



UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S
EMERGENCY FUND

Official Study Guide



AGENDA

Ensuring the protection of children from exploitative labour and advancing the long-term elimination of child labour.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Letter from the Executive Board**
- 2 Introduction to the committee**
- 3 List of key terms**
- 4 Introduction to the agenda**
- 5 Timeline of events**
- 6 Case Studies**
- 7 Bloc positions**
- 8 Past resolutions by the UN**
- 9 Questions a resolution must answer**
- 10 Sources to use**
- 11 Preambulatory and operative clauses**

Letter from the EB

Dear delegates,

We welcome you to the United Nations Children's Fund committee at the JBCN OSH MUN 2025. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates participating and hope to moderate fruitful and high quality debates.

In this edition of JBCNOSH MUN, UNICEF's agenda will be centered around eradicating child labour from global production systems . This issue plagues multiple countries pertaining to extortion of children and thus the study guide provides direction through its timeline and case studies. An understanding of the crisis, resolutions and agreements is required to make a meaningful argument that drives the committee forward.

Please be aware that the purpose of the study guide is to assist you in starting research and provide essential information about this committee, not to limit your research base. We expect a high level of research as well as a good understanding of the agenda in each delegate which requires going beyond the guide and uncovering more valuable information in your individual research.

Having said that, the executive board and the organising committee are committed to making sure you have an enjoyable and fulfilling conference experience.

We urge everyone taking part in the conference to maintain a friendly and congenial atmosphere. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any kind of help or direction. In a few weeks, you will be welcomed to JBCN Oshiwara, and we are excited to work with you!

Paarth Somani
Director

Shanaya Ranka
Assistant Director

Introduction to the Committee

The General Assembly established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) through Resolution 57(I) on 11 December 1946, originally as a temporary emergency fund for children affected by World War II. But children's needs were not temporary; poverty, disease, malnutrition, and lack of education were long-term global issues. Recognising this, the UNGA voted UNICEF a permanent part of the UN system in 1953, and the name was officially changed from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to just United Nations Children's Fund, but the acronym UNICEF was retained due to its global recognition.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and is mandated to safeguard children's lives, defend their rights, and help them fulfill their potential – from early childhood through adolescence. It now operates as a UN programme, working in over 190 countries and territories, and is governed by the UNICEF Executive Board. This Board comprises 36 member states, which are elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the early part of each year (usually January). The elected board meets three times a year, overseeing budget, strategy, and partnerships, working towards the well-being of children across the globe.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was adopted in 1989, is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It defines the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of every child, regardless of race, religion, or abilities, and UNICEF is responsible for promoting and supporting its implementation. Unlike many UN bodies, UNICEF is entirely funded by voluntary contributions, which come from governments, private donors, corporations, and philanthropic organizations. This flexible funding model allows UNICEF to remain operationally independent and responsive to urgent and long-term needs alike.

UNICEF's headquarters lie in New York City, with a vast network of regional and country offices that enable it to implement localized solutions while coordinating large-scale global initiatives. This structure allows the organization to maintain a strong field presence, making it one of the most agile and responsive UN entities.

In a time when children face increasing threats from conflict, consumerism, climate change, and displacement, UNICEF remains one of the most vital institutions for upholding the rights of the most vulnerable. This year at JBCN Oshiwara MUN, UNICEF will discuss the ongoing child-labour crisis with a special emphasis on exploitative labour.

List of Key Terms

Child Labour: Work that harms a child's health, development, or education.

Exploitation: Treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work or situation.

UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child): A treaty that sets out the rights of all children.

Trafficking: Illegal movement of people, often for forced labour or exploitation.

Hazardous Work: Jobs that are dangerous to a child's safety or health.

Vulnerable Populations: Groups at higher risk of harm or injustice (e.g., refugees, orphans).

Social Protection: Government support systems that help people in need (e.g., food aid, child benefits).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 17 global goals set by the UN to make the world better by 2030, including ending child labour.

Rehabilitation: Helping children recover and return to a normal life after being in labour or danger.

Right to Education: The legal and moral right of every child to receive schooling.

Forced Labour: Work that people, including children, are made to do against their will.

ILO (International Labour Organization): A UN agency that sets global labour standards and fights child labour.

Rescue and Reintegration: The process of removing children from labour and helping them return to school and society.

Universal Education: Ensuring that all children, everywhere, can attend school.

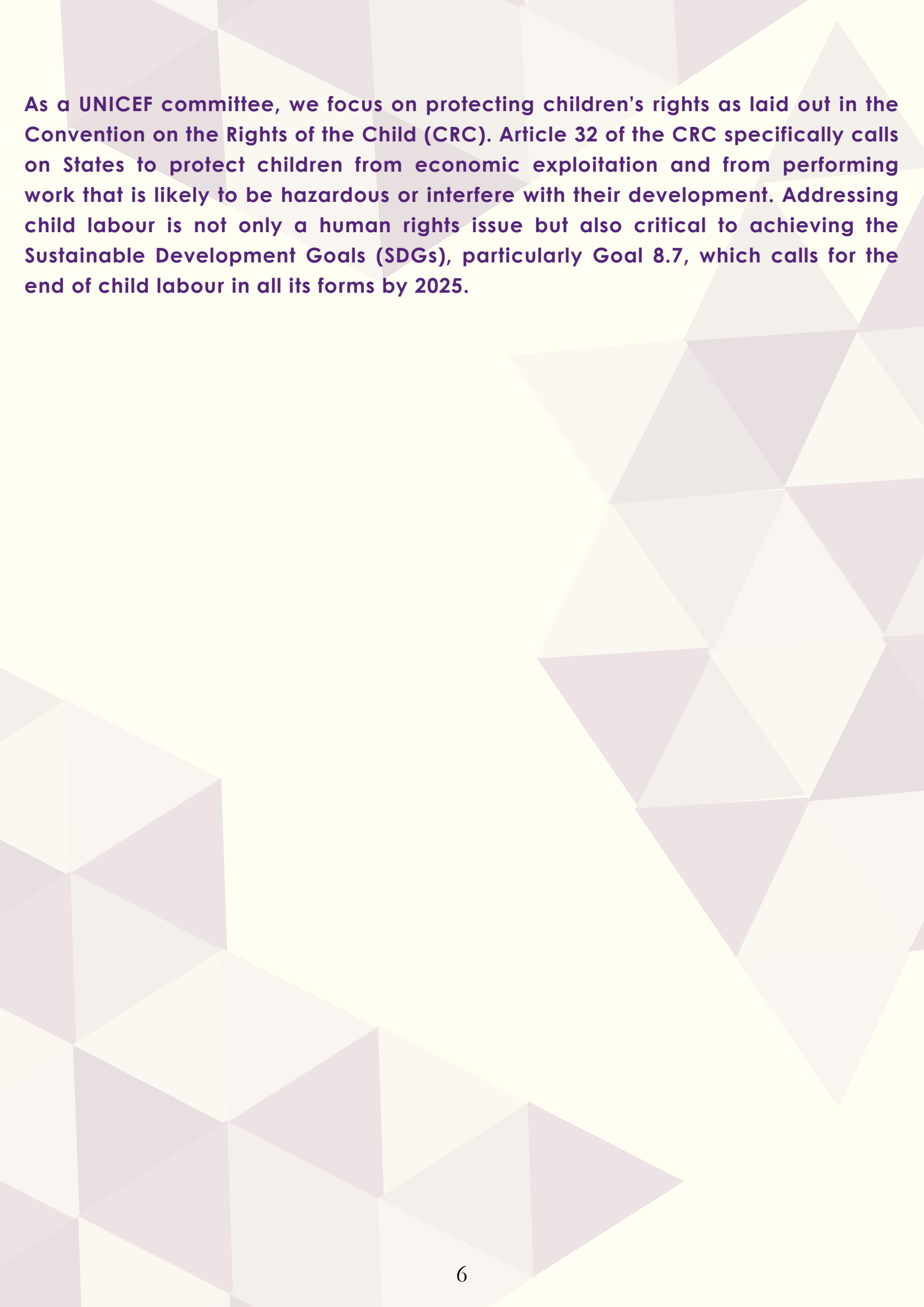
Introduction to the agenda

Child labour is one of the most pressing challenges in the global production system. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 160 million children or 1 in 10 globally are currently engaged in child labour. Of these, nearly half are involved in dangerous work that puts their physical and mental well-being at serious risk.

The agenda "Ensuring the Protection of Children from Exploitative Labour and Advancing the Long-Term Elimination of Child Labour" focuses on protecting children from immediate harm and working toward sustainable solutions that stop child labour entirely. Child labour includes both unpaid and paid labour, often in industries such as agriculture (which accounts for 70% of all child labour), mining, manufacturing, garment production, construction, and domestic work. "Exploitative labour" refers to work that harms a child's health, development, or education. This includes hazardous work, forced labour, and any employment that violates international labour standards. Children may be exposed to harmful chemicals not suited for underdeveloped humans, dangerous machinery, long working hours, and physical abuse in some cases. This agenda challenges corporations to ensure their supply chains are free from child labour and allows delegates to consider both short-term and long-term approaches.

One of the main factors contributing to the persistence of child labour is poverty, alongside weak enforcement of labour laws, poor access to education, and armed conflict. In many families, children are expected to contribute to household income, especially in rural areas. Over 90 million child labourers are between the ages of 5 and 11, with a majority not attending school. Additionally, over 20 million children are engaged in forced labour, often through trafficking or bonded labour systems.

Products consumed in developed countries often originate from supply chains where child labour is significant. According to UNICEF and ILO reports, industries like cocoa, cotton, coffee, electronics, and fast fashion have significant risks of child labour in their supply chains. Despite the rise in voluntary corporate social responsibility initiatives, only a few multinational companies conduct proper audits to ensure that their operations are free of child exploitation.



As a UNICEF committee, we focus on protecting children's rights as laid out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 32 of the CRC specifically calls on States to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with their development. Addressing child labour is not only a human rights issue but also critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8.7, which calls for the end of child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Timeline of Events

1919

- Founding of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- First international body to promote labour rights, including child protection.
- Set global labour standards and initiated discussion on minimum age for employment.

1946

- Establishment of UNICEF
- Formed by the United Nations to provide emergency aid to children after World War II.

1973

- ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention)
- Set international standards for minimum age of employment, usually not below school-leaving age.
- Encouraged countries to raise legal working ages over time.
- Became a foundation for national child labour laws.

1989

- Adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Defined a full set of rights for all children, including freedom from exploitation.
- Article 32 directly protects children from economic exploitation.

1992

- Launch of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
- Aimed at eliminating child labour through education, rehabilitation, and poverty reduction.
- Promoted cooperation between governments, NGOs, and communities.
- Became one of the largest programs focused on ending child labour.

1999

- ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- Targeted slavery, trafficking, forced labour, and hazardous jobs involving children.
- Called for urgent action to eliminate these worst forms.

2000

- Introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Eight global goals included improving primary education and reducing extreme poverty.

2015

- Launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Replaced the MDGs with 17 goals for sustainable development.
- Goal 8.7 specifically aims to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025.

2020 (COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact)

- School closures and family income loss led to a rise in child labour.
- Millions of children are pushed back into work, especially in informal sectors.

2021

- International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
- Declared by the UN to renew political commitment toward ending child labour.
- Increased international awareness, especially among youth.

2022–Present

- Post-COVID Recovery and UNICEF-ILO Action
- UNICEF and ILO launched global initiatives like Alliance 8.7.
- Emphasis on collaboration with governments and NGOs to meet the 2025 target under SDG 8.7.

Case Studies

CHILD LABOUR IN THE COCOA INDUSTRY OF GHANA AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are the world's top two producers of cocoa, together supplying over 60% of global cocoa. However, over 1.56 million children are engaged in hazardous child labour in these countries' cocoa fields, often exposed to machetes, pesticides, and exploitative conditions. Many of these children are under 14, and some are even trafficked from neighbouring countries.

Despite efforts by governments and corporations, children continue to be exploited due to poverty, lack of education, and corporate greed in global supply chains. Smallholder farmers are underpaid, which pushes them to use child labour to cut costs. The failure of major chocolate companies to fully enforce child labour-free supply chains has worsened the situation.

Past actions include the 2001 Harkin-Engel Protocol, where chocolate companies pledged to eliminate child labour, though it lacked enforcement. The ILO and UNICEF have supported education and monitoring projects in cocoa regions. Both governments introduced Child Labour Monitoring Systems, but these are often underfunded and poorly implemented. Certification programs like FairTrade and Rainforest Alliance exist but cover only a fraction of the industry and have had limited impact.

LEGALISATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN BOLIVIA

In 2014, Bolivia became the first country in the world to legalise work for children as young as 10, under certain conditions. While the law aimed to protect children already working due to poverty, it effectively legitimised child labour in sectors like mining, agriculture, and street vending, often in hazardous conditions. This made Bolivia an extremely controversial example in global child labour policy.

Although the intention was to regulate and safeguard young workers, the law exposed children to exploitation and unsafe environments with minimal oversight. Many families depended on their children's income, and the legal framework risked undermining global efforts to eliminate child labour entirely.

Past actions include Bolivia amending the law in 2018 under international pressure, raising the minimum work age back to 14. Local NGOs and the Bolivian Ombudsman have advocated for stronger protections, while UNICEF Bolivia continues awareness campaigns and educational support. However, poverty and social norms are still stopping full elimination.

INFORMAL CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA'S AGRICULTURE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

India continues to have one of the highest rates of child labour in the world with millions working in primary and secondary sector industries like agriculture and textile. In rural and low-income communities, poverty, lack of social pressure to enforce child protection laws, and economic hardships make it difficult to enforce regulations that forbid hiring minors under the age of 14. Children are frequently compelled to quit education and work long hours in dangerous, exploitative jobs, especially in family-run businesses where it is challenging to enforce regulations. Loopholes, such as permitting youngsters to work in family businesses, have left many exposed despite the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016's ban on child labour under the age of 14 and restrictions on adolescent employment in dangerous industries. International experts and observers and human rights organisations such as UNICEF have already expressed deep concern about this.

Through efforts like the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), which provides education, skills training, and rehabilitation, India has worked alongside UNICEF, the ILO, and nonprofit organisations. In spite of this, child labour is still prevalent because of informal labour markets, poverty, and indifference. Longstanding socio economic issues still exist, despite recent national campaigns that have highlighted awareness and more rigorous tests.

DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR IN SAUDI ARABIA

Although child labour under the age limit of 15 is illegal in Saudi Arabia, implementation of the law is inconsistent and mostly limited to the formal sector. Undocumented migrant children often find jobs in the domestic work business, which continues to be poorly regulated and protected from scrutiny by the government. These kids, who are mostly from South Asia and East Africa, sometimes endure physical abuse, long hours, and restricted movement. International surveillance and reaction are rendered harder by opaque legal frameworks and a lack of trustworthy data on child labour. Saudi Arabia continues to maintain a selective stance towards international human rights treaties, frequently citing cultural and religious frameworks, and has not ratified ILO Convention 138. Although it provides help for children overseas, it offers few domestic safeguards for working children, especially among non-citizen populations.

Although Saudi Arabia has pledged to strengthen rights for migrant workers and modified some components of its labour sponsorship scheme (Kafala), young labourers rarely receive the same treatment under these reforms. Regulations restrict access for UNICEF and community members, and cultural sensitivities frequently impede public discourse. The Kingdom continues to prioritise economic growth and territorial stabilisation over official refugee or child labour integration procedures.

Bloc Positions

MORE ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

These countries have already implemented strong legal frameworks prohibiting exploitative child labour and have near-universal primary education coverage.

Their focus is on enforcing international corporate accountability by requiring companies to check their supply chains for child labour, funding and supporting initiatives led by UNICEF, ILO, and national governments to improve access to education and social services in vulnerable regions, promoting data collection and transparency, and monitoring mechanisms to track child labour globally, supporting technical cooperation to help developing countries build capacity for enforcement and education systems, and addressing child labour in conflict zones and among refugee populations through targeted humanitarian aid and child protection programs.

LESS ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

These countries face widespread child labour due to poverty, informal economies, weak enforcement, and lack of education infrastructure.

They believe that ending child labour requires support from the international community through money, training, and resources, not punishment. They believe child labour is caused by poverty and lack of other ways to earn income. To fix this, they want better access to schools by building more classrooms, giving financial help to families, and using local education programs. They also agree that labour laws should be stronger, but changes must respect each country's situation and be made in a way that works for them. These countries believe that ending child labour will take time, especially in rural areas where families often depend on children's work to survive.

GULF BLOC

Gulf countries have strict laws enforcing child protection and are huge donations to organisations like UNICEF, however they heavily oppose foreign surveillance on the basis of breaching national sovereignty.

Due to high income levels and centralised labour regulation, the Gulf nations enforce strict legislation against child labour and report minimal domestic incidence. It concentrates on offering funding for growth and humanitarian projects run by national governments, UNICEF, and the ILO in areas affected by child labour. They advocate for family-centered, culturally aware strategies rooted in Islamic humanitarian principles and favour voluntary collaboration over legally binding enforcement measures. The Gulf states fund refugee-focused child protection campaigns, support technical cooperation and educational access in neighbouring conflict-affected nations, and help developing nations build their capacity. They prioritise development-first approaches, humanitarian aid, and faith-based outreach as means of reducing child labour worldwide, but they frequently oppose international monitoring frameworks that threaten national sovereignty.

GRULAC BLOC

GRULAC (Group Of Latin America and The Caribbean) nations have created all-encompassing national plans to combat child labour that combine social protections, conditional cash transfers, education access, and legal enforcement. They actively support UNICEF, ILO, and regional partnership programs while concentrating on tackling underlying issues like poverty, inequality, and rural exclusion. As part of sustainable solutions, these nations support South-South cooperation, indigenous community inclusion, and education about children's rights. Although they support international frameworks, they also support equitable global funding, flexible timelines, and capacity-building. The bloc favours rehabilitation and reintegration over punitive measures, but it does support corporate accountability in global supply chains. Community-based strategies and regional cooperation continue to be essential components of their child labour elimination model.

Past Resolutions by the UN

International Labour Organisation Convention No. 138 (1973)

This convention established global employment restrictions, making sure that no child below the age of completion of compulsory schooling and/or under the age of 15 participated in any form of labour. This formed a legal benchmark and is a cornerstone in fighting child labour.

UN General Assembly Resolution No. 50/155 (1996)

Addressed the economic exploitation of children and urged Member States to strengthen domestic laws protecting children from labour. One of the earliest UNGA resolutions to explicitly link children's rights with labour policy.

International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182 (1999)

This rapidly ratified treaty has shaped national laws worldwide, recognising exploitative production systems as one of the worst forms of child labour for children up to the age of 17. This convention calls for the immediate elimination of slavery, trafficking, forced labour, and hazardous work.

UN General Assembly Resolution No. 56/138 (2001)

Reaffirmed the international commitment to upholding the rights of the child, with emphasis on the need to eliminate exploitative labour practices. The resolution called for stronger national and international efforts to end hazardous work and reinforced the obligation to protect children from all forms of economic exploitation.

UN General Assembly Resolution No. 70/1 (2015)

Established the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Target 8.7 under Goal 8 calls for immediate action to eliminate child labour in all its forms by 2025, including forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking. The resolution shaped global cooperation through frameworks like Alliance 8.7 and continues to guide UNICEF's and the ILO's mandate in protecting children from exploitation.

UN General Assembly Resolution 74/275 (2021)

This resolution focused on reinforcing the urgency of the 2030 Agenda (particularly SDG 8.7), urging Member States to take decisive steps to end child labour. It is a critical reference for both national reforms and global accountability frameworks, and proclaimed 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/327 (2019).

Declared 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, reinforcing global commitments under SDG Target 8.7 and inviting Member States, UN agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders to observe the Year through awareness-raising and sharing best practices, with organizations like UNICEF and the ILO playing key roles.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How can equitable action be ensured across both developed and developing countries, specific to their needs?
2. Can an international framework be created to combat child labour, and which organisation should be responsible for the same?
3. How can more focus be brought to monitoring and tracking child labour in informal sectors?
4. How can child labour exploitation in production sectors be avoided?
5. How can child labour be eradicated, and what are the underlying causes?
6. How effective are the current laws prohibiting child labour, and how might they be strengthened?
7. What part do international firms and national governments play in ending child labour, and how can they be held responsible?
8. Beyond prevention, what long-term steps are necessary to guarantee the viability of such initiatives, and how can we guarantee that the social, emotional, and educational needs of children who have previously been the victims of child labour are adequately met?

Sources to Use

The Right Sources:

1. **Official UN Websites, Articles, and Libraries**
2. **UN Ratified Sites. Eg: Aljazeera, Britannica, Amnesty International, etc.**
3. **Governmental Websites (of your country)**
4. **Websites ending with “.org” that follow fact-based reporting**
5. **Websites of NGOs (that your country is associated with)**

These sources are verified with accurate information your portfolio could use. A UN website is the most reliable as it is UN-ratified and gives you more in-depth information about your country's stance.

The Wrong Sources:

1. **Buzzfeed**
2. **Wikipedia**
3. **Quora**
4. **Websites ending with “.com” that have a vested interest**
5. **Op-ed articles**

All of the sources listed above are opinionated with the perception of the article's writers. These sources also answer questions from a person's individual knowledge domain with no proven accuracy.

Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

Preambulatory clauses:

Acknowledging Affirming Alarmed by Approving Aware of Believing Bearing in mind Confident Congratulating Contemplating Convinced Declaring Deeply concerned Deeply conscious Deeply convinced Deeply disturbed Deeply regretting Deploring Desiring Emphasizing Expecting Expressing its appreciation Expressing its satisfaction	Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fully aware Fully believing Further deploring Further recalling Guided by Having adopted Having considered Having considered further Having devoted attention Having examined Having heard Having received Having studied Keeping in mind Noting further.	Taking note Viewing with appreciation Welcoming Noting with appreciation Noting with approval Noting with deep concern Noting with regret Noting with satisfaction Observing Pointing out Reaffirming Realizing Recalling Recognizing Referring Reminding Seeking Taking into account Taking into consideration
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

Operative clauses:

Accepts	Designates	Recommends
Affirms	Encourages	Regrets
Approves	Endorses	Requests
Appreciates	Expresses its hope	Resolves
Asks	Further invites	Seeks
Authorizes	Further proclaims	Strongly affirms
Calls for	Further recommends	Strongly condemns
Calls upon	Further requests	Strongly urges
Condemns	Further resolves	Suggests
Congratulates	Hopes	Trusts
Confirms	Proclaims	Transmits
Deplores	Proposes	Urges