“Together we want to help the world see and believe in a better future.”
— Ban Ki-moon

Damit haben sie eine Plattform etabliert, die das Campusleben bereichert, studentisches Lernen, Engagement und Kommunikation über Studiengänge und -gruppen hinweg ermöglicht und fördert. Darüber hinaus sammeln die Studierenden Erfahrungen mit Projektmanagement. Sie organisieren sich eigenständig als Team, sie üben ihre persönlichen Kommunikationsfähigkeiten und insbesondere ihre Verhandlungstechniken. All dies geschieht im internationalen Kontext.

Dank der studentischen UN-Konferenz entwickeln die Studenten nicht nur viele Fertigkeiten; sie erweitern ihren persönlichen Freundeskreis international und lernen eine der attraktivsten Städte der Welt kennen. Das Projekt ist anspruchsvoll und zugleich eine große Freude für alle.


Michael H. Grote
Preface

FS Model United Nations (MUN) offers students of the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management the unique opportunity to participate at the National Model United Nations in New York.

In 2012/13 more than 50 students participated in preparation sessions and 35 students went to the National Model United Nations conference in New York.

In this final report we will try to give an overview of what FS MUN has done in the past year.

We have structured the report in three sections.

„Preparation“ will cover every activities leading up to the UN Simulation in New York.

„Going to New York“ will focus on the activities in New York, including last minute preparation as well as Committee Sessions and fun activities in spare time.

„Returning Home“ focuses on feedback and retrospective thoughts, but also includes a future outlook of the initiative.

For more information on FS Model United Nations also visit our website (fs-mun.de) and find us on facebook or youtube.
Preparation
Model United Nations conferences are academic simulations that reenact sessions of principal organs and agencies of the UN system in order to educate participants about current problems in the international political sphere, about the political agenda and the rules of procedure of the different bodies of United Nations Organization and about the art of diplomacy in general. Participant delegations that commonly have a university or high school background usually represent the delegation of a certain member state to the UN’s different committees. Having researched the position of their assigned country beforehand, they discuss a handful of actual agenda topics before the simulated UN body in the committee session and develop solutions in the form of resolutions and reports – the UN’s regular working documents. Model United Nations simulations trace their history back even longer than the United Nations itself exists. For instance, National Model United Nations and Harvard Model United Nations, today two of the most frequented conferences in the United States, allegedly originated from students’ simulations of the League of Nations – the predecessor of the United Nations Organization. Since 2010, Frankfurt School Model United Nations has been participating in the National Model United Nations New York conference that is one of the world’s largest simulations with more than 5000 participants per year and remains the only conference to host part of its sessions in the actual New York Headquarters of the United Nations Organization.
National Model United Nations (NMUN) conferences are organized by the National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) and known for being among the most professional Model United Nations conferences in the world. The NCCA is a non-profit and non-governmental organization which is associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. That is why many NMUN conference speakers are associated with the UN, as for example Jan Eliasson who is Deputy Secretary General of the UN and was this year’s closing ceremony speaker, and also why it is possible to have the last formal sessions and the closing ceremony at the UN Headquarters.

The beginning of NMUN goes back to the year 1946. It was basically started right after the foundation of the United Nations itself. From then on, it has steadily grown and college students from all over the world have come to New York City in order to discuss current issues of world politics. In 2013, more than 5,000 students were part of the largest Model UN conference in the world and over 120 staff members served voluntarily in order to make NMUN-NY possible.

Further, the NCCA started to expand NMUN and have organized Model UN conferences in other places outside from New York City. By now, there are also conferences held in Washington (NMUN-DC) and at the Galapagos Islands (NMUN-Latin America). In December 2013, the first conference in Seoul will take place (NMUN-Korea) and in spring 2014 the NMUN-NW (North-Western) conference will be held in Portland, Oregon.

According to their own website, the NCCA’s goal with NMUN is to prepare college students “to be better global citizens through quality educational experiences that emphasize collaboration and cooperative resolution of conflict.”
FS MUN depends on the work of passionate students and on them working together effectively. Therefore, one of the most crucial tasks of the Heads of the initiative is to encourage students to participate and to become part of the FS MUN delegation each year.

In order to do so, our Heads had presented the initiative at several fairs of the Frankfurt School and built up or improved our presence in the Internet, on our own website and on facebook. Most important however, were the two Kickoff meetings that took place at the beginning of September and were open to all students of the FS. At these meetings, this year’s Heads introduced themselves and gave some first detailed information about the work of the initiative.

They presented the general idea of Model United Nations, the timetable for the upcoming preparation and answered the questions of all potential new delegates. They tried to already give us an impression of what would be the most essential part of our work: “to stay in character” as representatives of a foreign country which we did not know at this time.

Both of the Kickoff meetings were well attended (one of them by over 50 students) and many of the interested people participated in further activities of the initiative.

The high attendance of the meetings has shown the increasing interest in FS MUN at our university and promised a very good time we would have with our initiative.
Mocksessions

In order to be fully prepared for the conference in New York, FS MUN organized several Mocksessions in advance, simulations of the big simulation so to say. These Sessions were supposed to give us a little overview about what to expect from our time in New York and to inform us about the proper use of the rules of procedure.

The very first Mocksession took place at the Frankfurt School. All students who had shown interest in the initiative were able to participate and experience what it means to behave in "UN-Style". These sessions were held within 3-5 hours and made it very clear, that intensive preparation would be the key to success. However, they were basically a “fun-experience” since all of us represented “fun-countries” such as “Glitzerland” and “the Irony Coast.”

The next big Mocksession took place during our Workshop-Weekend in a Hotel in Oberursel and lasted over the whole weekend. It was not only helpful for the new members of the initiative to get a more detailed insight, but also the opportunity for the Head Delegates to get to know the different participants better and to decide who would represent the Russian Federation in an adequate way.

The final Mocksessions before New York were mostly used to refresh what we learned during the last months and to give us some last information on how to use the rules we learned best for our own interest.

One can conclude that the Mocksessions were an essential part of our preparations since they made us understand the basic concept of Model United Nations and helped us to at least imagine what it would like being in committee in New York.
At the end of October one of the most integral parts of our preparation took place: our Workshop-Weekend in the Mövenpick Hotel in Oberursel. Our Mocksession on this weekend was more professional and more serious than those we had before and required some preparation. Therefore everybody was assigned to a “real country” and we simulated a “real committee”. We decided for the General Assembly Second Committee simulated 2012 at the NMUN. After a short introduction into the plan for the weekend, we started with the Mocksession and the agenda setting. After a short lunch break we began writing our working papers. Following a very successful session we went to a restaurant called “zum Rühl” and enjoyed a wonderful dinner. Afterwards most people met at the hotel bar and let the day end with a cool beer. On Sunday after a great breakfast we moved into voting procedure on our draft resolutions. A few resolutions passed and we could finally gain the prize for our hard work. At the end of this weekend we were really excited, because the Heads wanted to announce our country for the NMUN 2013. All delegates were happy and excited when we got to know that the Frankfurt School would represent the Russian Federation. Finally, Stephan held a presentation about different research techniques and the Heads gave us some advice on how to write our Position Paper for the NMUN conference in NYC. We all really enjoyed this Workshop-Weekend. We learned a lot about the procedures of MUN and it was great to get to know the other people of our possible delegation. So we all looked forward to the announcement of our final delegation and hoped to be a part of it.
Participation at the NMUN in New York is linked to enormous costs for every delegate. The main drivers consist of the flight and the hotel fees in New York, cumulating to approximately 1000€ per Delegate. In total it sums up to about 1400€ per Delegate, further including the delegation fee as well as the preparation and organizational costs.

To be able to participate we all relied on the generous support of our university and companies. This year for the first time FS MUN was able to convince companies to support the initiative in various ways. Mövenpick Hotels and Ressorts offered us special conditions for our preparation workshop at their hotel in Oberursel.

DWS supported our preparation in New York by giving us the opportunity to use their conference room for 35 Delegates, including lunch and beverages. Great experience we made, as we enjoyed the view from the 24th floor in the heart of Manhattan.

Nevertheless the greatest supporters of our initiative were the various institutions of the Frankfurt School. The student council expanded our yearly budget to an amount of 5500€, paying the whole delegation fee and parts of the organizational expenses.

The Marketing division donated scarves and ties as well as pins to all of us. We were able to represent our university in a unified appearance.

FS Stiftung was convinced in our mission by donating 7500€. This amount significantly reduced our hotel fees. Cumulating the support, the Initiative was able to reduce the costs per delegate to 1000€.

We thank all our supporters and hope to stay in close contact with you. It’s you who enable the participation of our delegation at the NMUN in New York!
## Finance

### Composition of total cost

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### Composition of cost

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Country Assignment

For many of us, this year’s country assignment was extraordinarily good news. Not only is the Russian Federation the largest country in the world, a P5-member, and the most important country that FS MUN has represented at NMUN-NY to date. Also, this assignment gave us the opportunity to send delegate teams to nearly all simulated committees. The 35-member delegation of the Frankfurt School – as it later turned out – was actually the largest delegation representing a single country at the whole conference. This allowed us to accept the applications of most FS students that were interested in becoming a delegate to NMUN-NY 2013.

Because of the country’s size and political influence, there is a large variety of official and non-official sources on Russia’s political position that were available to us on the internet and in other media. Therefore, participants had the opportunity to get a deep insight into Russia’s stance concerning a wide range of current topics in international politics while being able to support their arguments by well-researched facts and numbers. Several Position Paper Awards made proof of our delegation’s good preparation for the conference. But also apart from current issues, it was very interesting as such to do research on Russian politics and related topics. We started by getting an overview of the country’s diverse geography and long history. Then, we dug into multiple detailed aspects of its domestic and foreign politics, economical and social life. We managed to understand the image that Russia’s policies have in the eyes of other nations, but also to take into account the national interests and acknowledge the pivotal role Russia has to play in many different spheres of international politics.

All this helped us to successfully represent the interests of the Russian Federation at the NMUN conference, made its position heard concerning all topics before the different committees, and finally, to promote Russian political visions in several resolutions.
Position Papers

Position Papers are composed by each delegate team in each committee at the NMUN-NY conference. A Position Paper is a short text that outlines your assigned country’s position concerning the topics to be discussed in your committee session. Submitting a Position Paper is an important precondition for the participation at the NMUN-NY conference and was therefore a pivotal issue during the preparation process of the FS MUN delegation. The intensive preparation for the writing process started at our Workshop-Weekend in Oberursel, where we got a first impression of what makes up a good Position Paper. As soon as we had been assigned to the different committees, we started reading the background guides for our committees. These guides are written for participants by the NMUN staff and provide an overview of how the different UN committees work and what the central aspects of the to-be-discussed agenda topics are. We then did a lot of research on the 3 different topics that were to be discussed during the conference. Most of the information gaining process took place via internet, especially on official Russian and UN websites. We read through many formerly passed resolutions and with time passing, we got a feeling of how to understand and use the formal language that is characteristic for UN documents. It was not the easiest task to then structure our ideas and to find a reasonable order for the different subsections of the paper. During the writing process we had several meetings with the Head-Team who assisted us in the effort and lent their advice on how to improve our position. We submitted several drafts to them starting mid-January, so that the Head-Team could review and correct our papers. After the last internal submission round, our 16 papers for the Russian Federation were finally sent to the NMUN-NY responsibles at the beginning of March. When all submitted Position Papers for all committees had been published shortly before the start of the conference in New York, we used them for a last preparation for the work and discussions in the upcoming formal sessions. This was a good way to get an insight into the policies that other countries would follow as compared to Russia’s interests and helped us a lot in the search for effective coalitions with delegate teams. In our work and in the speeches we gave, we adhered to the basic ideas that we had already laid down in the Position Paper. At the end of the conference the best Position Papers were honored with awards by the conference directors. Our delegation received Position Paper Awards for the IAEA, the SC-A and the SC-B.
Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the Security Council (SC) are: Women, Peace and Security: Reviewing SC Resolution 1325; Achieving Peace and Stability in Somalia; as well as Resource Scarcity and its Relation to Conflict.

As a major contributor to the United Nations’ (UN) peace-keeping efforts at the Horn of Africa, Russia stresses the urgency of taking prompt and firm action to further support the positive dynamics that have ensued in the Republic of Somalia since the adoption of its new constitution in August 2012. In view of the overwhelming importance of this most pressing objective, all other topics before the Council must stand aside.

I. Women, Peace and Security: Reviewing SC Resolution 1325

According to Article 1 of the UN Charter, one of the Organization’s central purposes is “to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace […]”. In the spirit of this article, the SC adopted S/RES/1325 in 2000, thereby making it the goal of the international community to guarantee the protection of women during and after armed conflicts and to enhance the role of women in the fields of conflict prevention and settlement. Notwithstanding the numerous attempts that have been undertaken to achieve this goal in the past years, it remains far from being reached. Russia is deeply concerned by the number of women, girls, and children who still become victims of various forms of violence during armed conflicts all over the world. Their number does not seem to decline, despite the joint efforts that have been pursued by UN Member States since the millennium. Even worse, Russia is alarmed by the fact that, in a significant number of cases, violent acts against women have been committed by personnel of UN-mandated peace keeping troops. Having studied investigations into cases of human rights violations against civilians in the course of the NATO operations in Libya, Russia believes that in order to further the implementation of S/RES/1325 several issues must be kept in mind. Firstly, Russia stresses that a clear and precise definition of violence against women in the wake of armed conflicts must be agreed on by the Council’s members in order to clearly distinguish the issues in question from other forms of violence – such as family violence – that are already being successfully dealt with by other UN bodies and thereby prevent a waste of resources due to a doubling of existing structures. Being strongly concerned about the appropriateness and accuracy of the resolution’s underlying indicators concerning the situation of women in post civil war countries as Libya, Russia further recommends a review and adjustment of these indicators with regard to women’s circumstances. Keeping in mind the long-term effects that violence against women may have on a nation’s entire community, Russia especially recommends monitoring said effects on concerned societies. The introduction of regular open debates among member states, NGO’s and UN agencies, similar to the one held before the SC on November 30, 2012, could be an important step to address these conceptual issues and to track the progress of the international community in implementing S/RES/1325. Secondly, Russia recommends the use of so-called national action plans on implementing S/RES/1325 as a tool to assess the results of different member states’ policy measures in improving the status of women. However, states experiencing armed conflict should prepare such plans on a voluntary basis and autonomously decide on the details of their implementation Strategy for S/RES/1325. Thirdly, Russia is convinced of the beneficial role women play in the settlement and prevention of armed conflicts and thus encourages
the future extension of female participation in such processes. Russia therefore calls upon the SC to pay more attention to gender based issues when forming peacekeeping contingents. To this end Russia would be happy to assist the Organization by providing suitable training and personnel for UN missions. Russia cherishes the values behind S/RES/1325 and is convinced that the combined efforts of the international community will lead to the achievement of this resolution’s goals.

II. Achieving Peace and Stability in Somalia

Russia reaffirms the duty of the SC to ensure the continuation of peace-keeping operations within the territory of the Republic of Somalia and in the high waters adjacent to it, as based on the Council’s responsibility to take “[a]ction with respect to threats to the peace [...] and acts of aggression”, established in chapter VII of the UN-Charter. Recalling its statement made before this high body on October 16, 2012, as part of the Council’s open session on the situation in Somalia, Russia expresses its conviction that a key aspect in the struggle to perpetuate the consolidation of Somalian Federal Authorities lies in taking decisive steps to empower its judicial and executive institutions. Key aspects of such empowerment include the training of experts in the legal, police, and military branches as well as support to government officials in the development and implementation of an effective legal framework to prosecute activities threatening the peace, including insurgencies, piracy, and terrorist attacks. To provide the expertise and manpower necessary to complete this task, Russia calls upon its fellow member states to order the deployment of an International Security Task Force under the supervision of the UN Political Office for Somalia to the country, in order to train local personnel and support Somali institutions in their efforts to further strengthen the rule of law and rebuild the state administration. As part of this potential task force, President Vladimir Putin is willing to authorize the provision of 200 Russian specialists under joint administration by the Russian Ministries of Internal Affairs, Emergency Situations and Defense. Apart from this most pressing task of supporting local government officials in the
process of Somalian reconstruction, Russia is convinced that a holistic approach towards ensuring lasting political stability in the region must include a wide array of social and economic policy measures, including, but not limited to, humanitarian and development aid. To streamline and coordinate the existing social and economic programs for Somalia under mandates of the UN, Russia proposes to this high body to commission the Economic and Social Council and its sub-agencies to compose a comprehensive UN Development Roadmap for Somalia. Notwithstanding the remarkable achievements in reestablishing state authority in Somalia, Russia remains concerned about the enduring attacks by the radical-Islamist forces of Al-Shabaab. While complementing the African Union for the military victories that its Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) has secured against Al-Shabaab in the last months and while recognizing that Islamist territorial control has been reduced to the Region of Gedeo, Russia stresses the necessity to prevent a renewed escalation of the political and military situation – and the humanitarian crisis that would follow – at all costs. Therefore, Russia calls upon the SC to extend the mandate of AMISOM for at least another year. As a key measure to lend support in the struggle to roll back Al-Shabaab, Russia demands the eradication of illegal arms trade in the region. Recalling the measures adopted to this end in S/RES/1844, Russia strongly opposes the growing demands to lift the weapons embargo enacted on Somalia and instead urges this body to even more strictly control its implementation and rigorously sanction breaches of the respective regulations. Another point of concern remains the unabated occurrence of pirate attacks in Somalian waters and in the adjacent high seas of the Gulf of Aden. While emphasizing that the long-term objective of anti-piracy measures in the region must be the complete transfer of judicial and executive authority over its territorial waters back to the Republic of Somalia, Russia is aware that the continued presence of international naval forces sadly remains the only short-term solution to the issue. Starting in November 2012, Russia therefore replenished its naval contingent by ordering several units of its Pacific Fleet and Black Sea Fleet to dispatch to Mogadishu. Though being convinced that the current military presence at the Horn of Africa is sufficient to guarantee an effective containment of the pirate threat, Russia is convinced that a more extensive coordination among the different naval deployments would be desirable. Russia therefore advises the SC to consider the establishment of a UN Naval Staff for Somalia (UNNS-SOM), recruited from a pool of military experts from the participating nations, to lead and coordinate the joint naval operations. If proving successful, the UNNS-SOM could serve as a model for future joint naval operations under UN-mandates.

III. Resource Scarcity and Its Relation to Conflict

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in its 25th article, states: “[E]veryone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family”. While deeply convinced of the necessity to make this unalienable right of every human being a reality through the joint efforts of the international community, Russia is also aware of the threats to the peace that ensue when the goals of states and communities come into conflict in an environment of scarce natural resources. Being endowed with a major part of world reserves across a multitude of different types of natural resources, Russia expresses its inclination to make considerable contributions in the effort to prevent military conflicts and humanitarian crises under conditions of scarce resources. Particularly, Russia stresses its readiness to increase assistance in the struggle to relief critical shortages in agricultural goods. While complementing the international community for its past successes in the provision of food aid to regions in conflict and while reaffirming its commitment to the framework of the Aquila Initiative for Food Security, Russia stresses the necessity of finding a way to ensure a prompter and more effective deployment of emergency food supplies under UN-mandates. To this end, Russia advises this high body to command the establishment of a World Food Security Panel to be administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization that shall monitor hikes across major food price indices and thereby act as a reliable early warning system regarding the outbreak of food crises. However, as to the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of short-term relief in
cases of food and resource shortages, Russia emphasizes that only a massive upsurge in production in the respective industries can inspire further progress towards the eventual eradication of resource-related humanitarian crises. By establishing the Russian Water Inventory, a centralized and reliable institution under the administration of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment that monitors and ensures emergency control over most of Russia’s freshwater sources, Russia has made a crucial step towards full domestic water security and will soon be in a position to notably enhance its freshwater exports and provide emergency contingents to member states experiencing critical shortages. Moreover, Russia strives to lift its aggregate cereal production by 30% in the course of this decade, thereby tackling another major cause of resource-related conflicts, which happens to be the scarcity of basic foodstuffs in many regions experiencing social turmoil. Apart from the mentioned strategies to tackle regional shortages of different commodities in the short term, Russia is convinced that the only long-term remedy to the threat of resource-related conflicts lies in fostering regional political cooperation by establishing bilateral forums that allow a peaceful negotiation of member states over the modes of exploiting common resource supplies. As a landmark example of such cooperation, Russia points towards the Commission on the Water- and Bio-Resources of the Caspian Sea that, while relying on the respective nations’ unanimous support, has notably contributed towards developing a regulatory framework ensuring the sustainable use of the Caspian Sea’s natural riches and a fair distribution of the profits of exploitation among the adjacent countries.
Going to New York
Our Delegation
New York, the City that never sleeps, or just called “Big Apple”. The Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park or the Headquarters of the United Nations – wherever you go in New York, there is always something worth visiting.

For most of us it was the first time being in New York City – and the feeling we got was just beyond words.

In NYC it does not really matter whether it’s 4 am or 4 pm; the city simply let you feel its pulse. We were in the lucky that our hotel was just in the middle of this vibrating city, 600 meters next to Times Square.

Looking for a breakfast? Go to the biggest Applebees and have a breakfast like in heaven! A coffee? Take one of the 500 coffee houses around Times Square.

Unfortunately we weren’t lucky with the weather on every day but Times Square did not change its impression at all – colorful bright and crowded with hundreds of people.

This is even one of the strongest memories of the time in New York City: Almost everywhere there is advertisement!

Especially at Times Square where you have these huge and amazing video screens which are trying to convince you to buy something. However you’ll find this style of advertising in nearly every street, even if it’s just an old man who wants to give you coupons for subway.

But New York is not only above the ground; you find one of the oldest and most extensive rapid transit systems under the ground. Do not make the mistake and expect a comfortable ride down there – we were happy to get out safely.

A point which really differentiates New York from other big cities, is the feeling you get when walking down the streets. We didn’t feel like being a tourist – we felt like being at home. A home with more than 8.000.000 residents!
Culinary Highlights

Having just arrived in the Big Apple, we immediately noticed that there is really no food you cannot get in the largest city of the States. Unfortunately however, it is impossible to try all the myriads of New York’s culinary wonders – at least it was within the short period of our stay. It became quite a challenge to decide where to eat among an impressive variety of restaurants – offering everything from traditional American food to exquisite Asian haute cuisine.

To give you an impression, let us just name a few very recommendable places:

We had our very best Dim Sum out of Asia at Shun Lee, known from movies like “Wall Street 2”. A few days later, walking through the streets of Soho, we were really lucky to catch a table at the Aqua Grill - unforgettable tuna steak and an incredible selection of regional oysters being among the highlights of the menu. Apart from the very posh restaurants in Soho, of the Upper East and the Upper West, the streets of Greenwich, Chinatown, Little Italy and the Meatpacking district are famous for the large number of secret, little bistros, pubs and snack bars where it is not hard to find very good and non-expensive food. Traumatized by the financial crisis as we are, it was especially promising to be served a real “recession special” at Gray’s Papaya - 2 hot dogs and a papaya juice for just $ 6.99.

Unlikely as it may seem to some, the capital of American fast food culture is also home to a variety of fine dining restaurants that can easily compete with the culinary hot spots of Europe. Having had to leave this great city, we feel that Manhattan’s culinary hospitality not only satisfied our daily hunger – we were also appetized to have a big bite of the Big Apple another time soon.
The Sheraton Hotel is situated on 7th Avenue, West 52nd Street and West 53rd Street. It is 5 minutes walking to either Time Square in south direction or Central Park in the north. At 152.7 m, it is one of the world’s top 100 tallest hotels, and one of the tallest hotels in New York City. It has incredible 1750 rooms allocated on 51 floors. During the conference almost all participants stayed and worked at the hotel. Every morning all delegates flock to the conference floors, located in the basement and the lower levels of the building. Unfortunately the capacity of eight elevators was not enough to handle all delegates in the hotel. Therefore most participants of our delegation took the stairs down every morning. For the surprise of some delegates breakfast is not included at standard fares in American hotels. Most of us crossed the street for the next deli in the morning, crabbing a cream cheese bagel or fruit salad and a cup of coffee. The whole delegation of the Russian Federation was accommodated at the 10th floor and shared 9 four-bed rooms. The rooms were very small and fitted with two queen-size beds as well as a tiny narrow bathroom. Everybody shared its room with their partner delegate and another committee-pair. The committee centers and the ballroom at the hotel were impressing in size and design. It can comfortably host more than 2500 delegates at the NMUN conference. The Sheraton has always been a Grand Hotel in New York and we definitely felt the special atmosphere.
After most of us had arrived in New York already on March 13th, we had a few days for preparation in New York, as the conference only started on March 17th. We started on March 14th at 9am with an intense two days workshop at the DWS office. At this point we want to express our deep thanks to the DWS Bank for their support by offering a conference room and sponsoring an excellent lunch.

We started by writing an opening speech for the agenda setting and by a discussion reflecting our goals for the different subjects. It was great to get into the MUN spirit.

Subsequently we had the chance to hold our opening speech in front of the whole delegation, while being filmed. In the evening of this first day we worked once again over our speeches, amended some smaller details and still found time to explore the surroundings of the Sheraton Hotel.

Next morning we gathered again at the DWS Bank and listened to the last speeches, before we moved on to get last minute recommendations from the Heads, e.g. on how we should address topics, which are the important points and motions and how they have to be introduced. They told us general hints, e.g. how to elaborate working papers and draft resolutions. Thereafter we had to identify key elements from our Position Paper. Some of us used the time to read other Position Papers searching for conformity and possible coalitions. During lunchtime we watched the records of our speeches and then entertained our last Mocksession.

We once more gained practical experience to finally feel prepared for the National Model United Nations 2013 in New York.

But also during the conference preparations for our next steps were still needed. We already realized on the first day that there was an incredible speed of action and we worked hard to cope with it.

This required sitting down after a full work- loaded day in the evening with other delegations to start writing working papers or to hand in a research request to our Research-Team to get more information for individual topics.
Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 2013 National Model United Nations conference in New York took place in the Sheraton Hotel in New York City in the afternoon of March 17th, 2013. A short introductory statement by a board member of the NCCA was followed by a speech of Mr. Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Public Information. He began with showing a brief video that was recently filmed and aimed at providing an unwonted impression of daily work at the UN’s New York Headquarters. Scenes included the visit of Psy to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during which Psy tried to teach Ban how to dance “Gangnam Style”. The video had been produced to reflect Bank Ki-Moon’s priority during his second term as Secretary-General of the UN: Empowering youth. Also Mr. Nasser made this topic the focus of his speech to the student audience at the conference. He drew attention to the fact that today’s young generation is the largest the world has ever known and that it is especially important to involve this generation in the political decision process. Mr. Nasser discussed Ban Ki-moon’s initiative for youth participation in the UN system and urged us to participate and take political action wherever our interests are at stake. He finished his speech by reminding the audience that poverty, climate change, HIV and many other urgent problems of humankind cannot be addressed by one country alone and demand a strong UN system for their solution. He therefore encouraged us to take the slogan of this NMUN-NY 2013, “Change Your World”, seriously.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the General Director of NMUN, Holger Bär, gave an introductory speech. He talked briefly about the history of the NMUN and about the organization of this year’s conference. He also introduced the different Senior and Volunteer Staff members and thanked them for their preparatory work. He finally declared the conference open with the words “we can solve our problems, but only together”.

The second speaker at the opening ceremony was the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura. She focused on the issue of sexual violence affecting millions of women, men and children in the world today. She especially addressed the lack of necessary health care for a lot of victims of sexual violence and the lack of laws in many countries that punish acts of sexual violence. Arguing that what lacks to putting an end to sexual violence in conflict is not the tools, but the political will, Mrs. Bangura called upon the audience to step in and take a clear political stance against this issue. She made it clear that “women have to be treated equally under the law” and “women’s rights are human rights” and advised us to become advocates for human rights and to engage within our community.

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The following pages may give a detailed insight in several committees in which the delegation of the Russian Federation was present. As each committee and each team has been very different, we asked our delegates to write an individual article and did not give them a special structure. As each team made individual experiences, they all wrote about different issues and put their focus on various themes. To get a first impression of how each session normally works and of what they all have in common we also wrote one article about a “typical committee session”
A typical committee session

The two main parts of a committee session at NMUN are the formal session and the informal caucus. In general, the formal session is the underlying structure of the whole meeting, spanning from its opening to its very end. Caucuses are interruptions of the formal session for a limited time, enabling delegates to discuss the topics before the committee informally, forge coalitions and bring forth working papers and later draft resolutions. Whereas during caucus, only very general rules of behaviour have to be respected (such as the requirement to speak English, stay in character etc.) during formal session there is a strict code of conduct, mandatory for all participants. For example delegates are not allowed to show any signs of approval or disapproval to what happens before the committee and they have to remain silent, except when actively participating in the session according to the rules of procedure. Basically, every form of participation has to be approved by the chair of the committee. In order to gain the chair’s attention, delegates must raise their placards. Once addressed, delegates can express their desire to be put on the speakers’ list or bring in motions that concern the further procedure of the meeting (for example calling for a caucus, setting the speakers’ time, closing debate etc.). Taking their turn on the speakers’ list, delegates can express their country’s opinion on the current topic for a very short time. Most commonly, speeches are used to draw the attention of the whole body to the work of a specific delegation or coalition. Delivering a good speech, thus, can be a stepping stone towards playing a central role in the work of the committee. However, because of the sheer quantity of speeches and the strict decorum that has to be maintained, the formal session on the whole is a rather tedious and exhausting process. Therefore, after four long days of committee work, delegates are more than happy when their draft resolution makes it through the two hours of voting procedure that form the final part of each session.
At the beginning of our session we started to look for allies to set the agenda in our preferred order. Nonetheless, after only a short suspension of the meeting, the first motion to set the agenda in the order of 1 “Combating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects”, 2 “Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control” and 3 “Regulating Information and Telecommunication Technology in the Context of Security” passed. Although this was not the preferred order of the delegation of the Russian Federation, we had already been discussing our position on this topic with other delegations during the first suspension and had read the Position Papers of potential allies; so we were well prepared.

We organized a meeting with like-minded, mainly Arab states for the next morning. During this meeting we already agreed on the basic idea and contents behind our working paper. In committee on the second and third day, one of us always stayed with the group to keep working on our paper, while the other person read through other working papers and tried to convince other nations to become signatories of ours.

Before our working paper became a draft resolution, it was merged with another working paper written by South-American states. This was a rather complicated process, as the other paper was much shorter and less detailed, but the South-American States still wanted to find some of their work in the joined paper. Finally, the joined working paper was accepted as Draft Resolution GA1/4. After the working paper had been accepted and turned into a draft resolution, we mainly walked around and did lobby work for our draft resolution. The biggest challenge was to convince the African States of the paper, because they didn’t consider our proposed measures as being strong enough and claimed for a deeper focus on development. They also worried they would have to invest a lot of money into new technologies, for they feared the developed nations would not keep their promise to support them in establishing the necessary technology. This was also the main reason why the draft resolution in the end failed by eight votes. Nevertheless, we enjoyed representing the Russian Federation and are now capable of understanding her foreign politics in more detail.

Maxine Adams & Felix Rössing
Our committee work in GA2nd started right after the opening ceremony had ended. Even though the almost 400 delegates weren’t allowed to enter the room hours before the official beginning of the session, they just took it upon themselves to start negotiating upon the agenda in front of the closed doors.

Our chair later highlighted the overall agreement of the whole body during the course of the conference - apart from the agenda setting - and she was perfectly right. The whole body split into two groups, favoring either topic one “The Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development” or topic three “A Fair Globalization for All.” Finally, the agenda was set in the order of 1, 3, 2.

And again: even though formal session had long been over, work continued. This time however, we went upstairs in our rooms for final research on topic one.

Upon walking to the conference room the next morning, we realized that some groups had already formed and met early to start writing their working papers. During the first formal session (which only lasted a couple of minutes, as it would always be the case), we received many notes from delegations who were eager to work with us.

We decided to cooperate with delegations from India, Ukraine, Moldova and several others and individually started writing our key operative clauses, which we then merged into one working paper. At the end of the first day, the representative of China came on board and we became one of the groups that ended up being ruled out of the room by the hotel staff after midnight.

Negotiations were challenging, especially as we played a key role in our working group. Basically, it was “the Russian” paper. As a matter of consequence, every delegation involved or not-involved came to talk to us; to check if their clauses were OK and would fit, or to inquire what our paper was about. We ended up writing, negotiating, explaining and organizing all that at the same time.

For organizational matters, our working paper was later named “O” and we soon merged with working papers “I” and “L”. This, ironically, gave our paper the working title OIL.

As soon as it was accepted as Draft Resolution 1/6 however, the delegate from Poland had the brilliant idea to promote it under the name “EAT – Energy, Agriculture, Technology”, which displayed the content of it and made it well-known in the body.

All ten draft resolutions in our committee passed. At the end of the day, everyone was extremely satisfied and we had the feeling of having achieved something great.

Hanna Emmerling & Johannes Manuel
As the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, the General Assembly Fourth Committee deals with very intractable, thus really interesting topics and we were ready to discuss them as representatives of the Russian Federation. Although we did anticipate complicated negotiations, we perhaps did not expect what really happened in this committee.

At the beginning, we found ourselves in a very realistic situation, since the body decided itself for the topic dealing with the Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Situation of Palestinian Refugees to be set first on the agenda. Even though the other topics might have been interesting as well from a Russian perspective (being, together with China, one of the major powers who has been trying to keep regulations in outer space at a sovereign level and who has been pushing for the information sector to remain governed independently by each state as well), we were confident about this vote. During our research we developed a clear strategy for the Russian Federation concerning the conflict in the Middle East: to play a leading role in the solving of this conflict and thereby make an important step towards regaining the status of an international super power.

Of course, this was easier said than done, especially since there were issues with the delegations of Israel and Palestine in our committee, who were extremely important for our simulation but unfortunately did not behave exactly as what you would call “in character”. Nevertheless, we worked very hard along with well-known allies such as Belarus, Georgia, the BRICS states and some of the P5 members. Unfortunately, in the end we had huge troubles again, this time with the chair of our committee. They were not as professional as they usually are at NMUN and made several mistakes concerning the procedures as well as on substantial matters.

This lead to an outcome that can perhaps not be called realistic in regards to its content, but definitely in regards to its emergence. International politics and diplomacy come along with misunderstandings, difficulties and unforeseen situations and after this session, we think we are well prepared for that and thereby benefited from our experience and enjoyed it nevertheless.

Sarah-Lea Effert & Katherine Perez
This year, for the first time in the initiative’s history, FS MUN was assigned the role of a P5-country, the Russian Federation, at NMUN-NY 2013. After having represented France with two delegates in the additional Security Council-B (SC-B) in 2012, we now had the honor to send a total of four delegates to represent Russia, another veto power with fundamentally different opinions, in the regular Security Council-A (SC-A) and in the SC-B.

It was clear that representing Russia in the SC-A would require a whole new level of preparation and solid expertise in the topics that we would be discussing with students from all around the globe during the conference. This year the topics before both SC-A and SC-B were: Resource Scarcity and its Relation to Conflict, Achieving Peace and Stability in Somalia and Women Peace and Security: Reviewing SC Resolution 1325.

Of course we all were aware of the importance of good collaboration especially between the permanent members of the Security Council and formed an alliance with the People’s Republic of China and the USA, however working with the other members was also a great pleasure.

From our former Security Council assignment we knew that the Security Council was the only NMUN body which was allowed to adopt topics outside of the assigned agenda in form of a crisis simulation which we were eagerly looking forward to.

In 2013 the crisis dealt with the worsening situation in Syria as refugees were attacked on their way to the Turkish border and other countries in the region as for example Israel or Turkey threatened to enter the conflict.

Representing Russia in this crisis simulation was a very unique experience due to the Russian Federation’s position regarding Syria. At first we addressed the crisis through a presidential statement which all nations could agree on while we had more difficulties finding a consensus on a resolution dealing with this topic. As members of the Security Council we were able to invite experts on different aspects of the crisis to give us further information.

Finally we were able to finish a resolution which we had to write under considerable time pressure. In this resolution the Security Council decided to install a demilitarized zone alongside the Turkish border to guarantee the safety of refugees which we wanted to be modeled after the currently existing zone at the Golan Heights. Furthermore the importance of humanitarian help was stressed and all nations were asked to fulfill the promises they made regarding this matter. However the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation abstained from the vote on this resolution due to some aspects our county’s politics were not compliant with as for example the option to allow deployed peacekeepers to actively take part in violent attacks against refugees in Syrian territory.

Altogether it was an outstanding experience to represent a country as important as the Russian Federation in the Security Council and our hard work and determination to do a good job paid off when we won an award for our “Outstanding Position Paper”.

Stephan Jagau & Alexa Marx
We took part in National Model United Nations for the second time and after having been in a committee with 400 students (Conference on Sustainable Development) in 2012, this year we chose to represent Russia in the Security Council.

Representing one of the global players in a committee that deals with the most pressing issues (I. Women, Peace and Security: Reviewing SC Resolution 1325; II. Achieving Peace and Stability in Somalia and the topic which was chosen to be dealt with was III. Resource Scarcity and Its Relation to Conflict) does not only require intensive preparation, but we also had to face completely different approaches. What fascinated us the most was that, even though at a certain point our committee was close to failing to produce a resolution, everyone continued to cooperate and eventually we were able to find a consensus during one of the many suspensions in which we organized a self-moderated discussion.

After having produced an outcome document, something happened that is unique for the Security Council – a crisis situation was introduced. During a crisis every country gets information on an urgent problem that has just risen and which threatens global security. Since no prior research on your countries position can be done, everybody will on the one hand have to collect as much information as possible, but on the other and continue diplomatic discussions and give statements on how one believes that the situation can be tackled. This year’s crisis had to do with Syria. Representing Russia it was really interesting to work from an entirely different point of view and to think a little more closely about the arguments that Russian officials have offered on why not to intervene in the Syrian civil war.

That is what NMUN is mainly about, switching points of view, thinking about arguments one has never previously considered and fighting for a position that might not be one’s own.

Adrian Fritzsche & Paul Bose
The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) set its agenda during the first formal session on Sunday evening. The three proposed topics were: 1. Reforming Peacekeeping to Strengthen Post-Conflict Stabilization Efforts, 2. Cooperation and Capacity Building within Regional Arrangements and 3. Strengthening the Protection Mandate of Peacekeeping Operations.

I was not able to give my speech concerning the agenda setting because there were too many delegates on the speaker’s list and the committee moved to vote upon the agenda quite quickly. Unfortunately, the agenda was set in the order 1,3,2, which I, as representative of the Russian Federation did not support. However, work started quite well. I was approached by the delegation of Iran on Monday morning in order to start working on a working draft report segment on state sovereignty in terms of peacekeeping operations.

During the following informal sessions, the delegations of Iran and Russia started talking to other delegations with similar interests. Thus, a group of delegations around China, Syria, Algeria, Bolivia, Viet Nam, Iran and Russia, only to name a few, began writing on the working draft report segment „Peacekeeping and Sovereignty in Relation to Post-Conflict Stabilization Effort“.

Whilst making good progress on my own working draft, I was asked to read several working draft report segments of other delegations. The most interesting one I read was written by Bangladesh, Poland and the Czech Republic. It dealt with peacekeeping bonds, which are supposed to resemble war bonds.

During the formal sessions, I gave three speeches in order to promote our report segment and to gain more signatories. On Tuesday, we were able to hand in our working draft report segment to the chair. After receiving it back and correcting it we returned it to the chair who then accepted it as a draft report segment.

Meanwhile, especially the delegate of China and I discussed our paper with the representatives of the United States of America, France and Germany. All three did not agree with our draft report segment. We could not comprise on the most important points, so we had to focus on collecting the votes of other countries. On Wednesday afternoon, the committee moved into voting procedure. The first draft report segment clearly passed, as well as the segments two to seven. The eighth report segment was ours. After adding two unfriendly amendments to our draft report segment, the committee voted upon it. Unfortunately, the report segment did not pass, only one vote was missing. The ninth segment, again, passed clearly.

Although we were not successful with our draft report segment, it was amazing to see how passionate all delegates have been and how great the whole committee worked together.

Tim Hofmann
At this year’s NMUN, the Economic and Social Council considered the following topics:
I. Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion
II. Strengthening Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and Relief
III. Millennium Development Goal 2 and Increasing Access to Education.

Delegate teams for 47 nations attended the session and adopted the ECOSOC’s agenda in the order of III, I, II. This was exactly the suggestion, which we had made in representation for the Russian Federation. In the days to come, negotiations on MDG2 focused on the implementation of a better educational infrastructure, the suggestion to continue UN educational policy at two paces to better address the different needs of developed and developing member states and the idea of a worldwide abolition of primary school fees. The Russian Federation worked together with the Chinese People’s Republic leading a group of a couple of countries that composed a working paper dealing with three aspects of the discussed problem: The securing of MDG2’s implementation, the issuance of further goals in educational policy as a follow-up for MDG2 and the adaption of the Qatari Educate a Child (EAC) initiative for international use.

By the end of the third session, our group split into three sub-groups, which each dealt with one of the above-mentioned topics. We focused on the second aspect and especially on setting the objectives for a High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the sphere of education. Meanwhile, a group led by the United Kingdom concentrated on the abolition of school fees and the Latin American countries and worked on the first aspect together with the Italian delegation. The other Eastern European countries were not in favor of supporting our working group at this time.

After our group – with additional support by Qatar, the United States of America, China, Morocco, Germany, Japan and the Philippines – merged the working papers on our three topics of concern, the merged paper was recognized as a Draft Resolution in the second last session of the ECOSOC.

At the end of this session, the dais had accepted twelve drafts and a motion to close debate was passed. The Economic and Social Council accepted all twelve draft resolutions – two of them being accepted by acclamation. For Russian national policy reasons, we only supported seven and had to oppose three resolutions. However, all resolutions were adopted by a huge majority of member states. Draft Resolution 1-6 that had been submitted by our coalition was not accepted by acclamation because of Latin American delegates opposing it. Nevertheless, it was passed by a huge majority.

In the last session, we reviewed the resolutions that delegates had passed in the ECOSOC’s sub-committees and argued over the pros and cons of those documents. Only the first resolution of the Commission on the Status of Women was turned down because it demanded that all member states commit to allocating five percent of national budgets for gender equality.

Hendrik Keith & Lisa Westermann
At this year’s conference, the session of the Commission on the Status of Women was attended by 31 countries. The topics before the CSW were:

I. Economic, Social and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition
II. Fostering a Gender-Sensitive Perspective in Sustainable Development
III. Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality through Empowerment of Women

After a short introduction by our chair and some administrative remarks, we quickly got into negotiations with the other delegations, exchanging first suggestions on the agenda setting. A consensus was reached on the importance of the topics, and thus, the final agenda was adopted already within the first 30 minutes of the session. The majority agreed on topic 1 to be dealt with first, followed by topic 3 and topic 2. By the end of the first day’s session, representatives of several countries had already delivered speeches concerning their views on the empowerment of women.

Monday’s session was filled with impressive speeches and many informal caucuses for face-to-face negotiation. Since the delegations from Iran, India, Bangladesh and Georgia shared our views and ideas on the first topic, we were able to soon develop a common working paper. By midday, we held a multilingual speech in English and Russian that outlined the central convictions of our coalition and helped us to find further support among the audience.

Tuesday’s session began with further negotiations regarding the details of our position, the paper became evermore concrete and an increasing number of delegations approached our partners and us in order to sponsor or sign it. At this point, first disagreements arose since delegations did not manage to stay in character and followed an increasingly irrational stance.

Our last day was mainly spent with finalizing our working paper, and only a few speeches were held before the CSW. We were able to submit the first draft by noon and the paper was accepted as a draft resolution by the chair right after lunch. All in all, four draft resolutions were accepted and later adopted, two of them by acclamation.

Looking back at our time during the conference, we conclude that it was an extremely interesting experience. We heard impressive speeches and were also able to practice our own rhetorical skills before a large audience; we gained valuable insights into central issues in foreign policy and, last but not least, enjoyed a wonderful time in New York.

Julia Steck & Arina Hadlich
At NMUN-NY 2013, the three agenda topics for the CCPCJ were:
I. Environmental Protection through Criminal Law
II. Establishing International Legal Norms to Counter Maritime Piracy
III. Strengthening Prevention Measures and Criminal Justice Response to Human Trafficking

Russia’s political interests in mind, we tried to convince other delegations to vote for our favorite agenda setting in the order of 2-3-1 right from the beginning and even before the official opening of the conference. In addition, we held a short introductory speech to make sure every delegate was aware of and understood our position. We had to recognize that there was no majority for our preferred agenda setting before the CCPCJ, so we agreed to support the agenda order of 3-2-1 that was eventually adopted by the committee. Aware of the fact that Russia is highly affected by human-trafficking issues, we worked closely with Russia’s neighboring countries China and Belarus on a working paper which particularly focused on the problems of border patrol. Later, this working paper should be merged into what became the first draft resolution in the session and was adopted by acclamation during voting procedure. As the CCPCJ is composed of representatives of only 25 member states, it was possible to discuss the issues at hand very effectively and to also consider our second topic of maritime piracy. As a chief exporter of commodities, Russia regards maritime piracy as a dangerous threat to global peace and security and recognizes its large negative impact on the world economy. We therefore worked intensively with Iran, China, Argentina and Brazil on a working paper that addressed possible preventive measures. The paper was turned into a draft resolution later on that was fully accepted during the voting procedure on the last day of the conference. All in all, we were happy that two resolutions we had co-sponsored received majority support so that we can be sure that Russia’s position before the CCPCJ did not remain unheard. Despite the fact that we did not receive a delegate award, our representation of Russia met the appreciation and praise of several of our co-delegates before the committee.

Felix Tölle & Stephanie Cosma
Altogether the work within the UNICEF Committee can be described not only as extremely productive but also as sometimes stressful and sometimes fun.

Starting with discussions about the agenda setting, finding allies was fairly easy since almost every committee member wanted to learn more about Russia’s point of view and most of them followed our lead and agreed with us on what steps should be taken.

After we decided on our preferred agenda the first night, we met with a couple of allies right away in the morning before the next session and started working on a Working Paper.

Given this efficient pre-session work, our work group was able to hand in the first draft of that paper within the first suspension of the meeting that day. We spent the rest of that session correcting and rewriting the paper and by the end of the day we were confident that our latest version of the Working Paper would be accepted as a Draft Resolution the next morning.

Our committee moved into voting procedure in the morning session of the second full day and there were four Draft Resolutions to be voted on. All four of them passed, but ours was the only one that was adopted by acclamation, which made us quite proud.

Right before lunch break we moved to work on the second topic on the agenda, which was exciting since not many committees at NMUN manage to deal with more than one topic. Sacrificing the break, a working group similar to our first one found itself and we started working on a paper on the second topic.

Thanks to the committee’s hard and tireless work we were able to hand in three draft resolutions and could even move into voting procedure on the second topic.

This time Russia’s controversial points of view lead to our draft resolution not being passed. But still, our working group and the entire committee were delighted with the accomplishments we made in only such a short amount of time. Everyone worked hard in and also outside the official sessions and in the end the long days and short nights paid off. The UNICEF committee can be proud of its work.

Tara Mühlschlegel & Wiebke Neuhaus
Already before the meeting was opened by the chair the work for the Russian Delegation begun. At first, we aimed for convincing member states to set the agenda as we did. We prioritized the topic of local entrepreneurship and microfinance. Second, we would have liked to discuss the issue of improving access to sustainable and renewable energy. Set at last on our agenda was the discussion about disaster and relief management. Finally, at New York’s National Model of United Nations in 2013 the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) voted for prioritizing the issue of improving the access to sustainable and renewable energy. Now formal session started with many position speeches. In the first caucus the Russian Federation grouped with China, South Africa, Czech Republic and Sweden. We immediately edited a working paper, which finally went into voting procedure as draft resolution. Although we were first in handing in our paper the chair lacked professional and just treatment as it published our paper at last and simultaneously urged others to merge. However, many welcomed our paper as we suggested a Renewable Energy Strategy Plan (RESP), which includes financial and economic tools. So it recommends the implementation of legal frameworks providing incentives of renewable energy projects. It further urges all Member States to embrace microfinance as a tool to develop projects in renewable energy, adapted to local needs and resources. The last key aspect of our drafted resolution was to enhance the importance of the Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) framework so as to mobilize and expand financing options to catalyze both public and private finance. Finally, all seven draft resolutions were accepted, even two by acclamation. In our opinion this is only one way that outlines the well collaboration in that committee. We really enjoyed working in the UNDP committee this year. The atmosphere has always been a perfect tradeoff between serious and professional work and amusement. In the end the Russian Federation received as a proof of its dedicated and active behavior in the UNDP a delegation award.

Summing up our days spent in New York it can be said that we gathered a lot of experience in negotiating with people from all over the world, were proud and enjoyed being part of the Russian Delegation of 2013 at any time and therefore looking forward participating at NMUN next year as well.

Markus Leimbach & Fabian Bott
The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is a committee of medium size, with 44 countries represented in it. Its agenda topics at this year’s NMUN-NY were:
1. Enhancing Sustainable Urban Mobility
2. Improving Drinking Water Availability and Sanitation Infrastructure in Slums
3. Implementing Social Inclusion and Environmental Justice on the Agenda of Sustainable City Development

While planning our strategy, we realized it would be best as judged from the interests of the Russian Federation, to either set the agenda in the order of 1,2,3 or 2,1,3. The entire agenda setting only took about 20 Minutes and 2,1,3 became the final agenda order. So we had to quickly figure out with whom we wanted to work on writing a draft resolution. As part of our preparation, we had read some of the other countries’ position papers to get a feeling of who might share visions and ideas similar to Russia’s. As a result, we decided to make closer contact with the delegates of the United States, China and Germany.

We joined the working group of the United States for a short time and became a sponsor of their paper. The paper, however, did not treat the topics we were intent to focus on in the further negotiations, which is why we retained our sponsor role mainly to make sure that the document would not develop into something in conflict with Russia’s interests and moved on to find an additional working group.

By delivering a speech before the committee, we had the chance to present Russia’s stance to all UN Habitat delegates. Our propositions focused on sharing Russian expertise and technology in the field of sanitation infrastructure with countries suffering from an insufficient water supply. We also called for the creation of an international monitoring system to make sure water resources would be allocated in a more effective way. Right after our speech, we were contacted by the delegates of Burkina Faso who told us they had the same ideas and had just started writing a draft resolution with fellow African countries as well as Turkey and Sweden. We read the existing clauses and joint their group. The work within the group was a lot of fun and we ended up in a merger of our coalition’s paper with a paper by Cuba, Norway and several other counties. This merging process was by far the most difficult part of the overall negotiations and it took a lot of time to put the papers together while making all sponsors happy. After every sponsor had had the chance to read the final version and ratify it, we submitted the merged paper to the dais that recognized it as a draft resolution.

Our committee then went into voting procedure and both papers we had sponsored were adopted as resolutions by the committee. A third paper which we had opposed was also accepted as a resolution. However, we managed to change two controversial clauses by submitting an unfriendly with partners from other delegations that passed by a narrow majority. All things considered, we were pleased with this result of our diplomatic efforts and we are glad that we had the opportunity to take part in the NMUN-NY conference.

Philipp Brand & Luisa Tyroller
The topic we dealt with in UNCTAD was “Food Security: Agriculture and Trade” and had been second on our personally preferred agenda. Early on unions among African countries and smaller Asian countries were formed, which focused mainly on micro financing and organic farming. The Delegation of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the representatives of the United States of America dealt with limiting price volatility and trade restrictions. We then merged our draft segment with others. However, finally in voting procedure, the report was not accepted by the committee. We must say that we were kind of disappointed by the chair of our committee. We had the impression that many rules we learned during preparation were not handled as strictly by the chair as by our heads during our preparation and as they should. Finally it resulted in an awkward voting procedure, which seemed to us unacceptable primary because of changing voting majorities and procedures. Luckily, this seems to be an exception at NMUN. So all in all we had an interesting and valuable time in our committee. The importance of the Russian Federation in international politics became obvious in numerous negotiations. Many delegations wanted to know our point of view regarding food security and made our formal and informal sessions exciting. On the one hand we experienced how tough defeating Russia’s position can become and on the other hand how important it is to find and agree upon common solutions while cooperating with other Member States.

Eugen Martens & Dominik Pergens
First of all, we thought it would be really challenging to represent the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council, given the position of Russian politicians towards human rights. Therefore, we were aware of the high importance of the order of the agenda, which our council set as 1st: Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Human Right, 2nd: Strengthening Human Rights of IDPs and Refugees in Conflict-Ridden regions 3rd: Deterring Discrimination and Violence against People with Disabilities. We were in favour of this order, as Russia provides an easy target for criticism in the field of IDPs and returnees and does hence not want any interference by international institutions regarding the topic. In the end, we were only able to discuss topic number one, which were fortunate circumstances for us as the Russian Delegation.

To start, we split up into small groups to discuss and work on our ideas and came up with the first working papers. Then, we tried to convince other member states to support our ideas. During this process, everyone was trying to achieve consensus and thus, we merged our position paper with a group of diverse Nations, which came up with similar ideas and was like-minded. This process was very time consuming, as we had to pay attention to every detail in the paper. Since our committee was quite harmonious, every working group was aiming to create a draft resolution, which would be adopted by acclamation. That is why many countries approached us to support their draft resolution at the end and we were able to rephrase and change some clauses, which Russia would feel more comfortable with. Our draft resolution passed by acclamation, as the only one in our committee and was therefore successful.

Katharina Brück & Katharina Brütt
We started our work on the 18th of May. Right from the beginning we were very pleased by the highly professional way how things were handled in our committee. Motivated by our first impression we started our work with a statement on the agenda order. To our satisfaction the Correlations between Youth Poverty and the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS was chosen by the board to be addressed first, being followed by Addressing the Custom of Child Marriage and its Impact on Girls, and then Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During the following committee sessions we began to write our own draft resolution in collaboration with South Korea and China, where we pointed out the importance of free access to HIV/AIDS testing, gender equality, education and transparency. Continued by a few speeches to win new sponsors and signatures for our working paper we made good progress in promoting the Russian view.

By the end of the fifth session we finally submitted the working paper to the dais. Later on we continued our work by merging our paper with papers of two other groups of nations. As a result the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund adopted our paper as Draft Resolution ¼. It finally passed with only 2 votes against.

Taking everything in consideration the work in our committee was an amazing experience and gave us an understanding of what it means to find diplomatic solutions on global basis. It was a great possibility to improve our own presentation and communication skills in a foreign language and to meet people from all other the world.

Fabian Aymanns & Lukas Kindler
In the 2013 National Model United Nations Conference in New York City the Russian Delegates Gero Stöckle and Moritz Tilgner represented the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The UNPFII is the principal agency within the United Nations system to deal with the rights and concerns of indigenous peoples.

Already before the committee work was officially started the committee members began to get into the first discussions. As UNPFII was a very small committee of around 25 Delegations, due to the fact that not all countries have indigenous peoples to be represented, the two Russian delegates had a good opportunity to exchange positions and get to know the other Delegations with whom they had to find consensus.

The first task for the Russian Delegates was to set the agenda in their preferred order. This involved the first serious discussions to convince others from the Russian standpoint. A clear advantage of such a small committee was the possibility to be set on the speakers list to hold a speech whenever there was the need to make a statement. On the very first opportunity the Russian Delegates delivered a convincing speech, which in the end resulted in contributing to setting the first agenda point to „Education“, which represented Russia’s priority. Over the course of the conference the Russian Delegation was able to be part of really interesting, sometimes long lasting sessions, which regularly lasted until the end of the day. For the Russian UNPFII Delegates work did not end with the closing of the actual committee sessions - the Delegates continuously kept up their work during informal sessions that were organized in the hotel’s delegates’ lounge or took place in near-by lunch locations that provided the ideal environment for heated discussions.

The Delegates achievement was the inclusion of satellite- or internet-based broadcast education into the report the committee prepared, which represents a meaningful step towards the access to education for indigenous peoples around the world, especially in rural areas. Another memorable moment in the delegates’ work was a speech that was held in Russian with English translation. We received very positive feedback from the fellow Delegations.

All in all Russia’s UNPFII delegation is looking back at a great conference full of teamwork as well as diplomatic relationships that were developed and is very satisfied with the achievements made by the whole delegation of the Russian Federation and of course all the other participating Delegations.

Moritz Tilgner & Gero Stöckle
We started with the Voting procedure for the given topics. Many other Nations supported our preferred order and therefore our Committee (The International Atomic Energy Agency) decided to address the topic: The Nuclear Conflict of North Korea. We appreciated that the most urgent issue was chosen first and we initiated our work by exchanging key positions with important countries, like China and The US.

We had offered a very harsh position, resulting in the exclusion of the US from any kind of negotiation table. We hereby were very busy convincing the favoured nations of our approach. The Committee began to split up into different groups, each starting to write the first working papers. All countries agreed on the resumption of negotiations and the papers differ only in the form of additional claims, which not all countries would agree to, i.e. further economic sanctions or the attempt to increase the amount of negotiation members. One of our initial claims was the establishment of a Thorium Bank, to supervise trading of uranium. Such institution could strengthen the international security in questions of civil nuclear power.

In the end our Resolution failed by two missing votes. Nevertheless we were satisfied with the compromises being found.

At the end of the conference our Position Paper was honoured with The ‘Outstanding Position Paper Award’. We were proud being honoured the first time we participated.

Christoph Viebig & Marvin Weber
when sessions were over
Opportunity Fair

This year our Delegation represented the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management for the first time at the Opportunity Fair of the NMUN conference in New York. The opportunity fair is a university and career fair for all 3000 fellow delegates of the conference. Surrounded by famous American Universities as Harvard Kennedy School and New York University only a very few European Universities as the Bocconi University were represented. Two of our Master students, Arina Hadlich and Eugen Martens, represented the diverse academic programs from our university. The visitors and fellow Delegates from all over the world were highly interested in the Master of Finance, the leading program in Germany. Overwhelmed by the number of visitors we run out of information material towards the end of the fair. Participating for the first time we also were recognized by the representatives of the different university. We received persistently positive feedback, which motivates us to participate next year again. This is a unique chance to enlarge the publicity of our university in America with manageable efforts.
The Delegates Dance traditionally is the completion of each National Model United Nations conference in New York. As usual, the Delegates Dance took place in the late evening after the closing ceremony.

All participants of the National Model United Nations conference are strongly looking forward to this amazing event, as it represents the culmination of a very busy conference and offers the chance of sharing personal experiences with other delegates from other universities and committees. This year, the Delegates Dance took place at Terminal 5, a Hell’s Kitchen located nightclub.

Standing in the queue, the conference badges ready to show, the joy of the successful participation and the anticipation of the evening was in the air.

The club was filled with a very joyful and exuberant atmosphere. Coming together in their working groups of the Committees - shoulders were tapped and the experiences of the last days were shared among each other.

The Delegates Dance was symbolic for the achievements besides the pure learning process of UN relevant knowledge: understanding - team spirit - international friendship.

The dance was a very joyful event, which perfectly underlined the international team spirit. We all danced till late in the morning, forgot all the cognitive and physical stress everybody felt in the days before.

New York, see you again!
The closing ceremony marked the end of our NMUN experience. The venue of this event was what made it so special and unique. It took place at the original UN Headquarters. Entering the General Assembly Hall, we were overwhelmed when finally seeing where the sessions actually happen and the atmosphere was great.

A couple of speakers shared their NMUN and general UN experiences with us. Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson held the first impressive speech. He started by encouraging all of us to pursue a career within the UN, as we are the next generation, who is facing problems with global dimensions. From his point of view, NMUN is a great opportunity to create networks and personal relations, which play a crucial part in every negotiation. Current political and social issues show, in his eyes, that the world has to deal with a test of multilateralism. Only if member states are convinced that acting in a collaborative manner is in their own national interest, the false line between domestic and international action can be erased. Furthermore he emphasized that all activities of the UN are interrelated, since no development can exist without peace, no peace without development and the respect of human rights and the rule of law. Acting according to principles and guidelines is necessary in order to achieve these goals. Eliason puts forward the UN charter and the Declaration of Human Rights to be such a framework.

The second speech by the NCCA board president Richard Reitano refers to how past delegates described their referred experience as life changing and perceived our generation as open minded and willing to make the world a better place. He quoted Nelson Mandela by calling upon all the delegates to aim for enhancing the freedom of others.

The Director General of NMUN New York Hanna Birkenkötter gave a substance review of the conference. She stressed that we had to overcome obstacles and hence, had both, great and frustrating moments. Also, she was proud how NMUN gives young people a voice and shows that global solutions are within reach, because everyone has the willingness to go further and deepened their interest.

The final speaker of the closing ceremony was Holger Baer, the Secretary General of the conference. In his opinion, NMUN is an ideal chance to walk in someone else’s shoes and learn how to find approaches with shared consensus. In accordance with the previous speakers, he hoped for our further engagement within the UN and NMUN.

At the end of the ceremony, the delegations were honoured with diverse awards. The delegation of the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management received three awards for Outstanding Position Papers and one Delegate Award.
Returning Home
What we took from New York

Just like it is impossible to predict how being at the NMUN in New York will actually be like, there is also no way to accurately anticipate what you will eventually take home from the whole experience. Looking back now, we can tell that this year’s NMUN was as enriching and valuable as we could have wished it to be. It is true that during the conference not everything went as planned. It is, and as surprising as this might seem, precisely from those unexpected twists and turns that we took the most. We realized that one can prepare extensively on procedurals and become a true expert on one’s assigned country, but once the conference starts, being an agile negotiator able to react swiftly to whatever the moment brings becomes the key to a successful performance. However interesting the actual political content of the conference is, we think that the important things that you learn from it come from somewhere else.

One of the best things about the NMUN conference is the degree of motivation that each participant brings. Everyone develops a certain attachment to their assigned country that drives them to unconditionally push for the country’s goals to be met. When all delegates get together and start working, it is really not that uncommon for people to forget that everything is, in fact, only a simulation. Matters change their course, and they often do so very fast. You find yourself constantly working under time pressure and in many cases with so many people that you can barely keep track of what you are doing. There is excitement, there is stress, there is worrying and quite a lot of frustration.

In the midst of this entire thrill, we realized that you only need two words to describe what the Conference this year was: ‘intensive’ and ‘training’. The NMUN was a training to be patient, to keep calm, to tell others what you want without telling them what you really want, and to do so convincingly. It was a training to write, to speak, to think before you speak, to listen. A training to develop strong arguments and to defend them.

And then, when you do become aware that everything was easier said than done, you gain an immense insight into what diplomacy actually stands for.

We said it was impossible to name beforehand the things that you will learn from the NMUN, but we do dare to dictate a very general prediction: what you take is definitely not a long list of new facts about the country you represent, but much more a new perspective on diplomacy and on international relations and on the very concepts of empathy and cooperation.

Plus, you ARE in New York. It is needless to say that the city IS pretty cool- and that you do have a really, really good time.
Feedback Meeting

Would you participate again at NMUN-NY? It was time to share experiences and impressions from the National Model United Nations conference 2013 in New York City and from our work within the initiative throughout the last months.

We started our feedback meeting with a short get-together with the whole delegation and then went into four small groups for our discussions, all of them moderated by one of our Heads. Thereby, a very good and close environment for our feedback was built. Recalling the past few days, our time in the DWS building, the opening ceremony, the conference itself, the closing ceremony in the UN building and the months of preparation in Germany, we realized how well prepared and organized this initiative has been. It was the perfect time to share our feelings and opinions. We talked for an hour and a half before we all together went to our delegation’s dinner at a little Italian Restaurant in Little Italy.

The Heads were very thankful for qualified suggestions for improvements, as well as various compliments about the conference, the preparation and how they did their job as Heads of the initiative. The most important points of our feedback are listed below.
Delegates’ Feedback

As a constantly growing initiative we are trying to constantly improve. As a part of this progress feedback is extremely valuable. During the feedback meeting we found out that delegates are excited about being well prepared and would like to continue the process of increasing “content-related preparation” as compared to “rule preparation”.

This goes especially for writing Position Papers:

“What is supposed to be included in a good Position Paper?”, “how do I start writing a paper?” and “what are good sources?”, these questions might have to be answered in a more direct way. A content related feedback for Position Papers could help as well as a specially designed workshop for writing Position Papers. One could also form groups of people with similar topics to discuss pressing issues. Certainly a lot more things could be improved, naming only some, a mission briefing could help during preparation, weekly Mocksessions could be established and strategy papers could be written in advance, focusing on the strategy during committee sessions.

Some things that were done for the first time this year will surely become a constant part of FS MUN: A Research-Team can help delegates with research in New York, a workshop for holding speeches in sessions will prepare delegates for holding great speeches.

Summing everything up; while a lot of things have been done right, some things can be improved and added to improve the quality of the initiative.
Heads’ Feedback

Last year’s Head Delegates in their final report assumed that last year’s delegation had been the best delegation FS MUN ever had. In our final report we’d like to challenge this assumption, as this year’s delegation did such an outstanding job that we believe it might have been even better.

It was quite a hard job this year for us as Head Delegates as well as for the whole delegation, as we were for the first time representing a P5-member-state. That meant much more preparation than last year and we focused more than ever before on content related preparation. Furthermore, it led to a very large delegation with 35 members, including four Head Delegates and a two-headed Media-/Research-Team. Therefore, one of our main tasks was coordination among the Head-Team and within the delegation.

It turned out to be very helpful to have for the first time four Head Delegates plus the Media-/Research-Team, as thereby we were able to really divide our tasks and help each other out in times of high workload.

As all four of us are, let’s say, keen to debate, we spent lots of hours discussing our next steps and plans. Luckily most of the time, we ended up very well.

The best evidence for that surely is the impressive performance of our delegation in at the NMUN in NYC. Not only winning four awards, but further showing team-spirit and high motivation for over the whole time, this year’s delegation really made us proud.

We are also proud that this year’s delegation has been much more diverse than the other’s before, especially including much more female students and students from nearly all study programs of the Frankfurt School.

FS MUN has been continually become more professional, thanks to the hard work of all (former) delegates and thanks to the support of the whole Frankfurt School.

We were really happy to be a part of it and wish future FS MUN generations all the best for their Model United Nations experiences!
What the future might hold
Future Outlook and Prospects

“Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates, the student initiative FS MUN 2014 is present”. At this year’s NMUN conference in New York, it was the first time in Frankfurt School history that 35 students across bachelor and master programs represented one of the major political powers in the world. It has been an experience we will never forget. The work of the initiative was characterized by an intense time of preparation and at the conference itself, we were able to gain insights into the work of the United Nations and learn a lot about different perspectives on current international political issues. Motivated by this remarkable experience, we, as the new head team, want to do our best to give a new delegation the chance to be a part of NMUN.

For the next year, we plan to apply for an emerging country as we are convinced that “staying in character” under these conditions will be valuable for all future delegates. Emerging countries often face political, economical and social problems, which will be very interesting to deal with and work on suitable solutions. In order to make sure that all delegates will benefit the most during their time in New York, we will focus our work on content-related as well as rule-based preparation starting next semester. Beforehand, it is crucial for the new head team to promote awareness of the student initiative among Frankfurt School students. In addition, we would like to extend public awareness with respect to sponsors, as fundraising is one of the major topics on our agenda.

We are convinced that this year’s success will prove very helpful during the search for suitable sponsors and will also help us to promote the initiative amongst our fellow students. Therefore, we hope to build a strong delegation for NMUN 2014 and pass on the spirit of FS Model United Nations to a new generation of FS delegates.

As one part of our preparation process, we would like to take part in a regional and comparatively small MUN prior to the NMUN in New York. In our opinion, this would be a great opportunity for our delegates and especially for those, who haven’t participated at a previous MUN conference yet to get an idea of the course of such a simulation. By this, the delegation can also gain profound knowledge of the NMUN rules and code of conduct.
You guys rock