Name: Jana Abdo

Grade: 11

Favourite quote: “ Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."- Winston S. Churchill

Favourite conference: AMMUN XXIV

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From the very beginning, my interests have been associated with justice, which is more than just finding the right and the wrong side of a situation. Such activity implies patience and good argumentation skills, as well as the ability to hear other people’s reasoning even if it contradicts your point of view. The International Court of Justice represents all the values described above, as it provides countries with a diplomatic venue to solve their disputes based on evidence and international law. This combination of diplomacy and justice became the reason for my interest in the ICJ and the basis of my involvement in MUN.

My first MUN experience was taking part in AMMUN in my Grade 8 year. Since then, I have attended every conference, each of which has provided me with a good opportunity to improve my public speaking, researching, debating, and leadership skills. One thing not highlighted enough is that MUN teaches us that being an advocate does not imply giving the best speech; instead, it means being able to listen attentively and to respond adequately. One should be able to question the evidence provided as well as keep calm in difficult situations.

In particular, the ICJ committee seems to be special for me. In contrast to regular committees, it forces participants to go beyond political preferences and make an argument using facts, precedents, and the law. In this way, it trains advocates and judges to analyse everything carefully because of the great responsibility of international courts.

Therefore, I feel proud to act as the President of the International Court of Justice at AMMUN XXV. I will do my best to provide all the participants with a challenging, respectful atmosphere of work, where everyone is free to develop as a speaker or a judge. With the help of my chairing panel, I will try to ensure fair and exciting processes, and to teach advocates to make good arguments and judges to make the correct and necessary decisions.