



Permanent Mission of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York



871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

To the Participants of the “Model United Nations  
of Hamburg”- Conference

**Ambassador Harald Braun**  
Permanent Representative of Germany  
to the United Nations

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Dear participants,

War and conflict are currently dominating the headlines - whether we look to Ukraine, Libya, Syria, Western Africa or Iraq. Do we have to accept that we live in a time of global disorder? Will constant crises be the new norm? How can we maintain peace and prosperity in the future?

There are no simple answers to these questions. However, I am convinced that the only way to solve, or better yet, to avoid conflicts is through smart diplomacy and preventive policies. As the only international organization with truly global membership, the United Nations remains an indispensable forum in this regard.

This year, the United Nations celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At conferences in Addis Ababa, New York and Paris, key decisions will be taken to shape the future sustainable development agenda for our planet. 2015 is therefore a good year to discuss the United Nations' role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to consider how it can continue to fulfill its mandated duties: To maintain peace and security, to fight poverty, to protect global public goods and to promote human rights.

Finding the right answers to these questions also requires young people like you who take an interest in the work of the United Nations and who are committed to advancing its goals.

I would therefore like to congratulate you on the organization of *Model United Nations of Hamburg*. As a participant, you will discover how difficult it can be to find diplomatic solutions. You will learn the basics of international diplomacy and you will improve your



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debating skills. When dealing with current issues on the international agenda, you will improve your understanding of the challenges of the 21st century. This requires team spirit, intercultural competence and the ability to find compromises - key qualifications that will also help you in the future.

Let me congratulate you on your participation in the *Model United Nations of Hamburg* conference. I wish you lots of success and a rewarding experience!

Sincerely,