At the United Nations in Geneva: a recent international conference. But there’s something different about this one. Here, the UN Secretary-General is a 24-year-old female student, Hannah Moosa – and the audience is unusually youthful. (15.5”)

“Hello all of you at this first ever Global Model United Nations!” (5.5”)

The 400 delegates are in fact students representing 57 different countries. Welcoming them by video message is the real-life UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. (16”)

“I participated in a UN-style debate when I was a college student. So you never know where this conference might lead. You could end up as
The idea is to give the students a chance to grapple with the very real issues that the UN faces every day, from responding to a vast array of humanitarian emergencies – and campaigning to halt climate change – to resolving, and preventing conflict. (17.5”)

Model UN Secretary-General Hannah Moosa. (3)

"For me, Model UN represents an opportunity for youth to learn more about what it really means to be a part of the UN and what the UN actually does in the world.” (9)

Many people now working with the world body passed through the model UN in their youth – among them is Kiyotaka Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information: (12.5”)

"I myself took part in Kyoto 40 years ago and that was the beginning of my interest in the United Nations. I'm sure these students will become ambassadors or officials of the UN, or somehow get associated with the work of the
“UN for the rest of their life.” (22.5")

NARRATION

MODEL UN DELEGATES
Around the world, 400,000 students take part in the model UN each year. Akasaka decided to bring them to the UN itself to make the simulation even more life-like. (12")

Petri Cozma, Model UN President of the General Assembly in Geneva, got involved when his teacher told him to channel his boisterous teenage energy toward international affairs: (10.5")

PETRI COZMA: (English) M

“That is in fact the beauty of the United Nations. Whatever your particular field of interest is you’ll find a place to apply yourself here, and as you’ll all without doubt know, the question is communicating this to the youth.” (15.5")

NARRATION:

The hope is that the model UN will inspire these young people – and schoolchildren everywhere – to become leaders the world needs in the future. (9.5")

BAN KI-MOON: (English) M

“I am encouraging your activism and solidarity, now and in the future, to help build a better world for generations to come. Thank you for your commitment and support.” (8.5")
This report was produced by Ingrid Kasper and Francis Mead for the United Nations.