



**SOFIMUN**  
**Sofia International Model United Nations**

Edition: I/2008  
Period: 20-27 July 2008  
Location: Sofia, Bulgaria

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## **FIRST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CONFERENCE**

### **S O F I A   I N T E R N A T I O N A L** **M O D E L   U N I T E D   N A T I O N S**



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The first edition of the international students' conference Model United Nations in Sofia, The Sofia International Model United Nations – SOFIMUN, was held for one week **between 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2008**. Participants at the conference were divided into delegates, secretariat, Organizing and Executive Committees. The Organizing and Executive Committee consisted of members from Bulgaria, Netherlands, Croatia and Macedonia due to the international matter of the conference.

For one week all conference participants worked in real situation over actual world problems in the sphere of the attention of the United Nations in the spirit of the world organization.

### ✓ **1. SOFIMUN conference committees**

Sofia International Model United Nations focused its work over five of the UN committees/ programs:

- **UN Security Council**
- **UN Human Rights Council**
- **UN Economic and Social Council**
- **UN Conference on disarmament**
- **UN Environment Program**

### ✓ **2. Organizing Committee of the conference**

The Organizing Committee for the first Sofia conference started its work in November 2007 with the preparation of a detailed project and program for the forthcoming event. With the active help of international logistic partnerships, in February 2008 the project reached its final version and its realization started.

The Organizing Committee of the first Sofia International Model United Nations consists of **the initiators of the project, Ms. Paola Ivanova, Ms. Polina Goranova and Mr. Dimiter Mandradjiev with the great help of the Secretary General of the conference, Mr. Marcel van der Stroom.**

### ✓ **3. Executive Committee of the conference**

The first Sofia International Model United Nations was successfully realized in all it's aspects with the exclusive help and cooperation of the members of the SOFIMUN Executive Committee:

- Mr. Andrey Stoichev** (Bulgaria), Program manager
- Ms. Plamena Markova** (Bulgaria), Program manager



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**Ms. Mila Begova** (Bulgaria), Delegate recruitment  
**Mr. Nikolay Georgiev** (Bulgaria), Technical support; Tolerance manager  
**Mr. Boban Stojmanovski** (Macedonia), International PR; Manager foreign delegates  
**Ms. Ema Vidak-Gojkovic** (Croatia), International PR; Manager foreign delegates

#### ✓ 4. Secretariat

The Secretariat of the SOFIMUN conference was preliminarily defined by the Organizing Committee. It consisted of: **Secretary General, two chairpersons per each conference committee (generally 10 persons) and secretary support for each committee (1 person per committee).**

The model, used for the chairpersons on SOFIMUN was every SOFIMUN committee to be **chaired by 1 foreign and 1 Bulgarian chairperson**. As general supervising body during the conference, the secretariat was specially selected and invited by the Organizing team of SOFIMUN in the preliminary period.

The SOFIMUN Secretariat consisted of:

##### **a) Secretary General and committee chairpersons:**

- **Mr. Marcel van der Stroom** (Netherlands), Secretary general of SOFIMUN

##### Chairperson's Board

- **Mr. Hayk Hakobyan** (Armenia), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Security Council
- **Mr. Iskren Cekov** (Bulgaria), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Security Council
- **Ms. Agnes Venema** (Netherlands), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Human Rights Council
- **Ms. Desislava Dimova** (Bulgaria), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Human Rights Council
- **Ms. Elinor Fogarty** (Australia), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN ECOSOC
- **Ms. Alben Geleva** (Bulgaria), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN ECOSOC
- **Ms. Andrea Berger** (Canada), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Conference of disarmament
- **Mr. George Nicolov** (Bulgaria), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Conference of disarmament
- **Mr. Jun-Hwan Park** (South Korea/Chile), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Environment Program



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- **Ms. Lidiya Shtiliyanova** (Bulgaria), chairperson of SOFIMUN UN Environment Program

#### **b) Committee Secretaries**

Each of the 5 SOFIMUN committees was supported by a secretary, responsible for document issues and the successful work of the committee.

- **Ms. Albena Petkova / Ms. Desislava Kirova**, secretaries of SOFIMUN UN Security Council
- **Ms. Ekaterina Papanova**, secretary of SOFIMUN UN Human Rights Council
- **Ms. Dafinka Prokopova**, secretary of SOFIMUN UN ECOSOC
- **Ms. Petya Guenova**, secretary of SOFIMUN UN Conference on Disarmament
- **Ms. Biliana Yontcheva**, secretary of SOFIMUN UN Environment Program



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## **II. Conference overview**

### **✓ 1. Topics and work of the committees**

Each of the 5 committees on this 1-st edition of the Sofia International Model United Nations conference has focused its work on 2 preliminary defined topics as follows:

**Security Council:**

*The situation in Chechnya; Nuclear weapons proliferation in the Middle East*

**Human Rights Council:**

*Human rights in China; Biometric data gathering*

**ECOSOC:**

*Social entrepreneurship; International cooperation in the fight against corruption*

**Conference on disarmament:**

*Biological weapons; Terrorism and disarmament*

**UNEP:**

*Sustainable developments in the energy sector; Desertification*

The result of the work of the committees was the adoption of resolutions on each topic, reviewing possible decisions and matters that should be taken by the UN concerning the discussed matters.

For the successful event, during this year's SOFIMUN conference, a **crisis situation** was also simulated under the attention of the Security Council – "assassination of the Kosovo state leader, Hasim Thaci by Serbian revolutionists and possible consequences".

The texts of all resolutions can be found on the SOFIMUN website, [www.sofimun.org](http://www.sofimun.org)



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## ✓ 2. Delegates/ SOFIMUN participants

The 1-st edition of The Sofia International Model United Nations welcomed **147 participants between the age of 18 and 29 from over 30 nations** all over the world - *Netherlands, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Austria, Estonia, USA, Armenia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Albania, Ecuador, Romania, Israel, Germany, Egypt, Lithuania, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Georgia, Slovenia, Poland, Australia, Switzerland, Turkey, Pakistan, Czech Republic, Canada, Chili, South Korea.*

Thanks to the generous support of the SOFIMUN conference sponsors and partners, every participant at the 1-st Sofia International Model United Nations received a welcome package with conference materials and presents, representing Sofia and Bulgaria.

The 1-st Bulgarian Model UN conference had the pleasure to welcome a remarkable amount of the World's youth leaders and professionals in UN matters. At SOFIMUN as participants were present the General Secretaries of *ZAGIMUN 2007 (Zagreb International Model United Nations)*, *THESSISMUN 2008 (Thessaloniki International Model United Nations)*, *MUNUSAL 2008 (Model United Nations of University of Salamanca)*, representative of *UNYSA-AUSTRIA-AFA*, member of the Board of General Affairs of *UNISCA (United Nations International Students Conference of Amsterdam)*, representatives of the *Dutch, Croatian, Austrian, Lebanon and Hungarian UN Associations.*

## ✓ 3. Program

The one week event program was divided between everyday sessions for each SOFIMUN committee from 9:00 until 18:00 and additional events.

Before the start of the conference, the Chairperson board was specially educated and prepared over the specifics of the conference and its topics by the SOFIMUN Secretary General for 3 days (17-20 July) in the conference hall of The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria with the generous support of Mrs. Miglena Tacheva, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria.





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### **Detailed daily program**

#### **SUNDAY (20 July 2008)**

09:00 - 16:00 Arrival of participants, receiving of welcome packages and check in hotel.  
16:00 - 17:00 Preparation of the delegates for the evening  
17:00 - 19:00 Opening ceremony and introduction of the SOFIMUN event - schedule, rules, secretariat, committees; SOFIMUN Guest speeches of official authorities and partners  
19:00 - 19:30 Arrival at Gala Dinner Venue  
19:30 - 22:30 Gala Dinner and speeches.

#### **MONDAY (21 July 2008)**

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast  
09:00 - 09:30 Walk to the venues of the committees  
09:30 - 11:20 Opening speeches by committees  
11:20 - 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 - 13:00 Committee sessions  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break  
14:00 - 14:30 Travel to National History Museum of Bulgaria (with buses)  
14:30 - 16:30 Exploring National History Museum of Bulgaria  
16:30 - 17:00 Travel to Ministry of foreign affairs (with buses)  
17:00 - 19:00 Lecture and reception  
19:00 - 23:00 Free time for participants  
23:00- .... SOFIMUN Welcome party

#### **TUESDAY (22 July 2008)**

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast  
09:00 - 09:30 Walk to the venues of the committees  
09:30 - 11:20 Committee sessions  
11:20 - 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 - 13:00 Committee sessions  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break  
14:00 - 15:00 Committee sessions  
15:00 - 15:10 Coffee break  
15:10 - 16:50 Committee sessions  
16:50 - 17:00 Coffee break  
17:00 - 18:30 Committee sessions  
20:30 - 23:00 Committee dinners

#### **WEDNESDAY (23 July 2008)**

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast  
09:00 - 09:30 Walk to the venues of the committees



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09:30 - 11:20 Committee sessions  
11:20 - 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 - 13:00 Committee sessions  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break  
14:00 - 15:00 Committee sessions  
15:00 - 15:10 Coffee break  
15:10 - 16:50 Committee sessions  
16:50 - 17:00 Coffee break  
17:00 - 18:30 Committee sessions  
18:30 - 23:30 Free time for participants

#### **THURSDAY (24 July 2008)**

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast  
09:00 - 09:30 Walk to the venues of the committees  
09:30 - 11:20 Committee sessions  
11:20 - 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 - 13:00 Committee sessions  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break  
14:00 - 15:00 Committee sessions  
15:00 - 15:10 Coffee break  
15:10 - 16:50 Committee sessions  
16:50 - 17:00 Coffee break  
17:00 - 18:30 Committee sessions  
18:30 - 23:30 Free time for participants

#### **FRIDAY (25 July 2008)**

07:00 - 09:00 Breakfast  
09:00 - 09:30 Walk to the venues of the committees  
09:30 - 11:20 Committee sessions  
11:20 - 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 - 13:00 Committee sessions  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break  
14:00 - 15:20 Committee sessions  
15:20 - 15:30 Coffee break  
15:30 - 16:30 Committee sessions  
16:30 - 16:40 Coffee break  
16:40 - 18:30 Closing ceremony - Secretary General closing speech, Best delegates awards, Memorial photos  
18:30 - 20:00 Free time for participants  
20:00 - 20:30 Arrival at Gala Dinner Venue  
20:30 - 23:30 Gala Closing Dinner and SOFIMUN farewell party

#### **SATURDAY (26 July 2008)**



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07:00 - 14:00 Free time  
14:00 - 17:00 Sight seeing- Introducing Sofia!  
17:00 - 23:30 Free time

#### **SUNDAY (27 July 2008)**

00:00 - 24:00 Departure of participant (Bon Voyage)

#### **✓ 4. Guests**

For its 1-st edition the SOFIMUN conference hosted visit of official guests and specialists in various areas. Our special guests were:

- **H.E. Mr. Willem van Ee**, *Ambassador of The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bulgaria,*
- **H.E. Mr. Harry Huijbers**, *Consular of The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bulgaria,*
- **H.E. Mr. Drazen Vukov Colic**, *Ambassador of The Republic of Croatia,*
- **H.E. Mr. Stavros Amvrosiou**, *The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus*
- **Mrs. Dr. Mary Vaxevanidou**, *First Counselor of The Embassy of The Hellenic Republic in Republic of Bulgaria,*
- **Mr. Henry Jackelen**, *Resident Representative UNDP Bulgaria*
- **Mr. Toon Streppel**, *Head of the Information center of the European Parliament in Bulgaria*
- **Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchukov**, *Deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Bulgaria*
- **Mr. Kamen Velichkov**, *head of "UN and global issues" department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Bulgaria*
- **Prof. Mrs. P.Naskou-Peraki**, *University of Macedonia, Greece*
- **Mr. Yavor Milushev**, *deputy minister of culture of Republic of Bulgaria*

#### **✓ 5. Accommodation**

The accommodation of all international participants was arranged in hotel "Pliska" in Sofia city with the generous support of the sponsors of the conference.

#### **✓ 6. Committee halls**

The work and the sessions of the SOFIMUN Committees were situated in The National Palace Of Culture (NPC) with the exclusive and generous support of The Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria.



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## **✓ 7. Additional conference events**

The 1-st edition of SOFIMUN offered its participants a number of events in addition to the session program as it follows:

- **Visit of the National History Museum**
- **Introduction of traditional Bulgarian folklore**
- **Sofia sight seeing**
- **Social events program**
- **Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and lecture by the Deputy minister, Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchukov**
- **Visit of H.E the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Stavros Amvrosiou**
- **Lectures**
  - lecture "Bulgaria and the new UN initiative, "Alliance of civilizations", held by Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchukov, Deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria;
  - lecture "The Role of Contemporary UN Peacekeeping Operations for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security", held by Lt. Col. Plamen Milanov, Ministry of defense of Republic of Bulgaria



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### **III. Partners, sponsors, friends, partner organizations**

The complete realization of the 1-st Sofia International Model United Nations conference would not have been possible without the exclusive and generous help, support and participation of our Bulgarian and international partners.

#### **✓ 1. Sponsors**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Ministry of Economics and Energy
- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Culture
- State Agency for Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Sofia Municipality
- Representation of the European Commission to Bulgaria
- Embassy of Netherlands to the Republic of Bulgaria
- Embassy of Greece to the Republic of Bulgaria
- Embassy of Croatia to the Republic of Bulgaria
- UNDP Bulgaria and UN Bulgaria
- Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- Tourism company "Tourist services"
- Mining company "ASSAREL MEDET"
- Mineral water "DEVIN"
- Web-studio "Svetu Design"
- ABCD Consult Ltd.

#### **✓ 2. Partners**

- ✗ Minister for European affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria Mrs. Gergana Grancharova
- ✗ Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✗ Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✗ Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✗ Ministry of Transport of the Republic of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✗ State Agency for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ✗ Directorate for education, culture, sports and prevention of drugs of Sofia



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- ✘ The Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication (FJMC)
- ✘ Hotel Pliska
- ✘ Restaurant Mehana "Vitosha"
- ✘ Restaurant "Sky Plaza"
- ✘ Restaurant "Matti-d"
- ✘ National Palace of Culture
- ✘ National Museum of History

### ✓ 3. Partner MUN's



- BIMUN - Belgrade International Model United Nations
- GIMUN - Geneva International Model United Nations
- HMUN - Hungarian Model United Nations
- THESSISMUN - Thessaloniki International Student Model United Nations
- MILMUN - Milano International Model United Nations
- MUNEX - Model United Nations at the University of Essex
- MUNUSAL - Model United Nations University of Salamanca
- UNISCA - United Nations International Students Conference of Amsterdam
- VIMUN - Vienna International Model United Nations
- ZAGIMUN - Zagreb International Model United Nations

### ✓ 4. Friends

- New Bulgarian University
- University of Plovdiv "St. Paisii Hilendarski"
- University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Universiteit van Amsterdam
- Maastricht University
- Nijmegen University
- Leiden University
- Groningen University
- Croatian National Youth Council
- Students Council, Law Faculty- University of Zagreb
- Student Organization "Pravnik"-Law Faculty, University of Zagreb
- Balkan Case Challenge – Vienna
- Red Bull Energy Drink
- Dutch United Nations Association



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- SEFA (Association of faculty of economics and business of the University of Amsterdam)
- AIESEC (Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales)
- AFA (United Nations Youth Association of Austria)
- AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe)
- Atlantic club of Bulgaria
- International Relations Research Student Association (IRRSA)
- Student Diplomacy Club
- Student Business Club
- National Unity "Treasure the Bulgarian Heritage"



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## **IV. Popularization**

The popularization of Sofia International Model United Nations conference was realized in various ways according to the period in which it was held. The general method of promoting the conference was the creation of the SOFIMUN website ([www.sofimun.org](http://www.sofimun.org)) through which the application and all additional information was reachable – presentation of it's topics and committees; easy to use application path; introduction of the SOFIMUN team; publication of additional information about the host country and city; useful links for documents, travel and basic information.

Another part of the SOFIMUN popularization was planned to promote the meaning of the conference by linking it with every significant academic center in Europe, North America and Asia through announcements, calls for applicants and invitations.

Mostly the popularization of the SOFIMUN event was due to the attention that SOFIMUN attracted in the media sector. This was a result of the distribution of everyday press releases on behalf of the conference to both local and international medias of all types. The interest drawn to the conference was remarkable - **9 television interviews** of SOFIMUN participants and members of the Organizing and Executive Committee, **10 radio interviews and radio announcements**, **two press conferences** with the participation of the Organizing Committee, the Secretary General and members of the Chairpersons Board and **over 50 articles and announcements** for SOFIMUN in various printed and web medias in Bulgaria and Europe.

**Every press material and participation in media events, related with the SOFIMUN conference and/or sent on the behalf of SOFIMUN included full information about all the sponsors and partners of the conference and special mentions. Same is applicable for all web and printed materials, used for the needs of the conference.**

SOFIMUN Organizing and Executive Committees however consider that the SOFIMUN conference owns its best and biggest popularization to the words that were said or are about to be said for the event from all its participants, friends and guests, who attended it. We strongly hope that all participants, guests, team members and friends are satisfied and will continue to be our friends and will visit us on the next SOFIMUN conferences in the forthcoming years!





**SOFIMUN**  
**Sofia International Model United Nations**

Edition: I/2008  
Period: 20-27 July 2008  
Location: Sofia, Bulgaria

Website: [www.sofimun.org](http://www.sofimun.org)  
Forum: [www.forum.sofimun.org](http://www.forum.sofimun.org)  
Media space: [www.press.sofimun.org](http://www.press.sofimun.org)  
E-mail: [info@sofimun.org](mailto:info@sofimun.org)

*"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"*

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## **V. Some words of gratitude**

The SOFIMUN Organizing and Executive Committees express their greatest gratitude to all the sponsors, partners and friends of SOFIMUN for their valuable help at every stage of the organization and the implementation of the conference!

**Thank you !**

On the behalf of the SOFIMUN Organizing and Executive Committee we wish to express our greatest gratitude and appreciation to our Secretary General, **Mr. Marcel van der Stroom** for his great support in organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Sofia International Model United Nations, for being our friend, for his remarkable professionalism and for bringing the spirit of cooperation on SOFIMUN.

SOFIMUN Organizing and Executive Committees also extends its most special appreciation to the absolute professionalism, hard work and consideration to all **the chairpersons at SOFIMUN 2008** - those 10 people, without which SOFIMUN will never have happened, those 10 persons that were the basis of SOFIMUN 2008 in all its aspects. Thank you!

The SOFIMUN Organizing and Executive Committees would like also to render thanks to **all the participants** in this year's SOFIMUN edition for your purposefulness, friendship, patience and desire to make this conference such a remarkable event and to start the search of future ideas in order to model us now.

**Thank you all and hope to see you on SOFIMUN 2009!**