



Press Release

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Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addresses the closing ceremony of the annual conference of the Malta Model United Nation - “Ego Vs Leadership”

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia addressed the closing ceremony and presented awards to participants taking part at this year’s Malta Model United Nations (MaltMUN) Society Conference hosted by the House of Representatives between 13 and 15 September 2019. The theme of this year’s annual conference was “Ego Vs Leadership”.

The Speaker welcomed the society’s sense of initiative and energy that helps youths and young professionals discuss international issues of concern in a UN-focused conference that also helps to develop organisational, public-speaking and diplomacy related skills. The Speaker outlined that the overarching theme of this year’s event has framed the context of the numerous challenges that our society and community of nations are facing. Such challenges require each and every one of us to not to overcome these challenges but also to emerge stronger from them.

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia spoke about the reality of climate change, referring to the strong statements that Sir David Attenborough has made about the subject. On the other hand, the young climate change activist Greta Thunberg has mobilised an international youth movement against climate change through her example and commitment. He further stated that these leaders, young and old showed altruistic exemplary actions and distanced themselves from self-serving actions. While young people may be more idealists and hopeful than their older predecessors, it is this idealism which enables change in our localities, in our country, in the European Union and the world. Malta achieved its independence, and became a republic and neutral state through the vision its past leaders had. The same applies for both EU Membership and for when Malta joined the Euro. Mr Speaker stated that there are however many challenges, with the largest being climate change. This definitely requires young leadership so that everyone take urgent concerted measures to keep the increase in temperatures at the lowest possible.

The Speaker pointed out other challenges that require leadership from Malta’s youth this includes balancing economic growth with a fair distribution of wealth. Furthermore, climate change also presents us with big challenges with regards to adaptation. The Speaker elaborated that our society needs to learn to adapt not only to climate change but needs leadership on other issues as well. One such challenge that is fast emerging is Artificial Intelligence, that while presenting us with a great number of new frontiers and opportunities, gives rise to the challenges of ethical use of these new capabilities which can equally be a force for good and bad. The impact this can also have on conflicts today and in the future is something which requires much thought and discussion.

In his concluding remarks the Speaker urged those present to continue in their education and formation that will help them to provide leadership on the issues they have discussed over the three-day conference ranging from climate change, economic growth and tackling the migration crisis. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia commended all for their energy and passion and called on those present to continue with their engagement in our society so that our challenges can become opportunities for the future.