

Distinguished delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcome to MUIMUN 2012! At this conference, we will be simulating various committees of the United Nations as realistically as possible and getting to know diplomacy from within.

Probably you have heard of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to three women. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman received it “for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work”. In a way, this covers both of the topics that we are going to discuss at the conference in Münster, “Supporting Access to Justice for Female Victims of Violence” and “Promoting Political Participation of Women”. Both of these topics are pressing and highly complex issues and reaching a consensus will not be easy.

Yet, that is precisely what you will need to do. Representing the country assigned to you, you will have to discuss, deliver speeches, lobby, try to think outside the box and come up with solutions. Inventive spirit will be vital. You will have to decide what your country can accept and what it cannot give up. And in the end, you will have to agree on statements that represent the official policy of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Although this will not be easy at all, we hope it will be worthwhile. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said something memorable about Model United Nations:

“The word ‘model’ has a number of meanings. In the context of the model United Nations, it is commonly understood as ‘a small copy’. But I prefer another of its meanings: ‘a praiseworthy example to be copied’.”

That is what we hope for in this conference: Fresh ideas, innovative concepts and sustainable strategies. Apart from that, we are looking forward to great fun. During the conference you will get to know people from various backgrounds and cooperate with them. We hope for enriching experiences, new friendships and international understanding. In one word: We are looking forward to meeting you and we hope you are as thrilled about MUIMUN 2012 as we are!

Yours sincerely,

Sinziana and Bernard

P.S.: Do not hesitate to get in touch with us beforehand, you can reach us at [csw@muimun.org](mailto:csw@muimun.org)!