

Ladies and gentlemen, most distinguished guests, dear delegates and MUNDirectors, dear friends...

It is my biggest honor to welcome you all here, in the heart of our beautiful city. Before I start, I would like to tell you about things that have changed since last year. Firstly, we were able to create a new logo and website. We also made sure to reduce the waste quantity to minimum as well as cut down on plastic. We wouldn't have been able to do any of these things if not for our sponsors.

I could turn this into a 20 minute long, awfully poetic and twice as boring speech, filled with metaphors of how amazing this day is easily. I chose not to do that. Instead I would like to focus on rare facts, hoping they will speak for themselves.

Fact number one:

There is 300 people in this room. Five of them extremely grateful and not being able to believe they're here.

Fact number two:

There is 26 million people missing their home. Which means there is around 80 million families torn apart in this very moment, thinking about those who had to run away or the ones that had to stay.

Fact number three:

7 million people die each year due to air pollution.

Fact number four:

I hardly estimated that during my life I've produced enough plastic to fill in the whole volume of my apartment with it. But I am almost convinced it's more than that. Of course, while trying to live eco friendly for the last few years.

How many apartments of plastic have you built during your life? Are you still surprised there is an island of plastic the size of two third of Europe on the Pacific Ocean?

Which brings me to the last fact:

There is 300 people in this room. If each one of us collects 3 euros, we would have 900 euros. If each one of us encouraged 10 of our friends to do the same, which seems quite easy to do, we would have 9000 euros. And if we did that each month for 10 years, we would have raised over a million euros with the minimal effort.

It has been estimated that it would take around 400 million euros to clean up the ocean in one year. So if we would fine 400 rooms like this one around the world today, we would be able to clean up all of our plastic apartments with the smallest effort imaginable in 10 years from now.

With a million euros we would also be able to make at least 1000 of those lost families come together. We would be able to rescue at least a thousand lives with that million, giving people protection from the polluted air.

The power comes in unity. Once we start with ourselves and our closest environment, we are able to change more than one could think.

This is my core message to all of you, listening, somehow to me, in this very moment. We are here for one purpose today: Model **United** Nations conference. I believe in you, as I see that by coming here, you are not willing to ask for changes anymore. I see that you are willing to be the change: solitarily and mutually. Now, isn't that poetically fulfilling enough?

It is hard to estimate, after months of hard work whether this ToMUN journey is beginning or ending for us, so I would like just to wish you the most amazing one for you, as well as fruitful debates and an amazing time spent in Torun.

Thank you for your attention,

I yield the floor back to the Madame President.

Julia Stanclik Opening Speech ToMUN 2019