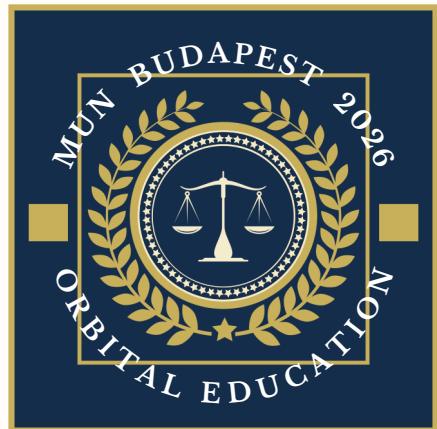


Opening Ceremony



Written by Fanqi Shen and Ignacio Rodríguez

Secretary General Opening Our Ceremony

In the morning of our conference day, Sena Caylak, as the Secretary General has started our ceremony with an opening speech. She starts off with introducing her crucial role in the making of the conference. She welcomes all the delegates and addresses how they will be stepping into the position of diplomats which is a crucial responsibility in solving crucial challenges. Further on, she gives reassurance to the new participants and states how 'every great diplomat once began with a single speech, a single idea'. She emphasises how the true meaning is the process; no matter which nation, how big or small, all deserves a voice. Sena Caylak sees the potential in the young people present and believes that everyone here today has a great reflection and has a power to act. Additionally, she gives a great welcome and thanks' to the beloved chairs who allowed this to happen, Elis Ploch da Silva, Luma Giacomuzo, Alessandra Rabatin, Vincent Günther, Rulan Rossouw, Chloe Tirana, Flora Zsoldos, Naomi Goddard, Zhian Yu and all the delegates present. Ends her speech by inviting everyone to challenge themselves, and to challenge others. 'Your voice matters.'

Mr. Neil McGarry-Head of Britannica International School's welcome

Mr. Neil McGarry opens his speech with a cordial welcome, as he conveys his delight in hosting this year's Orbital MUN conference, showing his appreciation towards all those who allowed this conference to take place, including Mr Luca Trovo, Ms Vanessa Limpkin, Mr Robert Ridell, as well as all special guests. He then proceeded to reference Nelson Mandela, explaining how "overcoming poverty is not an act of charity. It's an act of justice", which artfully ties in with the theme of equality.

Mr. Leslie Hayler

Mr. Leslie Hayler (secondary secretary to the UK) expressed his gratitude for having been invited and welcome to MUN's 2026 Orbital conference. He urged the members of the conference to relax and enjoy, after having put a great amount of effort into making this work. Mr. Hayler highlighted the way in which this will allow us not only to obtain a greater, nuanced understanding of our world, but also gain necessary skills like public speaking and confidence. He strongly states his belief on diplomacy, how he finds that true diplomacy lies in building rapport and strengthening relationships. He kindly wishes us all the best, outlining the necessity of respect and confidence.

H.E The Ambassador of Ireland

H.E The Ambassador of Ireland humorously outlined the way his family urged him to keep his speech short, and “free of dad jokes”, lightening the tone. He conveyed the integrity necessary in this conference, and of course the diversity of cultures present. Tying in with the theme of power equality, he intelligently alluded to the system of hierarchy in Golding’s famous “Lord of the Flies”, along with the analogy of “big school kids having the power”, using them as cautionary tales to promote equality, leaving the anarchy of the ancient world behind. This was then supported by overcoming hardship through unity, the way “from the ashes of the holocaust they built the United Nations united”.

H.E The Ambassador of The Republic of Ecuador

H.E The Ambassador of The Republic of Ecuador unravelled the importance of human rights, but perhaps more specifically: women’s rights, because without women’s rights, there are no human rights. She placed emphasis on the novelty women bring into the labour market yet outlined the lack of spotlight placed on such women. Concerned, she explained the way 30% of managers are women (only), with most of them being in careers related to human resources, teaching, or accounting, with very few in STEM. Within the board of directors, the numbers drop significantly. In Latin America, for example, only about 9% of women hold directing positions, and she hence stresses the unease due to such issues, encouraging more female voices to be heard.