

2026

GRUNNMMUN

GrunnMUN Gazette



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Teimun Foundation

2026

FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) convened to confront one of the defining challenges of our time: digital inequality for children. The Committee was tasked to focus on how to end this inequality and establish how supranational actors can intervene.

In their opening statements, the delegates expressed the seriousness of the issue: this was not just policy — this was a crisis. Ireland described digital inequality as “one of the most important crises today in the world.” Similarly, the delegate of India referred to the present issue as “educational exclusion”, highlighting the present day's affordability gaps and unreliable connectivity for children.

Shared Goals, Diverging Strategy

Many of the delegates shared similar views that digital equality is essential to the child's right to education, but the path forward sparked both creativity and conflict. The UAE laid out a clear three-pillar plan: build affordable infrastructure, teach digital literacy, and create strong child online protection framework. Egypt concurred the urgency, calling for large-scale investment in broadband, updated curricula, and safe participation.

However, not all nations approached the issue with the same lens. The Russian Federation took more stringent approach, warning that access should not undermine national security and sovereignty, stressing the implementation of state-approved systems.



Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Safe Online Access

Tensions emerged during China's motion on strengthening legal frameworks for safe online access.

While many supported holding tech companies accountable, Nigeria's push for international agreements and GDPR-inspired rules provoked confrontation. China criticised Nigeria's domestic shortcomings in cyber protection, highlighting its current issues with child grooming and cyberbullying. Nigeria countered, pointing out how national legislation in this context is only effective when multinational companies are held accountable. Seeming displeased with the rebuttal, China coolly responded with, “we are glad Nigeria is actually working on the problem”, a remark that drew visible reactions across the room.

The motion ended with propositions of cybercrime acts, duties on digital companies, as well as legislation that affirms each Member States' sovereignty.



SAFE ONLINE ACCESS

Ensuring Child Privacy and Safety

Unfortunately, the Committee remained tense in the discussion on measures to ensure child privacy and safety while expanding digital access.

The debate began with Ireland underlining the need to protect children, not control them – a clear challenge directed at China and Russia’s restrictive models. China swiftly defended its firewall as the only plausible solution to the issue at hand. Ireland snapped back, emphasizing that children require privacy. China, clearly frustrated with Ireland’s comments, simply stated that “white men will not be present in our land.”

As the exchange grew heated China expressed the need to step away from “western propaganda”. Thankfully, Egypt and the UAE chose a more diplomatic approach. The UAE proposed implementing age verification systems, content filtering, and removing inappropriate content to adequately address all of the present concerns.

Breaking the Language Barrier

In the final moderated caucus, the attention shifted to a quieter but powerful obstacle: language.

The UK resisted adopting additional languages, suggesting that other nations instead invest in multilingual technology to translate texts. This proposal was concurred by India and Russia, seeing investment in translation tools as a unifying solution.

However, China stood strong in its distinctly national focus by promoting Mandarin globally, prompting resistance from Nigeria who emphasized local linguistic inclusion. Other delegations came forth to ease the conflict, where Sweden intervened diplomatically to remind the delegates that the focus of the discussion should be inclusion. Once again, the UAE presented the compromise of creating training programs where teachers would train in their local languages.



The Resolution



After hours of passionate debate, the UNICEF Committee managed to draft a Resolution.

The Resolution emphasised expanding digital services in local languages, strengthening digital literacy through UNICEF initiatives, conducting national competency reviews, and investing in devices and infrastructure within national capacities.

In the end, the Resolution was passed with no objections or abstentions from the delegations, reflecting a shared commitment to ending digital inequalities for children.

GrunnMUN Gazette

GRONINGEN MUN *

* 21 FEBRUARY 2026

IO COMMITTEE - DIGITALIZATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH | WHO COMMITTEE - DIGITALIZATION

WHO JUST SAID “I”?

Apparently everyone, and no one, at the same time. *



“I didn’t feed my cat today.”

A sentence that, in any other room, would spark concern. In the World Health Organization (WHO) committee of Grunn Model United Nations (GrunnMUN) 2026, however, it sparked laughter instead, a reminder not to use personal pronouns.

Hosted by The European International Model United Nations (TEIMUN) at the iconic Academy Building of the University of Groningen, this year’s GrunnMUN was attended by delegates from The Hague to Leeuwarden, all across the Netherlands. These delegates represented their respective fields of study, such as electrical engineering, European law, international relations, and computer science. The initially awkward room, perhaps due to the variety of academic backgrounds, quickly demonstrated that with creativity and the ability to survive the conference without saying “I”, differences in age and majors can be utilized to build a strong public health diplomacy.

The chairs of WHO also established a unique rule in which personal pronouns were strictly forbidden. One slip, such as an accidental “we” or “I”, and delegates immediately received an “I count”. That said, the possibility of being “punished” might not have scared the delegates as at the end of the conference, the whiteboard was crowded with countless handwritten “I”s, mostly from the delegate of Sweden.



Digital Health or Digital Headache?

Despite most of the room being MUN first-timers, the committee took on the ambitious motion of digitalization in public healthcare combined with data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance. Estonia came armed with accurate WHO budget research, while India ruthlessly countered using concerns of inclusive accessibility, declaring that technological research is meaningless if citizens can’t even properly use it. On the other hand, Kenya, Australia, and Sweden emphasized transparency and universal legal frameworks, while Singapore introduced a quite memorable idea, which was connecting global citizens directly to health centres using easy-to-access mobile apps.

There were chaotic moments throughout the conference, as expected in most engaging MUNs, such as when delegates raised Points of Information with no time left for answers (which eventually became one of the committee’s best memes), Australia accidentally voting for its own motion, and the Deputy Secretary General of TEIMUN being referred to as everything except Deputy Secretary General. Yet beneath all the laughter and fun, the participants and chairs were left with the realization that most of the delegates, who began hesitant, unsure what to do with just ten seconds of speaking time, ended the conference day drafting thoughtful resolutions by dividing responsibilities.



Men in Suits: A Shocking Declaration?!

And in between all the banters were vegan lunches basked in sunlight, emergency snack runs to the quickest convenience store, a bright pink gossip padlet, and a laugh-inducing mandatory gossip session where every person in the room submits a piece of paper with their sweetest confessions. It’s obvious that the delegates left the building still thinking about those two anonymous confessions declaring that “men in suits are so fine” and that Australia has a “very nice smile.”

The closing ceremony was a call for WHO delegates to look back and see how far they’ve come in just one day of paper pandemonium, and for the TEIMUN team to remember all the fun they created in such a short event. As the TEIMUN board once said, while the opening ceremony should be dedicated to the delegates, the closing should be special for the people who made the conference happen. The signed placards and scribbles on A4 sheets will always remind participants of that room, stuffed with carefully avoided pronouns and budget disputes, where a chair once joked,

“Don’t hesitate to raise POIs! Feel free to ask if they fed their cat today.”

THRIVING IN TURBULENCE

The Beginning of The SMEs Debate:

The ECOSOC Committee of 2026 got into some pretty heated debates on the topic of 'SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) Resilience in Developing Countries'. The delegates debated on topics such as 'Digital Literacy', SMEs creating long-term strategies to prevent potential future damages, looked at whether nations should prioritize infrastructure development, promoted the simplification of bureaucratic burdens on SMEs and many more other sub-topics.

The Worldly Divide

It was evident to see that there was a great divide between countries considered 'developed' (such as the US and France) and the developing countries (such as Vietnam and the Philippines). This committee had a heavy influence from the BRICS organisation with almost all the 11 countries present. Russia and China, who are developed countries, both stated that their economies do not depend much on SMEs (especially Russia's), but they certainly believed in alliances between countries who depended on SMEs to help in the development of their States. Which was immediately backed up by countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. Due to that, France and the USA had their guards up.

The beginning of the session was tense! The US was already seeking to promote American labour to help on the digital expansion of SMEs around the world. In addition, the US did not want ECOSOC or the BRICS to be involved in such a project due to being considered 'anti-American' organisations. Russia almost immediately retorted by asking the US what they meant by ECOSOC and BRICS being an 'anti-American' organization. In addition, Russia once again highlighted the importance of BRICS in the present topic.

During Unmod sessions the delegates of the US, Vietnam, China, Russia, Brazil, and France got up to exchange ideas. It was immediately expected that the delegates would start forming their clans, but surprisingly there was quite a lot of group talk. It was evident, however, that the delegate of France was being overheard in both the Unmod and Moderate Caucus sessions whenever the conversation of corruption was brought up. It is interesting to see that such an important topic was being neglected by fellow delegates. However, to our delight, France was able to insert its worries into the resolution under Clause 7 which affirms states to enact legislation to make sure there was enough fund distribution to SMEs which mentioned that corrupt practices would be checked upon.



The Resolution Conclusion



In the end, a successful resolution was passed with a total of 13 clauses advising and promoting the best solution to SME's situation in developing countries. Even countries that were initially estranged from each other, such as France, were able to have its in-put and be a signatory to the resolution. Unsurprisingly the US was neither a Signatory nor a Submitter. The main point, however, was to create a resolution which would help countries that heavily depend on SMEs in their economy. Thanks to this Committee session, these developing states were able to converse and find a sort of solution to help improve their situation. Excited to see what these countries' next move will be!!!

‘WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SEA HERE’



Indo-Pacific Disputes

The 2026th GrunnMUN NATO committee successfully, unanimously, passed a resolution regarding the Development of a unified NATO strategic Policy on China and its influence in the Indo-Pacific. Despite the various challenges and complex topics, NATO delegates achieved great progress, developments, and unification throughout the conference. Everyone worked tirelessly on the resolution, making it a successful piece of work for the future references.

Speak the Mind!

Starting with the general introduction of the states' views on the issue, the delegates moved onto proposing interesting and engaging motions which called for action and possible solutions to the issue at hand. The motions focused on maritime security, allies and allied powers, and extension of NATO partnership. These various and thought-provoking motions kept the committee engaged and spiced up the debate. From the General Speakers List always being filled, to multiple discussions and crossovers during the closed debates, NATO delegates truly provided an interesting show of character, debating and presentation skills.



Out of Pocket

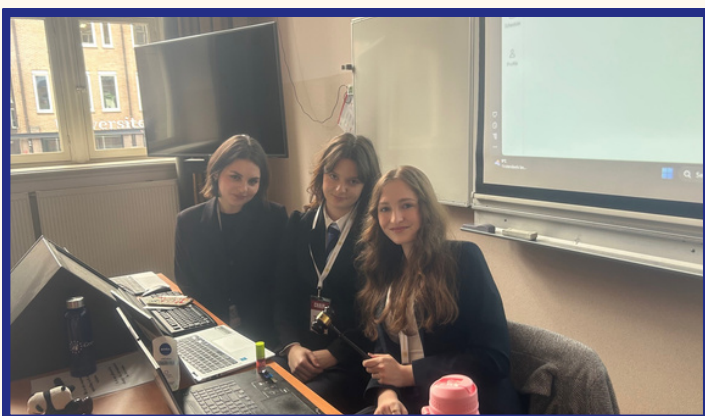
Although most of the sessions went by in serious mode, delegates still found a way to bring fun to the table and allow out of pocket moments. When the topic deviated towards Taiwan and unresolved issues surrounding it, the delegates reminded us that 'We are talking about the sea. Taiwan is irrelevant, and half of us do not even recognise it!'

One of the crucial points of the debate was when the delegate of Spain popped into the room for one speech and disappeared afterwards. They reminded us of what we are truly here for and what we are debating while posing relevant questions regarding the issue and guiding delegates in the right direction.



DANCE!

As we all know, an MUN would not be an MUN without punishments. Which is why, at the end of the first session, NATO chairs decided that everyone who referred to themselves with the famous 'I' instead of 'we' (which was almost the entire committee) would be punished. Seeing as almost every delegate had to participate, as they could not stop saying the 'I', everyone joined, including our chairs. The punishment was the famous Just Dance to the song Rasputin. Probs have to be given to our chair Ilinca Pădurariu who danced to this song in thin heels. We were all in awe with smiles on our faces as this interaction was purely fun and wholesome.



Confidential: Memes...

Moreover, another aspect of this conference was the online gossip padlet. Shortly before lunch, we were declared meme war by the Security Council committee which we took very seriously and fought back as soon as we came back from the break. The memes, messages, and jokes that were made through this truly spiced up the conference and made us laugh in secret during the debate. The winner of the war was never declared, however, it was for sure a tough decision as every committee made as many padlet submissions as possible. On this note, the 'meme war' was extraordinary and truly brought everyone's spirits up.



A Well-Deserved Milestone!

Following the coffee break, the delegates had a Q&A session with a guest speaker who explained to them how to further elaborate on the procedure and resolve the dispute. The session was interactive and gave various insights to the present topic, which delegates took upon graciously and improved their debate afterwards.

All delegates gave their utmost all at this conference and they all shall be congratulated on that. Everyone worked endlessly on the resolution and debate, but also on their own improvements and developments. Congratulations to all the delegates and chairs that participated in the conference and gave their all for it!



FIVE STARS ADVANCED

The most advanced committee this year has truly managed to show us how a handful of university students can deal with incredibly complex diplomatic questions, such as cross-border aid without state consent. The topic – stemming from its nature – demanded a qualified understanding of many branches of international law. We have seen delegates effortlessly cite articles of the UN Charter, understand their legal meaning and support them with very well-rounded political arguments.

DON'T FORGET YOUR TEACUPS

Gossips from the UNSC!

But before I get deeper into the most memorable clash points of the conference, we cannot fail to talk about the gossip circulating around certain delegates.



United Nations
Security Council

Firstly, about the delegate of Egypt. She – being the only female delegate in the Security Council – managed to single-handedly “girl-boss” her way through the whole conference. Although her objectively impressive efforts were awarded the “Outstanding Delegate” award, the identity of the person who first noted her excellence and wrote – and I quote – “The delegate of Egypt is girlbossing through these sessions” was not revealed and will likely remain a secret.

Moving on to more serious matters, the delegate of the USA is rumored to have intended to cause minor bodily harm to a member of the press. The alleged crime happened minutes before the start of the conference, between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m., on RUG premises. According to an anonymous source, the delegate of the USA said the following words before slapping the back of a journalist’s head, just above the neck area: “I like your cut, G.” After the alleged perpetrator had concluded the act, he went on to say: “We are here to deliver freedom and democracy.” Moreover, it has already been established by the independent press that the journalist had just gotten a new haircut a day before the conference, which might have been the reason why the delegate was drawn to commit the act. Further circumstances are soon to be investigated, but a future charge against the delegate would be highly unlikely due to his diplomatic immunity under international law.

Time for Business

Now that I have gone over a few interesting gossips, let us shift our focus back toward the notable clash points. Evidently, in such a high-level committee, one does not simply reason in favor of or against a certain motion. In this year’s edition of the Security Council, we saw many nuanced arguments from the very first second.



HELP OR INTRUSION

How do we help someone who doesn't want our help?

During the opening speeches, three blocks began to form: the international legal positivists, the humanitarians, and the middle grounders. While the positivist group, led mainly by China, Russia, and the US, put forward their very narrow criteria for allowing cross-border aid without state consent, the more humanitarian group, whose main voices were France, the EU, and the UK, argued that such intervention in a state's sovereignty may be more reasonable on a wider scale. In the meantime, many delegates, like those of Brazil, Egypt, or Iran, sought to position themselves between the two extremes. It is worth noting that the difference between the blocks' positions was quite small, regardless of their rhetoric being radically different.

All delegates respected the consent of the aided state, but the problem arose when it came to defining the exceptions to requiring state consent. In particular, the question of who should be eligible to raise the green flag for the aid. Generally, it was accepted that such intervention may only be done through the Security Council under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which some delegates referred to as a last resort, while others considered it a less weighty and adequate step for a wide range of situations. The divide between delegates remained somewhat similar until a whole new term was brought into discussion: cross-line aid.

The idea of cross-line aid is that humanitarian aid would go straight to the state, which would then distribute it to the concerned parties. This idea – introduced by the Chinese delegate – completely reshaped the debate around the requirements and, with it, the debate around states arbitrarily denying humanitarian aid. Which led our committee down the famous road of “Which UN agency should we drag into the matter?” To answer the question: OCHA and UNOSAT, which are already established organs of the UN, came in very handy when trying to find an impartial outsider who may decide on objective criteria.

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What about the resolution?

The spirit of cherry-picking certain wordings and wanting to redefine every big word has never led any MUN committee to a workable solution – except for this one! After hours of heavy debating, the Security Council managed to produce a conservative resolution, submitted by China and signed by every delegate. The main cornerstones of the final version of the resolution were:

A strong emphasis on state consent under Articles 3 and 4 of the Resolution, a narrow alternative to bypass state consent under Article 6 of the Resolution through Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, and clear time constraints alongside a well-refined system for providing aid under Article 7 of the Resolution.



It was an honour to be part of one of the few moments when the Security Council actually manages to pass a resolution – and an objectively well-refined one. Thank you for making this experience a reality!

WHAT A CEREMONY!

The opening ceremony is for the delegates. For some, it is the very first chapter of their new MUN journey, the first step into this new world full of politics, discussions, and lifelong memories. It was filled with excitement and a promise of a great conference. For others, it was a chance to see old friends, add a new experience to tens of others, and help the new faces to walk their path. For the board, it was the fruit of months of planning and the day when it would all be worth it. With the charisma of the master of the ceremony, the warm welcome of the president, and the encouraging words of the secretariat, the conference was officially open.



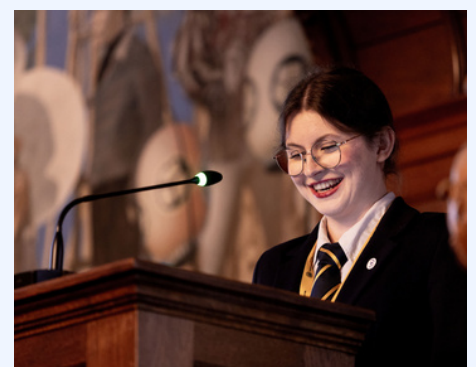
FINAL WORDS



As the conference came to a close, a bittersweet feeling filled the room as delegates and chairs gathered once again in the Aula for the closing ceremony. GRUNNMUN 2026 was met with heartfelt speeches, well-deserved awards, and reminders that MUN does not just teach valuable skills but brings people together.

As the ceremony reached its end, the TEIMUN Secretariat expressed their warm gratitude for everyone's attendance, reflecting on how GRUNNMUN 2026 had grown into more than just a conference — it had become a space where ideas were challenged, perspectives were broadened, and friendships were formed across borders. And with that, the gavel was struck one final time, echoing through the Aula as a solemn reminder that while the debates had ended, the impact of the conference would resonate far beyond those walls.

GrunnMUN 2026 Closing Ceremony was filled with compliments to its delegates and chairs for their hard work and dedication. The President of the TEIMUN foundation presented a lovely speech congratulating her fellow board members for the wonderful organization, and for the Secretariat for doing an excellent job on the academic side of the conference. On the reward side of the ceremony, many first time delegates received 'the best delegate awards' and 'honorable mentions'. Towards the end of the Ceremony, DSGs gave a wonderful speech congratulating the Chair team for this year's edition of GrunnMUN. Once the ceremony ended many hugs and contacts were exchanged amongst delegates. Truly an unforgettable MUN experience.

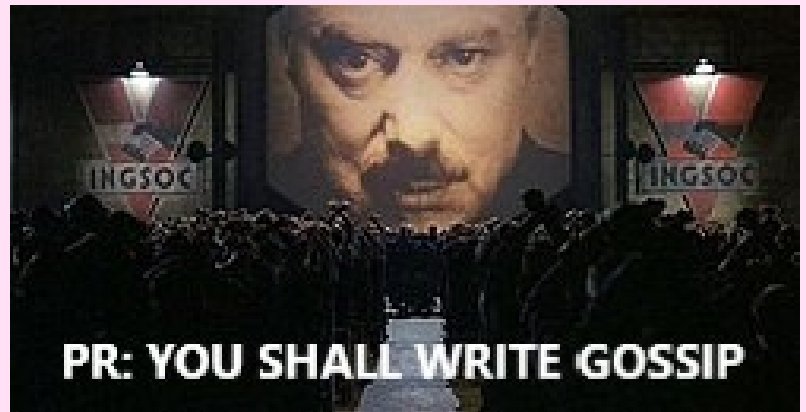


TEA HOUR!

This year's gossip started pretty slow but after the push given by the press team it was a complete game changer. The gossip contained banter between the delegates. A lot of this banter included inside jokes about the countries in-put in the debate. In addition, love was in the air with many anonymous letters complimenting each other's looks and signaling secret crushes. It can be said that committees had love in the air

Meme War!

From committees declaring meme wars to the declaration of mandatory gossip time, it would be fair to conclude that the padlet did very well in this conference.



Finally, the journalist team presents you the GrunnMUN 2026 Conference mixtape. It is a great way to remember all the fun moments from the conference. Looking back to my old MUN conferences, I always remember the best moments, the most interesting gossips and how much fun I had. We hope you remember GrunnMUN, full of not just academics and discussions, but also of joy and happiness!

