



MODERATOR:
Dulce
Márquez

CHAIR:
Arantza
Juaristi

UNDER:
Camila
Ayala



**Topic B: "The Recruitment and Use of
Children by Armed Forces and Groups
Attacks on Schools and Hospitals."**



Welcoming letter

Welcome you to our CFMUN X edition. We are beyond pleased to have you as a part of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Committee (UNICEF). Throughout this day, we will be focusing on discussing and finding solutions to the critical issues that affect children worldwide. UNICEF's mission is to protect the rights and improve the lives of children globally, and your participation here plays a crucial role in achieving that goal.

As delegates, your unique perspectives and ideas will contribute to the success of this committee and ultimately promote positive change on a global scale.

Remember, the goal is not only to represent your assigned country's interests but also to prioritize the well-being and rights of children worldwide.



Table of contents

I. Committee Background

II. Introduction to the Topic

III. Evolution of the Topic

IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

B. Points of View

V. UN and External Actions

VI. Conclusion

VII. Committee Focus

VIII. Participation List

IX. References



I. Committee Background

UNICEF, which stands for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was established in 1946 as an international organization dedicated to improving the lives of children worldwide. It works to protect and promote the rights of children globally. Its mission is to ensure that every child has a fair chance in life, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Topics discussed include ensuring access to quality healthcare, education, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, protection from violence and exploitation, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them. It also provides humanitarian aid and support during crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and health emergencies. (UNICEF history, n.d)



II. Introduction to the Topic

The recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, as well as the attacks on schools and hospitals, are grave violations of human rights that demand urgent attention.

This topic has been present for many years. Children may be removed from their communities and families by force, or they may be targeted due to their vulnerability. Both international law and children's rights, are violated by this unsettling practice. Furthermore, there have been an increasing number of attacks on hospitals and schools in recent years, which has had terrible effects on the local community and children.

These assaults further deprive children of their rights to healthcare and education, two vital elements to their development.

It is imperative that these problems be addressed and that children in areas of conflict be protected. (UNICEF, 2019)

III. Evolution of the Topic

As greater attention has been paid to it over time, the problem of children being recruited and used by armed forces and groups, as well as attacks on hospitals and schools, has changed. These problems were mostly disregarded in the past, since it was thought that they were uncommon events or isolated situations. Nevertheless, heightened consciousness, activity, and lobbying have made the scope and gravity of these transgressions more widely acknowledged.

The United Nations General Assembly, adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2000, which addresses the involvement of children in armed conflict, as part of the legal framework that the international community has developed over time to forbid the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.



States are obligated under this protocol to take all reasonable steps to prevent the recruitment of individuals younger than 18 into armed groups.

Comparably, initiatives to improve the security of these establishments have drawn attention from throughout the globe in response to the attacks on schools and hospitals. In order to safeguard education during armed conflict, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1998, which called for steps to protect schools and their pupils from attack and urged all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian nature of schools.

These days, campaigners and other NGOs like the organizations Human Rights Watch and UNICEF keep bringing attention to these problems and fighting for their prevention and protection.



As a result, efforts to prevent attacks on schools and hospitals and to lower the number of minors who are enlisted and used by armed organizations have made headway.

To guarantee that every child is shielded from the atrocities of war and that their right to an education is maintained, even during times of conflict, there is still much work to be done. (Britannica, 2023)



IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

- Adoption of the Optional Protocol: The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of minors in armed conflict was accepted by the UN General Assembly in 2000. This convention, increased awareness and commitment on a global scale to stop the enlistment and exploitation of minors in military forces and organizations.
- Global Coalition to Prevent Attacks on Education: The Global Coalition to Prevent Attacks on Education was founded in 2010. Her fearless defense of girls' education made the significance of preventing attacks on schools widely acknowledged.

- Resolution 1998 of the UN Security Council:
In 2011, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1998, highlighting the need to preserve education in times of armed conflict. The resolution acknowledged the long-term effects of such attacks on the educational system and urged for steps to protect schools against assault.
- Armed conflicts and breaches persist:
Despite continuous attempts, armed groups continue to recruit and utilize children in wars all over the world. It has been extremely difficult for nations like Nigeria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, and Somalia to stop this serious violation of children's rights. It's crucial to remember that these incidents only make up a small portion of the developments related to this problem. (UNICEF, 2023)

B. Points of View

- Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Syria and Yemen actually have the biggest quantity talking about of child soldiers.
- Afghanistan, Colombia, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen are countries in which also girls are used by the armed forces and groups. (Wuilbercq, E., 2021).



V. UN and External Actions

A. UN Actions

- The United Nations must continue to take measures to address the chronic issues of child recruitment and exploitation by armed forces and organizations, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals.
- Early Warning Systems: To identify and stop attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as the recruitment and exploitation of minors by armed groups, the UN has put in place early warning systems.
- Building Capacity: The UN works with nations to increase their ability to safeguard hospitals and schools and stop armed organizations from enlisting and using children as human resources.

This entails educating those working in the security sector, advancing the rule of law and justice, and bolstering the framework for child protection. Communities must be involved in order to bring up long-lasting change.

- Cooperation: To stop armed groups from recruiting and using children as weapons, as well as from attacking hospitals and schools, the UN has worked in partnership with other organizations, authorities, militias, and civil society. To guarantee that these infractions are dealt with thoroughly and successfully, cooperation is required.

B. External Actions

“World Vision” is one of the organizations that have been doing some things for all this topic, such as:

- Taking a holistic approach in order to prevent the recruitment of children, by tackling the deep causes of violence against children, amplifying the protective environments, and teaching children about several capacities to defend themselves.
- They support the kind of children that have been previously recruited (including the reintegration to society). (World Vision., n.d.)

VI. Conclusion

Attacks against schools and hospitals, as well as the enlistment and use of minors by armed forces and organizations, constitute grave human rights abuses with grave repercussions. It is concluded that governments, civil society organizations, the international community, and local communities must work together to consistently address these behaviours and reject them categorically.

A multifaceted strategy is needed to safeguard schools and hospitals from armed organizations and stop them from recruiting and using youngsters for their own purposes. This entails putting early warning systems into place, offering assistance and help to the needy, developing national capacity, increasing awareness, involving the community, and encouraging cooperation.

The ultimate goals are to safeguard children's safety and well-being, safeguard healthcare and educational facilities, and punish offenders responsible for their acts. We may endeavour to create a world in which children are not exploited and where hospitals and schools continue to be havens of safety and protection by cooperating and respecting the fundamentals of human rights.

Inspired by the UN's past efforts, the well-being of human life should be the main concern. As well as the high value that human lives have.



VII. Committee Focus

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund committee must reach a consensus on how to overcome the denial of humanitarian aid to children. Saving their lives, defending their rights, and helping them get out of dangerous situations must be put forward, and consideration of the economy of all countries must be present during the debate.

When considering the possible solutions to the committee's topic, the following points must be considered:

- How can be assured that children would not be recruited and used by armed forces anymore?
- Is your country affected by this matter, and if so, what is it doing to solve this?

- How can the security of children be assured in rural areas?
- What are the ways in which the children are specifically being affected at the armed forces?
- How can child protection measures at schools and hospitals be strengthened?



VII. Participation List

- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Japan
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of Albania
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Croatia
- Republic of Iraq
- Republic of Madagascar
- Republic of Malawi
- Republic of the Sudan
- Russian Federation
- State of Israel



- Syrian Arab Republic
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

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