

8th Annual Conference
13th-15th February

UNICEF

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Wesgreen International School
Model United Nations

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UNICEF Background Guide

Letter from the Dais:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Children's Fund committee at the 8th annual conference of the GEMS Wesgreen Model United Nations 2025. The chairs of the UNICEF committee are eager to meet the delegates and preside over this esteemed committee. We are thrilled to be able to welcome the spirited discussions that will take place throughout our committee sessions, and we are certain that you all will walk out of this conference as more confident, knowledgeable, diplomatic, and thoughtful individuals.

The purpose of the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) is to fulfil its duties as a humanitarian aid organization and help children and young people whose lives and futures are at risk, regardless of political viewpoints. UNICEF is of great global importance as it is responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories, striving to save the lives of children, defend their rights, and help them fulfil their potential from early childhood through adolescence.

During the conference, the delegates can expect to achieve fruitful discussions where they refine their leadership skills and honour their debate abilities. The delegates will work together to propose inventive and innovative solutions to issues that plague society as we know it today, hence developing their leadership, research, writing, public speaking, and problem-solving skills. Hence, this MUN will provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to cultivate the skills that many renowned world leaders possess, preparing the delegates to potentially one day become the future leaders of our generation promoting global resilience while protecting child rights.

With that being said, we wish you luck with the research you will be conducting and highly suggest that you do not delay it to the end, as it will lead to a lot of unnecessary pressure. Having a calm, open mind, an ample amount of research and an unwavering willingness to solve the problem at hand will lead to a fruitful conference for everyone to enjoy, with memories, and hopefully, genuine friendships that will last a long time.

To conclude, we strongly encourage that you keep this background guide safe, as it has been meticulously designed to be the perfect starting point for your preparation for this conference. If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to email us at the email address listed below. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Good luck.

Sincerely, Chairs of UNICEF,
(unicef.wesmun2025@gmail.com).

Introduction to the Committee:

The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), originally known as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was established by the United Nations General Assembly on the 11th of December in 1946, with the aim of offering urgent food and medical assistance to children and mothers in nations heavily affected by the aftermath of World War II.

Since 1946, UNICEF has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of the rights of children, the fulfilment of their basic needs and expansion of their opportunities to achieve their full potential. Therefore, UNICEF has consistently worked to serve its purpose of protecting the rights and well-being of all children, especially those most disadvantaged and hardest to reach.

The key function of UNICEF is to respond holistically to the needs of children globally and the environments in which they grow up. Of the many functions that UNICEF focusses on, their main concerns are adolescent development, social and behaviour change, child protection, early childhood development, education, gender equality, health, nutrition, social policy, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The main issue UNICEF addresses is the safeguarding of children which includes the prevention of all types of exploitation and abuse. The basis of all UNICEF operations is driven by the five core values of care, respect, integrity, trust, and accountability. Hence, UNICEF works tirelessly to resolve global issues, having been uniquely entrusted with the responsibility of supporting children physiologically and psychologically, especially during the eruption of emergencies and crises.

Despite its historical significance as a temporary relief fund, UNICEF has become the driving force that helps build a world that recognizes the rights of every child. It works relentlessly before, during and after conflicts to provide critical resources, time, and encouragement to build an environment where children can grow up protected, healthy and educated.

Furthermore, the past actions and resolutions of UNICEF show clear devotion in aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children. Therefore, UNICEF will closely collaborate with other committees and countries of the United Nations to administer appropriate humanitarian and developmental aid to children in need worldwide.

The top three largest contributors to UNICEF, as of 2023, are the United States of America, Germany, and World Bank Group that have shown continuous support by funding UNICEF with millions of dollars each year. However, their support extends beyond financial contributions, reaching into strategic areas of UNICEF's mission as well.

Topic One - *Recovery and Resilience: Safeguarding the Rights of Children Impacted by Crises and Conflict*

Introduction:

One of the most important aspects of international recovery efforts is the resilience of children affected by disasters and conflicts. Children are among the most vulnerable during times of crisis, and the disintegration of social institutions, the loss of family support, and the disruption of access to fundamental rights like healthcare and education frequently make it more difficult for them to recover. However, with the correct resources and assistance, kids may exhibit incredible resilience and overcome even the most trying circumstances. To guarantee a sustained recovery process, the international community must concentrate on promoting this resilience.

UNICEF has been at the forefront of helping children in places devastated by crises, fighting to protect their rights and give them the resources they need to start over. The notion that children are both change agents and victims of conflict is fundamental to UNICEF's work. UNICEF wants to enable children to bounce back and prosper by fostering resilience, which will give them a sense of security and hope again. This strategy is in line with the more general concept of global resilience, which highlights the significance of sustained, long-term initiatives that lay the groundwork for recovery following emergencies.

The stability of entire communities and countries depends on the protection and restoration of children's rights in the framework of global resilience. Children can aid in community reconstruction, social cohesiveness, and future peacebuilding initiatives when they are able to heal from the trauma of crises. Important pillars in this process include guaranteeing access to psychosocial support, healthcare, and education. International cooperation and a dedication to meeting the special needs of children in emergency situations must be the foundation of these initiatives.

In light of the world's ongoing record-breaking levels of violence, displacement, and tragedy, UNICEF's efforts to protect children's rights are essential to building global resilience. In order for children to not only survive but flourish and use their experiences to create a more resilient world, the worldwide community must cooperate. This tutorial will examine how UNICEF helps children affected by crises recover and become resilient, as well as how international collaboration may bolster efforts to protect their rights.

Analysis:

The complexities of safeguarding the rights of children impacted by crises and conflict is one that deserves special analysis and scrutiny. Amnesty International recognizes that children are amongst those most at risk in conflict. Therefore, UNICEF dedicates special efforts to protecting children during armed conflict, so that the number of child casualties is minimized. Every UNICEF member should strive to assist in the rehabilitation of the child survivors impacted by crises, to allow these children to build futures beyond the traumas they have endured and grow to become resilient adults.

In the dire times of humanitarian emergencies, the rights of children are abandoned, and life-saving humanitarian assistance is often deliberately denied. These human right violations bring along physical, emotional, and mental health impacts on children which are devastating in the short term and have detrimental impacts on long-term future development if left unaddressed. The catastrophes imposed by wars are endless, therefore the key aspects of this

topic cover focusing on protecting child rights during conflicts first so that countries can more easily focus on promoting recovery after conflict.

During the conflict, UNICEF guarantees to call to stop attacks on children and the services on which they rely. During times of war, UNICEF will call upon the parties in conflict to end attacks that deliberately kill and maim children, attacks on education and the use of schools for military purposes, attacks that deprive children of proper access to healthcare, and attacks on water and sanitation facilities and personnel. UNICEF urges all member states to ensure that children's fundamental rights to safety, education, healthcare, water, and sanitation are maintained even in trying times of war.

Previous wars have scarred the futures of children living in former war zones. An example is the War in Afghanistan where the aftermath of the war continues to haunt the new generation of Afghanistan today. The landmines that were used at the time currently contaminate at least 724 million square meters of land in Afghanistan, making explosive hazards the second leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan. And in 2023 alone, children made up more than a third of the landmine casualties. How is this a safe environment for children to grow up in? In order to foster true global resilience, member states are urged to uphold global commitments to deliver a world free from unexploded devices used in war that will restrict the freedom of children to live safely on their own land.

Furthermore, the violence of conflicts has caused about 47.2 million children worldwide to be displaced as of the end of 2023. Forced displacement reached unprecedented levels in 2023 and children constitute 41% of all forcibly displaced people, despite only making up 30% of the world's population. This clearly emphasizes the urgency with which this issue must be addressed. This is not a geo-specific issue, but rather has broader implications on the entire world where statistics show that one in five children globally live in or are fleeing from conflict zones. Moreover, the forced displacement of children violates the rights of children by denying them access to their basic bodily needs, therefore, harming children physiologically as well as psychologically.

Thankfully, however, the committee of UNICEF has been very effective in establishing peacebuilding initiatives in conflict zones. Of course, the effectiveness of UNICEF would be incomplete without the crucial role played by the governments, businesses, civil society organizations and communities that have partnered with UNICEF to safeguard the rights of children.

In conclusion, it is evident that during conflicts and crises, the rights of children are consistently violated, hence the members of UNICEF are urged to reflect upon history and propose ideas to help affected child survivors recover from the traumatizing effects of war.

Historical Background:

UNICEF has been committed to enhancing the lives of children in need since its establishment in 1946, especially those impacted by crises and conflict. UNICEF was first established to help children with emergency aid in the wake of World War II, but it soon broadened its mission to include meeting the needs of children everywhere. UNICEF has concentrated on providing basic humanitarian relief in crisis areas, like clean water, food, and medicine, while simultaneously defending children's rights and guaranteeing access to psychological support, health care, and education. UNICEF has created specialized programs over the years that are

suited to the requirements of children in emergency situations, establishing the foundation for resilience and long-term rehabilitation.

UNICEF's contribution to building resilience in children impacted by conflict was strengthened with the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989. The CRC highlights children's rights to live, grow, and engage completely in society. This framework has played a crucial role in UNICEF's initiatives to promote children's rights during emergencies. In significant humanitarian crises like the Rwandan Genocide, the Balkan Wars, and the persistent conflicts in Syria and Yemen, UNICEF has spearheaded efforts to guarantee the safety and recovery of children. These initiatives involve offering educational opportunities, psychosocial assistance, and reintegration programs for children who have been separated from their families or engaged in armed conflict.

In recent years, UNICEF has placed greater emphasis on fostering resilience in children and communities impacted by crises. Understanding that recovery involves not just immediate assistance but also establishing enduring pathways for children to flourish, UNICEF has focused on long-term initiatives that combine health, education, and protection. These efforts have played a crucial role in building global resilience, enabling children to not only endure crises but also grow into resilient leaders and change-makers in their communities. UNICEF's ongoing dedication to this mission is clear in its thorough response to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities, and persistent conflicts, placing children at the center of worldwide recovery and resilience initiatives.

Key Terms:

- Resilience – The ability of individuals or communities to recover, adapt, and thrive after crises.
- Humanitarian Aid – Emergency assistance provided to meet basic needs like food, water, and shelter.
- Child Protection – Efforts to safeguard children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) – People forced to flee their homes but remain within their country's borders.
- Refugee – A person who flees their country due to conflict, persecution, or violence.
- Psychosocial Support – Services addressing mental health and social needs during crises.
- Reintegration – Helping displaced or traumatized children return to their communities and schools.
- Child Soldiers – Children recruited or used by armed forces or groups in conflict.
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – A treaty outlining the global rights of children, adopted in 1989.
- Education in Emergencies (EiE) – Initiatives ensuring access to education during conflicts or disasters.
- Rehabilitation – Programs to restore children's physical, mental, and social well-being after crises.
- Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) – A framework ensuring the protection of children's rights in all recovery efforts.

Major Parties Involved:

- UNICEF – Leads efforts to protect children’s rights, provide humanitarian aid, and build resilience in crisis-affected regions.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Focuses on protecting and supporting refugee children and displaced populations.
- World Health Organization (WHO) – Provides healthcare and psychosocial support for children in emergencies.
- Save the Children – Works globally to ensure children’s safety, education, and recovery in crises.
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – Protects and assists children in armed conflicts under international humanitarian law.
- World Food Programme (WFP) – Provides food aid to children in conflict zones and disaster areas to prevent malnutrition.
- National Governments – Play a key role in protecting children through policies, resources, and disaster response mechanisms.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – Local and international NGOs assist in child-focused humanitarian and recovery programs.
- UN Security Council – Addresses conflicts and mandates peacekeeping missions to protect children in war zones.
- Peacekeeping Forces – Deployed to stabilize regions and protect vulnerable populations, including children.
- International Criminal Court (ICC) – Prosecutes war crimes, including the recruitment of child soldiers and attacks on schools.
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) – Engage local communities in rebuilding efforts and providing child-centered support.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

- How can governmental policies ensure children receive adequate healthcare, safety and food and water in times of crises?
- How is the public able to influence the decisions of the government regarding the protection of the youth of their countries during conflicts?
- How the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child can be used in favor of children within conflicted areas to reduce the risk of potential casualties
- What programs should be established to rehabilitate children who have been victims of armed conflict or exploitation?
- How can countries collaborate to hold governments and non-state organizations accountable for harm done to children?

Subtopics:

- Past solutions to be used and integrated with modern-day technology to further increase the efficiency of resources used for victimized children such as including social counseling and vocational training, to help children reintegrate into society after escaping conflict or exploitation
- Types of organizations that are able to locate and reunite displaced children with their families post-conflict to help children reconnect with their loved ones
- Examining international frameworks such as the Geneva Convention and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OPAC) that protect children’s rights

- How to implement safe designated areas (in a country or a city) to provide aid to affected children without fear of violence
- Highlight the need for ceasefires and truces amongst parties involved in conflicts to advocate for the children affected by these circumstances

Past Resolutions:

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1261 (1999):

On 25 August 1999, the UN Security Council adopted the first resolution on children and armed conflict, placing the issue of children affected by war on the agenda of the Security Council. The Council identified and strongly condemned the violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1314 (2000):

On 11 August 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a second resolution on children and armed conflict and reaffirmed that the deliberate targeting of civilians in times of conflict, including violations against children, may constitute a threat to peace and security.

UN Security Council Resolution 1379 (2001):

On 20 November 2001, the UN Security Council adopted, with a unanimous affirmative vote by all 15 members, a resolution explicitly expressing their readiness to include provisions for the protection of children in armed conflict when considering the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2601 (2021):

On 29 October 2021, the UN Security Council adopted a unanimous resolution, hailed as the first of its kind, that condemns attacks against schools, children and teachers and encourages conflict parties to immediately safeguard the right to education.

Recommended Resources:

1. United Nations Official Website: <http://www.un.org/en>
2. United Nations Treaty Collection: <https://treaties.un.org/>
3. UNICEF Official Website: <https://www.unicef.org/>
4. United Nations Development Programme: <https://www.undp.org/>
5. United Nations World Food Programme: <https://www.wfp.org/>
6. Council on Foreign Relations Official Website: <https://www.cfr.org>
7. CFR Global Conflict Tracker: <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>
8. International Crisis Group: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/>
9. Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/>
10. World Vision International: <https://www.wvi.org/>
11. Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
12. NGO Reports: <https://www.help.ngo/reports>
13. Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/>
14. Chatham House: <https://www.chathamhouse.org>
15. Any other official website of a United Nations committee.
16. Any other .gov or .edu website

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- <https://www.unicef.org/documents/UNICEF-stories-child-responsive-DRR>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/armed-conflict/>
- <https://alliancecpha.org/en/TheUnprotected2023>
- <https://www.unicef.org/children-under-attack/change-agenda>
- <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/child-protection>

Topic Two - *Building a Resilient Future: Combating Youth Exploitation and Preventing Child Involvement in Drug Smuggling*

Introduction:

What is the connection between human trafficking and drug smuggling? The exploitation of minors in these illegal industries. Over time, there has been an alarming increase in the number of minors using drugs for smuggling, and child trafficking continues to be on the rise. Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) seeking to increase their revenues and gain market control find humans trafficking and drug trafficking to be an attractive mix. According to estimates from the International Labour Organization, human trafficking was worth \$236 billion yearly in 2021. Due to the illegal nature of the drug trade, actual profits are not widely known. The global illegal drug market, however, is estimated to be worth between \$426 and \$652 billion, according to a 2014 study by Global Financial Integrity, a Washington, DC-based think tank that focuses on financial crimes, corruption, illegal trade, and money laundering.

What exactly is child trafficking? It is when children are used for exploitation in a variety of ways as part of child trafficking. It is a grave human rights violation and a criminal felony. It doesn't matter if a youngster seems to have "consented" in any manner to being taken advantage of, particularly where pressure, force, deception, or the misuse of power or weakness are involved. Child trafficking is a devastating crime that steals children's safety and future. It takes many forms, including sexual exploitation, where children are abused for profit or forced to create explicit material. Forced labor subjects children to harsh conditions in agriculture, factories, mines, or as domestic workers. Some are sent to beg or commit petty crimes under the control of traffickers. In conflict zones, children are recruited as soldiers, sexually abused, or trapped in servitude. Child marriage often stems from harmful traditions, exploiting girls for financial or social gain. Illegal adoption deceives families and subjects children to abuse further. Many children endure multiple forms of exploitation at once, such as being forced to beg while also suffering sexual abuse. These tragedies highlight the urgent need to protect vulnerable children and put an end to these cruel practices. Children's physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development will suffer severely as a result of this crime. Victims frequently experience serious trauma-related disorders, anxiety, depression, and trouble blending into society, as well as long-term health problems. Compared to adult victims, children are almost twice as likely to experience severe violence by traffickers, and the likelihood is much higher for girls. Child trafficking feeds cycles of exploitation and poverty while weakening healthy social structures. It ruins youth, impairs schooling, and restricts community development. When trafficked children become parents, they may be caught in a vicious cycle of violence and exploitation. To achieve greater social and economic stability as well as community solidarity, it is imperative to address child trafficking.

Criminal groups often force or trick children into smuggling drugs because they are less likely to be noticed by authorities and may face lighter punishments. These children might carry drugs

across borders or within cities, often without knowing what they are transporting. Sometimes, drugs are hidden in their clothes, bags, or even inside their bodies, which can be extremely dangerous and harmful to their health. Traffickers often use threats or lies to control these children, treating them as tools for their illegal work.

Analysis:

Numerous children with unusual needs physical, mental, and educational have previously been in institutional care. Due to their backgrounds, some children from ethnic or religious minorities experience discrimination and harassment. Additionally, there are probably more kids who are already under the influence of transnational criminal gangs before they cross the border or who will become victims of these gangs in the EU and other nations. In order to help first responders, particularly law enforcement and child protection authorities as well as non-governmental organizations in various transit and receiving countries, in their efforts to safeguard vulnerable children and individuals at high risk of human trafficking, UNICEF has sourced top-level international expertise as part of its response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

Human trafficking is a highly complex problem and a significant violation of human rights. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, is further strengthened by the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Article 10 of the Protocol states that States Parties shall strengthen or provide training for immigration, law enforcement, and other relevant officials to prevent human trafficking. To address the triggers that lead to child recruitment and prevent violations before they happen, UNICEF collaborates with governments, community organizations, and other entities. Every year, thousands of children leave the military and other groups, and UNICEF helps them get back on their feet by offering them a safe place to live after their release and community-based services for case management, family tracing, reunion, and psychological support. Additionally, they offer survivors of gender-based violence particular help.

Tackling the issue of children being used in drug smuggling requires action on multiple fronts, focusing both on prevention and on helping those already affected. One of the most important steps is creating and enforcing strong laws to punish traffickers and protect children from being exploited. Governments, with support from organizations like UNICEF, need to ensure these laws are clear and effective. UNICEF stresses that stopping child exploitation starts with addressing its root causes poverty, lack of education, and family struggles. They emphasize the importance of making sure children have access to education and basic services so they're less vulnerable to traffickers. Community programs that offer job training and emotional support for at-risk youth are also critical. These initiatives can give children alternatives and reduce their chances of being drawn into illegal activities. At the same time, UNICEF calls for a justice system that focuses on helping children recover rather than punishing them when they're coerced into smuggling. This includes rescuing them from traffickers and providing counseling, education, and opportunities to rebuild their lives. Public awareness is another key piece in helping communities recognize trafficking and know how to report it can prevent children from falling victim in the first place.

Historical Background:

Child exploitation in drug trafficking and smuggling is a persistent and highly alarming problem. Children's assumed innocence and capacity to avoid detection by law enforcement have historically allowed criminal networks to influence them.

North America, Latin America, Asia, and Africa are among the regions where this decades-long practice has been documented. Historical incidents of child trafficking and child smuggling serve as disturbing proof of the widespread problem and highlight the extent of exploitation. In the 1980s and 1990s, for instance, Colombia's drug cartels were known for using children as "mules," delivering cocaine inside or in tiny, easily hidden packages, frequently under force or coercion. Both traffickers and authorities posed a serious danger to these children who were forced into the trade. In a comparable way, gangs in Central America used children to smuggle drugs over international borders. Complex issues including poverty, illiteracy, and government failures are the root cause of their vulnerability. Reports in recent years have highlighted how traffickers take use of legal loopholes since they know that kids are less likely to be severely punished if they are detected. This strategy has been seen in places like the US and Mexico, where kids have grown used to smuggling drugs over borders.

Not only do these practices occur in the western part of the world, but is also prominent in the eastern countries of the world. An alarming pattern of traffickers taking advantage of institutional weaknesses is demonstrated by historical instances of child trafficking and the exploitation of children in drug smuggling throughout Eastern nations. Over the past few decades, thousands of Nepali children especially girls have been trafficked into India on false pretenses of employment or education, only to be tricked into hard labor or sexual exploitation. According to estimates, up to 7,000 Nepali girls are trafficked each year, with cities like Mumbai and New Delhi serving as the main destinations for these children.

Thousands of children were trafficked in China in the 1990s for arranged marriages, forced labor, and unlawful adoption, teenage females were especially targeted. Many traffickers took children from faraway locations by manipulating poor households or by abducting them openly. Children in Southeast Asia were also targeted by drug smuggling networks, especially in the Golden Triangle, which includes Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar and is a major global center for manufacturing drugs and trafficking. Traffickers frequently recruited children as cross-border drug couriers because they thought the police would not investigate them as closely as they would adults.

To enhance law enforcement responses and victim rehabilitation, nations such as India have partnered with the UNODC to establish training programs and legal adjustments. In a similar situation, Guatemala's efforts include awareness programs like "Blue Heart" and "I-Connect," which are designed to destroy trafficking networks and protect youths online. International agreements that provide standards to prohibit trafficking and promote international collaboration, such as the Palermo Protocol under the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, are also crucial.

Many of these resolutions have been considered successful, but the issue of drug smuggling and child trafficking persists globally. These solutions not only raise awareness of these illegal and immoral practices, but they also shield future generations from becoming victims and prevent the children from suffering from traumatic scarring for the rest of their lives. In addition to these resolutions, UNICEF and other organizations work to encourage education, support rehabilitation programs that are appropriate for the needs of children, and advocate for their rights. Together, these programs tackle the underlying causes of human trafficking and offer opportunities for the rescue and reintroduction of children into society.

Key Terms:

- Child Trafficking: The illegal trade of children for unethical/immoral purposes

- **Drug Smuggling:** The illegal movement of drugs across international borders or within a country, using various methods to disguise and hide the drugs in order to be moved to their desired destination.
- **Exploitation of Youth:** Manipulation of physically/emotionally vulnerable children in order to make them follow orders.
- **Mules:** Often referred to as mules due to being the person (in this case, a child) that carries the drugs by concealing them.
- **Coercion:** Forcing a person into a dangerous situation by using threats and extreme pressure to manipulate a child to engage in smuggling drugs.
- **Child Labor:** When children are forced to work under unsuitable and potentially dangerous conditions.

Major Parties:

- **UNICEF:** Focuses on protecting the rights of children around the globe and helps prevent exploitation and abuse of youth.
- **UNODC:** Works to fight human trafficking and drug smuggling and initiate international collaborations to track drug smuggling networks.
- **Interpol:** Enforces law agencies to intervene any and all child trafficking and disrupt drug smuggling.
- **National Government (of countries with the said issue):** Countries with national organizations such as FBI, DHS, and CPS are allowed to internally track any potential threats to their countries and are able to prosecute the culprits who had caused these conflicts.

Current Challenges and Opportunities:

The exploitation of the youth is a currently a hurdle in our path to building a resilient future. This is mainly seen in countries such as Nigeria, Burundi, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and Afghanistan where many children are subject to child labour. According to the United Nations' International Labour Organization, an estimated 152 million children aged 5-17 work worldwide and slightly more than one in five children, between these ages, are engaged in labour that is considered detrimental to their health and development.

In addition to that, the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups is currently on the rise. Thousands of boys and girls are used as soldiers, cooks, spies and more in armed conflicts around the world. The “child soldiers” are subject to extreme forms of exploitation, abuse and even gender-based violence. A recent example is provided by the Caribbean country of Haiti where, on 18 November 2024, UNICEF announced that the number of children being recruited into armed groups in Haiti has increased by 70% over the past year alone. It has also been revealed that there has been an alarming deterioration in child protection amid the escalating violence across the nation. Clearly, there is an opportunity for the member states to work together to end the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups and the detention of children allegedly associated with armed forces or groups.

Moreover, we can see that, in 2023, along the border with Venezuela, Colombian guerrillas lured unemployed Indigenous youths into drug trade, extortion rackets and armed conflict as a cause of the political instability in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Despite that however, we see that there are many opportunities at hand to build a more resilient future for us all. All member states of UNICEF must come together to tackle the obstacles we face in modern day society. There are many areas of improvement where action can be taken

to adopt resolutions that effectively combat the challenges of youth exploitation and child involvement in drug smuggling. United, UNICEF has the opportunity to rescue the lives of so many children around the world.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

- What are the root causes of youth exploitation and child involvement in drug smuggling?
- What measures can be taken to prevent children from being recruited into drug smuggling activities?
- How can governments, NGOs, and international organizations collaborate to address this issue?
- How can we ensure the enforcement of laws that protect children from drug smuggling and exploitation, particularly in conflict or high-risk zones?
- What role can media and awareness campaigns play in preventing youth exploitation and drug smuggling?

Subtopics:

1. Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Protect Children in Vulnerable Communities
2. Community-Led Approaches to Preventing Youth Exploitation
3. Addressing Socio-Economic Drivers of Child Exploitation and Drug Smuggling
4. Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs for Children Involved in Drug Smuggling
5. International Cooperation in Combatting Cross-Border Child Exploitation

Past Resolutions:

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/177 (2016):

On 19 December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 71/177, which was given the title “Rights of the child”. This resolution reaffirms the Convention on the Rights of the Child and calls for the combatting of all forms of child exploitation, including sexual exploitation, child labor, and trafficking.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/174 (2019):

On 18 August 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution stressing the importance of the cooperation of member states in preventing and combating child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online by recognizing the potential for victims to experience life-changing trauma.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution 61/9 (2018):

On 16 March 2018, The Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a resolution expressing concern at the dangers, risks and consequences posed to children by the use of illicit drugs that are made to be attractive and available to children and invited member states to protect children from the illicit drug challenge.

Recommended Resources:

1. United Nations Official Website: <http://www.un.org/en>
2. United Nations Treaty Collection: <https://treaties.un.org/>
3. UNICEF Official Website: <https://www.unicef.org/>
4. UNODC Official Website: <https://www.unodc.org/>
5. United Nations Development Programme: <https://www.undp.org/>
6. UN Representative on Violence Against Children: <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/>
7. Council on Foreign Relations Official Website: <https://www.cfr.org>

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18. Any other .gov or .edu website

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