

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

It is a pleasure to host the closing ceremony of the Bucharest International Student Model United Nation for a second time at the “Carol I” Central University Library.

I believe it is not by chance that our paths have crossed. The mission of the Library, originally founded as a Royal Foundation by the visionary King Carol I of Romania, is precisely to benefit the youth by promoting educational initiatives that enlighten their minds and spirits. We are striving to preserve and carry on that legacy with pride and dedication; to inspire and empower young students by making available to them this vibrant place of culture and vivid forum of ideas.

At a time when the world is plagued by turmoil and conflict, youth involvement in international affairs is not only desirable, but crucial. I am delighted to see a forum that helps coagulate the energy of young people, in the hope of a better tomorrow.

International politics is no longer the mere classical interaction between states. Diplomacy requires the ability to untangle the intricate web of actors involved, be it corporations, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs etc. You have to keep in mind the international community is more and more aware of the increasing power of young people and youth initiatives. *Your* participation is gaining momentum and recognition and you have to take advantage of that. You, young leaders with promise and high hopes, need to equip yourselves with the skills to negotiate and be innovative in generating solutions for the real-world problems we are faced with.

Churchill once said that diplomacy is “the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.” I hope we learn to spend less time antagonizing each other, and more actually cooperating. It is only through cooperation that we will be able to solve the emergent issues of the fast-paced world we live in; only through cooperation we will be able to overcome deep-rooted problems of the world like poverty, illiteracy, disease, intolerance and many others; only through cooperation we will be able to grow.

Your power stems from your ability to find common ground and work together for a common purpose!

I wish you the best of luck in achieving your goals! I congratulate you on your work here, at the BISMUN conference and I would like to reassure you of our full support for the future.

Thank you.