

Andrew Bunt Speech – LAMUN 2022 Opening Ceremony – April 22nd.

Dear delegates, student officers, MUN Directors, LAMUN Committee, Members of the Board and guests

Welcome to the Hybrid Latin American Model United Nations 2022. We are pleased to have many students from around South and Central America. A special thank you to our delegates from Vietnam who will be burning the midnight oil to attend their committee meetings.

LAMUN is a 'The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)' affiliated MUN

This is the 8th LAMUN and the first that The British Schools has organised individually without our MUN partner school Stella Maris – However I would like to take this opportunity to thank Isabel Carlevaro from Stella Maris for the implementation of THIMUN in Uruguay

In addition, I would like to thank the following people for the part they played in the organisation of this event.

The British Schools MUN Directors and communications team

The LAMUN student led Committee – Bautista, Agustin, Carmen, Fiorella, Florencia and Luciana

The press team – Valentina, Rocio, Clara and Maia

The British Schools administration and logistical team

And

Last but not least, Praveen Agrawal, the world food programme's Country Director for Egypt, for the informative and inspirational opening speech that you are just about to watch.

The focus of LAMUN – Waves of change is a powerful one

One drop of water in the ocean will cause a ripple thousands of miles away

Many drops of water in the ocean will cause a tidal wave

One positive action in one part of the world will cause ripples across the world

Many positive actions will cause change

As a teacher, in various international schools around the world, I have been involved with the MUN for over 15 years. Unfortunately, when I was a student we had no such activity.

The MUN gives students a space to discuss real issues and forces them to work collaboratively, with delegates representing countries from across the world, to develop plans to overcome these issues.

It supports the idea that if we work together we can improve the lives of millions around the world with regards to issues such as malnutrition, extreme poverty, injustice, war and environmental destruction.

The MUN develops skills in students such as public speaking, debating, collaboration and dealing with conflict positively – skills that will be in demand as this generation continues to deal with a multitude of global problems.

Every MUN I attend leaves me with a sense of hope. Hope of a better world in the future.

As Michelle Obama once said “You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

In other words, we all have the power to cause a ripple

Please enjoy the next couple of days and absorb the positive energy that surrounds you.

Many thanks

I yield the floor back to the secretary general