



An MUN Revolution? Introducing Diplomatic Impact

By Niymath Mahamood

“Change is synonymous with vision. Even the simplest action should have a standing impact.” These words by Kent Rayner, founder of *Diplomatic Impact*, embody the spirit of a ground-breaking initiative aimed at re-defining the Model United Nations (MUN) experience

Together with Vyshalini Rajendran, Buthmini Mohotti, Nithila Kularathne, Randhir Perera, Jaden Herft, Pesala Welangalle and Ramla Naufer, a goal-driven team of MUN veterans, *Diplomatic Impact* harbours a bold vision: to reshape MUN into a platform that not only enables delegates to grow into informed, effective global citizens but also spotlights immediate feedback and exposure to environments that can potentially snowball into real change. At the heart of *Diplomatic Impact* lies the introduction of a *Resource Panel*, an innovative response to the inherent challenges of providing meticulous and substantive feedback within the time constraints of standard MUN committee sessions. Unlike traditional feedback, often limited to post-debate summaries by chairpersons, this venture promises tangible guidance and personalized feedback by seasoned professionals and field-specific experts, thus empowering delegates to refine their skills in public speaking, negotiation, and resolution drafting.

Even so, *Diplomatic Impact* refuses to settle for limits. In its quest to elevate delegates’ propositions beyond committee sessions, the effort ensures that these ideas find a real-world audience and plans to organize independent events where resolutions will be debated before government and non-governmental panels. This ambitious undertaking of procedure ensures that delegates not only articulate their vision with decorum, but also see them resonate, or even challenged, in authentic diplomatic settings.

“At its core, MUN is about character,” Rayner emphasizes. “Diplomacy isn’t just what we practice in debate committees; it should be reflected in how we lead, in our communities, our classrooms, and even in our homes.” “What sets *Diplomatic Impact* apart is its dual focus on educational outcomes and standardization of debate quality. It is not just about winning awards; it is about leaving every delegate with a sense of character development, sharper skills, and a deeper understanding of diplomacy. By blending proficient coaching with actionable, hands-on learning, this enterprise reconstructs the MUN experience into something far greater than merely a competition.

The project’s first steps unfolded within the *Lyceum International School Model United Nations (LISMUN) 2024*, debuting the *Diplomatic Impact*’s methodologies during the Practice Debate on the 8th of December 2024, which worked towards an improved performance at the main conference held on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of December 2024 at Lyceum Nugegoda premises. With the esteemed principal advisor as *De-shamanya Radhika Coomaraswamy*—a distinguished Sri Lankan lawyer, diplomat, and human rights advocate who served as an Under-Secretary General of the *United Nations* and Special Representative for Children

and Armed Conflict from 2006 to 2012, Diplomatic Impact included an expanded network of professional resource members across all committees simulated at LIS MUN 2024.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) chaired by *Ravan Perera, Evin Kodithuwakku and Ashveedha Jayasinghe* was guided by **Mr. Harshana Perera**, a visionary educator, serving as Principal of Asian International School as well as the Chairman of TISSL (The International Schools' of Sri Lanka).

The World Health Organization (WHO) chaired by *Jeewantha Induruwa, Seniya Rajugamuwa and Nithila Kularathne* was guided by **Prof. Sanath Lamabathu-sooriya (MBE)**, Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.



The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) chaired by *Umar Safras and Mustafaa Imtiaz* was guided by **Dr. Manil Fernando**, Honorary Consul of Latvia and Vice President of Sri Lanka Football Federation.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) chaired by *Randhir Perera and Suhan Yoshitha* was guided by **Mr. Pujitha Senarathne**, Senior Manager (Talent Acquisition & Development) at A. Baur & Co.



The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) chaired by *Rithik Pedurarachi* was guided by **Mr. Nilanthan Nirudan**, Defense Analyst and Director for Law and Security Studies.

The General Assembly simulated in the Historic Format (HGA) chaired by *Risindu Piyasena, Esala Rajapaksha and Dinara Het-tiarachi* guided by **Mr. Shakthi de Silva**, International Relations Analyst and Visiting Lecturer at RIC.

And the highly specialised International Court of Justice chaired by *Sithma Hewa Waduge and Rakhitha Mutucumurana* was guided by **Dr. Sanath Singhage** (Attorney-at-Law) and **Mr. Sajith Bandara** (Attorney-at-Law).



Through this pilot program, the team proved the potential of their framework and now hopes to inspire widespread adoption across Sri Lanka's *Model United Nations* circuit.

The promising success of *Diplomatic Impact* will springboard broader implementation, paving the way for a future where every delegate's voice carries weight and each debate holds meaning. While *Diplomatic Impact's* journey is just beginning, their vision is clear: to build a generation of leaders capable of turning dialogue into action and action into change. For those who believe in the fuel of transformation, this revolution in debate is one worthy of being watched.