dr. Stefy V Joseph Faculty Coordinator IR MUN 2023
Valedictory Address (4:40 pm - 4:55 pm)	Dr. Madhumati Deshpande Coordinator Department of International Studies, Political Science & History
Concluding Remarks (4:55 pm - 5:05 pm)	Ms. Alicia Pommer Programme Officer Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Prize Distribution (5:05 pm - 5:20 pm)	Chairpersons & Vice-Chairpersons
Vote of Thanks (5:20 pm - 5:30 pm)	Ms. Sanya Ghai Secretary-General, IR MUN 2023

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ABOUT THE PARTNERS:

CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE) UNIVERSITY

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was born out of the educational vision of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, an educationalist and social reformer of the nineteenth century in South India. He founded the first Catholic indigenous congregation, Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), in 1831, which administers CHRIST (Deemed to be University).

“CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was established as ‘Christ College’ in 1969. It undertook path-breaking initiatives in Indian higher education with the introduction of innovative and modern curricula, insistence on academic discipline, imparting of Holistic Education and adoption of global higher education practices with the support of creative and dedicated staff.”

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of India conferred Autonomy to Christ College in 2004 and identified it as an Institution with Potential for Excellence in 2006. In 2008 under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India, declared the institution a Deemed to be University, in the name and style of Christ University. One of the first institutions in India to be accredited in 1998 by the NAAC, and subsequently in 2004 and 2016, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has the top grade ‘A’ on the 4-point scale.

“The multi-disciplinary University, which focuses on teaching research and service, offers Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes in humanities, social sciences, sciences, commerce, management, engineering, architecture, education, and law to about 25000 students. The University offers its programmes at four campus locations in Bangalore in Karnataka and in Pune Lavasa in Maharashtra, and in Delhi NCR.

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KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 100 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation. The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years. KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, it seeks to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of their objectives and values. Together with their partners, they make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has organised its programme priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political Dialogue focussed on Social and Political Change
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.