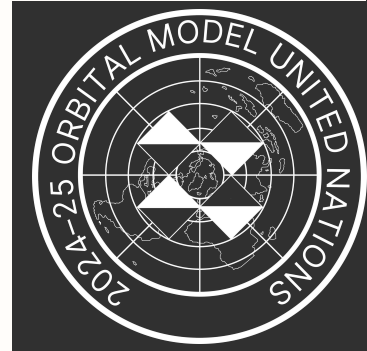


SIMONA LESKOVAR



With the Slovenian Ambassador, our opening ceremony speaker, our MUN conference officially began. She shared valuable insights from her diplomatic experience, highlighting the importance of youth engagement, international cooperation, and the role of small nations in global decision-making.

Written by Neža Verdnik



The Slovenian Ambassador believes that small states, like Slovenia, play a much bigger role in global decision-making than people might think. Slovenia can act as a bridge builder because it doesn't carry historical baggage, such as a colonial past, making it easier to mediate without strong biases. While it has national interests, it doesn't pursue particular agendas, allowing it to foster trust and bring different sides together. As a UN Security Council member, Slovenia demonstrates its role as an honest broker with strong principles, using soft power to influence global discussions. Since the UN is mostly made up of small countries, their collective cooperation holds significant power.

Simona Leskovar emphasized that the UN is a unique and essential organization because it is the only one where all countries are members. Being part of this global community is crucial, and for diplomats, representing their country and negotiating agreements is both important and an honor. She sees the UN as an inspiration for young diplomats, and despite the need for adaptation to geopolitical challenges, she will never lose hope in its role in maintaining peace and security. Miss Leskovar believes that engaging young people in global decision-making starts with initiatives like our conference, where debating important issues helps shape the future.

She highlighted her Young Ambassadors program, which introduces young women to diplomacy and emphasizes the importance of women's participation in international discussions. While women often focus on soft issues due to empathy and connection skills, it's crucial that they also engage in hard security topics. Women are proven to be the best mediators, and their involvement in peace negotiations leads to longer-lasting peace. The UN recognizes this, but more young people and women need to be included. However, in order to be engaged, young people must actively participate, debate, and speak up, as even small steps like this conference contribute to influencing global decisions in the future.



She advises students to see representing their country as a privilege, whether in international organizations or diplomacy. Her key advice is to enjoy the debate, be open, share views, express positions, and try to understand others while seeking solutions. A win-win outcome is always better than win-lose or lose-lose. Flexibility, engagement, and building informal networks and friendships make serious negotiations easier. She also encourages students not to shy away from foreign policy and politics, as these fields need young people. Since students are the future, their involvement today helps shape not only their own future but also that of future generations. Staying engaged is the most important thing.

Her words served as both inspiration and guidance for aspiring diplomats. As we move forward in our debates and discussions, we carry with us the lessons she shared—staying engaged, seeking solutions, and shaping the future of international relations.