



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ

**Opening Remarks of the Permanent Secretary  
of the Ministry of Education and Culture Mrs Egly Pantelakis at the Mediterranean Model  
United Nations (MEDIMUN)**

English School Nicosia, Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 11:30am

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Students,

It is with great pleasure that I am here today to address you at the opening of the Mediterranean Model United Nations. The creation of the opportunity for students to experience the way United Nations work, through a simulation, is indeed a task of high educational value. Organizing and participating in an event such as this one, is a concrete way to promote active citizenship, to enhance the opportunities for dialogue and to open up new possibilities to meet common challenges. I would like to congratulate the organizers for their great work and all the participants for their commitment and enthusiasm. I would also like to welcome all delegates who have come from abroad for this event and wish them a pleasant and fruitful stay in our island.

Dear friends,

One of the fundamental goals of our education system is to contribute to the formation of democratic citizens who, while maintaining and feeling secure with their identity, they will be able to work with people from diverse backgrounds in a modern, cohesive and pluralistic society. Education has a legal, practical and moral obligation to maintain a student centered education environment that provides equal opportunities, without discrimination and exclusion, preventing behaviors and practices that promote or tolerate xenophobia and extremism. We have the responsibility to educate critically thinking, active, and democratic citizens who are willing and able to participate in their respective societies. Citizens who seek creative solutions to local and global challenges and support the respect for human rights and the consolidation of justice.

We know that learning is confined within classroom walls. More often than not, learning occurs in non-formal and informal settings. Such learning could be, in many occasions, deeper and more sustainable than the one acquired in more traditional ways. I think that the Mediterranean Model United Nations is a fine example such a non-conventional educational setting. It provides opportunities for academic understanding of global issues and debate, enhances empathy and

networking and initiates relationships which will probably be lifelong and life changing. This is why I strongly believe that such events should be encouraged and supported.

In the rapidly changing world we are living, we must create a workplace of the future and ensure the continuation and development of the cooperation between countries and people. This can only be achieved successfully through cooperation and close links among the youth of the world. Today, we will have the opportunity to enjoy an event, which is based on the people of the future, and their perspectives, our youth. Having said this, I wish you a successful and fruitful Conference.

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