

# **Report on the United Ambassadors Conference** **15<sup>th</sup> August to the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 –** **Siyabonga Tshabalala**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, myself Siyabonga Tshabalala and my colleague Comfort Matoti, were invited in our capacities as executives of the University of Johannesburg's chapter for the United Nations Associations of South Africa, to travel and attend the United Ambassadors Model United Nations Conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York City from the 15<sup>th</sup> of August to the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

On that trip I was selected as a judge for the simulation for the International Court of Justice in a case between The Syrian Republic and the Republic of Turkey. This simulation of the International Court of Justice was the first of its kind in the United Ambassadors Conferences, this according to CEO and founder of United Ambassadors, Nabilla Elassar. In this simulation we were presented with cases from the Republic of Turkey and the Syrian Republic in which the Syrian Republic had accused Turkey of violating the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The case however against the Republic of Turkey had proved to be difficult for the Syrian Republic as they had presented insufficient evidence and had required the judges of the International Court of Justice to make a ruling that would compromise the sovereignty against Turkey.

In this trip I further got network with other individuals from 90 other countries, more especially meeting a fellow committee member from Ghana, Fifi Botchway, who came as an observer to United Ambassadors, representing his Non-Profit Organisation known as Footprint Development International. In this organisation they organise an annual Model United Nations simulation at the Ashesi University in Accra. He has honoured me with an invitation to serve as the President of the International Court of Justice, one of the many committees to be simulated, when it sits for its session from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June to the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. I had informed him of the work UNASA-UJ does and he has asked that we bring a delegation to this simulation to be seated next year. Something of which he wishes to see become a partnership, whereby hosting of Model United Nations is alternated between the UJ and Ashesi University.

What I have learnt from this conference is the art of diplomacy, and that in every decision I make, it has to be done rationally, with full consideration for others, whether it be an individual or a state that I may represent in the future. I felt proud to have represented UJ and my organisation UNASA, in the way I did, and not feeling afraid of embracing my culture and languages in the world's most diplomatic environment. I hope to be able to attend many more programs of this nature, and more especially be able to do this as a career. I would like to thank the student affairs and International House for having funded me and my colleague in this trip and I am very appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Dumisani Nyingwa and Mr. Berneth Koopman, who had gone out their way to ensure that we travel safely.