

# United Nations Reflection

Thurston Brevett

## Goals

As the UN, I felt that we were moralistically justified in attempting to bring together the rest of the world. Although we had specific goals about limiting climate change and developing the underdeveloped economies, our real challenge was finding a way to bring the world together in a way that is mostly fair and has justified biases.

## Negotiations

Going through the negotiation process made me feel that the correct way to approach this was to play devil's advocate. For every country's interest, there was likely a strong opposing interest from another country. If we were to unite all of the countries, we'd have to evaluate the interests of every other country throughout the negotiation in order to negotiate a rational solution for all.

Sometimes it came down to issues of trust and proportions where the nationalism and economic incentives distracted a nation into considering only itself in decisions that affected the world.

## Debate

During the debate, our efforts to convince countries to come to a fair compromise made me feel that we were less of an organization, and more of a mediator between the countries. While each country had its own interests to protect, the convention fails if the countries do not move towards a solution. It was typically us as the UN who made comments that justified compromises as fair, or reminded other countries to drop proposals that were clearly unfair.

We also had to distinguish between what issues the UN would actually make a stance on. While the UN is primarily concerned with multi-national issues, some local issues came up that didn't really have international impact (the Chinese railway project). For these, it seemed more appropriate to comment than to support. However, perhaps the UN would want to support in other ways. It was difficult to tell which way to go.

## Results

I personally felt justified by the results since we successfully pulled the countries together on an international policy. However, I felt that the countries' refusal to impose sanctions or economic penalties on each other allowed the economic paradox and shortsightedness to continue by reinforcing the current status quo of emissions. I fear that although it was a secondary goal after coming to some agreement, the robustness of that agreement may be threatened without having some fabric to hold it in place.