BITSMUN '23

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BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

UNICEF

BITS MUN, HYD 2023

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

Background Guide

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the BITS MUN, Hyderabad. We are pleased to welcome you to UNICEF.

It is an honour to Chair at BITS Hyderabad,2023. This letter shall also serve, as a concept note for the committee and our expectations from the committee is to function. MUN's as a concept are designed to be a simulation more than a conference. This difference in inherent and more obvious in each country's representation through their delegation. The head of this delegation is usually a diplomat who is firstly representing the government and its goals and is hence tasked with the responsibility of indulging other countries into their own goals and using diplomacy effectively into use to achieve the aforementioned goals. The end of the simulation then is different for each diplomat and it is the means to that end that shall define the quality of the simulation.

Apart from the simulation part, it is important to remember the inherent limitations of every student in terms of using or applying international law or such. This then implies that it is not necessary to indulge in highly technical discussions that ensure no learning to the delegate, it is rather imperative that all discussions be integrated with logic that has been graciously been gifted to humankind through our collective wisdom. It is thus expected that this concept note also serves as a very important start point to the simulation and the delegates are able to infer a lot more

than what are shown as face value.

The agenda has multiple facets and can take a national or international viewpoint. For the benefit of the delegates and the quality of the simulation, the background guide shall give small introductions in addition, an important start-point to your research. It is important to remember although this has been emphasized all throughout your MUN careers, this is only a start point and this is just a quick start to your research while the end awaits you all.

Godspeed!

Warmest Regards,

Chairperson – Azka Khan, azka.businessno.1@gmail.com, +91 8810647047

Vice-Chairperson -

As you prepare for BITsMUN Hyd'2023 keep in mind that as a delegate in this committee it is expected you act with diplomacy and compete to the best of your ability. Please be respectful of your fellow delegates in debate and mindful of how you approach sensitive topics at all times. The following background guide should be a foundation for your research for the topics that will be discussed in committee. I encourage you to use the background guide as a jumping off point, delving deeper into your country's stance on each of the topics.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at

azka.businessno.1@gmail.com

Please submit your position papers by November 3rd at 9:00 am. I look forward to meeting you all in committee.

Research Tips

1. Read the agenda guide, least 10 days prior to the conference and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the background guide. In case of a crisis situation always read and look for the analysis and plausible rationale on the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.

2. Google/search everything and find relating documents (UN news articles, scholarly articles)for whatever was not really understood.

3. After wholly understanding (subject to how in depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.

4. Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions etc.)

5. Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the background guide that may come handy while presentation of contentions in committee.

6. Take a good look at the mandate of council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything; speak whatever the mandate allows.

7. Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the endnotes and references.

8. Predict the kind of discussions and on what sub topics can they take place, thereby analyzing the sub topic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly. Make a word/pages document and put your arguments there for better presentation in council and bring a hard copy of it to the committee.

9. Ask the Executive Board your doubts, if you have any, least 7 days before the conference by means of the given email id and make sure to not disclose your allotted country, until you want to understand the policy of your country.

10. Download the united nations charter, the Geneva conventions of 1949 and additional protocols there to and other relative treaties and documents given.

11. Ask questions regarding procedure to speak something etc., if you have any, on the day of the conference.

12. UN Charter: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text

Nature of Admissible Proof and Evidences

Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

🎬 Reuters: Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.

UN Document: Documents by all UN agencies will be considered as sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies including treaty-based bodies will also be accepted.

Government Reports: Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof.

Guidelines for the Position Paper

A position paper is an introductory document which reflects your research and the position of your country with regard to the agenda at hand. At a glance, it should make clear the urgency of the matter and a wholehearted effort to resolve the same. The format of the Position Paper should be as follows:

Name:

Committee: UNICEF

Agenda:

Country:

The position paper begins after the above details and should not exceed 2 pages in Cambria, 12 font, line spacing 1.5. All position papers should be submitted in hardcopy on the first day of the conference. The paper should cover the following:

- Country position on the agenda
- Treaties and Conventions signed by the country with regard to the agenda
- Work done by country to combat the concerned problem or National Initiatives taken up by the country.
- Suggestions for the International Community or Possible Solutions for implementation by the United Nations.

Sample Position Papers can be found at the following link

| https://unausa.org/model-un/

AGENDA

"Formulating a comprehensive framework to ensure the safety
and well-being of children amidst conflict situations."

United Nations International Children's Fund, or widely known as UNICEF was established by United Nations General Assembly in the aftermath of World War II. The initial objective of this body was to help provide relief and support to children living in countries devastated by war.

Along with the development progress, UNICEF has shifted its mandate to not only provide assistance and help for children living in countries devastated by war, but as well as to ensure the rights of all children are fulfilled. The committee has played an important role in promoting the Convention on the Rights of Children, that now has become one of the most ratified conventions in the world. UNICEF has also widely known by its development programs that engage not only government but as well as NGO, private sectors and related stakeholders with the use of media and role model in campaigning their programs.

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to the formation of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in 1946. (UN General Assembly, Establishment of an International Children's Emergency Fund (GA/RES/57(1)), 1946) The major objective after inception was to help children across Europe who had been left helpless after the Second World War. The main purpose of the fund was to help in building shelter, provide food, enhance security for children and reduce the rising child mortality, particularly in times of crisis as after the Second World War. Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF agreed to take his position on condition that all

children regardless of their nationality or creed would be assisted by this fund. Ever since, this has always been the primary goal of UNICEF. However, in 1950 the attempt to close the fund, the UNICEF leadership together with Member States requested the continuation of the fund and expanded its scope.

Mandate

The mandate of UNICEF was shifted from providing temporary relief to ensuring long-term sustainable development goals.(UNICEF, Sixty Years For Children, 2006, p.6) Moreover, help countries be able to provide for their own children in the future. Hence, its mission has been extended to Africa and Asia that were not previously under its mandate. It was noticed that children could not be viewed in isolation but as an important aspect within the society; children were found to be the most vulnerable in the society. UNICEF thus, realized the importance of improving the livelihood through enhanced development projects. "A World Fit for Children" is a document that emerged after the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children (UNGASS), which voices out specific goals in achieving a 'child friendly' society.(UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, General Assembly Special Session on Children, 2002)

Functions and Powers

UNICEF is based on the principle of promoting the vital interests of children, since children are considered as the most vulnerable in the society and hence need a collective protection.(UNICEF, Sixty Years for Children, 2006, p.8). This is also highlighted in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989 that is the mostly approved convention in the world. The convention's fundamental value is to enforce children rights, for example right to life, right to the child to be heard, right to non-discrimination among others. It is paramount for every child's voice to be heard and considered in all decision making processes as factor in moulding globally active citizens who will contribute positively to the world we live in. To accomplish this, children have to be safeguarded from exploitation, violence, abuse, sickness and hunger. Implementation of mechanisms that influence the accomplishment of such principles has awakened the need to consider children with high regard. This includes fostering a partnership with other UN organizations like the United Nations Educational,

Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in capacity building initiatives.

(UNESCO, Guide to the Archives of International Organizations: UNICEF). Together

with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), UNICEF has achieved ground-breaking results in curing diseases

such as Polio and Yaws and also through administration of vaccines for six commonly

known childhood killer diseases.

Conclusion

UNICEF is an organization that strives to represent marginalized children with

efficiency, sustainability and dignity. It is the only internationally ratified body in the

world advocating and representing child rights, holds a unique niche globally and

provides a forum for international collaboration.(UNICEF, About UNICEF, 2014)

Recently United Nations has shifted towards post MDG framework and UNICEF has

the mandate to foster ahead successfully initiatives that will ensure children's rights are

given the first priority. Alarmed with increased need to address issues pertaining to

representation of the adolescents and rehabilitation of children in conflict, UNICEF

has taken the leading role representing all the groups unable to represent themselves in a

move to ensure a global recognition of children's rights.

Definitions of key terms and abbreviations

1. **Refugee -** a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

2. **Migrant -** a person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.

3. **Internal displacement (IDP) -** being forced to flee home but remain within own country's borders. Internally displaced people are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.

4. **Unaccompanied/Separated children (UACs) -** children without the presence of legal guardians.

5. **The International Organization for Migration (IOM) -** an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments

and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations.

6. <u>The Displacement Tracking Matrix system (DTM)</u> - tracking and monitoring internally displaced populations. It captures; processes and disseminates information in order to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations.

<u>General agenda</u>

People have always migrated to flee from trouble or to find better opportunities. Today, more people are on the move than ever, trying to escape from climate change, poverty and conflict, and aided as never before by digital technologies. Children make up one-third of the world's population, but almost half of the world's refugees: nearly 50 million children have migrated or been displaced across borders.

Refugee and migrant children – some travelling with their families, some alone – risk everything, even their own lives, in search of a better life. Millions of uprooted families flee their homes to escape conflict, persecution and poverty in countries including Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. Often children, without safe and legal alternatives for migration available to them, tend to take matters into their own hands, facing risks of exploitation at the hands of people traffickers.

All children on the move are vulnerable to abuse and other grave forms of violence during and after their journeys. It is estimated that more than one child dies every day along the perilous Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy.

Uprooted children travelling from the Middle East to Greece via the eastern Mediterranean tend to arrive with their families, with girls just as likely to arrive as boys. They come primarily from just three countries: Syria (54 percent), Iraq (27 percent) and Afghanistan (13 percent).

Many people have fled from the brutal six year conflict in Syria and more than three million Syrians now live in Turkey – the largest refugee population in the world. Almost half of these are children. The majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey live in host communities that are often poverty-stricken, and hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children are out of school.

There are now more than 72,000 refugees and migrants stranded in Greece, Cyprus and the Balkans, including more than 22,500 children – unable to move forward, unwilling to go back to their home countries and struggling to fit into their host communities. Children are increasingly showing signs of deep psychological trauma as a result of the suffering they have experienced during and after their journeys.

People migrate for the reasons of: finding work, avoiding child marriage, gender based violence, forced labor, and problems in families including migrant parents away. Some interview data suggest, people believe, UACs have better chance at being allowed to stay in the country they migrated to than adults.

<u>Statistics</u>

● 31M children living outside countries of birth

● 10M child refugees & 1M asylum seekers fleeing conflict, violence and persecution

● Share of migrants who are children the same as in 1990, but more child migrants as population of global migrants has grown

● In 2005, 1 in 350 were refugees; by 2015, 1 in 200

● Surge in children seeking asylum in Europe between 2008 and 2016 - share among asylum seekers rose from 1 in 5 to 1 in 3

● 1/2 of refugees are children < 18 yrs

● 200K UACs applied for asylum in 2015-16 (using available data from 80 countries)

● Another 100K apprehended at MX-US border in same period

● 300K total children, an increase from 66K recorded in 2010-11

● Central Mediterranean route to Italy in 2015: 75% of children arriving in Italy by sea were UACs, in 2016 share rose to 92% (most from Eritrea, the Gambia, Nigeria, Egypt and Guinea)

● Asylum applicants from UAC children rising, from 2 to 5% of applications: 2010-15

● 2015: of the ~41M internally displaced by violence and conflict, 17M estimated to be children (half displaced in Asia)

● Syria, Iraq and Yemen account for ~1/3 of internal displacements

● Nigeria, Dem Rep of Congo, Central Africa Rep and South Sudan were among the top 10 countries globally for new violence-induced internal displacements in 2015

● Approx 80% of child migrants in Americas live in US, MX and Canada

● Since 2014. 7 in 10 children seeking asylum fleeing Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq ~1 in 6 of worlds child migrants lives in Europe

● Africa: ~50% of refugees are children, ~3M children forced out of origins

● Asian: 45% of child refugees originated from Syria and Afghanistan

● Some countries host very large numbers: Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey

● Oceania: # child migrants rose from 430K to 670K between 1990-2015, 6 in 100 children are migrants

(Global Mapping of Migrant and Displaced Children: Trendsand Patterns, K. Donato & J. Kirton, p.7)

<u>Solution</u>

IOM/DTM and UNICEF signed a new agreement to develop child focused data collection and analysis into DTM: retrospective mobility histories in certain areas of the world and/or prospective data about children's moves and subsequent integration.

At national level, UNICEF works with partners to meet children's immediate needs, including safety, protection, health care, adequate nutrition and education. In the countries countries with refugee and migrant populations, it helps to provide psychosocial services and education for refugee and migrant children while strengthening national child protection systems to benefit all children who are vulnerable.

In Turkey, for example, UNICEF have prioritized the integration of refugee and migrant children into mainstream schools, and in 2016, for the first time since the crisis began, there were more Syrian refugee children in school in Turkey than out of school. Building on this, we have launched cash benefits for more than 230,000 Syrian and other refugee children in Turkey, linked to their school enrolment and attendance. The 'Blue Dot' centers, offer psychosocial support and other child protection services –

including specific services targeting unaccompanied children and those most seriously distressed by their experiences.

Children in Armed Conflict: Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Introduction

Due to armed conflict many families including children, and refugee communities around the globe for decades have been gravely affected. For this reason, it is of special interest currently for the international community to deal with the 'refugee crisis', of which many families are being forced to migrate from their home countries due to the prevailing armed conflicts. In 1996 the former Minister of Education of the Republic of Mozambique, Ms. Graca Machel, shared her studies on the impact of armed conflict on children with the General Assembly-22 – and this report turned out to be ground-breaking. One follow-up was the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG/CAAC).23- Since September 2012, Ms. Leila Zerrogui serves as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the Under Secretary-General level, aiming to build awareness and to give special attention to the protection of girls and boys affected by armed conflict.

The Security Council regularly points out that the protection of children in armed conflict is of high importance when it comes to strategies for preventing and ending those conflicts. Hence, the Security Council pointed out six grave violations, which the international community has to focus on that has its legal basis (besides Security Council Resolutions) in international law. These six grave violations are:

1. The Four Geneva Conventions (1949) plus Additional Protocols (1977)

2. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

3. Convention on the Rights of the Child plus Optional Protocols (2000 & 2012)

4. United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

5. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

6. Convention against Torture (1984)

Though there is of course a legal responsibility to at least trying to protect children, independent of their background, from armed conflict, the international community also acts on behalf of a moral imperative, considering children as vulnerable parts of society whom cannot be able to protect themselves in any case. Furthermore, the sad experiences of past and present times show the important role of children to parties involved in armed conflict (either as recruited participants or as victims of circumstance). However, to resolve these problems, issues concerning International peace and security should be constantly addressed in both the national and international governance.

The Six Grave Violations-24

I. Recruitment and use of children

The Convention on the Rights of the Child points out that recruitment of children under the age of 18 should not be allowed, but as not every country ratified this convention, international law accepted it on a global scale 'only' prohibits the recruitment of children under the age of 15. Therefore, ''the parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces''.-25 It is of high importance and makes a lot of effort necessary to the international community to challenge every single party around the globe that does not respect this law.

II. Killing and maiming of children

Every human has the right to life, liberty and security in person, guaranteed through international and national legal frameworks. It is a moral obligation

to every single human around the globe to respect and honour this right.

III. Sexual violence against children

Acts of sexual violence during armed conflict are considered as a war crime, a crime against humanity and also an act against humanity. Several international tribunals recognized that rape amounts to torture and therefore is absolutely prohibited. It has to be mentioned that forced marriage also

counts as an act of sexual violence, established through the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL). In 2008, the Security Council for the first time adopted a resolution, demanding special measures of all parties to armed conflict to protect civilians from sexual violence.26-

IV. Attacks against schools and hospitals

Children are the future of every society, and of the world as a whole. Knowing that, parties to conflict often make use of this fact to put special pressure to there opponents and the international community, while further trying to recruit children and other civilians working in hospitals and schools for their purposes. Schools and hospitals as civilian objects may guarantee the right to education, besides providing shelter to the children in armed conflict. Moreover, the military use of schools puts children at high risk of being considered as a target. To improve the situation, the OSRSG/CAAC is heading towards promotion of advocacy and dialogue between parties in conflict, considering education and access to health care for children as paramount by all means.

V. Abduction of children

„No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."27- Abduction of children leads to serious cross-border child trafficking, exploitation, forced recruitment, slavery and prostitution. Hence, it is considered as one of the worst forms of crimes and has to be prohibited completely. In his annual report on child suffering in armed conflict, the Secretary General lists all parties known to abduct and recruit children by name.28-

VI. Denial of humanitarian access

This grave violation includes denial of humanitarian aid for children and attacks on humanitarian workers assisting them. In relief operations, children are entitled to special attention and must be provided with the care and aid they require, highlighted as the first ones to receive protection in all circumstances by the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child.-29

Considered as a war crime, the denial of humanitarian access has been witnessed in many cases, including attacks against UN workers, of which the Security Council has condemned such attacks as "clear violations of international humanitarian law". -30

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

In her ground-breaking report mentioned before, Graca Machel considers three significant issues of rehabilitation of children in armed conflict: psychological recovery, physical recovery, and social reintegration.31- Of course, the success of every recovery programme depends on the individual needs and constitution of the children. Hence, it is not easy to find a general 'best way' of recovery. However, there are some practices that proved to be healing, for example relocating and including family reunion.

Children who were part of armed conflict often suffer trauma as they witnessed destruction of their homes, separation of beloved people, sexual violence and death, sometimes also the assault of family members.32- Depression, nightmares and insomnia are only some of the many consequences of armed conflicts. It is crucial to provide psychological supervision, shelter, education and perspectives within a community to all the victims in need, independent of their backgrounds. Nevertheless, the beginning of all recovery is normalcy, preventing children from isolation and stigmatization. Girls face specific consequences, different from boys, from armed conflict and their time within armed forces. Most recovery programmes are considered to gear towards boys and men, but the conflicts equally affect girls.34- It is a fact that many girls give birth either during or after armed conflicts. Therefore, there is a need for specialized treatment including health care examinations, child protection and support for possible custody battles.

The Security Council considers six grave violations against children in armed conflict that need to be monitored and fought for. The protection of children is one of the main aspects in reference to armed conflict and the attempt of dialogue, intermediation between parties to conflict and between the international community.

For humanitarian and moral reasons, it is a maxim to guard boys and girls that have gone through armed conflict by providing shelter, education and several

other aids through recovery programmes, fighting against displacement,

psychological and physical violence and social disorientation.

Questions To Ponder

1. How could the international community reach an improvement of

monitoring the treatment of children in armed conflict?

2. How could future recovery, rehabilitation and recovery programmes look

like?

3. Are there any possibilities to guarantee protection of international workers

who help in regions of conflict?

4. Could the six grave violations be fought more effectively and around the

globe?

5. How could international and humanitarian law be better enforced?

Combating Child Poverty and Social Exclusion

Introduction

Leaders worldwide are designing a roadmap for human progress over the next15 years, which is known as Sustainable Development Goals. These emerging global targets are expected to drive investment and action virtually every country on earth, touching millions of lives. And because of this reason, every child need to be included since children everywhere are at heart of the new global agenda.

(A Post-2015 World Fit for Children – A review of the Open Working Groups on Sustainable Development Goals from a Child Rights Perspective).

Poverty, like evolution or health, is both a scientific and a moral concept. Many of the problems of measuring poverty arise because the moral and scientific concepts are often confused. In scientific terms, a child or their household is 'poor' when they have both a low standard of living and a lack of resources over time (often measured in terms of low income). In many circumstances, a child or their household would not be considered to be 'poor' if they have a low income but a reasonable standard of living (although they are likely to be at risk of becoming 'poor'). Poverty denies children their fundamental human rights.

Severe or extreme poverty can cause children permanent damage – both physically and mentally – stunt and distort their development and destroy opportunities of fulfilment, including the roles they are expected to play successively as they get older in family, community and society. Both research and administrative data show that investment in basic social services for children is a key element to ensure success in alleviating their poverty. It also shows that a minimal level of family resources to enable parents to meet the needs of their children are required even when families are prepared to put their own needs or the needs of work and other social claims on them in

second place. If there are insufficient resources to satisfy children's needs however hard parents can be shown to try then this can cause other obligations and relationships to crumble.

This is why UNICEF insists, "poverty reduction begins with children". (Child poverty in the developing world – David Gardon, Shailen Nandy, Christina Pantazis, Simon Pemberton and Peter Townsend).

Combating Child Poverty and Social Exclusion

Children make up nearly half of the world's extreme poor, with nearly 570 million people under the age of 18 living below the international poverty line of $1.25 a day. Poverty in childhood is often the root cause of poverty in adulthood. To break the cycle of poverty, we need to understand child poverty in all its dimensions. Poverty measurements must go beyond income, examining factors such as access to services and social protection systems, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, quality education from early childhood to adolescence, and other issues like discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion. More also needs to be done to reduce the impact of poverty – for example, by reducing the vulnerability of households, tackling the worst forms of child labour, and strengthening the systems that protect poor families. (A Post-2015 World Fit for Children - A review of the Open Working Group Report on Sustainable Development Goals from a Child Rights Perspective).

International and Regional Framework

Child poverty results from a complex interaction of causes, between economic factors such as labour markets and social factors such as family and community behaviour. Therefore, no single policy will be able to effectively end child poverty on its own. Instead, lifting poor children and families out of poverty requires a new and comprehensive approach to poverty reduction. It requires taking into consideration children's needs and promoting political commitment to inclusive and equitable models of growth.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, research has repeatedly shown that investment in children is one of the most profitable investments that any country can make and

that the benefits of such investments far outweigh the costs. UNICEF sees the

following areas of work as building blocks towards a child-sensitive and equity-improving approach to child poverty:

1. A clear commitment to eradicate child poverty. Every country should ensure child poverty is explicitly on their agenda, and included as appropriate in national plans, policies and laws. This includes national definitions and measurement multidimensional and monetary poverty. Where child poverty is not expressly considered, it will not be effectively addressed.

2. Expand child sensitive social protection systems. Child sensitive social protection has been shown to reduce the depth of poverty and improve child well-being. While this can include child grants, it goes well beyond this to effective social protection systems.

3. Improve access to and affordability of quality services for the poorest. While there is extensive understanding of quality service provision, more needs to be done to ensure the poorest are able to effectively access high quality services. This includes ensuring an overall strategy to reach the poorest, backed by explicit programmes and adequate budget.

4. An inclusive growth agenda to reach the poorest. It is widely accepted that to eradicate extreme poverty shared prosperity is crucial. The poorest children often live in large families, often with labour constraints or challenges in finding productive work. Ensuring growth reaches these families will be essential in lifting children out of poverty.

This is an ambitious agenda that requires the collaboration of national governments, the development community and the private sector in a joint partnership for child poverty. Helping children avoid poverty and overcome its damaging effects will make a huge difference not only to their lives but also to the lives of their families, communities and countries.

<u>Conclusion</u>

The Member States have moved a huge step in strongly advocating for child rights. This is a major step for UNICEF and UNICEF will continually move forward in assisting Member States during the next phase, working to achieve the passage and implementation of a transformational agenda; for children, for all of humanity and for the planet. However, the implementation process of the post 2015 development agenda will depend upon the foundations set ahead in the MDGs. Thus, there is need for a focus on the importance of sound policies and legislation, with implementation and accountability measures within the national level that includes strengthening national planning and policy making processes with reference to available research data, and result oriented methods, child and youth input and participation across all levels of policy development, and the introduction of assessment and accountability mechanisms to ensure policies are carried out effectively. In addition, there should be ways of identifying and addressing issues concerning inequalities in development to cut off discrimination and advocate for inclusion and social well-being of all children irrespective of their nationality, creed, socio-economic status and more so the marginalized and vulnerable groups. All of this must work in tandem with the realization of children's rights by the international community's to advance the rights of children through leveraging national resources for essential services and advocacy in the creation of national and international policies regarding children's rights in development.

Questions to Ponder :-

In fully combating child poverty and social exclusion a number of issues must be considered and addressed. Taking into account the post-2015 development agenda implementation and the earlier set MDGs, issues such as differences in gender, socio-economic situations, resources, culture, among a plethora of other

13

factors should be analysed at the initial stages of implementation. However, in

drafting the national and international agendas questions such as:

1. What are the current challenges facing the implementation of post-2015 agenda?

2. What are the limitations of UNICEF as an organization in development of national and international frameworks?

3. What goals, targets, and indicators should be included to ensure the viability and universality of the agenda moving forward?

4. How do member states and international community include implementation, accountability, and follow-up mechanisms that allow for the adaptability of the new development agenda in the future, and what might they include?

5. What are the lessons from implementation of earlier MDGs set goals?

Grave violations against Palestinian children

Israeli forces' attacks in Gaza and military operations in the occupied West Bank since October 7 result in increasingly widespread grave violations against Palestinian children.

Israel and the State of Palestine are a "situation of concern" in the United Nations Secretary General's annual reporting on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) since 2006, when the first annual report was issued pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005). Through this process, the United Nations has the mandate to monitor and verify six specific grave violations against children, to provide regular reports on grave violations to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC), and to engage all parties to address grave violations.

The six grave violations serve as the basis to gather information and report on violations affecting children, and are killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, abduction of children, attacks against schools or hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access for children. All parties to armed conflict must protect children and prevent the commission of grave violations against them.

CAAC Bulletins specific to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory periodically have been issued over the past several years to provide specific information on trends and the impact of conflict-related violence on children and to inform UN dialogue with parties to the conflict on

measures to prevent and end grave violations of children's rights, in line with recommendations included in the UN Secretary General's Annual Reports on Children and Armed Conflict.

The information below covers the period between October 7–27, 2023.

Killing and maiming

At least 3,038 Palestinian children in Gaza have been killed in Israeli attacks since October 7, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, with more than 6,000 injured. At least 940 children are reported missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. On October 26, the Ministry of Health released the names, ages, and national identification numbers of 6,747 Palestinians killed in Gaza between October 7 and 26. The list did not include 281 unidentified victims.

Attacks on schools and hospitals

The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented at least 76 attacks on health care in Gaza as of October 23. 20 hospitals and 24 ambulances have been damaged, and at least 16 health care workers have been killed and 30 more injured. 12 out of 35 hospitals in Gaza are no longer operational due to damage from Israeli airstrikes and shelling or evacuation order.

At least 219 educational facilities have been damaged, including at least 29 UNRWA schools, as of October 25, according to UN OCHA. Eight schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and the Israeli airstrike on Al-Maghazi UNRWA school on October 17 killed eight Palestinians and injured 40 others.

Denial of humanitarian access

An estimated 1.4 million Palestinians in Gaza are displaced, according to UN OCHA.

Since October 11 at 2 p.m. Gaza has experienced a full electricity blackout after Israeli authorities cut the electricity and fuel supply on October 7 and the Gaza Power Plant depleted its reserves, according to UN OCHA.

At least 45 percent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been damaged or completely destroyed since October 7, according to UN OCHA.

Two weeks after Israel cut off food, water, electricity and fuel from Gaza, international efforts resulted in approval for the entry of 20 aid trucks from the Rafah crossing on October 21. Since then, a total of 74 trucks carrying humanitarian aid have been allowed to enter Gaza through the Rafah crossing, according to UN OCHA. The trucks have included food, water, and medical supplies. Israeli authorities have not permitted fuel to be included in the deliveries.

Prior to October 7, an average of 500 trucks entered Gaza daily to provide relief to Palestinians. Zero humanitarian aid trucks entered Gaza between October 7 and 20.

"The State of Israel has no choice but to turn Gaza into a place that is temporarily or permanently impossible to live in," reservist Major General Giora Eiland told Israeli media. "Creating a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a necessary means to achieve the goal. Gaza will become a place where no human being can exist."

"Human animals must be treated as such. There will be no electricity and no water [in Gaza], there will only be destruction. You wanted hell, you will get hell," said Major General Ghassan Alian, head of Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT).

Under international law, genocide is prohibited and constitutes the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group, in whole or in part. Genocide can result from killing or by creating conditions of life that are so unbearable it brings about the group's destruction.

International humanitarian law prohibits indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and requires all parties to an armed conflict to distinguish between military targets, civilians, and civilian objects. Deploying explosive weapons in densely-populated civilian areas constitutes indiscriminate attacks and carrying out direct attacks against civilians or civilian objects amounts to war crimes.

Israeli authorities have imposed a closure policy against the Gaza Strip since 2007 by strictly controlling and limiting the entry and exit of individuals; maintaining harsh restrictions on imports including food, construction materials, fuel, and other essential items; as well as prohibiting exports. Israel continues to maintain complete control over the Gaza Strip's borders, airspace, and territorial waters.

<div align="center">Executive Board Suggestions:</div>

• Focus on the problems faced by children at war zones.

• Prepare a Research Binder, so that you can refer when you are stuck.

• Familiarize yourselves with the agendas and the subtopics within; you

will have a better understanding of what is being debated upon.

• Include your sources; it is always important to have facts with

yourselves. (Remember you will lose points if you are caught without

factual evidence.)

• Know your country's background and foreign policies on the matter at

hand. You would never like to tie up with the country's enemy.

• Try to research more for factual information than conceptual ones.

• During MUN, do not use personal pronouns. Instead try to use

'Delegate of XYZ country would like …'

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