

Commission: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Session : NATIONAL MUN-2024

Sponsors : Argentina, Cameroon, Ecuador, Iraq, Malta, Pakistan,
Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic,
Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

QUESTION OF: **COMBATTING CHILD LABOUR AND EARLY MARRIAGE**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 8.7, which call for immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour,

Fully alarmed that despite the existence of Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulating that 'everyone has the right to education', UNICEF reports that 129 million children lack education because of issues that differ throughout nations and communities, including early marriage and child labour,

Cognizant of the Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, which calls for the elimination of all harmful practices, such as child marriage, which predominantly, but not exclusively, affects girls,

Deeply concerned by the reports from UNICEF and other humanitarian organizations, indicating that child labour rates have surged globally due to adherence to local traditional customs, limited access to quality education and financial crisis,

Affirming the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates the right of children to be protected from the economic exploitation and harmful practices,

Emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies to combat these issues,

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1. Urges all the Member States to implement the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
2. Encourages Member States to enhance access to quality education and vocational training by implementing free and compulsory education and to establish free vocational training centres, ensuring that education is accessible to all children as a preventative measure against child labour and early marriage;
3. Endorses awareness campaigns to educate children and parents about the harmful effects of early marriage and child labour, and to empower them to seek assistance from support services if they face coercion or exploitation;
4. Requests increased funding and support for economic development programmes from UN branches that reduce the economic dependency which lead to child labour, including micro-finance initiatives for families, employment opportunities for adults, and social protection measures to alleviate poverty;
5. Recommends the establishment of comprehensive support services for at-risk children, including access to healthcare, counselling, and educational scholarships, and creating safe spaces specifically designed to support affected children;
6. Calls upon the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other relevant United Nations entities to continue providing technical assistance and support to Member States in their efforts to prevent and address child slavery and exploitation in forced labour;
7. Suggests the establishment of robust data systems to track the prevalence of child labour and early marriage, and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions;

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8. Trusts the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy on Children's Safety, tasked with reporting annually to the Human Rights Council on the progress made in combatting Child Labour and Early Marriage, with recommendations for further action where necessary;
9. Instructs the formulation and implementation of family and marriage laws, as well as child labor regulations aimed at protecting vulnerable children, with stringent penalties such as closure of companies;
10. Calls upon the UNODC to monitor individuals involved in drug and human trafficking that exploit child labor, with severe consequences such as the potential for closure of operations;
11. Requests the integration of gender-sensitive approaches in all policies and programmes addressing child labor and early marriage to ensure that the specific needs and challenges faced by girls are adequately addressed;
12. Directs Member States to establish inspection boards staffed by professionals who can monitor areas prone to child labor, focusing on manual work performed by children in impoverished regions;
13. Supports international cooperation and partnerships to share best practices and resources in combatting child labor and early marriage, aiming at facilitating cross-border collaborations and encouraging private sector engagement in social responsibility initiatives.