

# Learning about Humanitarian and NGO Efforts at the United Nations from Felipe Queipo



Working Together: Making a Difference.  
Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Felipe Queipo, an official representing the Department of Public Information of the United Nations met with students and faculty at Utah Valley University (UVU) on May 16, 2017. The visit of the UN official was arranged by the UVU Office of International Affairs and Diplomacy. Mr. Felipe Queipo introduced us to the whole concept and goals that the United Nations has developed throughout these years.

Some of the main questions he presented include the following:

- Why the United Nations?
- What is the need for the United Nations in the modern world?



*(L to R): Victor Yunda, Felipe Queipo and Lohana Espinoza*

The United Nations is an international organization which was created in 1945. It has 193 members and its mission is to help and seek solutions for humanitarian issues such as global peace, climate change, security, human rights, health emergencies, gender equality, governance, and food production to stop starvation.

One of the main goals for the creation of the United Nations was to be formed differently from other organizations with the goal of involving every single member included in it. It has expanded its presence and influence all around the world and has reached out to other organizations such as Civil Society. However, as the VIP guest mentioned, the United Nations is not a perfect organization because of many barriers it has faced lately. It can be useful or useless depending on the leader's point of views, geopolitical, or geographic differences, but still can solve many problems by mobilizing its members on joint actions.

United Nations is formed by six main bodies within it such as

- General Assembly
- Security Counsel
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

These bodies are assigned to help communities worldwide by protecting them from numerous global challenges and tragedies. There is also a mechanism that has helped the United Nations to keep on providing an outreach with Governments, Civil Society, Non-Governmental organizations and the media.

Why is the media so important in this process?

As Mr. Queipo stated, information is the key to power. The media can help others understand the United Nations' goals and it can bring more entities to be involved in resolving global problems. The United Nations is also the right place to seek for accurate information because it does not have political biases and preferences.

The last point mentioned by the VIP guest was about the important role of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the contemporary agenda of the United Nations. There are 17 SDGs to help the world and communities to be more prosperous and successful, and civil societies play an important role in SDGs implementation.

In conclusion, I think the United Nations is a very important international organization with noble goals to improve the world to be a better one. Its main goal is to help humankind with their needs and help people on our planet see that they are not alone. It was very useful to know all the goals and what we can do as students and individuals to be prepared and willing to help the world along with all the partnerships involved in this cause.

*Victor Yunda, UVU student*