



- Greeting -

Minister for School and Further Education  
of North Rhine-Westphalia  
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## **Model United Nations Conference of Dortmund 2015**

January, 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

Dear Delegates,

I am delighted once again to assume the patronage of the Model United Nations conference held this year in Dortmund. Back in 2013 it was with great enthusiasm that I took part in the MUNDO opening event and I thoroughly enjoyed the simulated session, which was full of insightful and considered debate.

At this year's conference, your focus will be on foreign and security policy. You have chosen a particularly important topic, especially in light of the current global political situation and the many conflicts that are taking place. This shows that you are aware of just how fundamental understanding between individual countries actually is when searching for viable solutions that will help to ensure world peace. Our joint hopes for peace are based on such an understanding between nations being reached.

In his essay "Perpetual Peace", written in 1795, the philosopher Immanuel Kant stated that people who live together do not naturally live in a peaceful coexistence, but that it is necessary to work towards achieving peace. This observation encapsulates the spirit and purpose of the United Nations.

In your simulated session, you will illustrate the need for a rational, reasoned discussion between individual countries. Such a complex discussion requires an understanding of the many different cultures involved and this, in turn, provides the basis for tolerance, respect and the search for solutions that both bring about and ensure peace in the future.

In this way, you put democracy to the practical test, see yourselves as part of a political process and develop visions for a better and more peaceful future in which

people can live together freely and harmoniously with different cultures, languages and religions.

I am in no doubt that, by organising and participating in this simulated session, you will acquire key skills for your own personal and professional futures and will be better equipped to make important contributions towards building a better, more cooperative and considerate future for your communities, wider society and beyond.

I wish you a rewarding and productive debate and look forward to hearing the solutions you agree.

Yours sincerely,

*Sylvia Löhrmann*