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Delegating in a **Multipolar World**

Ten students. Three nations. Countless lessons.

From the 19th to the 22nd of March, ten members of the Year 12 MUN CAS group — accompanied by our MUN Director, Mrs Obermeier — travelled to Milan to take part in one of the most high-octane leadership challenges the IB CAS programme has to offer.

With over 30 schools and more than 300 students in attendance, this Model United Nations conference placed participants in the shoes of UN diplomats. Students were tasked with debating and negotiating solutions to some of the most pressing contemporary issues on the global stage: from climate change and national security to human rights protections and the challenges facing nations in the Global South where infrastructure is lacking.

This year, our cohort represented three nations—Qatar, Madagascar, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia—across various UN agencies and committees, each working to resolve distinct and complex global challenges. What follows are their individual accounts.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Delegates: **Tom Motamedi & Julian Rohne**

The ILO committee brought together roughly 40 delegates to address some of the most complex issues in the modern world of work: non-standard employment, teaching conditions, and apprenticeships. The discussions were long, rigorous, and at times genuinely exhausting; yet it was precisely that intensity that made the experience so formative.

The fast-paced nature of debate was the right atmosphere for our ability to think critically under pressure to develop, forcing us to grasp and engage with abstract concepts, such as transparency mechanisms for overseeing labour conditions, in real time. More significantly, it marked a turning point in our confidence as public speakers.

Being able to address room filled to the brim with experienced delegates around Europe — many of whom had been doing MUN for years — felt daunting and suffocating at first. But pushing through that discomfort proved to be its own reward. Having done so, there is now a noticeably greater willingness to assert our perspectives, whether contributing to classroom discussions or conversations beyond the school walls.

Finally, the MUN gave us a good glimpse of what it takes to be a participating member of the international political world, since we got to experience first-hand all the rules and procedures of international dialogue.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Delegates: Noah Tillett

At Milan2026 MUN, I stood for Qatar in the WTO agency, one of the few institutions where countries negotiate rules on trade, making it essential for preventing conflicts and ensuring predictability in global markets. In this agency it felt like actively stepping into the dynamics of real-world economic diplomacy.

Working with delegates from diverse backgrounds, we spent hours negotiating, drafting clauses, and refining resolutions that addressed three central topics: resolving ongoing trade disputes, regulating the expansion of digital trade and e-commerce, and promoting sustainable development through fair trade frameworks. Rather than simply saying positions, we had to form blocs, compromising on key issues, and balancing national interests with global priorities.

Discussions on trade disputes often became intense, as delegates defended tariffs, sanctions, or dispute settlement mechanisms, mirroring real WTO tensions. The topic of digital trade pushed us to think about data flows, privacy, and the power of big tech in a globalised economy, while sustainability debates challenged us to reconcile economic growth with environmental responsibility.

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Overall, the experience was both challenging and rewarding, offering a deeper appreciation for the negotiation, compromise, and strategy needed to keep global trade systems running smoothly.

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Delegates: Nicolas Kelbel & Ben Becker

MUN 2026 ended up being so much more than we expected. Nicolas and I (Ben) chose DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security Committee, because we wanted something that felt real, something that dealt with the kind of issues you hear about in the news but rarely get to talk about in depth.

For example, the use of drones and autonomous weapons systems in warfare, combatting cartels and drug trade internationally as well as the fair and sustainable use of outer space resources. And honestly, it was intense at times, but in the best way possible.

There is something surreal about sitting in a room full of people your age, all being different countries, trying to solve problems that do not have easy answers. But what stuck with us most was not just the debates; it was everything in between. The random conversations, the inside

jokes during unmoderated caucuses, meeting people we never would have talked to otherwise, and realising how quickly strangers can turn into friends.

MUN showed us how much you grow when you put yourself out there.

DISEC showed us how important these discussions are, but MUN showed us how much you grow when you put yourself out there. If you are even thinking about joining MUN, just do it, you do not need to be the best speaker or know everything. You just need to show up, and it might end up being one of the best decisions you make.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Delegates: **Pranav Greinert**

At Milan2026 MUN, I represented Bolivia in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee—SOCHUM for short. Picture a room buzzing with about 50 delegates, everyone eager to tackle some of the world’s toughest social and human rights problems. The energy was high, and honestly, it was hard not to be pulled in by the constant back-and-forth of different perspectives and ideas.

We came from every kind of background you could imagine. For hours, we debated, drafted, and negotiated solutions on three tough issues: setting up an international legal framework for surrogacy agreements, tackling the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, and supporting self-governance for Brazil’s Indigenous communities. Each topic pushed us to speak up for our country’s views but also demanded that we look at the bigger picture—ethical questions, culture, and just basic humanity.

Surrogacy felt like a legal and moral puzzle. Laws clashed. People argued about rights, exploitation, and the family’s meaning itself. On the Syrian refugee crisis, we tried to figure out how to share responsibility, provide real help, and plan for the long-term solution. When the conversation turned to Indigenous self-governance, we had to face up to old injustices and think about what true autonomy, culture, and development look like.

As the committee moved forward, alliances started to form. Some debates got heated, and making real progress meant letting go of some national interests, making deals, and hunting for whatever common ground we could find. These moments were tense, but that’s what actually built some real teamwork and creative solutions.

Unity is our greatest strength.

That line kept echoing in the background, and it couldn’t have been truer. Nothing got done when we all held onto our differences. But the second we came together—even a little—we started to make things happen.

Looking back, the whole experience was demanding, but it left me with a much bigger respect for the diplomacy, empathy, and grit it takes to even begin solving global social issues.

UN WOMEN

Delegates: **Nikitha Kishore**

The Milan MUN trip in 2026 was very different to what I had expected, in the best possible way. It was an eye-opening experience, and I learned far more than I thought I would. I chose the UN Women committee because I strongly believe in gender equality and women’s rights and thought

this was an area that I could contribute to meaningfully. I aimed to approach this topic with a realistic and diplomatic perspective that supports my country, which is Bolivia, rather than my own point of view. We debated on the three topics we had to discuss, which was the care economy, empowering women against violence, and encouraging women's entrepreneurship. Each topic required me to think critically and collaborate with others to find solutions and create resolutions. I worked on creating a resolution that focused on empowering women against violence because it aligned with my country's stance.

At the beginning, this experience was very overwhelming for me as many of the participants were highly experienced and had already attended multiple conferences, and this was my first one. It was very fast-paced, and the dynamic was very different to what I had experienced before. However, I slowly started to understand the flow of the debate better and I prepared more and gained confidence, starting to participate and delivering my own speeches.

This was incredibly rewarding for me because my confidence grew. Another surprising aspect of this trip was how I socialised easily and connect with others. The environment was very open and international. I found it easy and natural to socialise, network, and build relationships with others that I had never met before. They all were motivated and career-oriented, and this mindset really resonated with me, which made the experience so much more inspiring. Overall, through this trip, I was able to appreciate the complexity of global discussions and women's rights, as well as how much effort is put into debating and negotiating. Looking back, I can confidently say that this was truly an experience I loved, and I'm eager to participate again in the future.

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Delegates: Kyra Chaudhary

MilanMUN'26 consisted of a rollercoaster of effortlessly planned events eliciting both emotional and academic revelations alike. I participated in the CCPCJ committee - (Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) as Madagascar, a much less powerful country compared to the greats in our modern era. Expecting not to get the opportunity to speak or have an opinion due to the status of my country, I trudged into the lobbying room, not expecting much more than being bombarded with the opinions and diplomatic resolutions of others.

Nonetheless, I was greeted by delegates from countries across Europe who were openly willing to converse with me. I then came to a great realisation that influenced my confidence and behaviour over the next few days - The strength and opinions of the country mattered only as much as the ability of the delegate/diplomat in such a simulated setting. Moreover, the many delegates I came across were just as unfamiliar with one another and the format of the lobbying at the conference.

In the following days, I took this newfound information and applied it to assemble my very own group of allies from my fellow African Union countries, who also happened to be sitting around me (that really helps). Many of them had attended multiple MUN conferences and were happy to explain the procedures to those of us who required help. Together we conquered Indonesia's unspecific resolution targeting recidivism, which did not specifically outline where the funds for its actions would come from. This resolution did not pass.

Moreover, my delegation, with its friendly but cautious stance regarding China and its Belt and Road Initiative, decided to cautiously inquire the motives and plans of its delegation proposing solutions for human trafficking. This resolution passed after much debate.

Madagascar formed a very tight alliance with Uganda, who not only sat in my vicinity, but also happened to speak German with me. Common tongues can unite after all.

Additionally, not only was I awed by the precision of France's resolution regarding corruption on a global scale, but this delegation was able to form yet another alliance with the nation, considering France has been its colonial predecessor (France and Madagascar are on friendly terms). Overall, I learnt a lot about public speaking and interacting with others in professional settings. Would recommend!

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Delegates: Aarav Garg and Connor Dee

Along with Connor representing Bolivia, I represented Qatar in the MilanMUN United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The topics on the agenda were the pressing issues of climate transparency, reforestation, and the regulation of biotechnology. The multitude of perspectives and national interests present at the debate created an engaging yet difficult challenge.

The dichotomy between sovereignty and environment, between nation and globe, was the central issue posited in the UNEP. The reconciliation of these opposing interests proved particularly challenging right from the onset, as discussions on climate transparency quickly highlighted tensions between accountability and national sovereignty. As Qatar, my position consisted of a rigorous yet realistic reporting framework which considered discrepancies in technological development among the various member states. During the reforestation debates, the central dichotomy presented itself as a contradiction between sustainability and feasibility, since ambitious global targets often clashed with concerns over funding and practicality. The debates on the regulation of biotechnology meanwhile revolved around the minimisation of its environmental impacts without limiting innovation.

Throughout the conference, the formation of alliances and the drafting of resolutions was essential for representing Qatar, requiring constant negotiation and compromise. This emphasised how progress does not depend solely on strong ideas, but rather also on collaboration and adaptability. Delivering unscripted speeches on a podium with the attention of a whole committee to raise spontaneous, underdeveloped issues and proposals required both self-confidence and diplomatic calculus.

The MilanMUN has been the most enlightening experience of my academic career so far. Participation in the UNEP deepened my understanding of environmental diplomacy, allowing me to develop a new-found appreciation of the complexities of reaching global consensus.