



Near East
Institute

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DIPLOMACY, DIALOGUE, AND DIVERSITY:

A REPORT ON THE NEU MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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**Diplomacy, Dialogue, and Diversity: A Report on the NEU Model
United Nations**

Report 1/2025

Near East Institute (NEI)
Yakın Doğu Enstitüsü (YDE)

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Preface

It is with great pride that I present this report on the inaugural **Model United Nations (MUN)** conference organised by the Near East Institute at Near East University. This landmark event brought together students from across North Cyprus, uniting diverse voices and perspectives in the spirit of diplomacy, negotiation, and global citizenship.

At a time when the world is witnessing growing polarisation, instability, and fragmentation, the need to foster dialogue and mutual understanding among young people has never been more urgent. The MUN initiative is not merely an academic simulation—it is a vital exercise in empathy, diplomacy, and critical thinking. It allows students to engage with the world's most pressing challenges and to imagine, through collaboration, peaceful solutions.

We were honoured to welcome **participants from multiple universities across North Cyprus**, representing a rich tapestry of backgrounds, disciplines, and cultures. Their energy, commitment, and creativity in addressing complex international issues was both inspiring and reassuring. Events like this affirm our belief in the power of youth-led diplomacy and intercommunal engagement.

We were especially privileged to receive a **video message from Mr. Colin Stewart, the United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Cyprus**, who offered words of encouragement to our delegates and underscored the role of inclusive dialogue in resolving long-standing conflicts. His contribution added particular significance to the proceedings and reminded us of the real-world relevance of the values embodied in this simulation.

This first MUN marks not only a milestone for the Near East Institute but a broader commitment to nurturing a new generation of leaders committed to peaceful resolution, international cooperation, and the patient, often difficult, craft of diplomacy.

I extend my deepest thanks to all participants, volunteers, and colleagues who helped bring this vision to life. May this be the first of many such gatherings, each one bringing us a step closer to a more just and peaceful world.

Dr. Mustafa Çıraklı
Director,
Near East Institute

Introduction

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students from different corners of the world step into the shoes of diplomats at Model United Nations (MUN) conferences—academic simulations that transform halls into bustling UN chambers. At these events, young minds don the hats of country representatives, diving headfirst into the fast-paced world of international diplomacy, negotiation, and multilateral decision-making. It's more than just a role-play; it's a vibrant stage where the complexities of global politics come alive, fostering a deeper understanding of how the United Nations works to shape our world.¹

On May 10, 2025, Near East University made a remarkable debut on the global Model United Nations stage by proudly launching its first-ever conference, the Near East University Model United Nations (NEUMUN). This historic occasion marked a defining chapter in the university's academic evolution. For the first time, the campus thrummed with the pulse of diplomacy, as students from a wide array of universities and academic disciplines converged to engage in the high-stakes, fast-moving world of international affairs. NEUMUN brought together passion, intellect, and global vision under one roof, setting a new standard for student-led diplomacy at the university. Throughout an intense and exhilarating day, these young delegates stepped into the roles of representatives in three critical MUN committees: the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). With spirited debate, strategic lobbying, and collaborative resolution drafting, they mirrored the workings of real UN bodies—bringing global challenges to life and proving the power of youth-led dialogue in shaping a better world. More than just a conference, NEUMUN 2025 was a bold statement, showing Near East

¹ United Nations. "Model United Nations." United Nations, www.un.org/en/mun. Accessed 23 May 2025.

University's deepening commitment to fostering international education and providing hands-on learning experiences that prepare students to engage with the world's most pressing issues.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of NEUMUN 2025, detailing its organisational framework, committees overview, as well as key highlights, outcomes, and impact. It serves not only as a formal record of the event but also as an evaluative tool designed to showcase to stakeholders the successes and challenges encountered. By thoroughly documenting the conference's structure and activities, the report seeks to highlight best practices, showcase delegate achievements, and identify areas for growth. Ultimately, it aims to guide the planning and enhancement of future editions of NEUMUN, ensuring the sustainability and improvement in delivering a meaningful, impactful, and inclusive educational experience that fosters diplomatic skills, global awareness, and cross-cultural collaboration among students.

The primary objective of the NEUMUN conference is to provide students with a dynamic platform to simulate real-world diplomatic negotiations while fostering a deeper understanding of global issues. Through active participation, delegates enhance critical skills such as public speaking, research, negotiation, teamwork, and leadership.

The conference also aims to:

- Cultivate a spirit of international cooperation, cultural sensitivity, and civic responsibility among students.
- Encourage academic enrichment through in-depth policy research, resolution drafting, and procedural fluency in international diplomacy.
- Provide a collaborative space where youth voices can be amplified, empowering future leaders to become proactive contributors to peace, justice, and sustainable development.

- Promote awareness and engagement with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encouraging participants to propose innovative and actionable solutions aligned with global development priorities.

Thus, by blending academic excellence with hands-on experience, the NEUMUN seeks to cultivate a new generation of globally aware and ethically minded leaders ready to drive meaningful change.

Organiser Profile

The Near East Institute (NEI), founded in 2013 as a research centre within Near East University, is committed to advancing interdisciplinary, policy-relevant scholarship on issues shaping Cyprus and the broader Near East region. Serving as a bridge between academia, policy, and civil society, NEI has long contributed through academic seminars, roundtable discussions, and academic and policy publications. Among NEI's early signature initiatives is the Global Security Seminar Series, a long-standing and continuously expanding platform that convenes leading scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss pressing international security challenges.

In recent years, the Institute has broadened its mission to more actively engage students and early-career researchers. This includes providing structured opportunities for experiential learning and professional development through internship programs, student-led events, and simulation-based conferences. The Institute also supports student publishing initiatives and fosters academic mentorship. The recent launch of a Postgraduate Research Seminar Series marks an important step in providing an academic environment for master's and PhD students. The series offers a dedicated forum for graduate researchers to present their work, receive interdisciplinary feedback, and build networks. Collectively, these initiatives underscore NEI's enduring commitment to building an inclusive, intellectually dynamic community that not only advances

academic inquiry but also strengthens the real-world relevance of research across regional and international spheres.

Academic Advisory Board

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa ÇIRAKLI (Director, Near East Institute)
- Prof. Dr. Nur KÖPRÜLÜ (Board Member, Near East Institute)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sait AKŞİT (Board Member, Near East Institute)
- Mr. Abdullah ALKATHERI (Research and Programmes Officer, Near East Institute)

Organising Team

The organising team behind the NEUMUN 2025 which consisted of NEU students brought together a rich tapestry of experience, having actively engaged in a wide range of Model United Nations conferences, including school-based, regional, and international. This diverse background provided the team with deep insight into the academic, diplomatic, and logistical demands of hosting a world-class MUN. Drawing on their familiarity with various procedural styles and formats and working under the expert guidance of the NEI academic board, the committee successfully crafted a dynamic and inclusive conference framework. Their design reflected Near East University's academic ethos while upholding the core principles and spirit of the United Nations. The organising committee included:

- Ms. Zainab Ayub Ali Haji SULEMAN (Secretary-General)
- Mr. Osamah Khalil Al TABAEI (Deputy Secretary-General)
- Ms. Numaira Naeem GAZGE (Event Support Advisor)
- Ms. Afraa Mubarak Gadelseed SALIH (ICJ Chair)
- Ms. Cinderella GACHANJA (SPECPOL Chair)

- Ms. Sabrin Abbas Mustafa ABBAS (UNODC Chair)
- Mr. Abasifreke Aniedi DAVID (Chair Assistant)
- Mr. Carlton NJENGA (Tech Support)



Training and Preparation

To ensure that all participants were thoroughly prepared for NEUMUN 2025, a dedicated section of the official conference website provided delegates with a comprehensive suite of essential documents and guidelines. These included the detailed “Rules of Procedure”, outlining the formal conduct of debate, speaking order, motion types, and voting protocols. Delegates were also given access to a position paper guide and template, which helped them articulate their country’s stance with clarity and diplomatic precision. To support the drafting of resolutions, the committee

made available a “Resolution Writing Guide”, complete with annotated samples and formatting instructions, enabling delegates to craft clear, actionable, and well-structured proposals.

In addition to the provided document resources, the NEUMUN organising team hosted an online informative session that offered an interactive and detailed overview of the conference’s procedures and expectations. The session clarified key procedural elements such as the use of moderated and unmoderated caucuses, the process for lobbying and drafting resolutions, and the application of NEUMUN’s penalty system—a framework designed to uphold procedural discipline and maintain *decorum* throughout the committee sessions. It also covered practical matters such as submission timelines for position papers and the procedural flow of committee deliberations from opening speeches to voting.

Crucially, the training extended into research skills and strategy, offering delegates guidance on effective information-gathering methods and the evaluation of credible sources. Participants were encouraged to consult United Nations websites, NGO reports, government official websites, academic articles, and credible national and international news sites to develop informed, evidence-based positions that mirrored real-world diplomacy. The session also included practical advice on public speaking, diplomatic conduct, consensus-building, and bloc-building—skills essential for impactful engagement within committee proceedings.

By combining robust documentation with dynamic, real-time instruction, NEUMUN 2025 provided delegates with a holistic and immersive preparatory experience. This dual approach not only equipped participants with the procedural expertise necessary for formal debate but also strengthened their analytical and communicative abilities, setting the stage for meaningful, high-quality participation across all committees.

Committee Roles and Resolutions

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) stands as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, established in 1945 to adjudicate legal disputes between states and provide advisory opinions on matters of international law. It plays a vital role in upholding legal norms in cases involving territorial disputes, treaty violations, and diplomatic conflicts. The ICJ's rulings are binding on states that fall within its jurisdiction, making it a cornerstone institution for promoting global peace and legal accountability. While the ICJ, in its official capacity, does not engage in political resolutions or delegate-style negotiations, this Model United Nations simulation introduced a hybrid legal-political structure to enhance educational value and participatory engagement. Though a deviation from real-world ICJ procedure, delegates nonetheless assumed the roles of advocates and state representatives, engaging in both legal argumentation and the drafting of resolutions which allowed for an enriched learning experience. These resolutions further served as tools for articulating legal interpretations and humanitarian proposals within the context of the Genocide Convention and international humanitarian law. This format was designed to strike a balance between legal rigor and diplomatic negotiation, encouraging participants to apply judicial reasoning while responding to urgent global issues.

Chaired by Ms. Afraa Mubarak Gadelseed Salih, the ICJ committee convened to address the agenda: *South Africa vs. Israel – Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip* – filed on October 28, 2024. The proceedings drew on a diverse bench of delegations representing Germany, Turkey, Qatar, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, South Africa, Pakistan, Ukraine, Canada, the United States, and India.

Over the course of the session, delegates engaged in deep and often contentious legal debate over Israel's ongoing war in the Gaza Strip, focusing especially on the scope and application of the 1948 Genocide



Convention.² Discussions centred on the legal qualifications of the genocide case filed by South Africa, the humanitarian implications of ongoing hostilities, and the obligations of all parties under international humanitarian law. Some delegates scrutinised the necessity of proving *dolus specialis* (specific intent) in genocide allegations, the rights of states to self-defence under

Article 51 of the UN Charter,³ and the legal role of the ICJ in promoting accountability while maintaining neutrality.

A key point of contention was whether political considerations should factor into the Court's legal interpretations. Many delegations stressed the Court's responsibility to adhere strictly to international law, precedent, and the conventions under its jurisdiction, particularly given the volatile and politically sensitive nature of the conflict.

The committee's unique format allowed the drafting and debating of resolutions addressing both legal accountability and urgent humanitarian concerns. Resolution 101, sponsored by Turkey with Pakistan, Qatar, and

² United Nations. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. 9 Dec. 1948. United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, [https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.1 Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.1%20Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf).

³ United Nations. Charter of the United Nations. 24 Oct. 1945, www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7.

Saudi Arabia as signatories, focused on the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It called for the ICJ to support binding measures aimed at establishing a ceasefire, facilitating humanitarian aid delivery, and protecting civilians in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The resolution also urged negotiations for the release of hostages and collaboration with human rights organisations to monitor compliance and prevent further violations. The broad support for this resolution reflected the committee's commitment to addressing the immediate human impact alongside legal considerations.

Resolution 102, sponsored by the United States with Germany and Canada as co-signatories, emphasised the primacy of strict legal interpretation in the Court's judgment. It reiterated the necessity of applying the Genocide Convention rigorously, particularly the requirement of proving *dolus specialis*, and encouraged states to exercise their right to self-defence within the constraints of international humanitarian law, emphasising proportionality and distinction in military conduct. While legally detailed and focused on safeguarding judicial rigor, this resolution did not pass, largely due to concerns about its limited provisions for humanitarian relief and questions over enforcement mechanisms.

Overall, the ICJ session highlighted the complexities of applying international law in conflict situations and demonstrated the role of international judicial bodies in addressing humanitarian crises while balancing legal rigor and political realities.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) addresses a broad range of issues tied to decolonisation, peacekeeping, and international security. Its mission includes supporting post-conflict recovery, overseeing peacebuilding operations, and defending the rights of non-self-governing territories. Additionally, SPECPOL engages in managing the peaceful use of outer space, easing geopolitical tensions, and assisting

displaced populations through diplomatic dialogue and multilateral cooperation.

Chaired by Ms. Cinderella Gachanja, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee addressed the agenda: Use of Force by Nuclear



States Against Non-Nuclear States. Delegates from North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, Yemen, Chile, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Morocco, France, Belgium, Somalia, the United Kingdom, and Jordan engaged in robust debate concerning the imbalance of power in international relations, particularly the role

of nuclear-armed states in regional conflicts. A thorough and heated debate unfolded around the mechanisms for regulating the engagement of nuclear states and ensuring the sovereignty and safety of non-nuclear nations. The session was marked by impassioned and, at times, heated exchanges of questions among delegates on the feasibility and legitimacy of proposed solutions. Central to the discussion was whether institutional and legally binding frameworks were necessary, or whether sustained diplomatic dialogue could serve as a sufficient alternative to deter nuclear aggression. Delegates scrutinised the practicality of enforcement mechanisms, debated the role of the United Nations in upholding non-nuclear state security, and contested the moral authority of nuclear-armed nations in shaping global peace and security norms.

Somalia introduced Resolution 201, which sought to establish a global norm prohibiting nuclear states from initiating force against non-nuclear states. It proposed the creation of a UN accountability mechanism, an

advisory opinion from the ICJ, and the implementation of preventive diplomacy tools. The resolution aimed to restore faith in multilateralism and reinforce the principle of peaceful sovereignty. Resolution 201 was passed, reflecting broad support for reinforcing international norms against nuclear aggression.

Resolution 202, led by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and co-signed by Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom, underscored the



strategic vulnerabilities of non-nuclear states. It called for the establishment of a Non-Nuclear State Guarantee Mechanism under UN oversight, promoting defensive protections and sanctions against nuclear aggressors. The resolution also advocated for the appointment of a UN envoy dedicated to facilitating nuclear restraint and dialogue. Resolution 202 ultimately failed to pass, due

largely to concerns over the feasibility of enforcement mechanisms and divergent views on the scope of UN involvement.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) leads global efforts to combat illicit drug production, trafficking, and organised crime. It partners with member states to promote alternative development strategies, strengthen law enforcement, and coordinate international responses to transnational criminal networks, with the ultimate goal of fostering safer and more just societies.

Chaired by Ms. Sabrin Abbas Mustafa Abbas, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime convened to address the urgent and complex issue of “Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat Human Trafficking”. Delegates from Vietnam, Thailand, Finland, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Peru, Ethiopia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Brazil, Spain, and Ghana engaged in comprehensive deliberations focused on combating the transnational nature of human trafficking through coordinated international strategies.

Discussions at this committee were marked by a shared recognition of the global scale of human trafficking and the urgent need for multilateral action. Delegates debated the effectiveness of regional versus global frameworks, with strong emphasis placed on integrating gender-sensitive and youth-centred policies. The role of digital technologies in prevention and investigation emerged as a recurring theme, as did the need for enhanced cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations, and the private sector. A significant point of contention was the extent to which new legal instruments should be binding and whether they might infringe on state sovereignty, particularly in regions with limited capacity for enforcement.

Two major resolutions were proposed. Resolution 301, submitted by Tunisia and co-sponsored by Peru, Brazil, Japan, Ghana, and Nigeria,



prioritised the creation of gender-sensitive and youth-focused policies. It emphasised the expansion of victim shelters, the deployment of digital surveillance tools to detect trafficking operations, and the harmonisation of regional legal frameworks to improve cross-border prosecution. Despite its

human-centred approach and innovative digital proposals, Resolution 301 failed to pass, primarily due to concerns about the implementation mechanism and legal feasibility in certain regions.

Resolution 302, introduced by Spain and broad signatories, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Finland, Mexico, Afghanistan, and Russia, called for the adoption of a globally binding legal framework inspired by the Palermo Protocol.⁴ It advocated for enhanced cooperation between states and NGOs under UNODC oversight, the formation of joint investigative task forces modelled after existing cross-border operations, and more efficient data-sharing practices among member states. The resolution aimed to strike a balance between global enforcement and respect for national sovereignty. Resolution 302 was put to a vote and passed.

The session reflected the persistent challenges in securing unified international action against human trafficking, especially when balancing human rights protection, enforcement capabilities, and national legal autonomy.

Key Highlights, Outcomes, and Impact

By fostering a collaborative and experiential learning environment, the conference empowered young leaders to engage thoughtfully with global challenges through structured diplomacy, policy development, and legal debate. As delegates simulated the workings of key UN bodies, they not only honed academic and leadership skills but also made significant strides in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁵

⁴ United Nations. *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. 15 Nov. 2000. United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 2237, p. 319. United Nations Treaty Collection, https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=xviii-12-a&chapter=18&clang=en.

⁵ The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected global goals adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

This vision echoes the spirit of the “MUN Impact” movement, which was catalysed at the Qatar Leadership Conference in 2017, where global MUN leaders first gathered to link MUN participation with real-world action on the SDGs.⁶ In this tradition, NEUMUN 2025 efforts align with and tangibly impact SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Through high-level simulations and research-driven, the NEUMUN conference made a significant contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education). By equipping students with critical thinking, negotiation, and public speaking skills in a rigorous academic setting, the conference empowered youth to meaningfully engage in global affairs. Delegates participated in structured diplomacy that mirrored real-world United Nations proceedings, enhancing their understanding of international law, human rights, and conflict resolution while promoting lifelong learning and academic excellence.

Her Excellency Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, has powerfully noted that while women make up half of the global population, their vital contributions are often missing from key decision-making spaces.⁷ This challenge was not only acknowledged but actively addressed during the NEUMUN conference, where 39 delegates engaged across three committees, and an impressive 28 of them were women. This remarkable representation highlights a meaningful stride toward empowering women in diplomacy and contributes directly to

Development. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

⁶ MUN Impact. MUN Impact Guide: Supporting the SDGs through Model United Nations. MUN Impact, May 2018, https://munimpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MUN-Impact-Guide_v2.pdf.

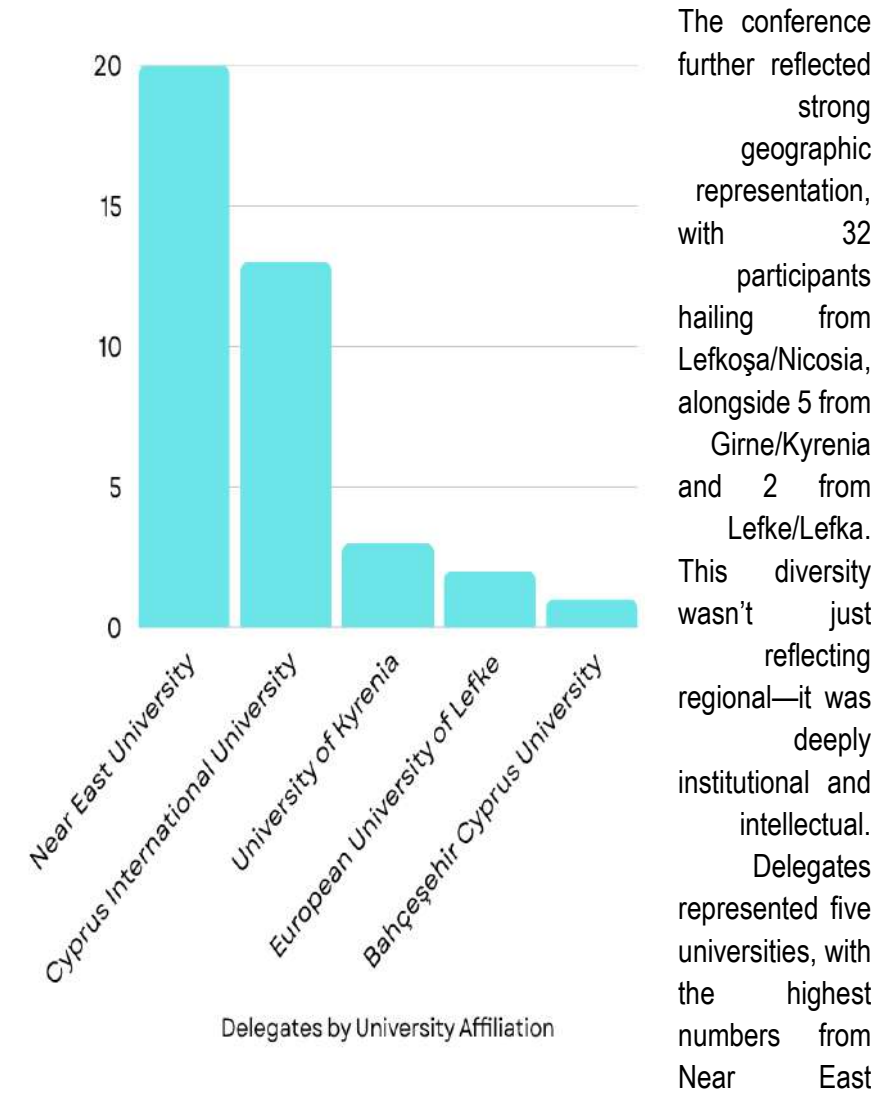
⁷ Kirby, Jen. “Lack of Women at Global Tables of Power Hinders Progress, Says Top UN Official.” The Guardian, 19 June 2024, www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/19/amina-mohammed-un-women-under-representation-at-global-tables-of-power. Accessed 23 May 2025.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality).⁸ By fostering female leadership and encouraging women's active participation in international policymaking, the conference created a dynamic and inclusive platform where women's voices are not just heard but are helping to shape the future of global dialogue.

In addition, NEUMUN embodied the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by addressing pressing global issues through peaceful dialogue, legal reasoning, and multilateral cooperation. Committees such as the ICJ and SPECPOL tackled complex topics rooted in humanitarian law, conflict resolution, and state responsibility, reinforcing the essential role of strong

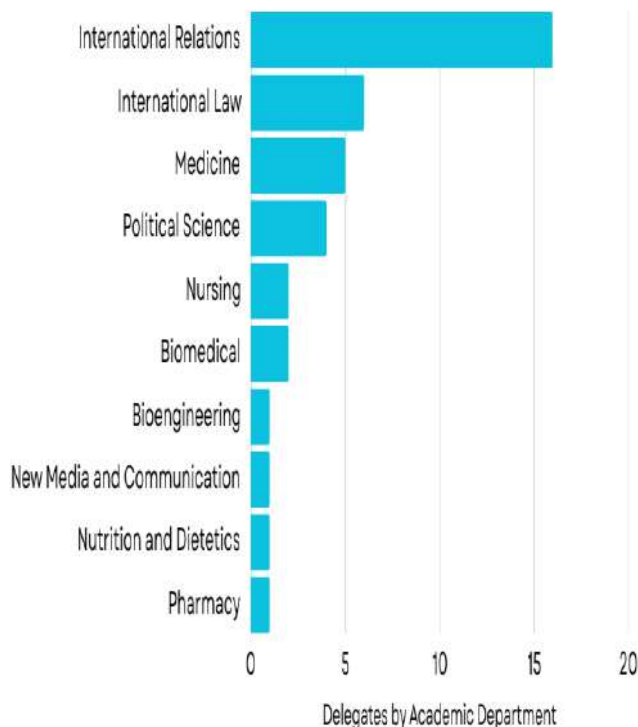
⁸ United Nations. "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, www.sdgs.un.org/topics/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment. Accessed 23 May 2025.

institutions and the rule of law in promoting peace, justice, and accountability on the global stage.



University (20) and Cyprus International University (13), followed by the University of Kyrenia, European University of Lefke, and Bahçeşehir Cyprus University (Figure 1).

The range of academic disciplines was equally impressive, spanning 10 different fields, with standout participation from students of International



Relations and International Law (see Figure 2). This broad interdisciplinary engagement not only enriched the debate but also mirrored the multifaceted nature of the global issues at hand, making NEUMUN 2025 a truly collaborative and thought-provoking experience.

The conference drew to a close with a heartfelt certificate ceremony that celebrated the hard work, passion, and commitment of every participant. NEUMUN once again proved itself as a vibrant and inclusive stage where young minds sharpen their skills in diplomacy, legal reasoning, and multilateral collaboration. Beyond the participation certificates, special honours were awarded to those delegates whose preparation and diplomatic finesse truly stood out. The coveted “Best Position Paper Award”, recognising exceptional research, insightful analysis, and eloquent representation, was proudly presented to Ms. Selin Ajia, representing North Korea.

To gain insight into participants' experiences, a feedback form was distributed at the beginning of the conference and collected at its conclusion, resulting in 30 completed responses. Among the closed questions, approximately 85% of participants felt adequately prepared for the event. Interestingly, only one respondent had prior MUN experience, highlighting the fresh engagement of most attendees. Participants also rated key aspects of the conference on a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The averages reflected a positive overall impression: 4.3 for the conference experience and communication with organisers, 4.1 for organisation, logistics, and preparation materials, and 3.9 for the quality of debates and discussions.

When invited to share suggestions for improvement, the most frequent recommendation was to extend the time allocated for committee sessions. As for the questions regarding the most enjoyable part of the conference, the majority of participants praised the unmoderated caucuses, particularly the opportunities for lobbying and drafting resolutions, with moderated caucuses also receiving strong appreciation.

Although there were no direct closed questions about future editions, a quarter of respondents used the "Any additional comments or suggestions?" section to express enthusiastic support for the continuation of NEUMUN and a clear desire for more practical, student-centred learning opportunities in upcoming conferences.

Table 1: Summary of key outcomes and impact areas			
	Key Highlights	Outcomes	Impact
Students	- Participation of around 40 students from diverse academic institutions and departments - Strong gender representation, with 28 female delegates, amounting to 70% of total participants - Comprehensive training and preparatory support, including live sessions and written materials	- Developed advanced skills in public speaking, research, negotiation, and legal analysis - Recognition through awards for excellence in diplomacy and preparation - Exposure to real-world global issues and multilateral frameworks	- Enhanced academic and professional readiness for international careers - Empowered female participation in global decision-making (aligned with SDG 5) - Encouraged youth engagement in complex international challenges
Near East Institute	- Successfully coordinated and hosted a multi-university, interdisciplinary MUN conference - Engaging academic staff and students in event planning and execution	- Strengthened the Institute's organisational capacity to deliver high-profile academic events - Showcased the Institute's commitment to experiential learning and diplomatic education - Fostered collaboration between departments and external institutions	- Enhanced institutional reputation as a hub for international relations and policy dialogue - Contributed to the Institute's strategic goals in higher education and research - Promoted academic leadership in fostering peace, justice, and global cooperation
Society	- Addressed critical global issues: humanitarian crisis in conflicts and legal accountability, nuclear deterrence, and human trafficking - Promoted diversity of perspectives through simulations and debate - Emphasis on multilateralism, human rights, and international legal standards	- Fostered informed dialogue on humanitarian law, global security, and international cooperation - Produced actionable policy simulations and draft resolutions - Promoted critical thinking on international norms and institutional roles	- Contributed to broader awareness of global challenges and the UN agenda - Supported Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 4, 5, and 16 - Encouraged civic-minded leadership and intercultural understanding among emerging youth leaders

Conclusion

In a world where complex crises increasingly require inclusive and coordinated solutions, NEUMUN 2025 proved that future leaders are already thinking globally and acting diplomatically. It was not merely a simulation, but a powerful exercise in preparing the next generation for real-world leadership. NEUMUN 2025 stood as a bold testament to what engaged, well-prepared youth can achieve when given a platform for dialogue, debate, and diplomacy. Over the course of a single intensive conference day, 39 delegates from five universities immersed themselves in the complexities of international law, peacebuilding, and human rights within three expertly chaired committees: the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The simulations tackled pressing global issues, including the legal implications of the conflict in Gaza, the power dynamics of nuclear deterrence, and the urgent need for stronger international cooperation against human trafficking.

What made NEUMUN 2025 truly exceptional, however, was not only the depth of discussion but the inclusive, empowering environment in which it took place. The Near East Institute's successful hosting of NEUMUN 2025 reflected its growing stature and commitment to supporting student-led initiatives and practical learning (Table 1). The collaborative efforts have ensured the event's academic integrity, logistical efficiency, and intellectual impact. Beyond committee sessions, the conference also served as a platform for personal growth, professional skill-building, and recognition. It was also a testament to the university's vision of cultivating globally minded leaders who are not only academically equipped but also practically trained in the art of diplomacy, negotiation, and critical thinking.

The spirit of NEUMUN 2025 will resonate well beyond this conference, carried forward in the ambitions, skills, and values of the young diplomats it helped to inspire.