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# THE DAILY HERALD



9th ACGMUN  
Conference

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ISSUE No 1

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9TH ACG MUN

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27 FEBRUARY, 2026

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## MEET THE SECRETERIAT!!!

*Leadership in Action: Our incredible Secreteriat*

## OPENING CEREMONY!!!

*From Vision to Reality : The Conference Begins*

## ARTICLES

*Safeguarding Neuroprivacy through the Ethical Regulation of Brain-Computer Interfaces*

*Strengthening Global Strategies to Combat Climate Change in Accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals*



*Regulating Deep-Sea Resource Extraction to Protect Marine Biodiversity*

## COMMITTEE REVIEW

Overall, the committees demonstrated great understanding of the topics, as well as consistent engagement in fruitful discussion and dedication to the tasks involved in each session. They undoubtedly corroborated the highly intellectual and collaborative spirit of the conference, and this is only the beginning!

## PHOTO GALLERY

*Photos from the confernce*

## LOOKALIKES!!!

*Did you spot the similarities between the delegates and these famous figures? Get ready as more lookalike are about to come in next issues*

## BEST DRESSED!!!

*Who stood out between the delegates and surprised our journalists and photographers with their outfits*



# MEET THE SEC!



## John Athanasiadis (Secretary General)

*Question: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?*

I see myself studying medicine, hoping to become a neurosurgeon while also doing research in oncology. As to where I would live I would say is Sweden because the quality of life is really good and they have a really good healthcare system!

## Vasiliki Lentoudi (President of the General Assembly)

*Question: What are some tips you would give to someone attending MUN for the first time?*

I would encourage them to give their best! MUN is a safe place for everyone, an activity that brings the world closer. There is no need for anyone to be stressed out about making a speech or a point of information. Believe in yourself, be confident. Mistakes can be made but they are the ones that teach us what we have to do in the future! Never forget why you are here, never underestimate the power you have to make active changes in the world we live in. You are the future, you have the power!! Remember your purpose and trust me, you will be fine!!



## Filippos Moysidis (Deputy Secretary-General)

*Question: Which is your favourite MUN experience and why?*

My favourite MUN experience was the Flag Parade at THIMUN. As a chair standing on the stage, watching the flags enter one by one with the dramatic music playing was unforgettable. Seeing hundreds of people proudly carrying their countries' flags created an incredible atmosphere of unity and purpose. From that perspective, you truly feel the scale and impact of MUN. It was a powerful reminder of why these conferences matter.



## Grace Konidari (Deputy Secretary-General)

*Questions: What famous person historical figure would you like to see participate in an MUN conference?*

I would like to see Joseph Stalin participate in MUN because he was a mastermind and had his way to manipulate his political opponents so it would be a really interesting debate and it would be a lot of fun.

## Marialena Sarimvei (Deputy Secretary-General)

*Question: Which MUN committee is closest to your heart and why?*

The committee closest to my heart is GA1 as it's the committee I have participated the most and the one that allowed me to understand diplomacy on a deeper level. As this Committee includes international security topics and focuses on important issues regarding pressing security concerns. It is a fast paced committee that has pushed me to think critically about complex global challenges and I hope it is the same for the delegates.

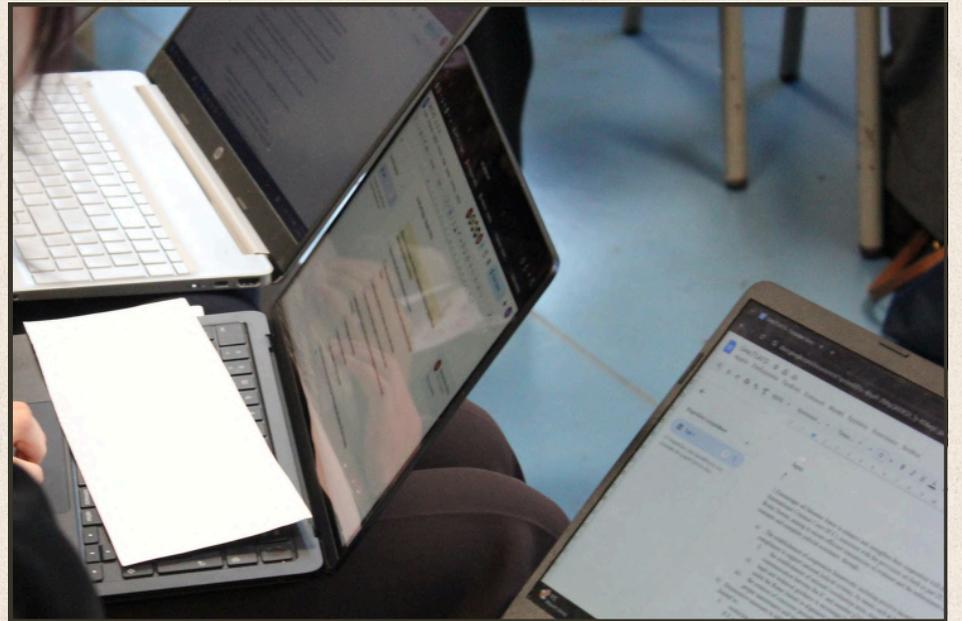


## Safeguarding Neuroprivacy through the Ethical Regulation of Brain-Computer Interfaces

What if your thoughts were no longer entirely your own? In a world of rapid technological advancement - where data is power - the most valuable data of all may be our brain activity. Brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are systems that enable direct communication between the brain and external devices that carry out desired actions, by acquiring brain signals, analyzing them, and translating them into commands. They have groundbreaking applications that contribute to societal progress, such as alleviating neurological diseases, restoring movement to paralyzed patients and improving communication for individuals with disabilities. However, nascent and proliferating technologies are inevitably accompanied by emerging challenges.



BCIs collect large amounts of highly sensitive neural data. Though BCIs were designed to promote health improvement and cognitive enhancement, illicit access to such data imperils their unregulated use for nefarious purposes, while raising concerns about privacy violations or manipulation. These concerns become particularly prominent as BCIs expand beyond strictly clinical applications and enter widespread public use for the enhancement of the human mind. More precisely, it is possible that these devices may develop to be able to understand our innermost thoughts and even our unconscious motivations, encroaching on our right to cognitive liberty and freedom of thought. Notwithstanding several legislative proposals in numerous nations, there are major gaps in effectively protecting neuroprivacy.



The sinister scenario of unfettered mining of thoughts and feelings by private or state interests paints an unnerving dystopian picture. Reform must maintain a balance between human autonomy and dignity alongside visions of progress, emphasizing ethical data use. Hence, this fascinating breakthrough could herald a future where technology amplifies, not exploits, human potential.

The choice of path is ours to make.

**Article by Christina Koumasi**



## Strengthening Global Strategies to Combat Climate Change in Accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

In an international system built on cooperation, climate change has become the ultimate test of multilateralism. Its effects are already visible, confronting every delegation, every region and every economy. Rising temperatures, accelerating sea level rise and natural disasters are disrupting food systems, displaying populations and widening inequality. The question before the international community is no longer whether climate change demands action but whether collective action is enough to confront the crisis.



A comprehensive framework for such action already exists. In 2015, all UN Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Agenda represents the most comprehensive blueprint to promote human well-being, economic development and environmental protection. Sustainable Development Goal 13 is the one central to climate governance, calling for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. However, SDG 13 does not stand alone. SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities, SDG 14 and 15 concerning life below water and life on land, and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production are all linked to climate action. Without meaningful climate action, progress across the entire development agenda is jeopardized.



This global vision is reinforced by complementary international agreements. The Paris Agreement establishes a legally binding framework for limiting global temperature rise and strengthening adaptive capacity, urging states to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and progressively increase ambition. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction focuses on reducing disaster risks and enhancing resilience, recognizing that climate-related hazards are becoming more frequent and severe. Together, they show that climate action, development, and disaster prevention are connected and work best when addressed together.



Yet significant implementation gaps persist even within this robust framework. Global emissions continue to rise, climate finance commitments from developed countries remain insufficient, and adaptation strategies have failed to keep pace with escalating climate threats. Strengthening international mechanisms will require renewed political will and concrete institutional reforms. Climate finance, in particular, must be scaled up and delivered equitably. Developed nations, historically responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions, must fulfill and expand their financial commitments to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries.



Climate considerations must also be integrated into all areas of national policy, from urban planning and agriculture to water management and infrastructure development. Nature-based solutions, such as ecosystem restoration and sustainable land use, offer cost-effective ways to enhance resilience while supporting livelihoods. Technological innovation, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building are equally vital to strengthen mitigation and adaptation efforts, particularly in developing countries.



Ultimately, aligning climate action with the Sustainable Development Goals is not only a technical necessity but a moral and political imperative. The tools and frameworks already exist; what is needed is decisive, coordinated action grounded in equity and shared responsibility. Climate change presents both a profound threat and a transformative opportunity to build a more resilient, just, and sustainable global future.

**Article by Mikaela Manouilidi**

## Regulating Deep-Sea Resource Extraction to Protect Marine Biodiversity: Warning! Rocks swimming by!

In the recent years, with the United Nations working harder and harder on contributing to the ecological change of its members, the extraction of deep-sea resources and minerals in general has proven to be a very economic and sufficient method of easily collecting and processing rare earthly minerals and stones that aren't easily found on land nowadays.



Even though this method has turned out extremely beneficial for many businesses, such as smartphone, electric car and turbine productions, it poses an extreme threat towards the living organisms and animals of the oceanic biosphere. The lives of many species that have underwater habitats are jeopardized, as the heavy machinery usually runs over everything in its path on the seafloor, or due to the massive amounts of waste and silt that are stirred up from all of the mining procedures.

To deal with this issue, the UN have to act fast and effectively. Some ideas have arisen in the latest years considering measures that can be taken to both protect the sea life and keep investing in the mining expeditions. Firstly, improvements in safety organizations can be made, like finalizing and enforcing a strong, precautionary Mining Code or strengthening compliance monitoring and sanctions. Furthermore, the UN could encourage a temporary global moratorium on commercial deep-sea mining until sufficient scientific knowledge exists as well as support General Assembly (GA) resolutions urging precaution. Lastly, the United Nations should focus on aligning Deep-Sea Governance with climate and sustainability goals, meaning that deep-sea regulation should support the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change science on ocean-climate interactions and the biodiversity goals of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).



In conclusion, I believe that the UN are capable of finding a solution to this problem by working together and by all means help protect sea animals and organisms in general while at the same time keep collecting minerals and rare ores from the seafloor without causing any harm. This way, the biodiversity of the ocean will not be in danger and the production methods of all types of organizations will be considered humane and beneficial for the people and the future of society.

**Article by Panagiotis Spyroulias**

## OPENING CEREMONY OVERVIEW

The opening ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> ACG Conference took place at the theater of The American College of Greece, marking the official start of this year's ACGMUN. After the delegates took their seats, Vassiliki Lentoudi, the President of the General Assembly welcomed everyone and introduced to us the Secretariat. A video highlighting the history of the school was then projected, offering delegates the opportunity to learn more about the institution hosting this prestigious conference. Following the presentation, Dr. Edward C. Wingenbach, as the President of The American College of Greece, delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging students to embrace dialogue, think critically, and recognise the power they hold as young leaders shaping the future.



No ACG ceremony would be complete without the presence of the school's traditional dance team.

Next, the Conference Director and Pierce Alumnus Class of 2021, Ioulianos Kotsios, addressed the delegates in a speech filled with heartfelt advice, and paid tribute to ACGMUN. The ceremony was complete by an insightful speech by the Secretary General, John Athanasiadis.



The event continued with a video explaining this year's agenda and a speech by the founder of "Boroume", who talked about the fact that complaining is 'cheap', and acting is the real solution to the ongoing problems of our world. Dr. Zisis Ioannidis, Advisor to the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, talked about how students can change tomorrow. The Ceremony acquired a festive atmosphere thanks to the musical talents of students from Pierce, who presented two outstanding performances.



## OPENING CEREMONY

### SPEECH OF DR. EDWARD C. WINGENBACH

Dr. Edward C. Wingenbach, President of the American College of Greece, addressed delegates by reflecting on this year's theme "Shaping Tomorrow". He emphasized the importance of the school's international student body, noting that diversity is central to its identity and strength. Referencing the United Nations, Dr. Wingenbach reaffirmed that its core promise remains vital: disputes should be resolved through diplomacy, not intimidation or violence, while upholding sovereignty. He described Moden United Nations as a training ground for this commitment, where students debate, amend, persuade and compromise under pressure. He concluded with a powerful message, reminding delegates that progress comes not from silencing disagreement, but from engaging with it respectfully and rigorously – shaping the future world they would help build.



### SPEECH OF DIRECTOR OF NGO "BOROUME": ALEXANDER THEODORIDIS

Alexander Theodoridis, Director of Boroume, addressed the assembly not only as the head of an NGO, but as a former MUN participant. Reflecting on the conference theme, he argued that while younger generations have the right to complain about the state of the planet and it is past generations mistakes that led the youth here, "complaining is cheap – acting is what matters." Sharing the story of Boroume's founding, he described how a small, dedicated group created something that did not previously exist, rescuing and redistributing surplus food and later expanding in education and the Alliance for the Reduction of Food Waste. Despite setbacks and rejection, he chose action over stepping down, ultimately delivering measurable results. He too, concluded with a powerful call to initiative: do not let obstacles define you. "If not me, who? And if not now, when?"

# OPENING CEREMONY

DR. ZISIS IOANNIDIS



## SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, JOHN ATHANASIADIS

John Athanasiadis, the Secretary General delivered an intellectually stimulating speech outlining the importance of participating in the conference and the concrete goals it seeks to achieve. He emphasized the breadth of skills that delegates will obtain through their involvement in the conference, and presented progress as a crucial necessity in a rapidly changing world. His closing words reflected the purpose of ACGMUN: to empower students to participate actively, lead ethically, collaborate across cultures, and strive for resolutions. This way, the Opening Ceremony drew to a close, and the 9<sup>th</sup> ACGMUN Conference was officially declared open.



## COMMITTEE REVIEWS



### Disarmament & International Security Committee (GA1)

GA1 began our committee session with some exciting ice breakers that helped our delegates get to know each other. After that we moved on to the presentation of policy statements that clearly reflected each delegation's priorities and demonstrated a solid understanding of the topics at hand. Following this, we moved into lobbying.

We observed that delegates have actively engaged with one another, and worked efficiently to strengthen the overall framework of our work. Overall, GA1 delegates have shown excellent behaviour, and I am confident that we will continue building on this strong foundation in the sessions ahead.

### Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (GA3)

In GA3 today, we have a lot of very enthusiastic and prepared delegates. So far, it's safe to say that after some ice breakers and general introductions they have warmed up and seem to be very interested in the topics we are going to debate. Almost everyone had a speech ready for their policy statements and the committee was very respectful towards the speakers while the opening speeches were taking place. Now that we have started to lobby it has been very productive and all around the room there is constructive resolution writing and productive conversations happening and the chairs of GA3 look forward to moderating and mediating debate, with a promising committee we without a doubt think that it will be an exciting weekend full of fruitful discussion and diplomatic growth. One thing we hope this conference does is that we hope it helps build the delegates abilities and MUN skills, every single delegate in this committee has incredible potential and we hope this conference assists them in reaching it.





## Special Conference on Shaping Tomorrow (SPECON)

This year's SPECON is filled with truly inspiring and responsible delegates who are working exceptionally, despite some minor inconveniences regarding the connection and the google docs. Moreover, the delegates showed pure enthusiasm and passion. Today we started with some really fun icebreakers to get to know each other, and then we read policy statements that helped us better understand our interesting topics. Finally, we proceeded with lobbying upon the first topic, which was productive and fruitful. We sincerely wish all delegates to have an amazing time here!



## Youth Assembly (YA)

After looking forward to the 9th ACGMUN for a long time, we are finally excited to spend the next three days crafting resolutions and debating in the Youth Assembly. Seeing the delegates of the committee anxious as it is their first conference made us share a laugh, remembering our first conferences and realizing that we have all faced this mutual exciting/stressing feeling. Starting with the Rules of Procedure we made sure delegates understand how we will be communicating in the next following days, although everyone will probably forget in the next 2 hours as they confirmed themselves. After we were finished explaining, we moved on to the icebreakers! Apparently 90% of our committee is a winter and cats person? And let's not forget the hostile pigeon invasion that we had to deal with!!! So far, it has been a great day full of surprises and quality time in the committee.



## International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The International Maritime Organization consists of 33 enthusiastic and engaged delegates, and they each have their own unique strengths and perspectives which has helped with contributing to a dynamic and balanced committee environment.

From the beginning, the committee showed a high level of engagement during the policy statements where nearly all delegates raised their placards to speak. Delegates clearly presented their country's positions and showed strong preparation and understanding of the topic. During lobbying, delegates have been very active and many delegates have shown strong negotiation skills for several factors such as alliances and main submitters.

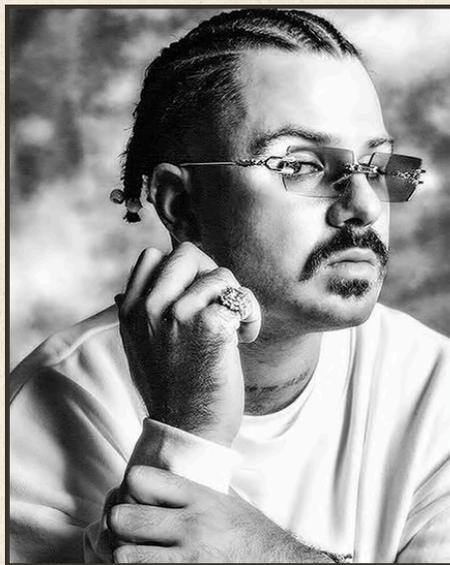
Overall, as Chairs we believe that this committee has a lot of potential and we are confident that the delegates will continue to be active and create a positive and enjoyable atmosphere.





# LOOKALIKES

LOOKALIKE 1



LOOKALIKE 2



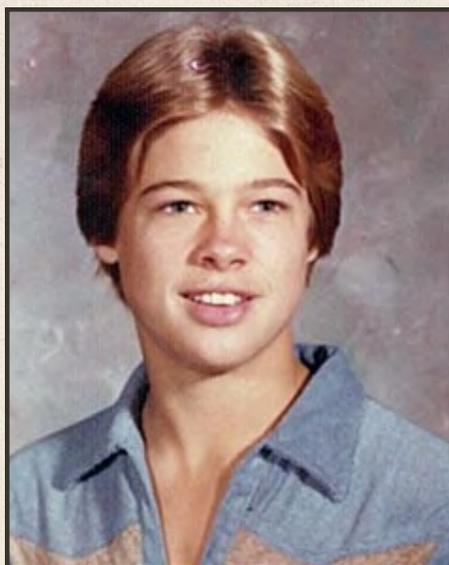
LOOKALIKE 3



LOOKALIKE 4



LOOKALIKE 5



# BEST DRESSED



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**THANK YOU ALL  
FOR AN AMAZING FIRST DAY**